

Date: 29 March 2022

Report of: Councillor James Spencer

Portfolio: Cabinet Member for City Management

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

### **1.1 Cleaner and Greener**

#### **1.1.1 Movement Strategy Temporary Cycle Lanes**

The Cycling Movement Strategy ('temp cycle') schemes consultation ran from 10th November to 8th December 2021. A total of 1,471 people responded to the consultation questionnaire. A key finding from the consultation included that across all 11 areas, the majority of respondents (Residents > 72%, Non-Resident > 81%) support the proposal for both temporary and permanent cycle lanes.

Findings from the public consultation will be combined with that of the Monitoring Report and technical stakeholder feedback to facilitate a decision by the Cabinet Member for City Management to retain and develop permanent proposals for each location. Designs complete based on monitoring and feedback is due to be compiled by the end of March 2022.

#### **1.1.2 Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Points**

Through the Council's *Climate Action Plan* we have set a target of installing a further 500 charge points by the end of 2022. Currently there are 24 rapid charge points on the public highway throughout the City, with 11 of them being exclusively for taxis and the remainder available to all EVs. Another 7 rapid charging sites are waiting for install, 4 of those will be installed by the end of April. A further 30 rapid charging sites are planned for installation in 2022/2023.

The charging points currently provided by PodPoint will be replaced by with the Source London contract. Once transferred, the 11 bays will become income-generating for the Council. The BP Pulse contract extension negotiations are still ongoing and are currently looking positive. We are working with Source London to vary their contract to allow the deployment of rapid chargers more easily.

The following map ([https://jhumb1.github.io/wcc\\_ev\\_chargers/#map](https://jhumb1.github.io/wcc_ev_chargers/#map)) includes all EV charge point locations in Westminster. Through the 'About' tab, a graph has been produced exemplifying the growth of installations over the last four years as well as a table displaying charge point pricing.

#### **1.1.3 Cycle Hangers**

With the review of secure cycle parking demands across the City of Westminster now complete, over the next 12 months, we are targeting installation of 50+ new secure cycle storage units (300 secure spaces) across the borough. The WCC Parking Operations team now manages rentals across all Westminster Housing Estates and have commenced rentals of available spaces based on a refreshed waiting list. Residents can apply for a space on the Council's website via our interactive cycle parking map. Alternatively, if their preferred unit is unavailable, they can register an interest for secure parking in their area by completing our 'Register an Interest' webform. They will then be allocated an available space in their 'hangar catchment' based on their desired maximum walking distance. Annual rentals are £40 (plus 25% discount for WCC housing tenants). The

Parking team will continue to refine internal processes until mid-2022 when a decision will be taken on the delivery model.

Our Highway Hangars are currently managed by our suppliers Cyclehoop and Falco. Residents can apply to rent a space or join a waiting list for the hangar by applying directly to our suppliers' website. Pending a successful pilot of the WCC managed rental of housing estates units, the new process will be rolled out to all WCC owned hangars. Annual rentals are £72, payable to our suppliers.

#### **1.1.4 E-Scooters Trial**

A recent decision has been taken to extend the Westminster E-Scooter Trial until November 2022. As part of the trial, the Council has set out areas of the borough where the speed of e-scooters should be restricted. 'Go -slow' zones and areas where e-scooters would not be allowed 'no-go' areas. These areas are managed by geofencing technology. After the trial started, it was recognised that the speed cap of 8.5mph (versus 12.5mph) posed safety concerns alongside running traffic in the carriageway, where the e-scooters are intended to be used as. It was agreed that the removal of the 'go-slow' areas would be implemented across the borough. A blanket removal of the 'go-slow' areas was agreed to avoid confusion for riders, and it was agreed that small increase in speed would have marginal impact on pedestrian safety. The removal of the 'go-slow' areas is being monitored and can be reintroduced if required. See *Appendix A, figure 1* for a map of 'no-go' zones in Westminster.

