



# City Management and Public Protection Policy & Scrutiny Committee

<b>Date:</b>	<b>6 February 2019</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Cllr Tim Mitchell</b>
<b>Portfolio:</b>	<b>Cabinet Member for Environment and City Management</b>
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## **1. Environment**

- 1.1 **Greener City Action Plan (GCAP)** - GCAP Year 3 update report will be presented as a main agenda item, where we will highlight the key priority areas to focus on within the 9 GCAP themes for 2019. Work around the GCAP Year 4 planning will begin after the P&S meeting.
- 1.2 **New Air Quality Strategy** - This will be publicly consulted on in Spring 2019. Further details on the Air Quality Action Plan and the positive contribution of the 2017 Air Quality scrutiny Task Group on the Council's air quality work are being brought to the P&S Scrutiny Committee as a main agenda item to this meeting.
- 1.3 **Schools' Clean Air Fund (SCAF)** - we will work with Public Health and CMC over the operational phase of the SCAF. Any primary school can apply for up to £30k to implement a range of AQ measures. The Fund will open following the expansion of the pay to park Diesel Surcharge. Three nurseries in the city are to receive GLA funded air quality audits, similar to those that were provided to several primary schools in 2018.
- 1.4 The Schools' Clean Air Fund and diesel surcharge are both priorities set out in our 2018 Air Quality Manifesto, alongside eight other policy areas. We will be producing a public facing progress and next steps document in April 2019.
- 1.5 **Water Fountains** – The team are looking to install water fountains in all WCC libraries and leisure centre, all checks and feasibility test completed we are now waiting on

section 106 decision as to apply for installation. We are also working with the Mayor and Thames Water to identify potential sites around Westminster.

- 1.6 As part of the #MyWestminster – Active streets programme we have our first Active Street at Enford Street for St Mary’s Bryanston Square CE Primary School, this will become a pedestrian and cycle zone. A permanent Play Street is being installed on Fisherton/Luton Street and will go live in April 2019.

### **Open Spaces and Biodiversity**

- 1.7 Work has been ongoing on a new Council strategy for Open Spaces and Biodiversity. A draft was developed which focuses on recognising the many benefits of open spaces and wildlife in Westminster, environmentally, economically and in terms of people’s health and wellbeing. The document emphasised the importance of working with partners and involving the public in unlocking these benefits. Through the summer and autumn last year, the draft was the subject of a public consultation. We are now in the closing stages of finalising the strategy in light of responses to that consultation. We aim to publish within the next few weeks.

## **2. Highways and Transport**

- 2.1 A review of the thirty nine trial 20mph limits has been undertaken and post monitoring has shown a slight reduction in speed and notably where speed was higher a greater reduction in speed has been seen. The majority of roads now comply with the DfT recommendation on having a mean speed of 24mph or less to make them suitable for a 20mph limit (273 out of 277 counts conformed). The 12-month consultation period saw 300 responses with: 73% envisaging it would be safer to walk and cycle where there are 20mph limits within their communities; 63% believed such a limit would reduce speeds of vehicles; and 46% thought it likely/ or very likely that more journeys would be made by foot or bicycle as a result. As a consequence of these results the trial 20mph limits have now been made permanent. We will look at options for expanding the scheme across the City.
- 2.3 The three-year Local Implementation Plan (LIP) programme to Transport for London was submitted on October 10th 2018. This includes the delivery of pedestrian, cycling and other road safety projects and is due for approval by the end of the financial year.

### **Highways – Reactive jobs on footway and carriageway.**

The table below shows the performance for reactive highway works on the carriageway and footway.

