



City of Westminster

Communities, City Management and
Air Quality Policy and Scrutiny
Committee

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Portfolio: City Management & Air Quality
The Report of: Councillor Paul Dimoldenberg
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1. Key decisions made in the preceding period since my last Policy & Scrutiny report dated 20 July 2023:

- Proposed scheme for dockless bike parking

2. The following report includes my priorities and delivery progress to date:

3. City Management

3.1 Parking

Following formal approval for introduction of Emission-based charging schemes, officers are reviewing latest demand data to scope the detail of the policy and timescales for when this could be introduced. Design principles will include ensuring that charges are fairly and equitably applied. More details will follow in a Cabinet Member Report in the early Autumn.

Work continues to be undertaken by officers to improve the customer experience with new systems put in place since April. These new systems were built as bespoke solutions for the City Council and so always had scope for service improvement and redesign to maximise efficiency. Operational tweaks, process improvements, and online guidance notes/FAQs for the public, have been put in place. Following recommendations from members of this Committee, Officers are working on a system that will enable residents to proactively see parking bay suspensions on their street (or any other area of interest) which will help them plan for changes and mitigate disruption to their normal activity. This new suspension functionality is in early stages but should be rolled out this financial year.

Recent viral social media has raised concerns relating to a case of alleged bribery of a Marshal. Any case like this is investigated and actioned in full by our partners, Marston, who run the Marshal service. Officers are kept advised of any such process and ensure that appropriate action is taken as necessary.

3.2 Notting Hill Carnival Cleansing Operation

More than 170 waste and street cleansing staff and 30 vehicles were deployed to the huge clean-up operations over the Carnival weekend with most of the activity taking place overnight once crowds had dissipated. The main clean up on Monday night/Tuesday

morning was completed by 5.30am. A total of 81 tonnes of waste and litter was cleared over the weekend which is very similar to previous Carnivals. Approximately two large 'builders skips' of laughing gas canisters were also collected.

There was also a notable increase in graffiti at this years' Carnival with one large section on Great Western Road taking 11 hours to remove. Detailed deep cleaning and washing on roads and pavements around the carnival footprint and cleaning of residents' gardens and pathways then took place over the remainder of the week. The team have received a number of compliments from local residents on the speed and quality of the clean-up operation.

3.3 Mobile Community Recycling Centre - Churchill Gardens Estate

Following a successful pilot event in Queens Park, the Mobile Community Recycling Centre will be operating at Churchill Gardens Estate on Saturday 30th September. Local residents will be encouraged to bring along bulky household items (mattresses, furniture etc.) or to book a collection at the event. 'Difficult to recycle' and reusable items (e.g., electrical appliances) will also be collected alongside information stalls on environmental issues. Officers are currently surveying potential locations for similar events in other wards.

3.4 Neighbourhood Food Waste Bin Service

There are now 39 neighbourhood food waste bin sites at existing micro-recycling centres across 15 wards in Westminster. Another 11 neighbourhood food waste bins will be installed at new sites at the end of September 2023. This element of the food waste recycling service allows residents who live in properties without sufficient space for communal or kerbside food waste recycling bins to take their food waste to their nearest on-street communal food waste bin. The total amount of food waste collected to be recycled from the service overall (which includes food waste from the kerbside, communal, neighbourhood and on-demand services) since March 2022 is 1951 tonnes (until end of August 2023).

3.5 Electric Waste and Recycling Fleet

All forty of the new electric waste and recycling vehicles (50% of the total fleet) have been received from the manufacturer in Warwick and have been put into operation from the new electric depot at Landmann Way in Deptford. There have been no issues with the new vehicles which have also received very positive feedback from the Veolia drivers as compared to the previous diesel-powered vehicles.

3.6 Dockless Bikes

The Cabinet Member Decision Report for the Dockless Bike Scheme was approved on Tuesday 22 August 2023 and the call-in period for this decision has now expired. Officers are now working towards meeting the three dockless rental e-bike companies, LIME, Tier and Forest, and reaching the necessary collaboration agreements and implementation of the proposed approximate 220 bays on the street. These will enable a mix of access for both existing rental e-scooter riders and now rental e-bike riders. The phased roll out of both stages should lead to a scheme being on the street over mid to late September into October.

The Cabinet Member decision includes provision for adaptations to the proposed agreements and the c220 bay scheme on the street in line with legal advice and Experimental Traffic Order (ETO) legislation.

3.7 Westminster Bus Network Changes

TfL's Summer 2022 Central London Bus Review and Consultation led to its decision to implement almost all of the proposed changes earlier this year, mainly on Saturday 29 April. Also, the Leader of the City Council and Cabinet Member for City Management and Air Quality

lobbied TfL to ensure that the needs of Westminster residents, commuters and visitors continue to be monitored and any changes to the bus network are considered. To date, officers have knowingly received no concerns, complaints raised by residents, commuters etc so it's proposed that the City Council reaches out to our communities at an appropriate time in the near future to determine if this is the case, or otherwise.

Aside of the outcomes of the 2022 Central London Bus Review in April 2023, Cllr Dimoldenberg met TfL's Head of Buses and it is our intention to continue with our dialogue with TfL on how to address bus service network 'pinch points', how our Bus Lanes can be better managed, how passenger accessibility to the network can be improved and how the substantial investment by TfL in Zero Carbon electric and hydrogen buses can be better promoted across our communities. To realise this Fairer Westminster aligned aim the proposed Westminster Sustainable Transport Strategy (working title) is first proposed over 2023/24 into 2024/25 of which its proposed that a Westminster Bus Network Delivery Plan will follow thereafter.

