
TRANSPORT & STRATEGIC PLANNING STATEMENT

The Bike Lock

On 24 October 2022, I was pleased to join the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Climate Change in meeting with the Welsh Government Deputy Minister for Climate Change, Lee Waters MS, at The Bike Lock – the new secure cycle storage facility on Windsor Place in the city centre, which has received funding from the Burns Delivery Unit. The Bike Lock opened on 31 October 2022 and is available Monday to Saturday from 8.30am to 5.30pm. It has shower, changing and locker facilities, storage for up to 50 bikes, e-bike charging points, remote working space with wi-fi and serves roasted coffee. It is being operated as a social enterprise with all profits from The Bike Lock being reinvested to support active travel in and around Cardiff. Further information is available on The Bike Lock website at: www.thebikelock.co.uk

Operation Eilon

The Council's City Centre Warden Team, based within City Centre Management, has been working successfully in partnership with colleagues from South Wales Police over recent weeks as part of Operation Eilon.

Cycling is prohibited on Queen Street and this operation has seen a targeted effort by both our City Centre Wardens and the Police to use their powers to, first of all, inform cyclists of the need to dismount on Queen Street and then take enforcement action, as necessary, against irresponsible bike and e-scooter users who fail to comply with this instruction. Alternative routes for cyclists are available using the cycleways on Dumfries Place and Boulevard de Nantes.

City Centre Wardens operating on Queen Street close to the Capitol Centre will tell cyclists to dismount and, if they refuse, then officers will liaise via radio with their Police colleagues further along Queen Street so that the cyclists are stopped and can be issued with a fixed penalty notice. Officers are also aware of a particular issue with food delivery bikes operating on Queen Street and have raised various issues with the companies involved so that they can assist in addressing this issue, including the use of bikes that have been found to be operating illegally.

In the last month, over 40 cyclists have been issued with a fixed penalty notice after being stopped by the Police for cycling on Queen Street. In addition, a number of warnings have been issued by the Police under Section 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002 to riders of e-scooters that are being used in an anti-social manner and in contravention of the Road Traffic Act 1988. This included three in just one day on 17 November 2022.

Since the start of the operation to tackle this behaviour through the issuing of fixed penalty notices, it seems that the word is definitely getting out that cycling is not allowed on Queen Street and, supported by effective social media messaging about this work, is having a real impact on changing routes and behaviours in the city centre.

Active Travel Schools Programme

It's great to see that 8 of the 10 schools on the Living Streets leaderboard for the most active and engaged schools in Wales are Cardiff schools. This highlights the positive impact of our Active Travel Schools programme in helping schools develop an active travel culture across the city. Tools such as the Living Streets WoW Tracker – now adopted in 58 Cardiff primary schools – are really helping to encourage travel behaviour change. For example, before and after data for Severn Primary School in Riverside, which has recently set up a 'park and stride' walking bus, show an increase in active travel from 52% two years ago to 85% of pupils now walking, cycling or scooting to school.

Cycle Training for Ukrainian Refugees

The Road Safety Team has been working with the Council's Homes for Ukraine Team to provide cycle training for Ukrainian refugees in Cardiff, with 20 people being trained over two sessions. OVO bikes were used for the first session and a third session will be delivered subject to demand. The Homes for Ukraine Team has also arranged free OVO bike membership for Ukrainian refugees to enable them to commute to work and travel around the city.

Christmas Memorial Service

As I confirmed in my Council Statement last month, the annual Christmas Memorial Service will take place at the Wenallt Chapel at Thornhill Crematorium on Sunday 11 December 2022 at 2:00pm. The service is open to anyone who wishes to attend to remember a loved one at what can be a very difficult time of year for some people. This year, Bereavement Services are supporting the City Hospice charity and a collection for this very deserving cause will be made on the day. Proceeds from the sale of memorial tags, which can be purchased for a suggested donation of £2 and then hung on the memorial Christmas trees outside the chapel from 1 December 2022, will also go to City Hospice.

Cardiff Dogs Home

The Dogs Home has appointed a new part-time Kennel Assistant and a new Corporate Trainee Kennel Assistant who is due to start this month. Interest in volunteering remains high and staff at the Dogs Home continue to induct around 40 new volunteers each month to help to walk the dogs and assist in the kennels alongside the staff. This equates to over 1,000 volunteer hours each month at the Dogs Home.

Two young people are starting work at the Dogs Home this month as part of work that is being undertaken with the Youth Justice Service. Staff from the Youth Justice Service have completed induction days at the Dogs Home and will supervise the young people alongside Dogs Home staff. The Dogs Home is also working with the Probation Service to help them to target some offenders in an effort to reduce their continuing involvement in crime.

The Council is currently in the process of drawing up new plans for the Dogs Home to remain at the existing site and to undertake works to modernise the facility. The commercial services that can be provided by the Dogs Home are also being reviewed to boost income and support the operational budget.

The 2023 Cardiff Dogs Home/Rescue Hotel Calendar is currently available at a cost of £10 (plus postage & packing) and can be ordered via the Rescue Hotel charity's website at: <https://store.therescuehotel.com/product/2023-rescue-hotel-calendar/>

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Cabinet Member for Transport & Strategic Planning
18 November 2022