



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot  
Neath Port Talbot Council

## **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **Environment, Regeneration and Streetscene Services Cabinet Board**

**2nd December 2022**

### **Report of the Head of Engineering and Transport David W Griffiths**

#### **Matter for Decision**

**Wards Affected:** All Wards

#### **Report on the Swansea Bay Healthy Travel Charter**

#### **Purpose of the Report:**

This report seeks approval from the Board to become a signatory of the Swansea Bay Healthy Travel Charter with a view of implementing a range of interventions and policies provided under the charter.

#### **Executive Summary:**

The Swansea Bay Healthy Travel Charter was launched in May 2022. It currently has 12 partner organisations signed up namely, Coastal Housing, Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA), Gower College, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service, National Waterfront Museum, Natural Resources Wales, Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Service (CVS), Pobl Group, Swansea Bay University Health Board, Swansea Council, Swansea Council for

Voluntary Service (CVS) and Swansea University. It has 6 organisations supporting the signatories in implementing the charter BikeAbility, Community Transport Association, Low Carbon Swansea Bay, Swansea Environmental Forum, Wheelrights and 4theRegion.

The Charter outlines policies, strategies and interventions to increase the physical activity of staff to counter increasing levels of obesity, diabetes, social isolation and worsening health inequalities through walking and cycling. It also encourages the use of ultra-low emission vehicles and public transport to tackle local air pollution and the Climate Emergency.

As signatories of the Swansea Bay Healthy Travel Charter, we would commit resources to implement the elements of the charter, covering Communications and Leadership, Walking, cycling and public transport, agile working and Ultra-low emission vehicles.

### **Background:**

In the public sector within Wales, there are currently Healthy Travel Charters in place covering Cardiff, Vale of Glamorgan, Gwent and Swansea Bay partnership. For private businesses, there's a Business Travel Charter with current signatories of FOR Cardiff and the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) Wales. Each of these Healthy Travel Charters are co-ordinated by an overarching group called Healthy Travel Wales.

Healthy Travel Wales emerged out of work which began in Cardiff, and later the Vale of Glamorgan, to develop an approach across the public sector to healthy and sustainable travel.

Welsh Government has set ambitious targets for itself and public sector bodies to reach Net Zero by 2050 of which Active Travel and the Healthy Travel Charter form part of.

**Financial Impacts:**

To minimise the financial impact to the Authority, officers will seek opportunities to maximise grant funding streams wherever applicable.

**Integrated Impact Assessment:**

A first stage impact assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The first stage impact assessment has indicated that a more in-depth assessment was not required.

**Valleys Communities Impacts:**

No implications

**Workforce Impacts:**

The charter seeks to deal with declining levels of physical activity, increasing levels of obesity and diabetes, widespread air pollution, social isolation, and worsening health inequalities of staff.

We would look at incentivising staff to use alternative modes of travel by including them into the Travel Expense Policy.

**Legal Impacts:**

No implications

**Risk Management Impacts:**

This charter seeks to deal with the long term well-being of staff and the wider community by reducing pollution having a positive effect on air quality which is a specific issue in Port Talbot.

**Consultation:**

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item

**Recommendations:**

Having had due regard to the Integrated Impact Assessment, that Members approve that the Council become a signatory of The Swansea Bay Healthy Travel Charter.

**Reasons for Proposed Decision:**

The charter seeks to reduce the impact on the local environment by reducing the use and reliance of internal combustion engines; seek to make staff more active (in line with Welsh Assembly Active Travel Act) to reduce inactivity, obesity and boost their well-being.

**Implementation of Decision:**

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period

**Appendices:**

Appendix 1 - Healthy Travel Charter – Swansea Bay

Appendix 2 – IIA

Appendix 3 - Llwybr Newydd – The Wales Transport Strategy 2021  
**(To follow)**

Appendix 4 – Welsh Public Sector Net Zero: Baseline and recommendations April 2022

Appendix 5 - Moving Forwards: Healthy travel for all in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.

**List of Background Papers:**

As above

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# Healthy Travel Charter

## Swansea Bay



We're taking steps to reduce carbon emissions, improve air quality and support staff health and well-being

### Working together across Swansea Bay, over the next two years we commit to...

Communications and leadership
<b>Establish a sustainable travel champion network</b> Establish a network of sustainable travel champions, including senior staff and managers and, where relevant, students and elected members, who routinely promote and model active and sustainable travel behaviour, in line with the sustainable travel hierarchy
<b>Involve our staff</b> Regularly involve staff in discussing what measures would help them shift to sustainable modes of travel, through travel surveys (at least an initial baseline and annual survey) and other initiatives, e.g. staff competitions and awards to encourage healthy travel
<b>Use consistent communications messages</b> Agree and use consistent communications messages with the public, visitors and staff on healthy travel and reducing unnecessary travel
<b>Consider healthy travel across our wider functions</b> Promote and consider healthy travel options and benefits across wider functions, such as: procurement, conferences, planning of workplace and office accommodation, and when advertising roles in our organisations
<b>Encourage sustainable travel through expenses policies</b> Review our travel expenses policies, to encourage uptake of sustainable travel
<b>Provide strategic leadership on healthy travel</b> Collaborate with partners and provide strategic leadership and planning on healthy and sustainable travel, for example scoping the feasibility of partnership Park and Ride services
Walking, cycling and public transport
<b>Promote public transport discounts for sustainable travel</b> Explore discounts for staff on Transport for Wales rail services and with local transport providers
<b>Contribute to an interactive map of sustainable travel facilities</b> Contribute to an interactive map showing, where relevant, all walking and cycling infrastructure and public transport links within our main sites in Swansea Bay
<b>Provide staff with facilities and accessories to encourage active travel</b> Assess and provide, as appropriate, secure cycle storage, lockers, showers and clothes drying areas at all main sites. Make accessories available to staff and/or visitors to encourage walking and cycling. Examples include umbrellas, local walking/cycling maps, locks, puncture repair kits and maintenance tools
<b>Adopt an 'active wear for active travel' approach</b> Promote an 'active wear for active travel' approach to work clothing and footwear, for example, allowing staff to wear trainers if their commute involves walking or cycling
<b>Offer the cycle to work scheme</b> Offer the cycle to work scheme to all staff (including e-bikes)
<b>Enable staff to access bicycles more easily at work</b> Improve access to bicycles at work where appropriate, e.g. pool bikes and public hire bikes
<b>Promote cycle training and maintenance sessions</b> Explore and promote opportunities for offering cycle training and maintenance sessions
Agile working
<b>Support flexible working</b> Provide flexible working options wherever possible, including home and/or local hub working, and develop a culture of agile working
<b>Explore options for hot-desking between organisations</b> Explore opportunities to enable staff to hot-desk between partner organisations and facilities across Swansea Bay, where appropriate
Ultra-low emission vehicles
<b>Review provision of electric vehicle charging facilities</b> Review the current and future need for electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure on our sites, and explore the potential for making charging infrastructure available to other partners in the area
<b>Look at options for ultra-low emission vehicles in our fleets and procurement</b> Review our fleet and procurement arrangements (where applicable) for introduction of ultra-low emission vehicles, including e-bikes and e-cargo bikes, where relevant



For signatories, more info and support visit: [healthytravel.wales/swanseabay](https://healthytravel.wales/swanseabay)