

CLEAN STREETS, RECYCLING & ENVIRONMENT STATEMENT

Pink Sticker Campaign

Residents are being given extra help to recycle properly under a new scheme that will let them know when they put out contaminated waste unsuitable for recycling. This will see bright pink stickers being placed on recycling and garden waste bags or bins by waste collection teams to alert residents that they contain incorrect items. If a pink sticker is put onto a container, residents will have to take their waste back into their property to remove the incorrect items before they put their recycling out again on the next collection date.

The new scheme will promote an improvement in the quality of recycling and composting collected from the kerbside by the Council and will help Cardiff to become one of the best recycling cities in the world. Currently, 20% of waste being put into green bags for recycling contains incorrect materials that hamper the recycling process. The main offenders are dirty nappies, clothes, packaging and food waste. Garden waste is also being presented containing incorrect materials such as watering cans, cardboard, garden furniture and even parts of sheds being placed in green wheelie bins. Although contamination levels are lower at 5%, the new scheme will assist in boosting recycling figures across the city.

As of 17th January 2020, Cardiff residents are now able to order recycling bags and caddy liners via the CardiffGov App.

Electric Pavement Sweepers

Three MaxWind pavement sweepers have been introduced to areas around Cardiff to help improve street cleanliness. The MaxWind is the first and only pavement sweeper in the world to be fully electrically powered. As a result, they produce zero CO₂ emissions, thereby reducing carbon emissions, as well as helping to keep the streets of Cardiff clean.

Lamby Way Solar Farm

Work is now well underway at the Lamby Way solar farm site. The contractors have completed the construction of a security fence around the site and a site compound area has also been established. The main construction phase will commence in early spring and it is anticipated that the 9MW solar farm will be completed and operational before the end of May 2020.

Central Transport Services

In 2019, Central Transport Services (CTS) greatly increased the volume of work being undertaken and completed in the state-of-the-art workshop facility at Coleridge Road in Grangetown.

CTS took over the full maintenance of 43 Refuse Collection Vehicles (RCVs) and 11 Gritting vehicles in January 2019 following the Council's purchase of these vehicles from a supplier that went into administration. This was done in order to safeguard essential services provided by the Council. CTS has since carried out over 4000 hours of maintenance, repair and improvement work on these vehicles. By completing all this work in-house, CTS has saved the Council significant money as previously this would have been outsourced, and charged back to the Council. In addition, by carrying out this work, CTS has been able to introduce better preventative maintenance measures and raise maintenance standards. Vehicle availability has been ensured by introducing a forward workshop on site at Lamby Way and additional technician support when required at busy times.

In addition to the RCV and Gritting vehicle work, CTS has expanded the work offered to internal and external customers. The fabrication section is now due to achieve a record-breaking turnover in 2019/20 as it takes on more work for other Council departments and some private work. The workshop continues to undertake external work by providing MOTs and minor repairs for members of the public. CTS has also taken on 12 new commercial customers and this work involves standard maintenance, MOTs, repairs and chassis washing mainly. The additional work is providing some additional income, which helps to offset overheads and supports the Council's budget savings targets.

Shared Regulatory Services (SRS)

I was pleased to attend the Environmental Scrutiny Committee meeting in November 2019 to discuss the work undertaken by Shared Regulatory Services (SRS) during the last four years. It was a wide-ranging discussion and I am pleased that the Committee recognised the excellent work is undertaken across the city. I was asked by the Committee to bring one issue to the attention of all members and that is our efforts to deter the actions of rogue traders, particularly those who prey upon the most vulnerable in our communities. Members have been provided with a pack outlining SRS activities to safeguard the vulnerable, which includes some materials to deter rogue traders cold calling our residents. I hope members find the pack informative and SRS officers will be at Council to provide more information and materials if required.

Registration Services at Hubs

On 4th November 2019, services went live for the registration of Births and Deaths at the city's Hubs. Take up was slow for the first couple of weeks, but promotion on social media and word-of-mouth has led to them now being very well used, particularly at St Mellons, where customer feedback has been very positive, not least about no longer having to undertake the long round trip to register their newborn children at City Hall. We intend to review the service fully in February/March 2020 and to look potentially at extending service to other hubs.

Registration Services – Online Appointment Bookings

Translation work is currently being finalised to enable the public to book their own registration appointments online in either Welsh or English language. It is hoped that this service will go live in early February 2020 with birth appointments initially and then be extended to include deaths and notices of marriage. Not all appointments can be booked online as they often need a Registration Officer to advise on documents that need to be produced but, where possible, the customer will be able to book the date / time / location convenient to them. Protocols in the new system will ensure that appointments stay within the statutory KPI targets set by the General Register Office (GRO) for England and Wales.

Leave Only Pawprints

The Leave Only Pawprints campaign launched at the end of October 2019. We are encouraging people to report dog fouling via the Cardiff App and there has been a big increase in reporting so far. The Council has also recruited a volunteer ambassador to promote the campaign and are working with Cardiff Dogs Home to sign up further volunteers. There are currently 20 Leave Only Pawprints Champions covering 13 wards across the city.

Cardiff Dogs Home

The dogs at Cardiff Dogs Home had a lovely Christmas with lots of donations of food, toys, blankets and treats from the public. Every dog was taken out twice for walks during the holidays, including Christmas Day and Boxing Day, by the fantastic team of volunteers who also helped provide a full Christmas dinner for every dog at the home. Volunteer numbers are increasing to the point where staff are now having to provide additional inductions in order to meet demand.

The Cardiff Dogs Home 2020 calendar proved to be extremely popular again at Christmas with all 300 copies produced being snapped up. In addition to this, the Christmas Fayre at the Dogs Home raised over £500 and all of these funds will go towards looking after the dogs in our care.

A new Friends Group has also been established who have been extremely active over the last two months and are working well with the service to promote the dogs for rehoming. They are keen to help raise funds and items needed to help benefit the dogs. They are currently going through the process of establishing themselves as a charity, which will provide new funding opportunities for the Friends Group that will also benefit the Dogs Home in the future.

Councillor Michael Michael
Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling & Environment
24 January 2020