

# Sustrans Cymru Performance Report

## Welsh Government Core Grant 2021/22



28 April 2022

To find out more, please contact [REDACTED]

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# 1. Overview

This report provides a summary of work undertaken by Sustrans using the Welsh Government's Core grant allocation for 2021/22.

During this year, we accelerated our 'For Everyone' programme, focussing on delivering projects and interventions that benefit those who need it most. Focusing on diversity means we concentrated our efforts on deprived areas, BAME communities, those with disabilities, women, children and young people to mitigate some of the negative impacts of current crises on those groups in particular.

This has included the removal of over 150 barriers on the National Cycle Network (NCN), working with local Authorities including RCT, Bridgend and Newport. We have audited around 70% of the NCN in Wales for barriers and signage and have plans in place for supporting local authorities with further removals and improvements. This includes sections of NCN which have been reclassified due to speed or volume of traffic exceeding current design standards.

The funding we received from Welsh Government has allowed us to raise ambition, develop skills and improve standards. Our expertise and relationships allow us to engage communities in developing solutions that will be sustainable. Our history of strategic network development, urban innovation and active travel allows us to inspire those we work with to deliver projects that have an impact.

Despite the passage of the Active Travel Act in 2013, Sustrans Cymru's core grant remained static for a number of years. Over that period our costs have increased which means that the value of work delivered is greater than the grant claimed. However, this year the grant award has allowed us to manage most of our revenue costs for an enhanced support package for local authorities and partners, coupled with strategic network planning linked to our Paths for Everyone programme. In particular, the approval of a capital work package has allowed a range of improvements and interventions on land under Sustrans ownership or control which has considerably benefitted the quality and improved access for these sections of route, as well as enabling effective audit and planning of future works.

We have also initiated two new programmes, focussed on workplace support and Active Travel mapping for schools, with new staff resources recruited to support this.

At Sustrans, we believe that the work we do should be For Everyone. As such, we are building diversity and inclusion into everything we do. In 2020/21, we started to place a particular focus on accelerating progress to ensure our programmes have an impact for all groups regardless of religion, background, location or ability.

In 2021/22, we focussed on increasing representation on our staff team, using our influence to promote diversity in external events and worked with a wide range of partners and ensure our projects deliver for those who need them the most. We continue to ensure we embed this agenda across all of our work, such that all voices are heard in policy and programme development.

By providing resources, expertise and skills, we enable communities to support the uptake of active travel in their locality and to participate in practical volunteer and community action activities.

This year, in particular, we have pushed forward innovative approaches to community engagement and we will continue to reflect on our delivery and incorporate new methods to ensure ever increasing reach, in particular for those with seldom heard voices.

Following implementation of a new volunteering strategy, which aims to embed volunteering in everything that we do, we are working to ensure that volunteering becomes a core part of our operations and delivery, built into all activities. This will help to support individuals to develop skills for work where appropriate.

In taking forward these aims, we hope to achieve a diverse network of people giving their time to progress and promote active travel, and ultimately widen our reach in all communities which will ultimately maximise the impact of our work across Wales.

Sustrans Cymru staff can draw on Sustrans' wider UK-wide experience of developing effective programmes and interventions that have been born out of innovative ideas that have now become acknowledged ways to deliver increases in walking and cycling. We believe that it is vital that we continue innovating to find new, and more effective, ways of changing people's travel habits.

Through our research and development work, we can develop new approaches and importantly, influence thinking in other organisations with a view to improving engagement and delivery. This will help to bring about the changes we wish to see and ensure they are fully inclusive.

## 2. Funding Objectives

The Purpose of the Funding was to support Sustrans in the following agreed objectives:

1. Support the development of public policy in respect of sustainable transport and specifically active travel.
2. Support planning and delivery of transport programmes, specifically those which include active travel.
3. Support the realisation of the vision and aspirations set out in the Active Travel Act in achieving modal shift.
4. Amplify and enhance communication of activities relating to active travel in Wales.
5. Support Welsh Local Authorities to make continuous improvement in the range and quality of active travel routes and facilities in their area, in line with the Active Travel Act.
6. Maximise the potential of walking and cycling to economically benefit to the health sector by reducing the impact of sedentary lifestyles and poor air quality, working with local and regional partners
7. Work with public sector partners to support the delivery of the Well-being of Future Generations Act

