
TRANSPORT & STRATEGIC PLANNING STATEMENT

Smart Corridors

Smart sensor equipment is currently being installed on the A470 Manor Way, in an area of the network in Grangetown, and in the city centre. The sensors will monitor walking, cycling, buses and general traffic, including the measurement of journey times and air quality. The sensors do not identify individuals and the information is only used for the purpose of measuring transportation metrics. Some of the sensors are permanent and others are part of a trial as a Living Labs project for 6-12 months. The trials will inform the future development and deployment of equipment and systems that help the network operate more efficiently and effectively.

Child Pedestrian Safety

Over 250 pupils in Cardiff have taken part in Streetwise, which teaches Year 6 pupils vital skills to allow them to actively travel safely and transition to high schools. In addition, over 250 Year 2 pupils have taken part in child pedestrian training, formerly known as Kerbcraft. This training teaches children the Green Cross Code, how to choose and cross at safer places, and how to cross by junctions and parked cars.

National Standard Cycle Training

32 primary school classes have received Level 1 and 2 National Standard Cycle Training courses. Two Specialist Resources Bases – units hosted at primary and secondary schools which provide support and opportunities so that pupils with learning difficulties can succeed in a mainstream school environment – have received courses in an adapted format for their pupils. Courses have also been run for Ukrainian refugees in Ukrainian, for South Wales Police, and for adults and families across Cardiff. A new booking system for school holiday cycling courses has been developed. The new system went live this week in readiness for courses being held during the Easter school holiday period.

School Bike Fleet Project

Phase 3 of the school bike fleet project finished last month. Through the project, the Council has:

- Provided bike fleets in over 100 education settings in Cardiff.
- Supported a Specialist Resource Base in Whitchurch High School to set up a scooter project allowing pupils to meet at a designated point and scoot the rest of the way to school. The next stage is to enable some pupils to scoot from home, removing the need for travel to school by taxi.

- Set up a cycling project in Treganna Primary School, which will train pupils and staff to service and maintain bikes. Pupils intend to hold bike maintenance events for the local community. Due to the expansion of the bike fleet, staff are now able to take their pupils on school trips using bikes instead of buses.
- Enabled the Youth Justice Service to change their fleet, allowing them to take all of their students on wellbeing trips or to other educational settings.

Also as part of the scheme, the Council has been able to provide a bike storage container to Puffa Jones, the Newport-based social enterprise which re-conditions bicycles to donate to children and young people who may otherwise not have access to cycling. Many children in Cardiff schools have already benefited from bicycles donated by the organisation and this additional storage will enable Puffa Jones to continue their work.

A decision on funding for Phase 4, the final phase of the project, is yet to be confirmed.

Cycle Coaching for School Staff

Four Cycle Coaching courses and three Ride Leader courses have been arranged for school staff. The free courses are being delivered by British Cycling and have been funded by Welsh Government through the Active Travel Fund grant. The courses will support active travel and the integration of cycling into the school curriculum utilising the bike fleets provided over the last three years by the Council.

Independent Travel Training

The Council is continuing to provide one-to-one travel training for pupils with Additional Learning Needs to enable them to travel actively and independently to school. The training can remove the need for them to travel to school by taxi and can contribute to them going onto education, employment or training when they leave school. Three group training sessions have also been set up within High Schools with several more in the planning stages.

Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel 2023

32 Cardiff schools are currently taking part in the Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel event from 20 to 31 March 2023. The event is the UK's largest walking, wheeling, scooting and cycling challenge. It inspires pupils to make active journeys to school, improve air quality in their neighbourhood and discover how these changes benefit their world. So far during this event, St Paul's CIW Primary School in Grangetown is the top small primary school in Wales for the highest percentage of active travel (with a daily average score of 98.43%), and ranked second across the whole of the UK.

Residential Street Lighting Improvement / LED Scheme

The asset renewal scheme, which provides a more efficient lighting solution with substantial savings on energy costs and carbon emissions, continues at pace with approximately 19,000 new units installed to date. The scheme, once completed, will mean that the whole city has efficient LED lighting. It is now over 75% completed and on target for substantial completion in early summer 2023.

Real Time Information in Bus Shelters

Real Time Information (RTI) displays are located in strategic bus shelters to advise when a bus is scheduled to arrive. There are just under 400 ageing RTI displays which now need to be replaced. Through Welsh Government funding, the Highway Electrical Team have undertaken a competitive tendering process to appoint a contractor. Once this process has been completed and agreed, orders will be placed to replace as many units as possible in the next financial year. Following this work, further bids will be submitted to the Welsh Government with a view to replacing all the displays throughout the city in future years.

UK National Day of Reflection 2023

The Council's Bereavement Services Team, Cruse Bereavement Support, Marie Curie and SANDs welcomed families to a special event at the 'Dear Mum' Remembrance Garden in Western Cemetery on the third UK National Day of Reflection, which was held on 23 March. The 'Dear Mum' Garden has been designed to support children following the loss of a loved one and provide a space to remember for parents who have lost a baby. The garden follows the story of a mouse called Dora who wishes she could tell her mother how much she misses her. The garden has many built-in activities including a story trail, a bee hunt and a special owl post box where children can send their letters to loved ones. Navigating childhood bereavement can be incredibly difficult and the event will provide support to families who have experienced the death of someone close. Bereavement Services are currently discussing new partnership opportunities with Cruse in order to ensure that the bereaved public in Cardiff receive the best possible care and they will be joining more events in the future.

Cardiff Dogs Home

To date, Cardiff Dogs Home has taken in 630 dogs this year and is on course to see an 18% increase (around 100 dogs) on last year. Up to 30 requests are received each week to rehome dogs from owners who are unable to cope with or afford to keep their dogs. The Dogs Home has also successfully rehomed 245 dogs and returned 269 to their owners.

The Dogs Home has received over £95,000 in National Lottery funding to help run the 'Pawsome Pals' volunteer project for the next three years. This funding will support the volunteer co-ordinator post and provide both training and a facility for volunteers. The Dogs Home has also started a project with the Probation Service, as well as being included in social prescribing through ARC and GP services.

Plans are being taken forward to replace all the kennels; refurbish and restructure the main kennel area and office block, and build a new kennel block in order to increase capacity. Capital Construction Training Group have offered to do much of this work at no cost as part of their Community Benefits scheme. Over £330,000 has been raised already by the Rescue Hotel charity to replace the kennels and the Dogs Home has also applied for £180,000 from the Petplan Foundation to help fund the additional costs.

Councillor Dan De'Ath
Cabinet Member for Transport & Strategic Planning
24 March 2023