

<b>Date:</b>	13 September 2022
<b>Portfolio:</b>	City Management & Air Quality
<b>The Report of:</b>	Councillor Paul Dimoldenberg
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- 1. Key decisions made in the preceding period since my last Policy & Scrutiny report dated 23 June:**
  - 22/07/2022 - Contract Award for the Supply, Installation and Operation of 1,000 New Shared Supply Charge Points for Westminster Residents.
  - 11/08/2022 – Westminster Ceremonial Streetscape Project Trafalgar Square Extension.
- 2. The following report includes my priorities and delivery progress to date of the new administration.**

## **2.1 City Management**

### **Parking and Highways Service Updates**

Recently charging for optional SMS messages as part of pay-to-park has been successfully introduced. Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) rates are currently at their highest since 2014 due to improved deployment models of on-street staff and increased Marshal numbers (due to improved recruitment and retention by our contractor NSL). Car Share contracts are to be relet with a view to support greater EV- usage. Currently the Car Share contracts expire in April with procurement about to start for the new service.

### **Electric Vehicle (EV) Charge Points**

We have recently completed our third round of resident chargers' installation, bringing our total EV charge points in the City to 1,260. Work will soon commence on a fourth round of installation. We have also recently had a successful bid of over £1m for the next round of EV charge points that will deliver more than 500 units. The programme of dedicated resident bay installation alongside lamp column resident charge points continues and is expected to complete by the start of September. Source London is in the process of introducing 30 charge points with a 22kW output and this programme is expected to complete at the end of the summer.

### **Waste, Recycling and Street Cleansing Update**

Officers are currently leafletting and door-knocking residents in the 6 wards with a food waste service to check if they require a second waste collection each week. Maida Vale ward will have a

food waste service introduced from early September with Little Venice then following in early October. An additional three deep clean units have been secured to increase stain removal projects across the city (equating to four units in total). This will be combined with education and enforcement against businesses placing out leaking bags of waste.

### **Public Conveniences**

Work continues at pace with our refurbishment programme for our seven central London locations. The Broadwick Street Automatic Public Toilet (at surface level) is currently being refurbished and is scheduled to re-open mid-September. Quotes are underway for repairs works to the Maida Hill Market Subterranean toilets which are expected to reopen in October. The surface level remains open and free to use for residents and visitors. Condition surveys and quotes are being prepared to fully modernise the Parliament Street Public toilet based on designs prepared by a leading architect and toilet design experts. Carnaby Street and Great Marlborough Street will be the next toilet to be modernised and surveys are currently taking place.

### **Dumping Hotspots in Westminster – Waste Action Squad**

City Inspectors are provided with statistics from Veolia to identify potential waste hotspots throughout the City. Officers have currently identified approximately 100 hotspot locations notably including: Queensway and Inverness Terrace, Strand and Belgrave Road, Marylebone Road and Boston Place, Edgware Road and Shirland Road.

The Public Protection and Licensing along with the Environment service are working to develop a on street engagement and enforcement programme (working title – Waste Action Squad), to provide a highly visible operation, signalling to the community that this is an area of focus and that we are acting against persistent problems. We will engage with residents about waste problems in their neighbourhood and gather insight into how they think these could be tackled together. More details will be available in my next update report.

### **Waste Enforcement Activity**

City Inspectors have undertaken 915 waste investigations between the 11<sup>th</sup> July and the 7<sup>th</sup> August. This involves waste where there is insufficient evidence to take formal action including issuing a penalty notice. During this period, they have issued the following penalty notices: 166 for commercial receptacle offences, 105 for fly tipping, and 53 for failing to provide a waste transfer notice. There have also been 85 fly tipping warnings and 86 residential warning notices issued.

### **School Streets**

The 10 trial Experimental Traffic Order (ETO) School Streets schemes continued to be on the street up to the end of the July 2021/22 academic year. They will return for the 2022/23 year and the significant 'Vivacity' multi-model monitoring sites will be fully operational, as will modest air quality monitoring. Two of the 10 sites have experienced difficulties in terms of adherence of drivers to the signs and controlled hours. These are: Droop Street, where an assault on a Marshal by an unknown driver occurred and Amberley Road, where local adjoining estate residents are regularly driving cars through the scheme during controlled hours.

