

Report to	<b>North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority</b>
Date	<b>15 April 2024</b>
Lead Officer	<b>Justin Evans, Assistant Chief Fire Officer</b>
Contact Officer	<b>Tim Christensen, Environment and Climate Change Manager</b>
Subject	<b>North Wales Healthy Travel Charter</b>



## PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 This paper sets out for Members of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority (the Authority) the obligations as prescribed in the North Wales Healthy Travel Charter (the Charter), and the practical considerations of implementing them.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2 The Healthy Travel Charter is an initiative overseen by Public Health Wales, to help public bodies comply with Welsh Government strategies around transportation, decarbonisation and public health. The Charter contains 15 commitments, 10 of which are met by existing draft or adopted policies. Measures proposed to meet the remaining five Charter commitments are set out in this report.

## OBSERVATIONS FROM EXECUTIVE PANEL

- 3 Ratification of the Charter was endorsed by the Executive Panel on 18 December 2023, on the terms set out below.

## RECOMMENDATION

- 4 It is recommended that Members:
  - i) endorse the ratification of the North Wales Healthy Travel Charter, under the following terms:
    - The Chief Fire Officer (CFO) be delegated to sign the Charter on behalf of the Authority;
    - The Environment and Climate Change Manager be designated the Single Point of Contact (SPoC) for the scheme; and
    - Compliance reporting to the Flintshire and Wrexham Public Service Board to be made by ACFO Justin Evans.

## BACKGROUND

- 5 In 2021, the Welsh Government launched Llwybr Newydd, the Transport Strategy for Wales. The strategy aims to achieve a transferal shift by displacing private car journeys with walking, cycling and public transport. This strategy has been further supported by the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013.
- 6 Due to the significant public health benefits of active travel the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) Public Health Team have led on the development of a Healthy Travel Charter for North Wales (attached).
- 7 The Charter was developed in partnership with key organisations in North Wales, including the six Local Authorities, Sustrans, Natural Resources Wales and Transport for Wales. The Charter provides organisations with a range of areas against which to act, including leadership and communication, public transport, walking and cycling, agile working and ultra-low emission vehicles.
- 8 Oversight of public sector signatories within the region is undertaken through local Public Service Boards.
- 9 The 15 commitments set out in the Charter align well with our Environmental Strategy 2023-2030, particularly with the commitment to encourage modal shifts in transportation.
- 10 For commitments where there is no existing policy, practical means to achieve compliance have been agreed by the Service Leadership Team (SLT), and are set out in this report.

## INFORMATION

- 11 The Charter commitments which meet existing or otherwise planned policy are set out in [Table 1](#) below. [Table 2](#) (overleaf) sets out how we propose to meet those commitments not already met, or planned to be satisfied.

**Table 1: Charter commitments met by existing policy**

Charter Commitment	Existing Policy
Agree and use regular and consistent communications messages with the public, visitors and staff on healthy travel and reducing unnecessary travel, including targeting people of different backgrounds, gender, age, abilities and disabilities	Environmental Strategy
Promote and consider healthy travel options and benefits across wider functions, such as: procurement, conferences, and when advertising roles in our organisations	Fleet Decarbonisation Plan ( <i>Draft</i> )
Review our travel expense policies and journey planning processes for staff, to align with the sustainable transport hierarchy	Fleet Decarbonisation Plan ( <i>Draft</i> )
Support staff driving fleet vehicles to be responsible and considerate road users (e.g. driving within speed limits and not parking in cycle lanes), to enable safe walking and cycling	Fleet Decarbonisation Plan ( <i>Draft</i> )
Explore discounts for staff on Transport for Wales rail services and with local transport providers	Fleet Decarbonisation Plan ( <i>Draft</i> )
Offer the cycle to work scheme to all staff, including e-bikes	Fleet Decarbonisation Plan ( <i>Draft</i> )
Assess and provide secure and accessible cycle storage, showers and lockers at all suitable sites	Fleet Decarbonisation Plan ( <i>Draft</i> )
Provide flexible working options for staff wherever possible, including home and/or hub working, and promote a culture of agile working across public sector sites	Environmental Strategy
Review the current and future need for electric vehicle (EV) and e-bike charging infrastructure on our sites	Environmental Strategy
Review our fleet and procurement arrangements (where applicable) for introduction of ultra-low emission vehicles, including e-cargo and e-bikes where appropriate	Fleet Decarbonisation Plan ( <i>Draft</i> )

**Table 2: Charter commitments not met by existing or planned policy**

<b>Charter Commitment</b>	<b>Proposed action</b>
Establish a network of proactive sustainable travel champions, including senior staff, managers and where relevant, elected Members, who routinely promote and model active and sustainable travel behaviour, in line with the sustainable travel hierarchy	This action will be carried out through the Environment and Sustainability Working Group
Collaborate with partners and provide strategic leadership and planning on healthy and sustainable travel, including infrastructure and services where relevant	Environment and Climate Change Manager to work with peers through the North Wales Decarbonisation Group
Make information easily available on how to get to our main site(s) by walking, cycling and public transport links, for example by contributing to an interactive map	Public website station pages to be updated to include this information
Improve access to bicycles at work where appropriate, e.g. pool bikes, hire bikes and cargo bikes	To be assessed case-by-case where appropriate
Explore and promote cycle training and maintenance sessions where appropriate	Videos and educational materials to be published on service intranet (Hwb Tân)

## **IMPLICATIONS**

<b>Well-being Objectives</b>	Direct implications towards meeting the Authority's long-term improvement and well-being objectives
<b>Budget</b>	No known budgetary implications.
<b>Legal</b>	Supports compliance with improvement planning, well-being and environment legislation
<b>Staffing</b>	No known impact on staffing levels
<b>Equalities/Human Rights/ Welsh Language</b>	The impact of specific actions on these aspects will be assessed at the appropriate point in their development
<b>Risks</b>	Reduces the risks of legal non-compliance