
TRANSPORT & STRATEGIC PLANNING STATEMENT

Canal Quarter

I was pleased to join the Leader and Members representing the Cathays ward at the opening of the Dock Feeder Canal on Churchill Way on 24 November. This project, which began construction in February 2022, has created a valuable new public space in the city centre with outdoor seating areas, two footbridges and an amphitheatre-style performance area. It is the first phase of a wider regeneration project with plans to extend the canal along Churchill Way to connect to the Dock Feeder south of Tyndall Street. The Council will work with private investors to deliver a successful high-density mixed-use development, attracting homes, hotels, hospitality, high-quality offices, leisure, and retail units.

The scheme has also delivered a new water habitat in the city centre. A series of rain gardens have been built, with specific soil and planting to treat the surface water and remove pollutants before the water flows into the canal. This will ensure that 3,700m³ of water will be diverted away from the sewage system each year, reducing the cost and energy of treating this water through the sewage pumping station at Cardiff Bay.

Winter and Adverse Weather Service

The Winter and Adverse Weather Service, delivered through the Highway Maintenance Operations team, has begun in earnest. The scope of winter activities has been expanded to include support from the out-of-hours emergency teams in response to severe adverse weather events, and frontline operational winter staff have already been deployed to assist with demand during Storm Debi.

With several storms hitting over the past few weeks, the Drainage team has seen a significant increase in reports of flooding across the city. Over 250 reports were received in less than a week, which the team has been working hard to address and minimise the impact of these intense rain episodes. This work has been carried out in conjunction with the Cleansing teams, who undertake the clearing of leaves that can otherwise block the highway gullies.

Work to enhance the delivery of frontline operations continues, with a new gritter being trialled this winter which has an electric salt-spreading system. Furthermore, as part of workforce planning within the Highway Maintenance Operations team, a new apprentice and an existing member of the Street Lighting team have started a four-year electrical apprenticeship qualification. This continued development of both the Highways Operations service and staff is an essential part of ensuring the Council can meet challenges going forward, such as those related to climate change, and deliver its statutory highway maintenance functions.

Reducing the Carbon Impact of Highways Resurfacing

The Council is continuing its journey to reduce the carbon impact of roads resurfacing in the city and service delivery more generally. An 877m² section of Pengam Road in Splott has been resurfaced using a new pioneering technique to ensure that the materials used have a negative carbon impact and without the need for carbon offsetting. The technique incorporates and embeds the equivalent weight of naturalised carbon into the surfacing. The work in Pengam Road equated to a saving of over 4.5 tonnes of emitted carbon.

The key ingredient of this technique is biochar, which describes any organic material that has been carbonised under high temperatures (500-600°C) in the presence of little or no oxygen – a process known as pyrolysis. The resulting biochar has a high stable carbon element, which in turn is incorporated into the new surfacing material to give the negative carbon impact.

Working closely with the contractor, Miles Macadam, the Council is trialling this unique material and variations of design. The more biochar that is added to the mix, the lower the carbon impact of the materials that are used. If enough biochar is added to the product, the impact of other items involved in the process, such as transporting the materials, could also become carbon neutral by default. If this system is used in all road resurfacing works, it would result in significant carbon savings across the city and nationally.

Active Travel & Road Safety

Bike Bus

Gwaelod y Garth Primary School set up a Bike Bus from Taffs Well at the end of last term, which has enabled more pupils to cycle to school. The pupils cycle together in a group accompanied by parent volunteers. The Council is providing adult bikes to the school to enable more teachers to take part in the Bike Bus, which arrived in school earlier this month. The school has been nominated in the Cardiff Cycling Awards 2023 in the category 'Cardiff School Doing Most to Encourage Cycling to School'. A video on the Bike Bus has been produced by Public Health Wales and Sustrans. More information, including a link to the video, can be found on Cardiff & Vale University Health Board's website at: <https://cavuhb.nhs.wales/news/latest-news/bike-bus-the-community-cycle-rides-making-journeys-to-school-more-fun-and-active/>

