
TRANSPORT & STRATEGIC PLANNING STATEMENT

Bus Priority Plan

A Bus Priority Plan is scheduled to be brought forward for consideration by the Cabinet in November 2023. The plan is ancillary to the 2021 Bus Strategy and details how the Council will provide the priority infrastructure detailed in the Bus Strategy and the Transport White Paper vision. The plan focuses on providing six key bus corridors connecting all parts of the city with key employment, leisure, health, and education sites.

Central Square

Cardiff's Wood Street and Central Square scheme won the Bill Ward Sustainability Award at this year's ICE Wales Cymru Civil Engineering Awards, which were held on 22 September 2023. This is the second major civil engineering award to have been won by the scheme.

The Saunders Road transport project has also been completed. The scheme provides new pedestrian crossings for people accessing Central Square and Cardiff Central station, and provides the new entrance and exit points for both the Transport Interchange and the car park for the building above.

Highway/Footway Improvements in City Centre

Targeted improvement works within the city centre commenced this month. Areas of identified deterioration are being addressed, primarily around The Hayes and surrounding streets. Large-scale replacement of the existing slabbed surfacing is also being undertaken to address issues that have arisen over time due to several factors, such as high traffic volume and general wear-and-tear. The works will continue over the coming months, with a break to allow for the increase in footfall over the Christmas period and will address those areas most in need of attention.

Public Rights of Way

The Welsh Government Access Improvement Grant Funding 2022-2025 has helped upgrade the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) path network across Cardiff. Various projects have now been completed, including:

- The installation of a new accessible fishing platform at Hendre Lake in St Mellons.
- The creation of a new permissive bridleway near Canada Lodge in Creigiau to provide a safe off-road route for local horse riders.

- The replacement of approximately 30 difficult-to-use stiles with pedestrian gates.
- The upgrade of two old wooden footbridges with recycled plastic structures. Two more are due to be installed and are a step to being more sustainable in the current climate.

Over the next year, various access improvements and signage will be prioritised where housing developments will increase footfall on working farms. PRow Officers are working to add the PRow network to the 'Report a Problem' feature on the CardiffGov mobile app, which will help identify issues on the network and resolve them quicker. The team will also be recruiting members for the next three-year term of the Cardiff Local Access Forum (LAF). The LAF plays an integral part in considering a variety of access improvements for recreation and access considerations within new developments, as well as protecting biodiversity along the PRow network.

The PRow team continues to work collaboratively on numerous projects, such as:

- North Cardiff Woodlands – creating permissive formal mountain biking trails on private, Natural Resources Wales (NRW), and Council land.
- The Ramblers Paths to Wellbeing – creating 8 circular walks in Creigiau and Pentyrch by working collaboratively to agree new structures/signage/route agreements, etc.
- Continued work with Penrhys Pilgrimage – new information boards being installed in Creigiau.
- The Great Glamorgan Way project – creating long distance, multi-user trails across five Local Authorities.

Winter Preparedness

The final preparations are currently being made to the Winter and Adverse Weather Service that is delivered through the Highway Maintenance Operations team. The service operates between the start of November until the end of March, but officers will continue to monitor conditions outside of that period, ready to mobilise in case there are any early or late frosts. With the changing weather patterns that are experienced over the winter period, the way in which the Winter and Adverse Weather Service is delivered has been reviewed and developed to improve resilience and our response to highway issues during periods of adverse weather, such as extreme storms and flooding conditions.

The Council's salt stocks have been replenished over the summer, with over 2,600 tonnes of salt now held at the Brindley Road depot and an additional 250 tonnes of reserve stock at a new storage facility at Lamby Way. Gritting routes have been reviewed to ensure that they continue to be effective in the light of any changes to the city's highway network. Drivers have been briefed and are familiarising themselves with the revised routes that they will be treating. This year, the treated network will be divided into 14 routes, including the treatment of cycleways with brine.

Local List of Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest

Last month, the Cabinet approved the commencement of a review of the Local List of Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest, which will focus initially on buildings in the city's rich working-class history. This hasn't been updated since its inception in 1997, so is a long overdue endeavour.

While the Local List does not possess the same powers as Cadw's designation of Listed Buildings, it will help the Council in working with developers to try to protect and celebrate local buildings such as pubs, community spaces, and music venues. Linked to this review, normal demolition rights have already been removed for The Rompney Castle in Rumney, following a campaign by local people and a planning application for redevelopment of the site that was refused. By strengthening existing planning regulations and through continued lobbying of the Welsh Government for stronger powers, a new and revised Local List will play a key part in the recognition and protection of these assets.

Consultation will follow later in this financial year, allowing communities to put forward more buildings for inclusion on the list. Eight approved criteria will allow an assessment of their historic and cultural value for inclusion on the list. I will also be urging all Ward Councillors to make observations and to suggest other buildings and structures in their communities for consideration. The results of the consultation will be presented to Cabinet for approval in 2024. We propose to undertake a full review of the Local List in 2024/25 using experience gained from the first phase to help guide the process.

Replacement Local Development Plan

The 10-week consultation and engagement on the Preferred Strategy closed on 5 October 2023. The exercise was well received with a series of workshops facilitated by Planning Aid Wales, drop-in sessions, and stakeholder meetings taking place over the consultation and engagement period. This has generated approximately 1,000 responses to the survey, 4,500 responses to the candidate sites, and 50 individual responses from stakeholders and organisations. These will be analysed over the coming weeks and the findings will feed into the ongoing preparation of the next stage of the plan, the Deposit Plan, and the candidate site assessment process.

The Deposit Plan and findings of the candidate site assessment process, together with the results of the consultation, are scheduled to be presented to Cabinet for approval in June 2024. Following this, a further 10-week consultation and engagement exercise on the Deposit Plan and supporting documents is planned for summer 2024.

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