### **1.2 Thriving Economy**

#### **1.2.1 Supporting Hospitality Businesses - Al-Fresco Scheme**

The support for hospitality businesses, offering outdoor dining space, has been provided by the Council since June 2020. The current programme, which created an extra 16,000 covers, came to an end on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021, as businesses can now operate to capacity indoors. The road closures and barriers that were in place have now all been removed. It should be noted that businesses can still apply for a licence to allow outdoor dining on pavements, providing there is sufficient space to enable access without support from the Council. See *Appendix A* for a table on additional covers by ward for live Al Fresco Schemes as of 16 March 2022.

## **2. Major Cabinet Member Decisions**

- Amendment to Appendix 2 of December 2021 Fees and Charges Cabinet Report
- Annual Review of Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Rent and associated HRA charges 2022/2023 (Joint with Cabinet Member for Housing)
- Planned Preventative Maintenance (PPM) programme for 2022/23 in respect of Highways, Public Lighting & Bridges and Structures
- Variation of Waste Collection and Street Cleansing Contract with Veolia ES Ltd to Replace Diesel Waste and Recycling Collection Vehicles with Electric Vehicles

## **3. Areas of Focus**

### **3.1 Equal Pavement Pledge**

The Council has signed up to Transport for All's (TFA) equal pavement pledge. TFA state 'As lockdown restrictions gradually begin to lift and we look towards opening up and "building back better", there's never been a better opportunity to reset and centre accessibility at the heart of our plans.' The pledges include: 1. Listen and Act, 2. Keep it clear 3. Cut the clutter, 4. Mind the trash, 5. Drop the kerbs, 6. Protect the blue badge bays, 7. Work with disabled experts.

The Public Realm Team has recently engaged TFA to provide training to officers on how to consider and view accessibility on our streets and engage with experts early in the design of public realm schemes. A programme of dropped kerbs and accessibility improvements has been developed for Soho and across the borough. Funding is being sought from the Capital Programme to enable delivery. Work continues with our Licensing team and City Inspectors to ensure pavements are being kept clear of clutter and rubbish. We are currently consulting on our al fresco schemes to ensure they also meet the Equal Pavement Pledge.

### **3.2 Public Conveniences**

The Council continues to deploy 18 urinals and 12 'portaloo' facilities each weekend (Friday to Monday) at identified problem locations across the West End. The facilities are very well used and will continue to be deployed throughout the winter period. A consultant has been appointed to develop a new concept design for the Council's public toilets and site surveys have commenced. Key objectives for the new design will include the installation of contactless payment barriers, increased CCTV and security measures, green features and improved external 'wayfinding' signage.

Tenders have been received to replace our current units of Automatic Public Toilets (5 locations). Tenders are currently being evaluated with the objective of commissioning works to take place during Spring 2022. The current units are more than 20 years old. The replacement units will be easier to maintain and remotely monitored so that closing times can be adjusted as required. The priority list of installations are as follows: 1. Broadwick Street, W1, 2. Oxford Street / Balderton Street, W1, 3. Regent Street / Princes Street, W1, 4. Regency Street, SW1 and 5. Harrow Road 'Maida Hill Market', W9. Our plan is to have the first installation completed by end of May 2022.

### **3.3 Covent Garden Neighbourhood Traffic Management Scheme (NTM)**

The implementation of a traffic management scheme across the Covent Garden district were implemented on a trial basis in December 2021 under an Experimental Traffic Order (ETO). A series of surveys and monitoring exercises will be conducted during the period of the trial, the first one will take place in March 2022 once the scheme has 'bedded in'. Residents, businesses, stakeholders and the public can comment on the scheme during the trial via a dedicated website or mailbox, both of which have been widely publicised. Any comments received will be considered by the project team along with observations from the monitoring and surveys and action taken if an issue is identified. The ETO is due to run for up to 18 months and, depending on the outcome of the trial, a decision will be sought whether to make the scheme permanent or revert to previous arrangements.

