
CLEAN STREETS, RECYCLING & ENVIRONMENT STATEMENT

One Planet Cardiff

Cardiff was recently named as the UK's third greenest city in a study compiled by NatWest and Southampton University, with only Sheffield and Edinburgh ahead. This is reflective of the significant work that the Council and partners have done to date on the decarbonisation agenda and underlines the value of the One Planet Cardiff strategy. Work on this area continues to progress well with officers having conducted two major engagement events with Council staff in the last few weeks to promote the strategy corporately. As well as delivering on major decarbonisation projects around the corporate estate, green infrastructure, and renewables, the Council is now commencing work on new projects identified on the One Planet Cardiff action plan. These include a major review of procurement strategies to identify and reduce the caused emissions from the items purchased; a far-reaching public engagement strategy to help citizens, staff and partners to make better environmental choices; and a holistic review of staff and business travel arrangements to drive down the associated carbon emissions.

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

In collaboration with local authority colleagues in the Cardiff Capital Region, we will shortly be commencing the roll-out of further public Electric Vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure in Cardiff, with a primary focus on installing fast chargers in strategic car parks across the city. This work will see 10 car parks benefit from the installation of 22kw chargers, with the work being funded via the Welsh Government's Ultra Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) funding. It is hoped that these charging locations will be installed early in the New Year, subject to programme confirmation with the appointed EV charging point installer.

Local Air Quality

The Council's annual progress report for 2021 was approved by Cabinet on 18 November 2021. The report provides the results of data captured in 2020, and the report demonstrates full compliance of air quality standards at all monitoring locations. However, these results were heavily impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic owing to the noticeable effect of the various lockdowns on reducing road traffic in line with the prohibition of non-essential travel. As a result, the concentrations recorded in 2020 are not representative of a true 'business as usual' scenario. The Cabinet has also committed to undertaking a two-year pilot project to enhance the Council's real-time

air quality monitoring network. The project will look at providing improved monitoring more widely across the city, building on the existing air quality management areas and strengthening our understanding of air quality issues across the whole of Cardiff.

Remembrance Services

Two Remembrance Services were held at Cathays and Western Cemeteries' War Graves Sections earlier this month, which were attended by the Lord Mayor and Councillors representing their wards. The services followed the traditional format of the remembrance service with wreaths being laid by the Lord Mayor, The Royal Welsh, The Friends of Cathays and the Walking for Health group, as well as local schools (Allensbank Primary School and Ysgol Mynydd Bychan at Cathays Cemetery and Hywel Dda Primary School and Ysgol Coed y Gof at Western Cemetery). A wreath was also placed at the Blitz Memorial in Cathays Cemetery to commemorate the 80th year since the Blitz in Cardiff. It is truly fitting that, in this 100th year of the Royal British Legion and the use of the red poppy as the symbol of remembrance, all generations were able to come together to remember and reflect at these two services.

Christmas Memorial Service and Memorial Trees at Thornhill Crematorium

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, it has been decided, once again, to not hold a Christmas Memorial Service at Thornhill Crematorium; however, a service will be live streamed from the crematorium on 5 December 2021 at 2pm for all those who wish to remember their loved ones from their own homes. Further details of the live stream will be released closer to the date.

The ever-popular Christmas memorial trees, which are placed outside of the Wenallt Chapel, will be available again this year and anyone wishing to place a memorial tag on the trees for a donation of £2.00 can contact Bereavement Services to have a tag prepared for them. Bereavement Services' chosen charity for this year is Believe Organ Donor Support.

Registration Services Update

Cardiff Register Office has returned to pre-Covid numbers of 50 guests in the St David's Room at City Hall. Marriages have been exceptionally busy right through 2021, which has extended our annual busy six-month ceremony period to nine months this year. Birth registrations have also returned to a pre-Covid 'business as usual' position with no delays for the public to get an appointment.

The General Register Officer (GRO) is leading on work to allow continued digitalisation of registration services. From 1 December 2021, registrars will be able to transmit and receive all documentation electronically when registering births, still births and deaths, removing the requirement to send paper documentation by post.

Cardiff Dogs Home

Cardiff Dogs Home and The Rescue Hotel have agreed to provide emergency boarding to people who have to move into temporary accommodation because of an emergency, but can't take their dogs with them. Staff receive a lot of calls asking them

to take dogs in temporarily during a crisis and many of these requests come from women who are fleeing domestic violence or abuse. The Dogs Home will provide the care and safe management of the dogs for 4-6 weeks of temporary boarding to enable owners to get their personal situation stabilised and have their dog returned to them. The Rescue Hotel will pay for health checks, vaccinations, flea and worm treatments, and a small contribution to the kennelling fees.

The Rescue Hotel is currently funding a canine behaviourist one day per week, a receptionist for the health centre two days per week and the vet for two days per week. As the Health Centre expands, the receptionist and vet will be funded for extra days building up to five days per week. This is a fantastic achievement by the charity after only 18 months in existence. Funding for the subsidised neutering scheme and free microchipping scheme that had been in place for many years was cut by The Dogs Trust in early 2020. However, I am pleased to confirm that the Rescue Hotel and Cardiff Dogs Home are now providing an affordable neutering service via the Vet Service, with microchipping available for only £10.

The Stray Dog Contract with South Wales Police has been extended to 31 December 2022. This contract may also be widened to include the Gwent Police area, which will increase the income for Cardiff Dogs Home.

Flood and Coastal Risk Management

The Flood and Coastal Risk Management Team is working with both the University of Bath and University of South Wales to assist undergraduates and postgraduates' dissertation projects and professorial research projects. This provides opportunities for improved avenues of study, whilst also providing the Council with essential research information for improved flood risk management.

The team is also working with Atlantic Crest – a water safety company who have experience of working with schools and also provide safety qualifications – to develop a water safety talk/activity session for both primary and secondary school-aged children in Cardiff. As soon as this work is completed, officers will make appropriate contacts to advise of this free service and availability.

Councillor Michael Michael
Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling & Environment
18 November 2021