
STRATEGIC PLANNING & TRANSPORT STATEMENT

Replacement LDP Update

The 10-week consultation on the Strategic Options (Levels of housing and employment growth and possible ways to deliver this growth) closed on 8 February 2022. There has been a good response to the consultation with over 40 stakeholders responding directly to the consultation and over 400 stakeholders completing the online survey.

Direct engagement is also ongoing with various stakeholder groups to identify issues they consider are important for the new LDP to consider going forward. To date, workshops have been held with Pentyrch, Lisvane and Radyr & Morganstown Community Councils, Cardiff Music Board, Women Connect First, Cardiff Council Employee Networks, Equality and Access Forum, 50 plus Forum and homelessness groups. Additional future workshops are planned. Feedback from the workshops has been very positive with stakeholder groups welcoming the opportunity to engage with the Council in this way and raising some important issues for the new plan to consider going forward.

The next stage in the preparation of the new plan is consultation on the Preferred Strategy which is planned to take place later in the year and a report will be brought before Council to consider this document prior to this consultation.

'Get Cycle Ready for Spring' Events

Whilst cycling levels continue to increase in the city, barriers remain to the wider uptake of cycling for everyday journeys. Evidence from the *Get Cycle Ready for Spring* promotional events, which have taken place in February and March, indicates that one of these barriers is the lack of access to bicycles in good working order.

Four events took place, of which three were held at community venues in Grangetown, Splott and Canton, with a fourth event being staged in the grounds of Cardiff Castle. The events offered free bike safety checks provided by Dr Bike, free security bike coding provided by South Wales Police and British Transport Police, information on local cycling developments and other cycling activities and bike-based entertainment for children and families.

Hundreds of people attended each event, with most attendees being attracted by the offer of free bike safety checks and security bike coding. Many people who attended also brought along bikes in a good state of repair to have checks and minor adjustments. However, a large proportion had bikes that had clearly not been in use for a long time and required more major refurbishment. In addition, many people did not seem to have access to a bike pump.

A striking feature of the events was the very high proportion of women who attended each event and brought their bikes along for safety checks. The popularity of these events suggests that other communities in Cardiff would also benefit from this type of 'outreach' activity to enable more people to cycle.

City Centre Transport Projects

Central Square

Works on the Central Square transport scheme are progressing well on site and are due for completion in May 2022.

City Centre East

Works on the City Centre East transport scheme have commenced on site, which will include the installation of a permanent bus gate on Station Terrace, a segregated cycleway, as well as bus priority and pedestrian safety improvements and enhancements.

City Centre South

The areas of Callaghan Square, Lower St Mary Street, Bute Street and Bute Terrace are undergoing a WelTAG 1 study to define a long list of options for consideration. Options will include the facilitation of the City Centre-Cardiff Bay tram line through Callaghan Square.

Cycleways

The Cycleways on Newport Road and Tyndall Street are now open and fully operational.

Road and Pavement Resurfacing and Surface Treatment Programme

Detailed assessments are currently ongoing to produce the programmes of resurfacing and surface treatments works to the city's roads and pavements in the new financial year. Although weather dependent, some works are programmed to commence on site as early as the first quarter of the new financial year. In the meantime, ongoing maintenance and small-scale works will continue to be delivered across the city.

LED Street Lighting Update

The residential LED lighting upgrade project is continuing at pace. Approximately 5,000 units have now been installed across the city. The total number of units within the project stands at approximately 23,750 and, once completed, the whole street lighting network will consist of the most up-to-date, energy efficient and environmentally beneficial assets.

Parking & Traffic Enforcement

At the start of the Covid-19 pandemic and during the initial lockdown period, in April and May 2020, the Council saw, on average, a decrease of 100% in the number of Penalty Charge Notices, an 86% decrease in the enforcement of Moving Traffic Offences and a decrease of 98% in car parking income when compared to pre-pandemic levels.

Although there has been significant recovery, the levels have not fully returned to pre-pandemic levels and that situation may continue as people embrace sustainable and active travel options and agile working opportunities. However, the Civil Parking Enforcement Team will continue to enforce where necessary to help improve network management and traffic movement, reduce congestion caused by problem and dangerous parking, and improve safety for road users by addressing banned and unsafe vehicle manoeuvres.

To support the introduction of active and sustainable travel initiatives and to further improve network management, enforcement of parking contraventions within cycle lanes and tracks, illegal use of bus lanes and pavement parking is essential. For example, we have implemented a trial pavement parking ban along City Road and have seen a reduction in the number of vehicles parking on the pavements that were causing an obstruction to pedestrians. We have also introduced a weight restriction through Radyr, managed by the Civil Parking Enforcement Team through camera-based technology, which has seen a reduction in the number of HGVs using the route. Approaches to prevention and public education will also be developed and communicated widely.

Traffic Regulation Orders need to be written up and sealed and new technologies employed to enable the delivery of an effective enforcement strategy. Automatic and attended cameras will be introduced in targeted areas alongside the deployment of staff resources and camera cars to ensure that appropriate coverage is maintained. In addition, this will be supported by road markings, signage and, potentially, kerb edge bollards and enforcement cameras.

We have two manual cameras located in the city centre specifically that help to keep vital routes clear of illegally parked vehicles to ensure that public transport can operate smoothly and taxi ranks are kept free and available for use by taxis only. In addition, the Civil Parking Enforcement Team has expanded the manual camera enforcement outside of schools and now enforce problem parking at 27 schools across the city. Subject to further grant funding, the team is also reviewing the current sites to upgrade the cameras from manual to automatic cameras, where appropriate, which will allow us to expand coverage to more schools across the city. As a result of their successful trial, the initial five School Streets schemes are now permanent solutions.

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