### **3.4 Parking Update**

Procurement process for the new service structure underway. It is hoped that the Technology tender will be awarded in the coming weeks while invitations to tender for all other aspects of Parking should be going out over the next two months. Parking activity continues to return to normal but is still below pre-COVID-19 levels. A full City-Wide occupation survey is currently being commissioned to deliver results by late summer 2022. This will help understand kerbside demand, service needs, and how the external variables (COVID-19, ULEZ etc) have impacted parking in Westminster. See *Appendix A, figure 2* for a table on parking services currently in procurement.

### **3.5 Highways Update**

The Council submitted a new Local Implementation Plan (LIP) bid on 1 November 2021 which consisted of a detailed delivery plan for schemes to be funded by TfL for 2022/23 and an outline of our indicative plans for 2023/24 to 2024/25. The bid consists of a programme of 'Corridors' schemes for cycle, pedestrian, bus priority, road safety, schools etc works, 'Cycle Routes' and 'Bus Priority' routes. For 2022/23 these combine to a £4,813,000 bid though this remains subject to TfL, the Mayor and Central Government agreeing a 'Bail out' agreement for 2022/23 and the next two years thereafter. 5 low carbon schemes have been completed so far this year. 87% of the LED Lighting programme is now complete.

### **3.6 Parks and Open Spaces Update**

Capital investment in play areas continues with Westbourne Green Senior Play Area having new equipment installed. Due to good weather and the near end of winter. A full service of all outdoor gym equipment is taking place due to the high amount number of individuals making use of them. Play areas are being check annually by the ROSPA inspector which give us a good indication of where next years budgets will be spent.

An extensive wildflower meadow is being planned for Berkley Square this spring together with further bulb planting. All works associated with the meadow are a Parks project aside from the supply of daffodil bulbs which were paid for by the Landowner. Additional park benches have been placed in St Johns Garden-Horseferry Road to allow for quiet use of the garden adding to users health and wellbeing in green spaces. 15 new notice boards are being installed in several parks & gardens giving local friends groups and others the opportunity to give information to park users. This will also encourage fitness groups to inform others of activities in the green space.

## Appendix A

Figure 1 – Map of ‘no-go’ zones in Westminster.