	Oct 18 Performance		Nov 18 Performance		Dec 18 Performance		Completed within time target. (Dec 18)	Target from 1 April '19
<b>Priority 1(2hour)</b>	100%		98%		100%		73 of 73	98%
<b>Priority 2 (24hour)</b>	100%		97%		93%		198 of 214	98%
<b>Priority 3 (10 day)</b>	100%		100%		77%		215 of 280	98%
<b>Priority 4 (28 day)</b>	100%		100%		82%		536 of 650	98%

We are experiencing an increase in the number of footway reactive jobs raised above that level routinely expected. Crews are currently working weekends to bring down the backlog. The Council has received and spent an additional £500K grant from the Department of Transport to fix pot holes and footway defects.

In the last 2018 audit the Highways Contract Auditors Norman Rourke Pryme (NRP) visited 113 reactive job sites all of which had been attended and 92% of which had been completed in compliance with the service information.

#### 2.4 Planned Preventative Maintenance Footway – 2018/19

- Brewer St is due for completion by the 25th January and Hereford Road by the end of Feb. Marylebone High Street is due to commence mid February between Marylebone Road to Paddington Street.

#### 2.5 Planned Preventative Maintenance Carriageway – 2018/19

- Kennet Road, Blenheim Road, Loudoun Road, Rossmore Road, Baeumont Street, Duchess Street, Southampton Street, Ebury Square, Warlock Road, Trevor Place, Fynes Street and Abercorn Place were completed in the last quarter.
- Montpelier Walk, Circus Road, Francis Street, Hereford Road, Cliveden Place, Sussex Square and Cambridge are all due for completion by the end of March.

## Lighting

Reactive Lighting Job Performance Table

	Oct Performance		Nov Performance		Dec Performance		Target from 1 April 14
<b>Priority 1 (2 hour)</b>	100%		95%		96% (25 of 26 jobs)		98%
<b>Priority 2 (24 hour)</b>	N/A None raised		N/A None raised		N/A None raised		98%
<b>Priority 3 (48 hour)</b>	98%		65%		38% (280 of 760 jobs)		98%
<b>Priority 4 (7 day)</b>	N/A None raised		100%		60% (3 of 5 jobs)		98%

2.6 From 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> December we received 3357 incident reports for street lighting, of which 2639 defects/issues were identified including 87 dayburners (3.3% of total defects). The average monthly lighting defects for the last 3 years is 490 per month. Given we are currently experiencing fault in excess of 900 per month a detailed review of the fault causes is currently being completed. The contractor has a backlog of works and has brought in additional crews to address the issue in Quarter 4.

P3 performance levels are lower than the acceptable level because of a combination of higher than expected reactive jobs due to the elevated failure of lantern equipment and additional requests for Christmas lighting installations. The contractor was not able to mobilise additional resource in time to recover the position before the end of December. Additional crews have now been mobilised to address the backlog of jobs created. The number of reactive requests was double the average level of monthly faults.

A trial of three different LED street lighting systems has commenced and the results will be known at the end of March. The trial includes two systems with centralised management (remote monitoring and control) and a photocell system (Lights turned on and off by a sensor on the lantern).

## 2.7 Road Management

	Oct Volume	Nov Volume	Dec Volume	Previous three months' average

<b>Utility Works</b>	914	1125	1085	766
<b>Crane Licences</b>	94	66	53	95
<b>Temporary Structures</b>	196	129	105	141
<b>Road Closures</b>	121	102	76	96

## **Surface Water Management**

- 2.8 There were no reported operational issues in Quarter 3 with the gully routine maintenance and reactive services. Dry weather has continued into the winter and as a result, the volume of reactive works is below our projected numbers compared to 17/18. The on-going drainage capital programme 18/19 has contributed to improving the overall condition of the drainage network, especially targeting hotspot areas of repeated enquiries which is driving down the number of reactive jobs.
- 2.9 CCTV survey programme delivery is on track. The programme continues to identify a range of defects across the network, of which over 300 sites have been resolved through the drainage improvement programme to-date for 18/19. In Q3, over 1000 gullies were CCTV surveyed, 80 patch lining repairs completed, and over 100 gullies were successfully cleared with the heavy jetting programme. The on-going data collection continues to feed into a comprehensive drainage improvement programme which will progress the overall drainage network to a higher standard.

