

COUNCIL: 22 OCTOBER 2020

CLEAN STREETS, RECYCLING & ENVIRONMENT STATEMENT

One Planet Cardiff Strategy

I am pleased to confirm the launch and approval by Cabinet on 15 October 2020 of the new 'One Planet Cardiff' strategy. This sets out the Administration's response to the Climate Emergency and how we will work in partnership with stakeholders to achieve our vision of a carbon-neutral Cardiff by 2030. The strategy focuses on seven key themes; energy; built environment; green infrastructure and biodiversity; transport; waste; food; and water. A five-month consultation process will now begin, where residents and businesses will help us to shape and prioritise the wide range of potential projects and actions that are proposed within the strategy.

Whilst the Covid-19 pandemic has taken up a significant amount of the Council's time and resources in recent months, the Administration remains as committed as ever to tackling the Climate Emergency, an existential threat to which Cardiff, as a coastal city, is particularly vulnerable. The Council's response to the pandemic has laid a strong foundation to build back Cardiff as a greener city, namely through the improved air quality in the city centre, new cycling infrastructure, increased active travel and increased use of local shops and services. This progress is highly encouraging, but our work in this area will also need to address the emerging economic crisis. The 'One Planet Cardiff' strategy is therefore aimed at integrating our environmental and economic ambitions, ensuring that we lead a green economic recovery based on creating jobs that will help build a sustainable future for our city.

The ambitions are challenging and will need action in many different areas, but we have a good starting point. Many of the Council's recent and current projects are already focussed on delivering carbon reduction and climate resilience. These include LED street lighting schemes; energy efficiency improvements in domestic and Council properties; Radyr Weir; over 1.3 megawatts of roof mounted solar installations; flood resilience initiatives like Greener Grangetown, and significant changes to our waste disposal processes. Other key Council strategies such as the Transport & Clean Air White Paper, our biodiversity action planning, the Food Strategy, plans for the Heat Network, and energy efficient schools and Council housing developments also contribute directly to our carbon reduction ambitions. However, we know that we need to do more and that we'll need to do this in a context of Covid-19 recovery and difficult economic circumstances. The consultation process is therefore vital for us, and will be accompanied by detailed carbon modelling and business planning activities. This exercise will help us to identify and prioritise those projects that will have the highest impacts, both for the Climate Emergency and the Covid-19 recovery. It will help us to ensure that our resources, and those of our many delivery partners, are targeted in the most effective directions in the final strategy next spring.

Linked to this agenda, I'm also very pleased to confirm that the Lamby Way Solar Farm is now complete and awaiting connection to the grid. Over 30,000 panels have been

installed despite the big challenges posed, first by storms and then by the Covid-19 lockdown. The 9MW facility will offset approximately 2,200 tonnes of CO₂ per year and produce enough energy to power the equivalent of almost 3,000 homes. The next phase of the project will be to connect the solar farm to the nearby Welsh Water treatment works on Rover Way, helping to further decarbonise the processing of the city's waste.

Clean Air

I am pleased to announce that, on 2 October 2020, the Council launched the Clean Bus Retrofit Scheme for bus operators in Cardiff. The scheme allows operators to apply for funding to retrofit older buses within their fleets that do not meet the latest emissions standards with approved technology, therefore allowing them to comply with such standards. The technology is designed to reduce harmful emissions and will help reduce air pollution across the city as part of our Clean Air Plan.

Provisional results indicate that there has been a significant decrease in Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) levels in the city centre and across the city more widely in recent months. The impact of Covid-19, less traffic on the roads generally and more people choosing to walk and cycle has seen NO₂ levels reduce by 52% in the city centre between May and August this year, compared with the same period last year.

Air quality improvements have also been seen in other parts of Cardiff where Air Quality Management Areas, which were close to, or in breach of the legal limit, saw significant decreases in NO₂, including Stephenson Court in Plasnewydd, which saw a fall in NO₂ of 35%; Llandaff dropped by 30%; and Ely Bridge fell by 25%. All data was compared with the period from May to August last year.

Garden Waste Collections

Regular garden waste collections will not take place from November 2020 to February 2021. The decision has been made to support resilience in service delivery due to the ongoing implications of Covid-19. Although good controls are in place to limit workplace transmission of Covid-19, there are several officers being impacted by community transmission and the requirements of isolating.

Fortnightly collections will remain in place during October 2020 and will be reinstated from March 2021 to support residents to clear their gardens. The Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) will remain open, however, and will continue to accept garden waste.

A single collection will also take place after Christmas 2020 to support the removal of Christmas trees. These should be cut up and placed in the green bins or bags. Other garden waste placed in the bin or bags will also be accepted in this collection.

