

<b>Meeting of:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>23 JULY 2025</b>
<b>Report Title:</b>	<b>HEALTHY TRAVEL CHARTER</b>
<b>Report Owner / Corporate Director:</b>	<b>REPORT OF THE CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, HOUSING AND CHANGE</b>
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	<b>HELEN HAMMOND, PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD OFFICER KIRSTY WILLIAMS, PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP MANAGER</b>
<b>Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:</b>	<b>THERE IS NO IMPACT ON POLICY FRAMEWORK AND PROCEDURE RULES</b>
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board (CTM PSB) have developed a Healthy Travel Charter to bring about far-reaching positive impacts on both health and the environment.</li> <li>• The Charter was formerly signed at the July 2025 PSB meeting.</li> <li>• An Active Travel User Group has been involved in the work from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) and can be further expanded to take the Charter forward and ensure continuity.</li> <li>• The Corporate Director - Communities is the lead officer for BCBC in relation to the Charter.</li> </ul>

## **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Council on the work of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board (CTM PSB) on a Healthy Travel Charter.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 Healthy Travel Charters have been developed and supported across Wales by Healthy Travel Wales and Public Health Wales. Across Wales, Public Services Boards (PSBs) are creating their own charters to promote and facilitate healthy travel.
- 2.2 Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (CTMUHB) are leading the development of the charter for the PSB in Cwm Taf Morgannwg (CTM). The charter links to their whole system approach to healthy weight by encouraging more

physical activity and also delivery of the PSB Well-being Plan's commitment to promoting active travel as part of the Objective on 'Sustainable and Resilient Local Neighbourhoods'.

- 2.3 Research shows that reducing levels of physical activity, increasing levels of obesity, air pollution, social isolation, and worsening health inequalities are all pressing public health issues. How we travel has a wide reaching impact. In Cwm Taf Morgannwg:
- 38% of people report being active for less than 30 minutes per week.
  - 67% of people are overweight or obese.
  - The most common cause of death for children aged 5-14 years is being hit by a vehicle
- 2.4 There are real benefits to be gained from helping people to use more healthy travel such as increasing levels of physical exercise, increasing contact within communities, reduced car use affecting decarbonation and air quality and promoting walkable communities.
- 2.5 Climate change presents a significant risk to our communities. Reducing carbon emissions as an organisation and in our communities is critical. Providing an environment that enables active travel in the course of daily life is one way we can work towards our net zero goals.
- 2.6 At the December 2023 meeting, PSB members agreed to work together on a CTM Healthy Travel Charter. A workshop was held in March 2024 with PSB member organisation leads and PSB members to work in more detail on the draft charter.
- 2.7 A CTM-wide Healthy Travel Network made up of active travel leads from partner organisations has been established and is supported by CTMUHB Public Health Team and PSB Officers. The work is supported by Sustrans who work with local authorities across Wales to monitor the outcomes of active travel and safe routes to schools. Sustrans also support the implementation of charters across Wales by providing resources, engagement events and activities and advice. This will be available to help partner organisations in CTM achieve the commitments in the charter.
- 2.8 The Network enables organisations to
- Work together on common areas
  - Learn from good practice across CTM
  - Learn from and receive support from Healthy Travel Wales.
  - Contribute to the shared work plan
  - Collectively feed into the PSB on progress and seek support for challenges.

### **3. Current situation/ proposal**

- 3.1 The draft plan for delivering the charter includes a wide range of objectives for PSB organisations to work on, recognising that different organisations are able to respond in different ways across their staff or services.
- 3.2 The Charter, attached as **Appendix 1**, focuses on changes that we can make to the way we work as an organisation that can enable more active healthy travel. A number of the elements relate to staff, and across CTM nearly a third of people of

working age are employed in the public sector. Working together to promote healthy lifestyles in our staff can also bring wider benefits to their families and communities.

- 3.3 There are challenges in public transport provision in CTM and there are limited resources available beyond our Active Travel Grant for improving infrastructure. The charter looks for action on areas where we can change our ways of working by collaborating across our organisation and with others in the region to enable more active and healthy travel.
- 3.4 BCBC is already working on many of the elements of the charter such as cycle to work schemes, providing facilities for staff to actively travel to workplaces, incentives such as earning mileage allowance for cycling for work purposes, flexible working arrangements and changing our Council fleet to electric vehicles.
- 3.5 Operating the charter should cut across all the services in BCBC that develop, implement and oversee well-being and healthy living such as: active school travel, active travel infrastructure, travel plans, rights of way, resilient communities programme, promoting walking for well-being, staff well-being and decarbonisation. It will be important that all these teams feed in to the achievement of the Charter.
- 3.6 A Cabinet Corporate Management Board (CCMB) meeting in March 2025 were informed that each organisation on the Public Services Board was asked to
  - Formally agree to work towards the charter
  - Establish arrangements to undertake that work within the organisation
  - Identify a contact to the task group to lead the work in their organisation and provide an update on progress via the scoring system spreadsheet.
- 3.7 The Leader, Cllr Spanswick, signed the CTM Active Travel Charter at the PSB meeting on 10 July 2025.
- 3.8 BCBC have a small Active Travel User Group administered by the Transportation Team that includes officers from across the organisation. This can be developed further to be a network to drive this work across the organisation. This group will also be extended for community champions for active travel and encourage local groups to be formed
- 3.9 The Corporate Director – Communities will be the lead BCBC officer for the work.
- 3.10 It is important to build this work into organisational structures and objectives in order to ensure continuity over time.

#### **4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)**

- 4.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. This is an information report, therefore it is not necessary to carry out an Equality Impact assessment in the production of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

#### **5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives**

- 5.1 The PSB Well-being Plan is prepared in line with the statutory guidance for Public Services Boards for the Well-being of Future Generations Act. It sets out the Well-being Objectives and how the PSB will work towards the national Well-being goals.
- **Long term** – the Charter seeks to understand and mitigate the long-term implications of poor health and physical inactivity, and reduce emissions linked to vehicle usage as more journeys are completed by active travel.
  - **Prevention** – promoting healthy travel will work to prevent health challenges seen in CTM communities from getting worse, alongside preventing further deterioration in air quality.
  - **Integration** – the work contributes to the Well-being goals: a Healthier Wales, a globally responsible Wales, a resilient Wales and Wales of Cohesive communities, and to the Well-being Objectives. There are already existing areas of work across council directorates which will be integrated through delivering the Charter.
  - **Collaboration** – the Charter is being brought about through the PSB partnership and its range of partners.
  - **Involvement** – officers from across BCBC and other PSB partners have been involved in producing the Healthy Travel Charter.

## **6. Climate Change and Nature Implications**

- 6.1 Adopting the Healthy Travel Charter will have positive implications on climate change and on our local nature environment.

## **7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications**

- 7.1 This work promotes the wellbeing of all children, young people and adults across the County Borough. Reduced vehicle usage and safe active travel routes safeguards from the risks of being hit by vehicles.

## **8. Financial Implications**

- 8.1 There are no financial implications resulting from this information report.

## **9. Recommendation**

- 9.1 It is recommended that Council notes the content of this update report.
- 9.2 It is recommended that Council consider how to deliver the proposed activities contained within the Charter (Appendix 1)

## **Background documents**

None