### 3. The Targets

<b>Description of the Target</b>	<b>Date by when it should be achieved</b>	<b>Evidence required</b>	<b>Evidence provided</b>
Organise the annual active travel conference (either virtually or in person)	31 March 2022	Successful active travel conference event	Event held on 31 <sup>st</sup> March, with approx. 200 attendees. Positive post-event feedback received.
Support in the appraisal of local authority grant funding bids, other than the Active Travel Fund, as required	31 March 2022	Details of assistance to be provided in progress reports	See support package details.
Support with planning and delivery of active travel in Wales	31 March 2022	Report detailing Sustrans activities for 2021-22	See support package details
Set up an active travel award scheme in collaboration with partners	31 March 2022	Report detailing Sustrans activities for 2021-22	Award options paper submitted and we have secured an AT category in the Wales Transport awards. Sponsorship by private consultancy likely.

### 3.1 Wales Active Travel Conference

The Wales Active Travel Conference was delivered on March 31<sup>st</sup> with a diverse range of speakers discussing how we can make active travel accessible for everyone in Wales. The event was delivered by members of the Sustrans Cymru team in front of an audience of over 200. We consistently had around 200 attendees for the entirety of the event, indicating an engaged audience. We managed to attract a broad audience base, with attendees including; Senedd Members and support workers, local authority members, third sector leaders, transport industry members amongst members of the public.

- Topics covered at the event included;
  - Exploring the research base on the barriers to active travel for underrepresented groups; Hearing the lived experience of underrepresented groups, what the barriers are for active travel take-up;
  - Projects that are making change in areas across Wales;
  - Considering design principles for inclusion.

We also heard impactful stories of people who experience barriers to active travel, which empowered the audience to consider how they can help to remove barriers to access.

Subsequent to the event we have heard many attendees commenting on how impactful the event was to their area of work.

Redacted - personal information

### 3.2 Active Travel Awards Scheme

We prepared and submitted an options paper to the event management for the Welsh Transport awards and have subsequently secured an AT category in the WTA event for 22/23. We also approached several private transport consultancies for sponsorship and received several responses. Likely that WS Atkins will sponsor the category for the current year.

## 4. Support Package including strategic advice to delivery bodies

As a result of our support to Transport for Wales, there is now a process in place for the assessment and approval of Local Authority active travel bids. Therefore, our activities for 2021/22 focussed on advice and support to increase community engagement and change travel behaviour.

