
**THE CARDIFF INTELLIGENT TRANSPORT SYSTEMS STRATEGY:
PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY**

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide background information to aid the scrutiny of the report to Cabinet regarding the draft Cardiff Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) Strategy. The report and subsequent strategy is due to be considered by Cabinet at their meeting on 10 March 2022.

Scope of Scrutiny

2. At their meeting on 10 March 2022, the Cabinet will consider a report that seeks approval for:
 - Undertaking public consultation and engagement on the draft Cardiff ITS Strategy to inform its final framework.
 - Approve the preparation for an outline business case which will include options for modernising the Council's Urban Traffic Control systems.
 - Delegate authority to the Director of Planning, Transport and Environment, subject to consultation with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transport, to make minor amendments to, determine and approve the final form and content of the draft ITS Strategy and consultation questionnaire.
3. The draft report to Cabinet entitled the Cardiff Intelligent Transport Systems Strategy is attached at **Appendix A** and has **two** appendices:
 - **Appendix 1** – Draft ITS Strategy
 - **Appendix 2** – Draft ITS Consultation Questionnaire

4. During this scrutiny, Members have the opportunity to explore:
 - i. The proposed draft strategy, including its purpose, objectives and themes.
 - ii. The proposed consultation, including its questions, methods and how the views of key stakeholders will be sought.
 - iii. The proposed level of collaboration work required to ensure effective delivery of the strategy– both internally between the Council’s various directorates, as well as externally with stakeholders and other Local Authorities.
 - iv. The timeline and next steps for delivering the strategy.
 - v. Achievability of the proposals.
 - vi. Whether there are any risks to the Council, including financial.
 - vii. The recommendations to Cabinet.

Background

5. As stated in the attached Cabinet report, transport systems around the world are being transformed through the use of innovative digital technology to significantly enhance the user experience, convenience, and transport efficiency.
6. From 2018 to 2020, the Council commissioned studies and published the following key documents supporting the need for investment in ITS:
 - Network Management Review, July of 2018
 - Engagement with and commissioning of industry experts in 2019.
 - Cardiff Smart City Roadmap, Dec 2019.
7. The key conclusions of this work identified that transformational improvements are needed to ensure that the ITS provision in Cardiff can effectively deliver its ambitions.

8. By integrating information technology applications into transport infrastructure, vehicles and directly communicating with the travelling public, the attached Cabinet report proposes the following major benefits for transport users:

- Responsiveness
- Accessibility
- Safety
- Mobility
- Environmental Sustainability
- Opportunity to influence travel behaviour.

9. The Cabinet Report states the following steps are required to integrate new technology within the city's transport infrastructure.

- I. Map out and develop the future smart infrastructure network across the city.
- II. Review the Urban Traffic Control room (currently located at County Hall) including required functionality.
- III. Consider how the ITS Strategy underpins the effective delivery of a range of core Council policies, particularly the Cardiff Transport White Paper: Transport Vision to 2030, Cardiff's draft SMART City Roadmap and One Planet Cardiff.
- IV. Establish a business case to identify a way forward which can be funded in a phased manner.

Issues identified in the Cabinet Report

10. The scale of the challenge, noted at **point 19**, of the Cabinet Report, highlights commuter trips travelling into Cardiff, vehicles movements crossing Cardiff's boundaries each day, the number of vehicle trips on Cardiff's networks each day, the annual cost of congestion to Cardiff's economy and annual equivalent deaths as a result of poor air quality.

11. As a result of the challenges, **point 20** highlights the impact on residents' satisfaction with the Cardiff transport system. With the subsequent paragraphs highlighting how the ITS can help address this issue.

12. **Points 23-25** provide insight into the required modernisation of the UTC Control room and states in relation to the UTC, the outline business case must consider:

- Network communications connections and resilience
- Space required to accommodate the expanding needs of the Control Room and scope for partnership working
- Data storage requirements and security
- Operational impact of the location of the Control Room
- Provision of back-up/contingency facilities for emergencies
- Transitional arrangements concerning relocation or redevelopment of the Control Room

ITS Strategy Delivery Themes

13. As a result of scoping work, as well as referencing UK best practice, the ITS Strategy attached at **Appendix 1** proposes the following four stand-alone delivery themes:

- I. **THEME 1 (from 2022):**
GROUNDWORK - Establish an Effective Infrastructure for Improved Management of the Network
- II. **THEME 2:**
ENGAGING THE PUBLIC AND USERS - Implement City-wide transport communication and boost PUBLIC TRANSPORT Active Travel with ITS
- III. **THEME 3:**
ESTABLISHING THE SMART TRANSPORT NETWORK - Implement Smart Corridors
- IV. **THEME 4 (2030):**
FULLY INTEGRATED MASS TRANSIT SYSTEM – Enhanced use of Demand Management Technology

14. Members are to note, detail on the above themes can be found following **point 27** of the Cabinet Report, and in **Appendix 1**.

Consultation

15. Attached at **Appendix 2** is the draft public consultation on the ITS, intended to be launched in the summer of 2022 and is proposed to be delivered online.
16. **Point 29** of the Cabinet Report states the results from the consultation will be used as a framework to refine the draft strategy. Approval for the final ITS strategy will be reported to Cabinet in Autumn 2022.

Previous Scrutiny

17. The 'Transport White Paper: Transport Vision 2030' set out a series of priorities for Cardiff over the next 10 years which it was hoped would transform the way people move around the city. The document suggested that the proposals would ensure that Cardiff would become a well-connected city, where people could easily, reliably and safely get to where they need to go in the greenest, healthiest and most affordable way. This would reduce the dependency on private cars, whilst adopting challenging modal split targets for active travel and public transport through investment in transport projects.
18. It was estimated that delivering the vision set out in the 'Transport White Paper' would require a significant increase in funding, with an estimated investment of between £1 - 2bn necessary to deliver the scale of improvements required. This meant that the question of funding arrangements needed to be discussed. How the Council funded this shift in transport provision will probably require difficult decisions, but it is likely that they will be needed to ensure that Cardiff meets the range of complex challenges that it faces, for example, climate change, poor air quality and tackling congestion.
19. This Committee, in January 2021, received an update on delivering Cardiff's Transport White Paper, the challenges faced in 2020 and the next steps for 2021. Issues discussed during the meeting included, EV Charging points, Highways Surfacing Reprogramme, funding and city centre recovery post Covid. A copy of

the letter sent to the Cabinet following this Committee's consideration on the update is attached at **Appendix 3** for Member's information.

Way Forward

20. Cllr Caro Wild, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transport and Andrew Gregory, Director of Planning, Transport & Environment have been invited to make a statement and answer Member's questions. They will be supported by further representatives from the Planning, Transport and Environment Directorate.

Legal Implications

21. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters, there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

22. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters, there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However,

financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is recommended to:

- i) Consider the information in this report, its appendices and the information presented at the meeting;
- ii) Determine whether they would like to make any comments, observations or recommendations to the Cabinet on this matter in time for its meeting on 10 March 2022; and
- iii) Decide the way forward for any future scrutiny of the issues discussed.

DAVINA FIORE

Director of Governance & Legal Services

1 March 2022