
TRANSPORT & STRATEGIC PLANNING STATEMENT

Highway Operations

During the very cold two-week period experienced in December 2022, the Highway Maintenance Operations Teams worked 24 hours a day to ensure that the city's roads were kept clear of ice and frost. Gritting runs were completed throughout the nights to ensure that, as far as is reasonably practicable, the treated roads were free from winter hazards. Detailed monitoring will continue throughout the winter period and action will be taken as and when necessary. The combination of very cold and, more recently, very wet weather will have a severely detrimental effect on the condition of the city's roads. Due to the freeze-thaw effect and the constant wet weather, the formation of defects such as potholes is inevitable unfortunately; however, the teams are working tirelessly to inspect and repair the roads as efficiently and as rapidly as is reasonably practicable.

Cardiff Electric Bus Scheme Grant

The Council is in the process of inviting bids from bus operators to increase the number of electric buses operating in Cardiff. Grant funding of £8m has been made available through the Welsh Government. The grants are due to be awarded at the end of March 2023 subject to the outcome of the bidding process.

Cardiff Active Travel Network Map

Cardiff's Active Travel Network Map (ATNM) was approved by the Welsh Government Deputy Minister for Climate Change on 1 December 2022 and has been published on [Data Map Wales](#). The ATNM sets out a map of existing routes, which already meet Welsh Government standards for an active travel route, and proposed routes that will need improvements to bring them up to standard. It includes a proposed network of major segregated cycleways that the Council is working to develop through a rolling programme of works. It also features proposals for an extensive network of secondary walking and cycling routes and local walking connections to key local trip destinations across the city, including routes to support active travel to Cardiff's schools.

The ATNM provides the basis for future planning and prioritisation of active travel improvements in the city. Officers are currently working with colleagues from Transport for Wales to develop an evidence-based method for determining which routes and improvements should be prioritised for early implementation. This will help the Council to target funding and resources at the schemes most likely to have the greatest impact and benefits.

Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs)

I have been working closely with local ward councillors to review and update our approach to considering applications for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and will be continuing to do this in the coming months with a revised checklist for use by officers and developers, as well as an early review of existing policy. This will include an audit of best practice and current guidance following the excellent task & finish report produced by the Environmental Scrutiny Committee last year. I have also asked planning officers to consider at an early stage what work would be required to inform future policy. Working closely with the Chair and members of the Planning Committee, it is also important that we support officers in providing regular briefings and updates on planning appeal decisions relating to HMOs.

Conservation of the Built Environment

The Council's Conservation Officers are helping to protect some of the city's most treasured places and buildings, including buildings of local significance which, despite not being listed buildings, are important landmarks in our communities. We are looking at using our powers as a Local Planning Authority to further protect these important buildings as part of a wider review of the city's Local List of Buildings of Merit. This will include working with local ward members, community and heritage groups to help us identify locally important buildings within Cardiff and to consider what legal powers we have to protect them.

South Wales Police Designated Driver Scheme (DES)

As part of the Christmas drink-driving campaign in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan, South Wales Police launched its new Designated Driver (DES) scheme at the start of December 2022. A designated driver is someone who abstains from drinking alcohol in order to act as the responsible driver among a couple or group of people. The scheme aimed to promote responsible drinking and road safety, and both Cardiff Council and Shared Regulatory Services were pleased to support the scheme. Around 17 licensed premises across Cardiff participated in the DES scheme and offered free draught soft drinks to designated drivers. The scheme proved to be really successful and it is hoped that it will go from strength to strength in future years.

Christmas Memorial Service

The annual Christmas Memorial Service took place on 11 December 2022 at Thornhill Crematorium Chapel, which was very successful and well attended. The service included some wonderful singing by children from Llysfaen Primary School. A total of £627 was raised through the sale of memorial tags for City Hospice, which is Bereavement Services' chosen charity for 2022/23.

Additional Service Times at Thornhill Crematorium

The seasonal spike in deaths is being closely monitored by Bereavement Services staff. Additional service times at Thornhill Crematorium have been added through to the end of next month in an effort to help ensure that families are not waiting for an extended period for a funeral.

An additional five service slots have been added to the end of each day, with the last 45-minute service being at 6:30pm. In addition to this, an additional eight service times have been added to the usual Saturday slots. It is hoped that local funeral directors will promote and utilise these times to help families and ease pressure on hospital mortuary facilities.

Councillor Dan De'Ath
Cabinet Member for Transport & Strategic Planning
20 January 2023