Bike Fleet Project

Phase 4 of the Council's Bike Fleet Project is progressing well, with the majority of storage containers delivered in October. This phase includes new bike fleets, bike fleet extensions, and two bespoke fleets of adapted trikes for the Specialist Resource Base in Ysgol Pwll Coch and Ty Gwyn Special School to ensure that every child and young person in Cardiff can take part in cycling. Ysgol Pwll Coch, with support from the Active Travel team, has also started a Park and Stride and a Walking Bus to enable more pupils to actively travel part of their journey to school. This month, 30 scooters and helmets have been delivered to the school to support these initiatives.

Safer Cycling Project

In October, the Active Travel team collaborated with the Youth Service to develop a project encouraging young people living in Ely and Caerau to wear bike helmets and promoting safer cycling more broadly. The project will give young people helmets, which they will design and spray paint with a local artist. Young people taking part will also have their bike serviced and receive cycle training, as well as the opportunity to gain an Agored Cymru Level 1 Qualification in Bike Maintenance, with a further opportunity to progress to higher bike maintenance qualifications. This project will commence in January 2024.

Child Pedestrian Training

133 Year 2 pupils have received Child Pedestrian Training. The practical element of the training is delivered on roads near to their school to keep the training relevant to the children.

Training for Pupils with Additional Learning Needs

Independent Travel Training provided one-to-one training to pupils with Additional Learning Needs to allow the pupils to travel independently to school and to give them confidence to travel independently to any future education setting and employment. Group sessions were also delivered to pupils in Specialist Resource Bases.

Bike Shelters

A contractor has been appointed to start the latest “bike shelters for schools” scheme, with 11 schools due to have new bike shelters, bike racks, and scooter racks installed over the coming months. Work has begun at Bryn Hafod Primary School and was completed at Marlborough Primary School during the autumn half-term holiday period.

The Bike Lock

The Bike Lock in Windsor Place in the city centre has won the ‘One To Watch’ category at the Social Wales Business Awards 2023. Opened in October 2022, the Bike Lock is an independent bike storage and co-working space in the city centre that offers storage space for 80 cycles, along with shower facilities and a café. The ‘One To Watch’ Award category is for social enterprises that have been operating for less than two years and can articulate their future vision and how they are going to achieve it.

Registration Services

The Register Office has now been operating from its new locations for a month and the first Register Office wedding was held on 22 November in the newly refurbished Llandaff Suite at Insole Court.

The Registration team has settled in well to its new operating locations, which we are continuing to promote via social media. Customers visiting the main office, which is now based at Glamorgan Archives, have been positive about the new modern accommodation and improved facilities such as baby changing.

The Hubs are also proving to be very popular service points and are fully booked for birth registrations every week. The service days and Hub locations are as follows:

- Monday: Llandaff North & Gabalfa Hub
- Tuesday: Central Library Hub
- Wednesday: Ely & Caerau Hub
- Thursday: St Mellons Hub

Appointments for those needing to register deaths are available daily with Registrars based at Thornhill Cemetery offices, and feedback is consistently positive regarding the location and the service provided.

Cardiff Dogs Home

The plans for the new kennel block at Cardiff Dogs Home are now complete and have been submitted for planning permission. The plans have been prepared for free by Capital Construction Training Group. A meeting with Capital Construction is planned this month to understand which parts of the building work their group is able to do without charge. When the block is complete, there will be an additional 11 kennels available, which will support the home to keep the service running while the main kennels are refurbished next year.

A small piece of land has been secured on the other side of the railway track from the Dogs Home. This will be suitable for two secure exercise areas for the dogs in our care and will also serve as an excellent walking area for volunteers, reducing the need for them to walk on busy roads. The secure areas can also be hired out to the public and this will help to bring in extra income for the Dogs Home.

Finally, the 2024 Dogs Home Calendar is currently available from the Dogs Home or The Rescue Hotel website for £10, with all proceeds going directly to benefit the dogs at the home.

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