

## CARDIFF HEALTHY TRAVEL CHARTER: UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION

### Background

1. The Cardiff Healthy Travel Charter was launched in April 2019 by PSB partners, with the aim of improving the health and wellbeing of staff, improving air quality in the City, and reducing carbon emissions associated with transport. The Charter sets out a series of commitments signatory organisations have made, to support staff and visitors to shift to healthy and sustainable travel modes. The Charter was developed alongside Cardiff Clean Air Plan.
2. Benefits of healthy and sustainable travel to the individual and wider population include improved air quality, increased physical activity, reduced incidence of type 2 diabetes and overweight, increased mental wellbeing, reduced loneliness, and reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
3. The Charter set out 14 commitments which all PSB partners agreed to achieve within 3 years, i.e. with a deadline of April 2022. Additional public sector signatories outside the PSB have also signed the Charter, including HM Revenue and Customs, and most recently BBC Cymru Wales.
4. Representatives from Charter signatories meet regularly to share practice and discuss progress against the commitments. Leads are asked to complete a spreadsheet scoring progress for each commitment in their organisation.
5. A Healthy Travel communications toolkit and implementation toolkit are also available for signatory organisations to support implementation of the Charter.
6. It was agreed in 2020 by signatories to calculate a simple score for each organisation, which could be shared publicly and would allow assessment of progress in implementing the commitments, in a similar way to the Stonewall index.
7. These scores will be shared on the Healthy Travel Wales website for transparency and as a way of organisations to demonstrate the positive action they are taking to address air pollution, health and the climate emergency.
8. Since launching the Cardiff Charter there are now additional Charters in the Vale of Glamorgan; and for the business sector in Gwent. Charters are also in active development in North Wales and Swansea/West Wales with a plan to roll out across the whole of Wales.

### Progress

9. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic there had been very good engagement from organisational representatives in the regular Charter meetings, with progress made across commitments.

10. The pandemic understandably impacted on many organisations' usual programme of work during 2020. In some cases this led to slowing or pausing of planned developments relating to the Healthy Travel Charter while the Covid-19 response was prioritised. However significant progress was made by all signatories relating to remote and agile working, which is one of the commitments in the Charter.
11. Current scores and total number of commitments met to date for each organisation are set out in the Appendix.
12. It should be noted that no organisation has yet met all the commitments, though some are close, and there is a wide range of current scores.
13. A 'Healthy Travel Wales' day is planned for September 2021, during which signatory organisations will support staff and visitors to travel sustainably, promoting action against one or more of the commitments in the Charter

### **Assessment**

14. The challenges of the climate emergency, and of improving air quality and health, have not gone away; indeed the longer we delay action on carbon reduction the more quickly and sharply we have to act.
15. Since the development of the Charter, Welsh Government policy and requirements for organisations to decarbonise has further strengthened.
16. Part of the rationale for developing the Charter was to provide a visible means for the public sector to demonstrate leadership on sustainable travel, air quality and decarbonisation. By publicly committing to the Charter it sent a signal that the sector is leading by example on something which requires action across society, from individuals to civic society and businesses, to government. It is important that such commitments are not seen as empty gestures or 'greenwashing' but lead to meaningful change.
17. Therefore representatives of PSB organisations have agreed to develop detailed action plans to ensure any outstanding commitments are met by April 2022. If, after exploration of any barriers which are highlighted, any organisation feels it is unable to meet the commitments by the original timescale this will be highlighted in the next update in December.

### **Level 2 Charter**

18. In developing the existing Charter a balance was struck in agreeing a set of commitments which were sufficiently challenging given a wide variety of baseline action on sustainable travel across organisations, but not so difficult as to be perceived as unrealistic or impossible.
19. As organisations progress their implementation of the original Charter, a 'Level 2' Charter has now been developed which will be finalised and available for adoption from Q2 21/22, which contains more stretching and ambitious commitments. This will

be open to organisations which have completed implementation of the existing Charter and who wish to be exemplars in this area. The Level 2 Charter will be open to signatory organisations across Wales and it would be fantastic to see some of our leading Cardiff organisations sign up to the Level 2 commitments during 21/22.

### **Recommendations**

The PSB is asked to note:

- Progress made to date to meet the commitments in the Healthy Travel Charter, and the strong engagement by representatives from each organisation
- The latest scores for each organisation will be published on the Healthy Travel Wales website ([healthytravel.wales](http://healthytravel.wales)) from 2 August 2021
- A further update on progress towards the April 2022 deadline will be brought to the PSB in December 2021
- Plans for a Healthy Travel Wales day in September 2021. More details will be circulated in due course

The PSB is recommended to:

- Reaffirm its commitment to implementing the Charter by the deadline of April 2022, recognising the climate emergency
- Identify any member organisations who may be interested in adopting the Level 2 Charter during 21/22, once the original Charter commitments have been met

Dr Tom Porter  
15 July 2021

## Appendix

<b>Signatory organisation</b>	<b>Commitments fully met or exceeded (out of 14)</b>	<b>Current score*</b>	<b>Baseline score* (July 2019)</b>
Cardiff and Vale UHB	9	21	8
Cardiff Council	6	15	8
Future Generations Commissioner for Wales	11	23	13
HM Prison and Probation Service	3	10	10
HM Revenue & Customs	4	14	8
National Museum Wales	3	14	7
Natural Resources Wales	6	19	15
Public Health Wales	3	13	10
South Wales Fire and Rescue Service	3	8	8
South Wales Police	3	15	15
SportWales	7	16	12
Transport for Wales	6	22	n/a
Welsh Ambulance NHS Trust	3	11	n/a
Welsh Government	7	18	15
Welsh Parliament	11	26	22

\*Scores are based on the following points per commitment, self-assessed:

- Commitment not started = 0
- Action started to meet commitment = 1
- Commitment fully met = 2
- Action taken going over and above commitment = 3