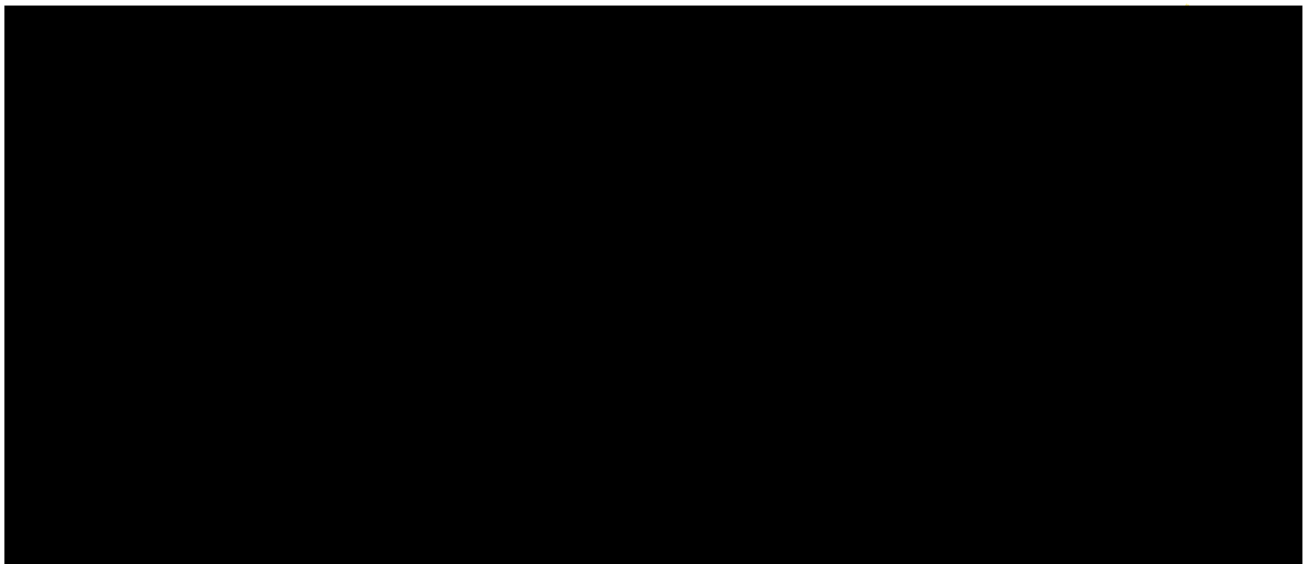
<b>Objectives 1&amp; 2</b>	<p><b>Support the Welsh Government's development of policy in respect of sustainable transport and specifically active travel.</b></p> <p><b>Support Welsh Government's planning and delivery of its transport programmes, specifically those which include active travel.</b></p>
	<p>Our support for the development and implementation of key strategies, programmes and policies in 2021/22 included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Supported cross-government strategies underpinning the programme for government;</li> <li>○ Supported the Active Travel Fund Steering group ensuring synergy with other complimentary delivery programmes and related policies.</li> <li>○ Inputted to development of the revised WelTAG, especially considering its application to provision of Active Travel Grants and links to the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act</li> <li>○ Input to the Roads Review including two workshops and briefing sessions with the Review Panel and further detailed input on schemes under review.</li> <li>○ Staff secondment opportunities to provide direct support for policy development.</li> <li>○ Input to TfW Advisory Panel and Sustainable Development Group, including development of MOU for multi-year collaborative working going forward.</li> <li>○ Membership and secretariat for Transform Cymru and Healthy Air Cymru.</li> <li>○ Continued to bring our UK-wide experience of developing and managing walking and cycling programmes across the UK on behalf of governments and agencies (including DfT, TfL and Transport Scotland); providing advice and support to Welsh Government for active travel, aligned with the Active Travel Act, ATNM process.</li> <li>○ Provided advice on the interface between major public transport investment programmes and active travel, focusing effort on the South Wales Metro, the North Wales Metro, transport aspects of Swansea Bay regional development programme and Burns Commission recommendations.</li> <li>○ Provided input to several key WelTAG assessments for trunk road schemes and other major projects, including A55 Junctions review, Llandeilo Transport study, A465 dualling including setting up AT liaison group, M4 junctions review and various development projects.</li> <li>○ Continued to advocate, and provide evidence in support of, investment in community engagement and behaviour change programmes to accompany infrastructure enhancements.</li> <li>○ Supported the ongoing 20mph priority initiative, both at a strategic and sub-group level as well as other similar activities, including input to the public consultation.</li> <li>○ Delivered research and policy activities that support Welsh Government's aims and raises awareness of issues affecting transport such as decarbonisation and access. Eg. Transport Poverty Paper.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Objectives 3 &amp; 4</b></p>	<p><b>Support Welsh Government to realise the vision and aspirations of the Active Travel Act in achieving modal shift.</b></p> <p><b>Amplify and enhance Welsh Government's communications activities around Active Travel.</b></p> <hr/> <p>Sustrans Cymru will continue to raise the profile of the Act through advocacy and communications activities at a national and local level, and engagement work with key public, private, and third sector partners.</p> <p>In doing this, we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Conducted visits to the National Cycle Network with Members of the Senedd. Over 20 members engaged, including the Minister and Deputy Minister for Climate Change, DM for Social partnerships, Chair of Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee and Chair of Active Travel CPG.</li> <li>○ Participated in key collaborative partnerships (e.g. ABMU NHS Physical Activity Working Group, Active Travel to School National Advisory Group).</li> <li>○ Provided advocacy across Welsh Government (outside of transport) including planning policy, economic development, public health, and education (including the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme).</li> <li>○ Aligned Sustrans Cymru's non-Welsh Government funded advocacy and communications work with the Active Travel Act (e.g. ensuring the Freshfield Foundation-funded Bike Life Cardiff project is aligned to the ambitions and requirements of the Act).</li> <li>○ Continued to be a key member of the Active Travel Board (ATB) and delivered the annual Active Travel conference and associated events.</li> <li>○ Supported the Active Travel Board in leading and developing a Sub-Group on inclusion. We also support the behaviour change &amp; communication, training &amp; capability building sub-groups.</li> <li>○ Supported roll out of the revised delivery and design guidance for the Act.</li> <li>○ Provided support and input to the Senedd Cross Party Group on the review of the Active Travel Act.</li> <li>○ Ensured our strategic priorities of Liveable Cities &amp; Towns and Paths for Everyone promote the benefits of active travel behaviour change.</li> <li>○ Promoted Sustrans Cymru's 2021 Manifesto to support WG and other organisations to recognise how they can achieve benefits of the ATA by adopting the key asks.</li> <li>○ Brought together a wide range of partners to raise awareness of the Welsh Government aims for active travel and support greater inclusion.</li> <li>○ Worked with Guide Dogs Cymru and other representatives of the Blind and partially sighted community to develop a 3-D design model for effective engagement on new infrastructure design, in collaboration with Swansea University.</li> <li>○ Input to development of Data Map Wales ATNM Dataset</li> </ul>
<p><b>Objective 5</b></p>	<p><b>Support Local Authorities to make continuous improvement in the range and quality of Active Travel routes and facilities in their area, in line with the Active Travel Act</b></p> <hr/> <p>In our work with Local Authorities, we have:</p>

