

COUNCIL: 18 MARCH 2021

STRATEGIC PLANNING & TRANSPORT STATEMENT

AGENDA ITEM:

Consultation on Future of Castle Street

The Council is due to launch a public consultation to seek views on options for the future of Castle Street. Options include maintaining the existing arrangement which permits access only to buses, taxis and cycles or a remodelling of lane allocation to allow general traffic on one lane in each direction. Details of the consultation will be letter dropped to local residents and businesses, supplemented by social media promotion to the wider city, site notices and Cardiff Council website presence. Stakeholder engagement sessions will also be undertaken.

Cycleways Update

Cycleway 1

The consultation on the next phase (1.2) of the route, which will provide safe, segregated space from the city centre all the way to the University Hospital of Wales site is now complete and the tender for the works will be publicised imminently.

Cycleways 2 and 5

A new 'pop-up' cycleway, which runs from Cathedral Road to Dumfries Place, opened to the public on 15 March 2021. This pop-up cycleway will be extended to the end of Wellington Street to the west and to the junction with Broadway on Newport Road to the east. This new route uses separate traffic signals for cyclists at each of the junctions, with a different 'stage' at each junction for traffic and pedestrians.

Cycleway 3

Work on the cross-city south route – connecting Lloyd George Avenue with Herbert Street and Tyndall Street – has begun and will be delivered in a pop-up form.

Cycleway 4

Work is now complete on the phase between Castle Street and Western Avenue, through Sophia Gardens. A public consultation on options for the next phase between Western Avenue and Llandaff is underway. This route aims to eventually link new Local Development Plan housing sites with the city centre.

20mph Pilots

Cardiff Council is working with Welsh Government as one of eight areas across Wales to trial 20mph limits. This is part of the initial phase of a national rollout of 20mph limits and a further expansion of the progress which has already been made in Cardiff to implement 20mph limits in many local communities. The pilot area is 'Central North Cardiff', which includes Whitchurch & Tongwynlais, Llandaff North, Rhiwbina and Heath. The national pilot will include testing new enforcement and behaviour change initiatives.

More Scooters for Schools

More schools are set to benefit from free scooters. 21 primary schools received free scooters when this scheme was first launched in 2018/19 with funding from Welsh Government's Play Sufficiency Grant. The scooters are being used by schools, maintained nurseries and Families First pre-school settings for informal play activities in schools, as well as scooter training provided by the Council's Road Safety Team. The scooters help children get exercise and develop their balance and agility. This helps them make the transition to riding a bicycle.

Additional funding from another source has been acquired to purchase another 245 scooters for primary schools. All Cardiff primary schools will then have scooters.

Adult scooters are to be provided to secondary school specialist resource bases and special schools as part of the Council's rollout of Phase 2 of the Schools Bike Fleet scheme (see below).

Schools Bike Fleet – Phase 2

The Schools Bike Fleet scheme is a partnership project between Cardiff Council, Welsh Cycling and British Cycling and is funded by Welsh Government. The scheme provides schools in Cardiff with a fleet of free bikes, which can be used in school by pupils as part of cycle training, PE and other educational activities. In Phase 1 of the scheme, 31 schools and the EOTAS (Education Other Than At School) team received bike fleets.

A second phase of scheme is in the process of being implemented. In Phase 2, a further 48 new fleets, including bespoke fleets for children with additional needs, are being provided to primary schools, secondary schools, special schools, specialist resource bases and Cardiff Youth Justice Service.

Cycling and Bike Mechanics Skills for Young People

Cardiff Youth Service's Cycle to Education Programme is helping young people in specialist educational provision settings in the city to learn new skills to help get them on track in their future careers. It has also benefitted from the Schools Bike Fleet scheme.

Six-to-twelve week courses are being delivered, focusing on accredited bike maintenance qualifications, cycling proficiency and safe route planning, to young people aged 12-18 on alternative educational pathways.

The EOTAS team is hoping to roll out more courses towards the summer to reach more young people. In the summer term, a group of young people who have already completed the course will be going into primary schools to pass on some of their new skills to younger pupils and encourage them to get into bike riding. Those who are now proficient in bike mechanics and safe riding will also give back to their communities with free bike fixing and servicing events and workshops at Gabalfa, and across the city at each of the youth activity centres in Butetown, Eastmoors, Powerhouse, North Ely and St Mellons.

Cycle Parking for Schools

The Council is busy installing more high quality bike shelters in schools across Cardiff. A total of 19 schools are set to have new shelters before the end of March 2021. These facilities have been funded by Welsh Government. Funding has been sought from Welsh Government in 2021/22 to continue the provision of bike shelters to all schools which need them.

School Streets

Demand is continuing to grow for School Streets. 14 School Streets are now in place and have received positive feedback from schools, residents and the wider community. A future programme is being developed in response to concerns about safety outside school gates in many of our communities across the city. Additional restrictions will be put into place in 2021/22.

Highway Resurfacing and Surface Treatments

The highway resurfacing programme has continued and has concentrated on strategic routes in the city, such as the A4232 and Central Link (A4234). Large areas of new surfacing have been installed in areas which had deteriorated in order to improve the overall condition of the network. In addition, the micro-asphalt treatment programme has commenced and is concentrated primarily on residential roads throughout the city. The programme is well underway and, weather permitting, will continue through to completion in April 2021.

Millennium Walkway

Replacement works have commenced on the boardwalk alongside the Principality Stadium. The existing timber is being removed and will be replaced by a composite material made of recycled materials, which will provide a safe, attractive and sustainable replacement solution to the existing timber deck.

Blackweir Bridge – Re-Opening & Feasibility Study for Replacement Bridge

Blackweir Bridge has re-opened following the completion of structural works to make it safe by Cardiff University, who hold responsibility for maintenance of the bridge over the River Taff. The Council has sought funding from Welsh Government's Active Travel Fund to undertake work to investigate the feasibility of constructing a replacement bridge. The existing bridge is heavily used and forms part of the Taff Trail. The bridge deck is narrow and does not meet the standards required under the Active Travel Act. A replacement bridge would need to be designed to meet these standards and to accommodate future growth in walking and cycling.

Bus Emergency Scheme

The Council is working in partnership with Welsh Government, Transport for Wales, local authorities and bus operators on the Bus Emergency Scheme (BES) being funded by Welsh Government. The BES2 Agreement that has been formulated is to be in place until 31 July 2022 and it will continue to address the loss of revenue from fares and the additional costs associated with responding to the pandemic. It will also seek to provide a platform for improving the bus network and encouraging people back into using public transport during the recovery period.

Councillor Caro Wild
Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning & Transport
11 March 2021