## **Cycling**

- 2.10 The cycle hangars trial in Ilbert Street has been a success and, subject to them being moved across the road, will be made permanent. The installation of 15 more hangars has been agreed, officers are in the process of identifying suitable sites with Parking colleagues. It is expected that the additional hangars will be installed by March.

A review of the current cycling schemes being proposed in the borough is being undertaken in order to rationalise out capital programme. The Council was successful with its Judicial Review of TfL's Cycle Superhighway 11 (CS11). TfL have now appealed this decision and we are waiting to see if they will be granted leave to appeal. This has meant that TfL have been unwilling to meet to agree a way forward.

## **Public Realm Schemes**

- 2.12 The major public realm schemes are progressing on time and on budget. Works at New Bond Street are progressing well, and Baker Street Two Way is due completion and switch over in Spring 2019. Work has been initiated on Phase 1 of the Oxford Street District programme in advance of the opening of Crossrail. Work has commenced on the Queensway scheme and is due to start on Strutton Ground and Christchurch Gardens shortly. The public realm programme continues to deliver, major public realm schemes, developer schemes, local safety schemes and the Local Implementation Plan TfL funded programme.

## **3. Parking**

- 3.1 Following the completion of the diesel surcharge consultation report, recommendations were made to the Cabinet Member to expand the diesel surcharge to the whole of the city as soon as is feasible; to maintain the 50% surcharge levied as part of the Zone F trial; and, to not include at this stage older petrol vehicles in the surcharge. Informal approval for the recommendations was given and a Cabinet member report will now follow. Once signed, mobilisation will begin.
- 3.2 The new flexible car sharing contracts with DriveNow and Zipcar continue to bed in. Concerns about vehicle clustering in the West End have thus far proved unfounded. Vehicle numbers continue to be closely monitored however. A WCC staff offering being developed for internal users.
- 3.3 Development of the online suspensions application tool (OLS) continues in conjunction with the London Borough of Camden, with the self-serve element having been rolled-out from October to internal users such as Conways and WSP. Self-serve to be extended to WCC City Promotions, Events & Filming, prior to full release of the system with complete customer self-serve capability scheduled for Q1 2019/20.
- 3.4 Fees and charges proposals for pay-to-park tariffs and permits are being developed for release to Finance for the end of January.
- 3.5 The workstream to introduce traffic orders on Westminster's housing estate land to enable enforcement of the parking restrictions continues, with the priority being Churchill Gardens Estate, where a payment 'holiday' for permit charges has been granted to residents in the absence of enforcement of the parking restrictions. A project assurance review commissioned by Parking Services was completed in December and a full-time project manager for the workstream is being sought. A number of critical policy decisions are still pending, which need to be agreed before the Traffic Orders can be finalised.

- 3.6 Although the Appy Parking One Click functionality was sound, no discernible benefit from its use could be identified for WCC and the trail was ended.
- 3.7 DfT approval has been obtained for Zero Emission Capable (ZEC) taxi bay signage, and the upload of the new enforcement contravention codes to the Marshals' handheld devices is complete. The workstream is now with Highways for the on-street element: to find suitable locations for the bays and to implement appropriate Traffic Orders.