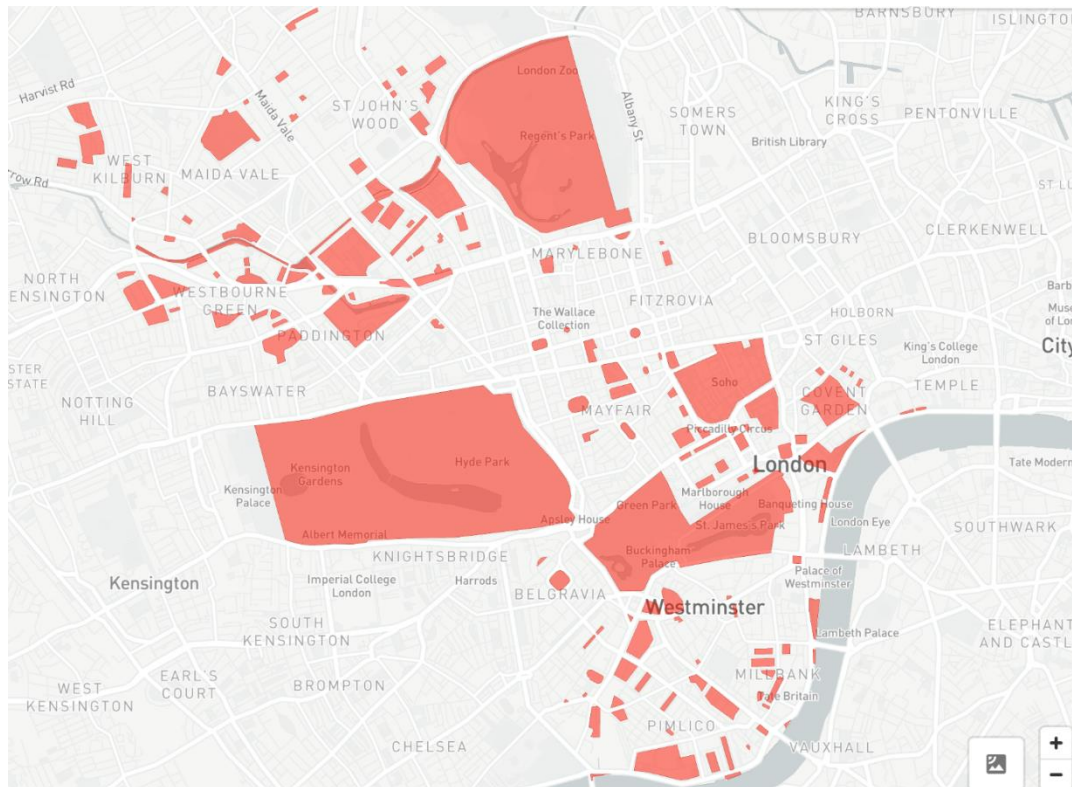


Figure 2 – Parking Services in Procurement.

Title	Contains	Status	Comments
<b>Technology</b>	Provision of the IT systems that support the issuing of PCNs and management of Permits and suspensions. Provision of handhelds devices. Owning the interface between providers.	In final stages of procurement process and due to be awarded in coming weeks	Run on a longer term contract will enable us to avoid re-procurement whenever the other contracts providers change. Separate contract increases our control and reduces costs
<b>People and Resources</b>	The contract provides a flexible pool of skilled resources for deployment to manage the kerbside space. The Council determines the level of Resources required and times of deployment, while the Service Provider manages these resources and the day-to-day operation	Invitations to Tender to be issued within next 4-6 weeks	Includes items such as Radios, uniforms, equipment, vehicles etc which are currently provided separately outside of this contract
<b>Business Processing</b>	Delivering Parking Services' back office functions to manage full processing and issuing of all permissions, handling of PCNs and complaints, and issuing of Camera enforcement PCNs. All other back office customer facing and support duties.	Invitations to Tender to be issued within next 4-6 weeks	By removing B&P from the technical elements we gain greater opportunity to source a more dynamic (perhaps non-Parking-specialist) provider at a lower price.
<b>Cashless</b>	Dedicated cashless parking software provider to manage the on street paid-for parking activity.	Invitations to Tender to be issued within next 4-6 weeks	Currently subcontracted through Business Processing Contract. A separate contract increases our control over change, encourages dynamism, and reduces costs.
<b>Cameras</b>	Dedicated contractor to provide camera systems to enable the issuing of Camera PCNs by the BP team.	Invitations to Tender to be issued within next 4-6 weeks	Currently subcontracted through Business Processing Contract. A separate contract avoids suppliers being frozen out of the market by "lock-in" deals by the big parking providers of B&P etc.
<b>Relocations</b>	Specific contractor to manage relocations and removals.	Invitations to Tender to be issued within next 4-6 weeks	Including Abandoned Vehicles which is currently managed via Debt contract
<b>Audit and Compliance</b>	Undertakes checks on routine KPIs and SLAs for other contractors and supports Client in getting best value from the contracts	TBC. The spec of the service/function required will be determined by the other procurements.	
<b>Debt Management</b>	Full service debt management with proactive management of potential cases.	Not intended to go to market. Current contract has plenty of scope to extend. Will be reviewed to ensure best value.	Move Abandoned Vehicles to sit with Relocations

Figure 3 – Additional covers by ward for live AI Fresco Schemes as of 16 March 2022.

<b>Ward Name</b>	<b>Licences per Ward</b>	<b>Additional Covers</b>
Abbey Road	3	80
Bayswater	9	104
Bryanston and Dorset Square	11	234
Churchill	4	69
Hyde Park	5	180
Knightsbridge and Belgravia	19	336
Lancaster Gate	10	80
Little Venice	12	160
Maida Vale	6	80
Marylebone High Street	46	787
Regent`s Park	20	324
St James`s	242	5869
Vincent Square	6	64
Warwick	15	332
West End	184	3314
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>12013</b>