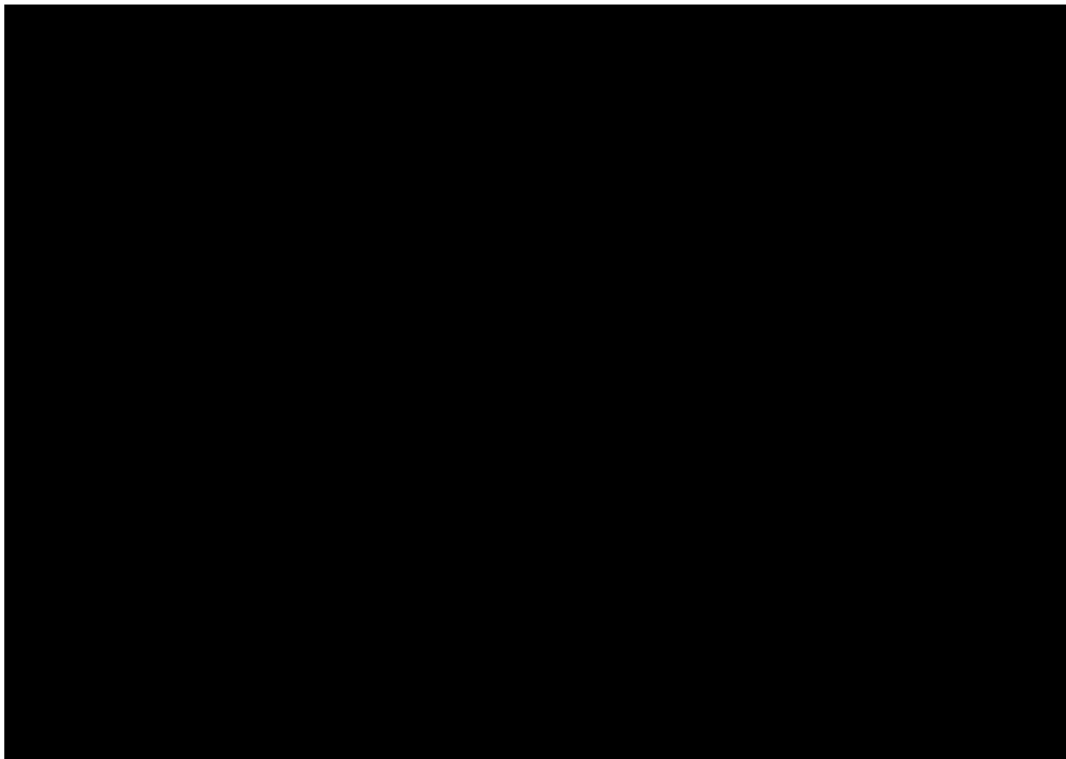


	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Raised the level of ambition across Local Authorities in Wales through sharing best practice and developing a network, including challenging poor design in some cases.</li> <li>○ Supported local authorities in the development of evidence based, impact led approaches to project delivery.</li> <li>○ Worked with authorities to ensure our expertise informs Local Development Plans, including input into various planning applications and proposed developments.</li> <li>○ Developing 'place' and place-making approaches to urban transport solutions.</li> <li>○ Developed a set of 6 Key Local Government Elections Asks ahead of May 5<sup>th</sup> elections.</li> <li>○ Developing urban walking and cycling modelling approaches interlinking walking, cycling and wheeling, particularly in relation to ATNM development.</li> <li>○ Supporting the development of robust monitoring and evaluation procedures and the dissemination of data to TfW and WG.</li> <li>○ Promote and facilitate community engagement in urban planning.</li> <li>○ Delivering advocacy, communication and direct engagement with senior elected members and senior staff within local authorities so that they understand their requirements under the Act. For example, writing to all Chief executives to encourage investment in AT Promotion and monitoring.</li> <li>○ Supporting Local Authorities to develop Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and School Streets, together with other interventions that encourage behaviour change and increase levels of active travel. This has led directly to development of our Schools AT Planning project detailed below.</li> <li>○ Continued to support our volunteers to become local advocates for the Act, feeding into local consultations and inspiring behaviour change.</li> <li>○ Continued to work with schools to raise awareness of the Act and to develop resources that assist schools to become engaged through local consultations, supplementing the support that is available to schools selected as part of the Active Journeys programme.</li> <li>○ Participated in several WelTAG consultations for key schemes,</li> </ul>
<p><b>Objective 6</b></p>	<p><b>Maximise the potential of walking and cycling to economically benefit to the health sector by reducing the impact of sedentary lifestyles and poor air quality, working with local and regional partners</b></p> <hr/> <p>Through our work with partners and in the community, we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Supported local and regional partners to show how Active Travel benefits the Health sector in reducing the impact of sedentary lifestyles (e.g. through Public Health Wales).</li> <li>○ Support local initiatives that reduce the impact of poor air quality and measure the impact of mitigating measures.</li> <li>○ Promoted walking and cycling's contribution to the Welsh economy (particularly for Health and tourism sectors) through our communications and advocacy work.