



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Environment, Regeneration and Neighbourhood Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 14th April 2023

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

Matter for Information

Update report as requested by Scrutiny Committee on 2nd December 2022 highlighting the progress made on the Swansea Bay Healthy Travel Charter (to be known simply as the “Charter” in the rest of the report) and the progress of the Action Plan towards full implementation.

Wards Affected: All Wards

Purpose of the Report:

The report seeks to make the Scrutiny Committee aware of our current progress on the two-year action plan towards full adoption of the Charter.

Executive Summary:

At the 2nd December 2022 meeting of the Board, permission was given for NPT to become a signatory of the Charter. The Charter was subsequently signed on the 1st February 2023 by the Leader and

Chief Executive of the Council. The Scrutiny Committee requested that an Action Plan be created showing how the Council could progress towards full adoption of the Charter and that plan be shared with them at a subsequent meeting.

Background:

As outlined in the initial report of 2nd December 2022, the Swansea Bay Healthy Travel 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 are committing resources to implement the elements of the charter, covering communications and leadership, walking, cycling and public transport, agile working and ultra-low emission vehicles.

Appendix 1 of this report shows the “baseline” assessment we undertook before we signed the Charter.

Appendix 2 of the report shows our score after being assessed by a representative of the Charter from Swansea University.

It should be noted that encouragingly we have seen our initial baseline scoring rise from 13/51 to 30/51 with us being identified as leading on several elements of the Charter e.g.: our Cycle to Work scheme, whereby we offer a two year purchase period as opposed to our partners who offer one year only schemes with a lower purchase value. This widens affordability for all our staff.

Appendix 3 of the report shows the Action Plan towards full adoption of the Charter.

Financial Impacts:

As outlined in the previous report, there is no budget for the implementation of the Charter, any expenditure will either be from existing budgets or where applicable, using external grants e.g. Active Travel to achieve the outcomes.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

There is no requirement to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment as this report is for monitoring purposes only.

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 parts of the County Borough.

Consultation:

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item

Recommendations:

That the Scrutiny Committee note the Action Plan for implementing the Charter in the Authority.

That the Scrutiny Committee receive an Annual progress report on the Charter implementation.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 of this report shows the “baseline” assessment we undertook before we signed the Charter.

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Appendix 3 of the report shows the Action Plan towards full adoption of the Charter.

List of Background Papers:

None

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