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## **TRANSPORT & STRATEGIC PLANNING STATEMENT**

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### **Canal Quarter**

On 9 June, I visited the site of the new Canal Quarter along with Members representing the Cathays ward to see the continued progress of the scheme. All of the concrete structures that form the walls, levels and public realm areas have now been completed – these include the bridge and viewing platform structures. New drone footage produced by Knights Brown was also recently released by the Council to give an aerial view of the site. Work over the summer will focus on key elements such as paving, benches, planting and asset renewal. It is anticipated that the area will open to the public from September 2023.

### **Annual Transport Survey**

The Council's annual transport survey is being reinstated following the Covid-19 pandemic. It is due to be published at the end of this month and will run for six to eight weeks. The results of the survey will be available in the New Year. The design of the survey has included input from Transport for Wales and Cardiff Bus.

### **Real Time Bus Information**

Real Time Information (RTI) displays are located in strategic bus shelters to advise passengers when a bus is due to arrive. The Council's Highways Electrical Team, utilising funding obtained from the Welsh Government, has been developing a scheme to replace the existing, ageing RTI displays in the city. Following the completion of a competitive tendering process, a contract has been awarded to replace 170 RTI displays. The new 28" modern digital display screens operate on 4G or 5G, will be fully customisable, and will allow information to be displayed in both Welsh and English for the first time.

The back-office systems used to predict bus arrival times and monitor performance will be provided by Transport for Wales. This approach will provide consistency of information across the whole of Wales. Cardiff will be the first local authority in Wales to utilise this new system and has worked closely with Transport for Wales throughout the design and renewal process. Subject to further successful applications to the Welsh Government for grant funding to support our RTI replacement programme, additional RTI units will continue to be replaced in the coming years, with the aim of renewing all RTI displays throughout the city, of which there are just under 400.

## **Highway Asset Management Plan**

The latest Highway Asset Management Plan (HAMP) has been completed and was approved by Cabinet last month. This is the Council's third HAMP, which sets out our plans for the management of the Carriageway, Drainage, Footway, Intelligent Transport Systems, Street Furniture & Road Markings, Street Lighting and Structures Highway Assets. It has been produced in accordance with national guidance and recommended good practices.

The Council has a successful record of managing its highly complex highway assets; and has also delivered significant innovation, such as the ongoing LED street lighting rollout and Wales's first carbon neutral road surfacing scheme on 1.2km of the A470 Northern Avenue. In this context, the aim of the HAMP is to develop a foundation for taking forward a robust risk-based approach to highways asset management that also begins to address, in a meaningful way, the wider issues of climate change, economic growth, and transport sustainability. The HAMP forms an important part of the Council's commitment to apply good asset management principles and practices to the highway infrastructure. It also recognises the views of road users and residents and, in particular, the importance that is placed upon our highway assets.

## **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, is approaching completion. Approximately 85% of the programme has now been delivered and the remainder is on schedule to be installed by the end of summer 2023.

## **Illegal Sale of Counterfeit Goods in City Centre**

In February 2023, reports were received about a group of individuals on Queen Street making approaches to the general public in an attempt to sell goods such as perfume and headphones. The individuals responsible were believed to be operating without a Pedlar's Licence and the goods in question were believed to be counterfeit.

In response to the reports received, the Council's City Centre Warden Team, in conjunction with South Wales Police and the Shared Regulatory Services (SRS) Trading Standards Team, has been working collaboratively to disrupt this illegal activity. This has included proactive and ongoing efforts by the City Centre Warden Team through monitoring CCTV and undertaking patrols to identify such activity, disrupting it where possible, and sharing the information with South Wales Police and Trading Standards.

Two separate seizures of goods have been made from the individuals concerned, which included illegal tobacco and counterfeit perfume. In addition, two hi-viz patrols of Queen Street have been carried out as a deterrent to those seeking to sell illegal goods in this way and also to reassure the general public and legitimate businesses operating in the area. The City Centre Warden Team is continuing to monitor the area to identify any such activities and will continue to work with the Police and Trading Standards to ensure that, wherever possible, any such instances do not go without challenge.

## **'Mystery Shopper' Checks on Taxis**

The Council, in conjunction with South Wales Police volunteers, has recently undertaken a number of 'mystery shopper' exercises involving taxis in the city. Over the past six weeks, a total of 22 journeys have been undertaken in this way, resulting in five offences being identified (three related to Hackney Carriages and two related to Private Hire Vehicles), which are currently under investigation. In addition, five journeys were also undertaken with an assistance dog user to ensure that taxi services in Cardiff are carrying out their duties under the Equality Act. All taxi journeys conducted with guide dog users did not result in an offence. Journeys were also undertaken during the recent Pride Cymru event weekend to ensure that standards are maintained during major events in the city. Further mystery shopping exercises will continue throughout the year.

## **Babies Remembrance Service**

A Babies Remembrance Service will be held at 11.30am on 25 June 2023 at the Wenallt Chapel in Thornhill Cemetery. The memorial service is supported by the Stillbirth and Neonatal Deaths Society (Sands) and led by members of the University Hospital of Wales Chaplaincy team. During the service, families can place a memory pebble in the memory bowl. Families in Cardiff who have lost a baby also have access to the unique 'Dear Mum' remembrance sculpture garden at Western Cemetery in Ely.

## **Cardiff Dogs Home**

The numbers of dogs being dealt with by Cardiff Dogs Home remains very high. During 2022/23, the Dogs Home cared for 659 dogs in total. In April and May this year, the Dogs Home had already cared for 118 dogs and they expect to care for over 700 dogs this year. The number of weekly requests received from owners for the Dogs Home to take in their dogs is currently around 40 per week. The number of people who want to volunteer at the Dogs Home is also very high, with 165 new volunteers inducted in April and May 2023. Staff are projecting that they will induct at least a further 1,500 volunteers this year. To assist with this work, the Dogs Home has secured National Lottery funding for a Volunteer Co-ordinator post until the end of March 2026, which will enable this project to continue to grow.

The Rescue Hotel Kennel Fund now stands at £516,428, which will more than cover the cost of all the new kennels. Capital Construction Training Group has chosen the Dogs Home and Rescue Hotel as their charity project for the year. I attended a presentation to the Training Group alongside the Dogs Home Manager, two Rescue Hotel Trustees and Rescue Hotel Ambassador, Sam Warburton, on 13 June 2023. The Training Group is mobilising the companies within the Group to help build a new kennel block and prepare the main kennels and offices for a complete refurbishment. The Group has also provided a project team and Dogs Home staff have met with them to progress plans for this work. The architectural plans for the building of the new kennel block are almost complete and will be taken through the planning process in the coming months. The process to award the kennel design contract is expected to conclude this month and meetings will then be arranged between the project team and kennel designers.

**Councillor Dan De'Ath**  
**Cabinet Member for Transport & Strategic Planning**  
**23 June 2023**