</li> <li>○ Promoting essential resources for tourists and day visitors through our digital platforms and selected printed materials, aligning our separately-funded National Cycling Network marketing initiatives with Welsh Government tourism aims.</li> <li>○ Continued to work with local authority and tourism partners (e.g. Canals and Rivers Trust, Ramblers) to support new route material and online promotional resources for the National Cycle Network to facilitate accessing tourist destinations by foot or bicycle.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Worked with Valleys Regional Park team to promote and develop walking and cycling within wider strategic plan for valleys tourism.</li> <li>○ Engaged business forums and other key actors engaged with the city regions/city deal process on the economic benefits of walking and cycling.</li> <li>○ Working to raise the ambition of employers to support increasing levels of active travel amongst their workforce through our workplaces project detailed below.</li> </ul>
<b>Objective 7</b>	<p><b>Work with public sector partners to support the delivery of the Well-being of Future Generations Act</b></p> <hr/> <p>Through advocacy, communication and direct engagement, we have promoted Active Travel within the wider well-being of future generations agenda, explaining how action on walking and cycling helps public bodies meet their statutory commitments under the Well-being of Future Generations Act. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Direct support of selected Public Service Boards through regional sub-groups (e.g. Newport Wellbeing Sustainable Transport sub-group).</li> <li>○ Collaboration with the Future Generations Commissioners Office and advocacy groups to interpret and disseminate evidence compiled by Sustrans UK-wide on the wider benefits of walking and cycling to key audiences in Wales.</li> <li>○ Development of future Sustrans Cymru programmes that align with the Well-being of Future Generations Act through the adoption of a 'Complete Places' approach that achieves greater health, education, economic and environmental impact by better integrating our work on the built environment, community engagement and individual behaviour change.</li> <li>○ Supported the Burns Commission in the promotion of active travel that links places and modes and work with partners to make the Commission's recommendations a reality, in particular input into the A48 corridor element.</li> <li>○ Supported Local Authorities to secure funds from the Levelling Up and Transforming Towns programmes that support active travel, green space and places for people. Eg. Denbighshire AT networks and strategic routes bid.</li> </ul>



The team hosted a visit to the NCN in Swiss Valley, Lanelli, for Wales' favourite weatherman, Derek Brockway as part of BBC's Weatherman Walking programme. This provided the opportunity to talk about the value of the Network and importance of our volunteers. The programme was broadcast in early April.