In the meantime, its advised that we continue to develop our Bus Lane Reliability Programme and the current feasibility study stage is now nearing completion. Some 36 bus network pinch points, existing bus lane lengths, junctions etc have been identified and at locations that include Abbey Road, Grove End Road, Lisson Grove, Bayswater Road, Gloucester Place, Kingsway, Maida Vale, Victoria Street etc. Key challenges being evaluated include the identification of poor access and service resilience for buses with our colleagues at TfL according to: obstructive sections of parking and other kerbside provision; carriageway width limitations for buses; the positioning of Bus Stops; the position of refuges etc. A briefing will be submitted to Cllr Dimoldenberg by the year end which will then recommend a programme for onward consultation with Ward Members and key stakeholders and then the adoption of viable schemes for onward Design and Implementation in partnership with TfL.

3.8 Regent Street

The engagement activities on the future vision and objectives for Regent Street included six workshops where residents, businesses and other organisations such as cycling, taxi and accessibility groups were invited, four pop-up events at Tachbrook, Maida Hill, Church Street and Rupert Street Markets, and four drop-in events in a vacant shop on Regent Street. Across all the engagements events 328 people participated so far. Alongside this, there has been an online survey which has had over 2400 responses so far and is due to close on 30 August 2023. Across all the engagement activities people have been asked what they like and dislike about Regent Street today, and what their priorities are to help guide the future vision and objectives for the project.

In September, there will be a series of targeted workshops focussed seeking the views of people with protected characteristics, as well as an on-street market research survey that will interview people on Regent Street to ensure a cross section of people who use the street today are represented across the engagement. Both activities will ask for feedback on the street today and what they would like to see in the future.

The analysis of the engagement has commenced and will complete in late September or early October. The engagement report will conclude in a vision and priorities for the Regent Street project.

3.9 Proposed Cycle Schemes

The final stages of Cycleway 51 consultation are being finalised and accepted. Pre-Engagement with Ward Councillors and key stakeholders has taken place. Postcards and lamp column wraps have been sent to suppliers. Drop-in events locations have been booked and dates confirmed. All in preparation for the proposed start date of 4th September. At the

time of writing, the consultation on Cycleway 51 is expected to be well underway by the time this report is considered. The consultation is expected to run for 6 weeks ending 15 October.

Movement Strategy Phase 2, Buckingham Palace consultation is underway. Lupus Street consultation material ready and expected to follow 2 weeks from the end of Buckingham Palace consultation and run for 3 weeks. Northumberland Avenue consultation material is ready.

Cycle Permeability Soho cluster TMO in final review by Westminster City Council and RSA for Northwest cluster is complete. Abingdon Street lighting design has been completed.

3.10 C43 Cycleway Update

The C43 consultation report is being finalised, once complete the report will be issued.

4. Air Quality

4.1 Air Quality Data Platform

In July the council launched its new air quality data platform on the council's website. The platform allows residents and other stakeholders to view where monitoring is taking place across the city, what current pollution levels are like, and how current and annual trends compare to the World Health Organisation guideline levels that the council has committed to working towards in our Fairer Westminster strategy. As well as having a mapping function, the platform allows user to download data as well as a comparing sites across the city. It is the first of its kind in London in showing all monitoring taking place across a borough in one format.

4.2 Micro Logistics Hub

The Pimlico micro-logistics hub, delivered in partnership with the Cross River Partnership, is continuing to reduce emissions related to freight, servicing and deliveries in the city. This is achieved by reducing the number of polluting delivery vehicle trips, reducing congestion, and through consolidating deliveries as well as using e-cargo bikes. Launched in April, in the first four months of the project, the e-cargo bikes have travelled over 9,000km, servicing 18 boroughs, and reduced the daily NOx emissions of nearly 200 people.

4.3 Funding Opportunities

Defra's Clean Air grant funding is the only national government grant scheme specifically aimed at air quality projects. The council is currently part of three Defra funded projects, and the new round of funding has been announced and is open to local authority bids until 29th September. Westminster is currently scoping out the potential for bids including a partnership project on freight and logistics with Cross River Partnership, a second stage of the wood burning project we are currently partnered on, an indoor air quality monitoring project with other boroughs and LSE, and a potential solo bid relating to commercial cooking emissions in partnership with the Sustainable Restaurant Association.

4.4 World Health Organisation Pathway Analysis

The council has appointed Clean Air Consultants to undertake a pathway analysis study to understand the steps the council needs to take to meet our Fairer Westminster commitment of meeting World Health Organisation guideline levels for air quality. The work is expected to be completed by November and will help inform the council's new Air Quality Action Plan by helping us better understand what actions need to be taken and prioritised to improve air quality as far as possible.

4.5 Schools' Clean Air Fund

The council is working towards relaunching its Schools' Clean Air Fund, with a new offer to schools to help improve air quality in their local areas. This Fund synergises with the council's carbon offset funding opportunities to schools, and our ongoing school streets programme, as

part of our wider package to schools to help them improve their local environment and meet our climate emergency goals.

4.6 Wood burning stoves

As part of the pan-London partnership project, Westminster will be undertaking an awareness raising campaign in the autumn / winter to tackle wood burning in homes, which produces harmful particulate matter emissions. This publicity campaign will combine council channels with wider media buys across London and will be the first such awareness raising campaign on this issue.

4.7 Anti-Idling in Westminster

One current issue to consider at this present time is the ongoing concerns raised by the Harris Academy School and its concerns about irregular coach engine idling on two Pay to Park coach parking bays. To address this concern Parking Marshals are being tasked to visit the site more often in terms of enforcement of the kerbside controls, the coach industry trade groups have been lobbied to advise companies to instruct drivers to refrain from engine idling and a bay relocation scheme outside of the school access on Tothill Street is being prioritised for proposed implementation in late summer/ early Autumn. Officers are continuing to work across the Council to look at relative feasibility of potential steps that can be taken to address idling issues in the City.