

Date: 18/04/2023

Dear Colleague,

Re: Delivering Cardiff's Sustainable Transport Strategy: Review Of Road User Payment Options.

You may recall that in 2020 Cardiff Council published a Transport White Paper that set out a transformative 10-year vision for the city's transport system. This White Paper identified a package of major transport projects that would make a significant contribution to tackling the climate emergency and delivering our One Planet strategy. These include improving air quality and reducing the illnesses associated with poor air quality; promoting inclusive economic growth, reducing congestion and improving access to jobs and opportunities for disadvantaged communities currently poorly served by public transport, both within Cardiff and the wider region. Projects like Cardiff Crossrail, the further development of the South Wales Metro, and enhanced bus services between the city centre and region are urgently required and would represent essential long-term improvements to our transport infrastructure.

However, as we are all aware and have discussed many times in the past, the current transport funding model cannot deliver the investment in transport that is needed at the necessary pace and scale. New approaches will be needed, over and above the current funding regime, to deliver the change we need. My administration has therefore announced today that it will be exploring the case for the introduction of a Road User Payment (RUP) scheme in Cardiff and will be taking a report to Cabinet commencing a WeITAG process on 27th April. This will also mark the start of a consultation and engagement process to look at options for RUP.

We would like to emphasise that the project is at the formative stage of business case development, and no decision has been made on any particular scheme. As part of the process for developing the business case we will consider a range of schemes including, but not limited to, Road User Payments, Congestion Zones, Clean Air Zones and Workplace Parking Levies, to name a few.

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GWEITHIO DROS GAERDYDD, GWEITHIO DROSOCH CHI

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog. Byddwn yn cyfathrebu â chi yn ôl eich dewis, dim ond i chi roi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh, English or bilingually. We will ensure that we communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay.



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As a Council, we are also committed to ensuring that the diverse voices of residents are at the heart of decision making, and that's why consultation and engagement will be central to any review of road user payment options. Over the year ahead we will be asking residents, business, commuters and stakeholders for their views on these proposals and how best to build a sustainable and affordable public transport system. In doing so, we will place a particular emphasis on listening to those who are most vulnerable or whose voices are most seldom heard. Any scheme in Cardiff will also fully consider any exemptions, reimbursements or discounts for qualifying individuals that may need to apply.

In short, we are committed to engaging with citizens to make sure that any Road User Pricing scheme works for all the people of Cardiff. The next step is a process of planning and appraisal using the Welsh Government Welsh Transport Appraisal (WelTAG) guidance in preparing a business case. WelTAG must be used by any transport programme or project seeking funding from the Welsh Government. This involves engagement with key stakeholders to collaboratively explore existing and future problems and opportunities, establish study objectives, and identify potential interventions. Cardiff Council has commissioned consultants WSP to undertake a Stage One WelTAG study. WSP will be running online workshops with key stakeholder representatives on behalf of Cardiff Council. You have been identified as a key stakeholder and will soon receive workshop invitations directly from WSP.

This represents the start of an important and long overdue discussion about the opportunities to invest in the modern public transport system that Cardiff needs and deserves. We welcome your participation in this discussion and look forward to engaging with you over the weeks and months ahead.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan De'Ath', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Dan De'Ath
Cabinet Member for Transport and Strategic Planning
Cardiff Council