



<b>Date:</b>	24 March 2021
<b>Report of:</b>	Councillor Melvyn Caplan
<b>Cabinet Member Portfolio</b>	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for City Management
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As per the new agreed Cabinet Member report structure, this update provides highlights on my City for All priorities, areas of current focus in the Deputy Leader and City Management Portfolio and pertinent performance information.

## **1. City for All Vision and Strategy (2021 – 2022)**

At the start of March, we launched our refreshed strategy for 2021 setting out how we will support communities to help them to recover from the pandemic and become stronger, healthier and greener.

### **1.1 *Thriving Economy***

Following an unprecedented year, to get our city back on track, our refreshed City for All Strategy includes a programme of work to help build a dynamic post-pandemic economy that can respond flexibly to change and underpins our low carbon future.

#### **1.1.1 *Oxford Street Transformation***

In January we launched our Oxford Street District Framework setting out a road map for the District's transformation over the next ten years. Our continued investment in the Oxford Street District's revitalization will transform the heart of the West End and Westminster's retail, cultural and hospitality economy and to test low carbon economic growth and development.

On 10 March, we broke ground as we commence works on Oxford Street with our plans for temporary public realm improvements showcasing innovation, sustainability, culture and diversity. Our aim is to reinvigorate and reimagine the nation's high street for new patterns of use, safely welcoming people back to the district post-lockdown.

#### **1.1.2 *Al fresco hospitality***

On 23 February, we announced that al fresco schemes will be returning when restaurants, pubs and bars re-open in late Spring to support our vital hospitality sector across the city. These temporary measures will run until September 2021.

#### **1.1.3 *Safe movement across Westminster***

Following the success of the movement strategy in summer last year, work is underway to enable businesses and visitors to be greener whilst enjoying our city's varied offer as our city reopens after lockdown. We have extended our ActiveStreets offering across the city to provide clean and safe streets to access schools, and for our children to play.

### **1.2 *Greener and Cleaner***

#### **1.2.1 *Reduce waste and transforming recycling facilities – Food Waste Trial***

In February, we won the Waste Performance of the Year Award from Keep Britain Tidy for the food waste trial launched in 2019. During the pilot more than 345 tonnes of food waste was collected from over 7,000 households. This food waste was diverted from landfill to produce heat, electricity and fertiliser. Following the success of the pilot, we will be extending the trial to more households within the city.

#### **1.2.2 *Sustainable transport – Electric Vehicle Charging***

As of 5 March, we have installed 953 on-street electric vehicle charging points across Westminster, with a further 47 on track to be installed by the end of March 2021 as part of our accelerated expansion programme.

### **1.2.3 Reduce energy consumption - Light-emitting diode (LED) street lights**

As the Committee will be aware, in 2019 the Council commenced a programme of installing LED street lights to improve lighting control and reduce energy consumption that was expected to conclude at the end of March 2022. As of the end of February, we have switched 8,200 of our street lamps to LED, with a further 5,000 to be switched by November 2021 as part of our accelerated programme. Equally a programme of LED lighting improvements continue within the leisure service and the main sports pitches have now been converted to energy efficient lighting.

## **1.3 Vibrant Communities**

### **1.3.1 Active environment - Leisure facilities**

Whilst our leisure facilities have been closed for recreational use, we have been able to use Moberly and Little Venice leisure centres for over 15,000 lateral flow tests and welcomed over 1.5million people to the open spaces on offer at Paddington Recreation Ground.

On 28 January, the Council received the 'Fit for Business' certification for all our leisure facilities becoming the second local authority in the country to receive this status. The Fit for Business accreditation is a stringent and fully independent review of all health and safety operational and strategic measures to certify that as an authority, our sites are COVID-secure.

Following the recent announcement from Prime Minister Boris Johnson on 22 February, work is underway to plan for the safe re-opening of our leisure facilities in line with government guidance. The council bid for and obtained for our leisure provider, Everyone Active £570,000 in National Leisure Recovery Funding and they have agreed to a return of normal opening hours as far as possible and feasible for all indoor sites from 12 April.

## **1.4 Smart City**

### **1.4.1 Smart Technology Trials**

Alongside the accelerated rollout of our electric vehicle charging points and LED street lights, we have trialled smart technologies with our partners to reduce carbon emissions. For example, our King Street trial with FM Conway reduced embedded carbon in the materials by 50% and reduced carbon emissions from the works by 79% through the exclusive use of electric vehicles, tools, welfare and recycled equipment. The learnings from the King Street trial has been fed back to other highways services and following the recent decision on our Planned Preventative Maintenance (PPM) Programme for the coming year, we will be steadily transitioning all schemes within this programme to the new carbon efficient operating model.

## **2. Cabinet Member Decisions (January 2021 – March 2021)**

Since the start of the year, as Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for City Management, the following decisions have been made:

- Public Realm Improvements in Trafalgar Square;
- Planned Preventative Maintenance (PPM) programme for 2021/22 in respect of Highways, Public Lighting & Bridges and Structures;
- Highways Services Contract Arrangements; and
- Annual Review of Housing Revenue Account Rent and Associated HRA Charges 2021-22.

## **3. Key Performance Indicators**

Reduced business activity during lockdown continues to be reflected in reduced waste levels with 51% less waste being collected in February 2021 compared to the previous year (7006 tonnes in February 2021 compared to 14,238 tonnes in February 2020). Complaints about missed waste collections have also reduced by 55% in the same period.

As of 1 March, on the wider capital programme we had spent £37.3million and are on course to spend the profiled amount of £42million by the end of the financial year.

Around 90% of the PPM programme has now been delivered. We are due to complete the last two large resurfacing schemes in March with associated anti-skid to follow. Some resurfacing works in the West End have been delayed to ensure co-ordination with potential hospitality measures.

As of quarter three:

- 100% of urgent lighting defects made safe within an agreed timescale;
- 99% of carriageway and footway defects repaired or made safe within 24 hours;
- 85% of Resident parking bays available (based on number of bays and average of those suspended); and
- Latest bi-annual Parking compliance survey shows that 98% of motorists were parking in accordance with the regulations.