Media messaging will take place to ensure residents are aware of the changes and further messaging will take place at Christmas, as well as in March 2021, when services are recommenced.

Leaf Fall Removals

Leaf fall removals began on 12 October 2020 and will continue through to December 2020. Teams will target hotspot routes within key areas to ensure that highway drains are free from obstruction.

Grant Funding

Recycling Services have successfully applied for funding from Welsh Government's £6.5m Circular Economy Fund to support several projects across the service. The main aim of the Circular Economy Fund is to support greener collection of waste/recycling and to improve recycling services. The successful projects are:

- The use of a new vehicle to promptly pick up any waste collected by volunteers through the Love Where You Live scheme.
- The delivery of a new reuse shop 'The Cabin' at the Lamby Way HWRC.
- The use of small electric vehicles to collect business waste and recycling within the city centre, improving air quality and the street scene environment.
- The development of a mobile Benthylg & Repair Café.
- The improvement of messaging and signage at both HWRCs.

A grant has also been received from the Ultra-Low Emission Vehicles Fund, which will be used to provide one of the first electric refuse collection vehicles in Wales.

Student Recycling Education

Officers have completed the annual student education and engagement campaign, which helps explain to students how to correctly present their household recycling and waste, as well as advertising the CardiffGov app. Officers knocked the doors of over 5,000 properties in the Cathays and Plasnewydd areas, with face-to-face conversations being undertaken with 30% of students. App downloads in September 2020 saw the highest monthly increase since the app was launched, highlighting that students have engaged with the campaign. In addition, the team identified 1,676 properties that required additional capacity for non-recyclable waste, based on the number of residents within the property.

RSPCA PawPrint Awards 2020

I am pleased to inform members that Cardiff Council has again been successful in the annual RSPCA PawPrints Awards, receiving Bronze in Contingency Planning, Silver in Kennelled Dogs and Gold in the Stray Dogs categories this year. Cardiff Dogs Home has won at least one of these awards every year since 2008. The awards recognise not only the Council's hard work and commitment to animal welfare and by everyone at Cardiff Dogs Home, but also the high standard of kennelling provided and the commitment of the team to look after every single dog that finds itself in their care, in the best way possible.

Cardiff Dogs Home

Cardiff Dogs Home has continued to effectively manage stray dogs from Cardiff, Penarth and Barry during the local lockdown. The contract with South Wales Police now accounts for 25% of the kennels being used, which is very positive as an income stream. South Wales Police are keen to extend this contract and discussions are due to take place before the end of this month.

A basic vet service is also in the process of being set up at the Dogs Home. This agreement will enable Cardiff Dogs Home to have veterinary services on site at no cost. The Dogs Home is also caring for dogs whose owners are in hospital.

The Rescue Hotel has almost 16,000 followers on Facebook. Former Wales and British Lions rugby team captain, Sam Warburton OBE, has signed up as an Ambassador for the Rescue Hotel and is going to visit at the end of October 2020 to start the process of raising funds for the refurbishment of the kennels. The current captain of Cardiff City Football Club, Sean Morrison, also visited on 15 October 2020 to film a promotional video of the Dogs Home and an interview with ITV.

The Rescue Hotel recently arranged a 'Miles for Smiles' challenge, where people could sign-up to complete a sponsored walk of a length of their choice. A Facebook page was set up to share updates and photos of individuals' progress, which also provided a good support network for those taking part. Miles for Smiles has so far raised just under £14,000. This will now become an annual event and is just one example of how the Rescue Hotel has adapted to raising funds online for the Dogs Home while it is not possible to run events due to Covid-19.

Bereavement Services

The work on the new Cardiff North Cemetery is progressing well, with works on target for completion by the end of the year. After considering a number of options, the Cabinet has agreed that the name of the new site will be Mynwent y Gogledd / Northern Cemetery.

Green Flag Awards have been retained by the Cemetery of the Year winner, Thornhill Cemetery, and also by Cathays Cemetery.

In partnership with Sands, the stillbirth and neonatal death charity, a virtual 'Wave of Light' event was held on 15 October 2020 to mark Baby Loss Awareness Week. Representatives from local Sands groups lit a candle on behalf of bereaved parents and the short service was streamed online via the Sands group.

The annual Remembrance Service, held at the Cross of Sacrifice in Cathays Cemetery, will take place on 10 November 2020, but this year's service will have to be scaled down due to Covid-19 restrictions. Two representatives from local schools will attend.

Registration Services

Work continues to manage the backlog of birth registrations created by the previous national Covid-19 lockdown earlier this year. Over 110 births occur in Cardiff each week and the lockdown caused a backlog of over 2,800 registrations. However, good progress has been made to address this, with staff working additional hours to ensure that families can register births.

Councillor Michael Michael
Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling & Environment
15 October 2020