### **Electric Vehicles**

- 3.8 There are currently 211 Electric Vehicle (EV) on-street charging points: 97 of these are in dedicated EV-only bays, 44 in dedicated car club bays, and a further 70 retrofitted into lamp columns.
- 3.9 Westminster continues to expand the lamp column charging option for residents, having secured £300,000 in funding through the Go Ultra Low Cities Scheme (GULCS) for resident's charging. The roll-out to date has been funded by TfL LIP funding and this will pay for approximately 100 points, with plans to introduce a further approximately 140 in the first year of the new contract. The service was initially introduced on a trial basis and we are currently in the process of procuring a supplier through the GULCS framework to provide us with a formal agreement for the supply of these charge points that we aim to commence in February 2019.
- 3.10 Using the TfL framework for rapid chargers in taxi rest ranks, the City Council has procured through mini-competition a contract with ESB to supply ten rapid chargers at six taxi rest ranks throughout the City to complement the transition of the black taxi fleet to zero emission capability. Planning approval has been given on all of the sites and work to install the points began on 14th January, with the other sites planned to start over the next 3 to 4 weeks. Two rapid chargers are being installed on the TLRN in Westminster too, with one already operating on Park Road. The framework will allow us to further transition rest ranks in the City and to procure rapid chargers for public availability. Potential sites are being reviewed with an aim of procuring through the same mini-competition route.
- 3.11 City Highways is in the process of completing a strategy for EV charging for Westminster that considers the needs of EV drivers in the City, both residential and commercial, and how the City Council can best ensure that sufficient charging infrastructure is in place to encourage transition from petrol and diesel to electric. The strategy is constructed from a number of sources including the survey that was issued over the summer of 2018 and will be issued at the end of January/start of February. An expansion proposal for the next steps for expansion over the coming year in consideration of the growth of the profile in EVs in the City has already been approved by the Cabinet Member. As well as the lamp column and rapid charge point expansion already mentioned, 35 additional freestanding charge points provided by

Blue Point London will also be introduced, made up of fifteen 7kW and twenty 22kW charge points.

## **4. Waste and Parks**

### **Street Waste Action Team (SWAT)**

4.1 The Street Waste Action Team (SWAT) was assembled last year as part of a twelve month pilot to reduce fly-tipping and waste dumping in Westminster's worst affected wards. The pilot has had overwhelming success in Warwick, Tachbrook, Vincent Square, Hyde Park and Harrow Road wards – which saw an overall reduction of 67.5 per cent in waste dumped in residential bin areas. The SWAT team has now been deployed in Bayswater ward. The main aims of the project are to:

- Substantially reduce rubbish dumping on streets
- Ensure all residents are aware of how and when to dispose of their rubbish and recycling
- Ensure residents understand the best ways to report problems to the Council so they can be tackled effectively.

The SWAT team has completed the 'intelligence gathering' phase in Bayswater which involves resident surveys, business intelligence and on the ground observations by street sweepers and waste collection staff. The team are now running a series of engagement events, installing new street signage and 'door-knocking' local residents to ensure they understand and support the project. The waste enforcement team will then be deployed to identified 'hotspot' locations.

### **Fly Tipping – Behavioural Insight Grant**

4.2 The council has successfully obtained a grant of £25,000 from the Local Government Association to investigate 'nudge' techniques to tackle fly-tipping. This will involve a behavioural insight expert advising on physical design and messaging changes to waste bin sites that experience very frequent fly-tipping issues.

### **Winter Service**

4.3 Although there are no current indications of when it may snow the council is fully prepared:

- We have a full salt barn (1500 tonnes), deployed 200 grit bins and completed a test mobilisation of the gritting fleet. Extra salt/grit is ordered in from Cheshire as soon as we start gritting.
- The vast majority of our schools, housing estates and similar public buildings have had salt delivered already and the final few are being chased to confirm they are prepared.
- The council [website](https://www.westminster.gov.uk/winter-gritting-service) (<https://www.westminster.gov.uk/winter-gritting-service>) carries an updated map of the priority order for gritting. In very simple terms - Priority 1 is the main road network, Priority 2 are the streets close to the River Thames, surrounding the Royal Parks and the 'northern-most' wards (as these areas get coldest, quickest). Priority 3 is the 'middle swathe' of streets where snow is least likely to settle. Specific locations around hospitals, surgeries, schools (if open), slopes and key transport points will be gritted as soon as snow is forecast.

TJM

18 Jan 2019