
Clean Streets, Recycling & Environment: Councillor Michael Michael



Keeping our streets and neighbourhoods clean and well-maintained is one of this Administration's top priorities. Survey after survey of Cardiff residents puts clean streets as one of their most important issues. We agree. Clean streets are a vital part of strong and resilient communities, where people are proud of their local area and look out for one another. We are committed to continue with our neighbourhood blitz and 'deep clean' efforts and we will review our street cleansing service to make sure that we're delivering the best we possibly can for Cardiff.

But keeping Cardiff clean can't be just the Council's responsibility. It has to be the responsibility of each and every one of us. Everyone who lives, works, learns, or plays here has a responsibility to each other, and to the city, to help keep our streets clean. We want as many people as possible to contribute, by getting involved in our 'Love Where You Live' campaign, by not throwing litter in the first place, or reporting those who do. We will commit to operating a zero tolerance policy, increasing our enforcement activities and fines for the litter-throwers and fly-tippers who demonstrate a complete lack of respect for their neighbours and communities.

Cardiff is Britain's leading major city for recycling. Recycling of waste from households has already increased from 4% to 58% since 2001. As the city grows, more people will live in the city, more businesses will locate here and more people will visit. This will mean more waste. Furthermore, we have to meet the challenging recycling targets – set in law by the Welsh Government - of 64% by 2020 and 70% by 2025 if we are to avoid substantial fines. That's why we are committed to continuing the radical improvements in recycling that we've seen over the past 15 years, and to making Cardiff a world-leading city in this vital area of environmental sustainability.

Protecting our city's environment and improving our sustainability at a time of unrelenting public sector austerity will not be easy. It will mean challenging old ways of doing things, and challenging ourselves – and our citizens - to embrace change, if that means we can deliver a better service for the people of Cardiff, better working conditions for our staff, and a more resilient and sustainable capital city for Wales.

We will:

- Develop a '**Total Street**' approach to keeping streets and public spaces clean that join up Council services.
- Continue the successful '**Love Where You Live**' campaign to support residents and community groups in taking greater responsibility for the cleanliness of their local communities.
- Apply a **zero tolerance** policy on fly-tipping and street littering.
- Develop a systematic proactive approach to street and public space **enforcement** including:
 - Implementing Public Space Protection Orders to remove anti-social behaviours.
 - Improving education and enforcement relating to litter, dog fouling and fly-tipping.
- Support the **implementation of the Clean Air Strategy** by promoting low-emission vehicles with a focus on the Council's fleet.
- Explore a programme to retrofit schools with renewable energy and develop **Sustainable Heat Network** proposals for the city.
- Deliver a **Food and Street Food Strategy** for Cardiff.
- **Boost city recycling rates** by placing a focus on education in schools, community engagement, behaviour change and through complementing recycling services.
- Improve recycling performance and tackle street litter by exploring with partners, including Welsh Government, opportunities to **introduce more sustainable food wrapping in take-away eateries**.
- **Explore options for new Household Waste Recycling Centres** to meet predicted growth in the north of the city and **deliver new ReUse Centre facilities in partnership with the third sector**.
- Explore the opportunity for greater collaboration with neighbouring local authorities on the delivery of recycling services including shared infrastructure services.
- Deliver a long-term solution to **ensure adequate burial space is provided** for the future that will meet the needs of an increased city population.
- Develop a **sustainable and enhanced service for the kennelling and re-homing of stray dogs**
- Ensure taxi users and visitors to the city experience a consistently high-quality and safe service and that **Cardiff taxi drivers are provided with a level playing field** by using our regulatory powers to support customers and providers.
- **Help protect the public and ensure businesses act responsibly** through the provision of the collaborative Regulatory Service.