
TRANSPORT & STRATEGIC PLANNING STATEMENT

Bus Priority Plan for Cardiff

Bus priority in the city is being supported through the introduction of a new Bus Priority Plan for Cardiff. The plan has designated six key bus corridors for development and delivery over the next six years. Each corridor will be subject to assessment and funding, and the overall Bus Priority Plan will be subject to a public consultation in summer 2024.

Electric Buses

I am pleased to share that Cardiff Bus has recently taken receipt of 19 new electric buses. These have been grant funded by Cardiff Council through an allocation from the Welsh Government. The buses are currently being fitted out locally with additional equipment required for service, such as CCTV cameras, and will soon be rolled out throughout the city. This will increase the overall number of electric buses in service from 36 to 55, and further infrastructure has been installed at the company's Sloper Road depot to provide the fleet with solar-generated charging sources. This represents a positive step forward in achieving our goal of providing cleaner, greener and more efficient buses in Cardiff.

Real Time Information in Bus Shelters

Phase 1 of the replacement of the electronic real time information displays in bus shelters has been completed, with 170 new displays having been installed throughout the city. Phase 2 of the project will be subject to a competitive tendering process, which is estimated to be completed by the end of next month. Installation of the new displays, which is predicted to be about the same number as in phase 1, will commence in autumn 2024 for completion by the end of the 2024/25 financial year.

Taxi Strategy

Work has commenced with our appointed consultant, AECOM, on the formulation of a new Taxi Strategy for Cardiff. This strategy will focus on enhancing the taxi offer in Cardiff for the benefit of both taxi drivers and passengers by reviewing current provision and usage; gauging public opinion, and identifying options for the improvement of rank spaces across the city and provision of future electric vehicle charging facilities for use by the taxi trade. This work will also include a benchmarking review of other cities and advice on technological advances. Engagement will be undertaken with the taxi trade and public over the coming months in advance of a report being finalised in summer 2024, which will then be reviewed by the Council.

City Centre East Transport Scheme

Work is nearing completion on the City Centre East and Churchill Way Canal Project. The scheme is expected to be completed early next month with the opening of a new segregated cycleway on Station Terrace and Bridge Street, which will connect the main cycleway network into the core retail centre.

Cardiff Walking and Cycling Index

I was pleased to attend and speak at the launch of the Cardiff Walking and Cycling Index 2023 on 15 March 2023, which was organised by Sustrans Cymru in partnership with Cardiff Council. The Walking and Cycling Index is the biggest assessment of walking, wheeling and cycling in urban areas in the UK and Ireland, and is produced every two years by Sustrans in collaboration with 23 cities and urban areas. Work to develop the 2023 Cardiff Index included an independent survey of 1,169 residents aged 16 or above. The event provided an opportunity to consider the findings of the 2023 Index, highlight the investment in new active travel infrastructure in the city and discuss the barriers to active travel participation for different communities.

Active Travel to School

Christ the King Primary School in Llanishen has recently secured a 'park & stride' agreement with the Manager at Lisvane & Llanishen Reservoirs Visitor Centre that allows parents to use the Visitor Centre car park free of charge at school drop off and pick up times. Year 5 children at the school led an assembly on active travel and the new 'park & stride' agreement. They also designed a parking permit to be displayed in parents' vehicles, which has been provided to every family. Pupils are committed to promoting active travel and logging their journeys daily using the Wow Travel Tracker, with the aim of increasing physical activity and reducing vehicle congestion on Everest Avenue and the surrounding areas during peak times.

The meeting with the Visitor Centre Manager also inspired conversations about the activities provided by Welsh Water at Llanishen Reservoir, and the school is keen to use the reservoir for their kayaking events in future. In previous years, the school would have transported the children by bus to the International White Water Centre in Cardiff Bay, but the children will now be able to walk to their local water sports facility, thereby reducing carbon emissions and transport costs for parents.

Highways Repairs and Resurfacing

The continued adverse weather, especially the prolonged periods of intense rainfall, has put significant and continued pressure on the service and, more specifically, on the city's roads. The Highway Operations Teams continue to address potholes and other identified defects, with the number of reports of potholes alone having doubled between January and February 2024 as the weather continued to take its toll. To help counteract the deterioration, the Highway Asset Team and employed contractors have, in addition to reactive repairs that have been completed, undertaken localised improvement works between December and February 2024, which included 2,852 square metres of localised carriageway surfacing and 1,962 square metres of localised footway surfacing.

Programmed works for March 2024 include 1,800 square metres of carriageway and 1,400 square metres of footway. The total programmed localised surfacing investment for this period is circa £460,000. In addition, a programme of large-scale resurfacing and surface treatment works to both carriageways and footways has been – and continues to be – delivered across the city.

Registration Services

The Registration Service has settled in very well at the Glamorgan Archives building off Sloper Road in Cardiff. Feedback from customers has been very positive, with reasons such as good accessibility, facilities and free parking on-site being cited. As a result of the relocation of the service, births are also now registered at Llandaff North Hub on Mondays; Central Library on Tuesdays; Ely Hub on Wednesdays, and St Mellons Hub on Thursdays. Taking the service into the heart of local communities at these Hubs has been very well received, especially by parents with young babies who no longer have to travel into the city centre to register births.

Councillor Dan De'Ath
Cabinet Member for Transport & Strategic Planning
22 March 2024