### **Cycling in Westminster**

130 additional cycle stands are programmed for installation over Q3-Q4 , following both informal/formal traffic order consultations. We intend to submit an ambitious LIP bid to TfL for the

design and delivery of C43, C40 and C51 cycle ways in the fall to complement its own capital investment. The programme and associated funding are currently in development. Due to the continued loss of TfL LIP funding this year, the Public Health Fund support for our Cycle Training programme continues in 2022/23. Likewise for roadside *Dr Bike* and *Cyclestation* sites. We continue to wait TfL's resourcing capabilities to be known to make use of Council funding for the implementation of 5 new Santander Cycle Station sites on Westminster highway.

The Secure Cycle Parking programme continues its roll-out of storage across the borough at pace. To date this year, 24 new units have been installed with a further 23 programmed for installation before winter. A further 13 proposed locations have been consulted on locally and will be added to the installation programme upon review of responses. Additionally, 57 S106 funded locations have been identified for installation before spring 2023, pending consultation.

### **Dockless Bikes**

On July 28<sup>th</sup> I wrote to four dockless Bike operators demanding action for obstructions and hazards of their equipment being left on the pavement in Westminster. Since then, the Council has begun to seize the dockless bikes which would be considered a hazard to those walking through the City. We have since heard back from all four operators and we look forward to working with them on how to make cycling safer in the City of Westminster.

### **Transport for London (TfL) Relations**

Westminster City Council continues to support the Zero Emission Zone (ZEZ). Recently officers met with counterparts at TfL and the GLA. We retain our position that ZEZs should be implemented top down by TfL, covering the inner London and Congestion Charging Zone. Officers are currently working on a united lobbying position with several inner-city London boroughs, which will be presented to TfL later this year.

### **Parks and Open Spaces**

With long periods of extreme heat in July and August, parks and gardens are under considerable pressure. We thus expect some loss of plants and vegetation throughout the borough and will have a replacement programme in place for winter. Watering of annual bedding and some new shrub areas is taking place, all other areas including grass areas are now brown but will recover with rain fall. On August 24<sup>th</sup> Thames Water banned customers from using hosepipes due to the dry weather. Officers are working to support awareness among residents, businesses, and stakeholders. We would like to thank all our arboricultural staff discussing an exemption to the hosepipe ban with Thames Water on recently planted trees, which will help to save young trees from dying during the drought.

It has been another year of great success obtaining and maintaining Green Flags. We have recently received both a Green Flag Award and a Green Heritage Site Accreditation in partnership with Parks for London for the recently upgraded Hanover Square Gardens. Paddington Recreation Ground has also retained its Green Flag Award, as well as 3 Green Flag Awards for Westminster Housing Estates at Lillington and Longmore, Churchill Gardens and Lisson Green.

### **Flooding in Westminster**

The Independent Flood Review was published 12th July 2022 and officers and Members soon after met with Thames Water to discuss the outcomes. The section 19 report will be finalised once the

review report has been considered. Following that the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy will be updated and published in 2023.

## **2.2 Update on Air Quality in Westminster**

We are looking to re-engage with schools and amplify wins and improvements on the School's Clean Air Fund (SCAF) as we are set to relaunch this programme in September in line with the new school-year. There is over £700k available to schools across the borough to undertake Air Quality improvements. Applications for Defra's AQ Grant Programme 2022/23 will close on 23 September. Several bids are being put together, including one on commercial cooking emissions. There are two projects ongoing which are funded by previous round of Defra AQ Grant: Clean Air Logistics for London, led by Cross River Partnership, and Wood Burning awareness raising project led by Camden and Islington.

### **Air Quality Monitoring Update**

We will soon sign off on pollutants and a rough location of new reference method station – NO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub> and O<sub>3</sub>, located in a background site in Queen's Park ward. Next steps include a costing briefing, Strategic CIL application, and engagement with local resident groups to ensure community buy in and consultation on a precise location.

Discussions are ongoing with GLA and Imperial College London on the borough-wide data platform regarding low-cost sensor monitoring. We continue to support community groups such as Clean Air Bayswater and numerous schools with low-cost sensors (including supporting evidence base building for school streets). We are moving towards a unified council position to communicate to community groups on key outstanding issues with a number of low-cost sensors on the market, which include installation costs, ongoing electricity costs, and data quality.