Over the Spring and early summer we also delivered an #NCNCymru campaign, inviting people to share what they love about the Network. This has allowed us to share the sights and gather stories from the public to promote to others.



## 5. Additional programme options taken forward in 2021/22

Summary	
5.1	<p><b>Workplace behaviour change support</b></p> <p>Support for employers to deliver workplace active travel initiatives in line with the healthy Wales Charter.</p>
5.2	<p><b>Paths for Everyone (National Cycle Network)</b></p> <p>Support to deliver schemes (in partnership) with delivery bodies that enable active travel and improve access to the National Cycle Network.</p>
5.3	<p><b>School streets programme</b></p> <p>Community-led, street-level projects aimed at enabling active travel around schools.</p>

## 5.1 Workplace setting behaviour change support

<b>Programme summary</b>
<p>Targeting large-site employers, we would offer an integrated mix of behaviour change interventions aimed at individuals who regularly travel to that site. This would include large businesses, as well as HE/FE College sites and public bodies, such as NHS or other Government agencies.</p> <p>Our offer is focused on areas covered by Public Health Wales' Healthy Travel Charter, supporting signatories to make their pledges and commitments a reality.</p> <p>The integrated approach includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Skills Training – cycle, e-bike, scooter, navigation &amp; route planning</li><li>• Taster sessions, led rides, led walks, active commuting bus with conductor</li><li>• Personalised travel planning.</li><li>• Champion training, to develop a network of 'buddies' to support adoption of active travel.</li><li>• Active Travel 'clinic' – weekly drop-in to get advice and guidance.</li><li>• Dr Bike and roadside repair training.</li><li>• Annual Active Travel Challenge.</li><li>• Bike / e-bike / scooter Library – for short-term loan and trials.</li><li>• Site audits and Active Travel Plan guidance and support.</li><li>• Resource library to support employers to deliver behaviour change.</li></ul>
<b>Objectives</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase the number of employees travelling actively to work.</li><li>• Raise the ambition of employers to support ever increasing levels of active travel amongst their workforce.</li></ul>
<b>Key milestones</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support at least 20 large-site employers in the implementation of their Healthy Travel Charter commitments (May 2021).</li><li>• Establish a programme of taster sessions, skills training &amp; Dr Bike workshops (July 2021).</li><li>• Monthly Active Travel 'clinics' delivered, hosted by different employers on rotation (June 2021)</li><li>• Open the Active Travel Resource Library (August 2021).</li><li>• Run an Active Travel Challenge over a month (September 2021).</li></ul>

Our work under this element, as detailed in Schedule 1 of the Award of Funding letter, contributes to the following objectives:

3. Support the realisation of the vision and aspirations set out in the Active Travel Act in achieving modal shift.

4. Amplify and enhance communication of activities relating to active travel in Wales.

6. Maximise the potential of walking and cycling to economically benefit to the health sector by reducing the impact of sedentary lifestyles and poor air quality, working with local and regional partners.

Initial development of the project following confirmation of grant award in October involved setting up and recruiting project resources prior to delivery. A project officer has been in place since January.

## **Highlights and Progress since January 2022**

### Sustrans support for signatory organisations of the Healthy Travel Charter.

- Preliminary meeting with [REDACTED] Public Health Wales to discuss the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Healthy Travel Charters, the progress made by the signatory organisations to date and to identify an initial small group of organisations for Sustrans to contact to see how we can best support them achieve their target.
- Initial contact has been made with the following organisations to request their most up to date Healthy Travel Charter progress: Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, Cardiff Council, Natural Resources Wales, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, The Senedd, Blake Morgan and HMRC.

On receipt of Charter updates, we reviewed each individual organisations' progress to date and set up either a Teams or face to face meeting with organisation's representative. Meetings have now taken place with all of the above organisations apart from HMRC (who are the most recent organisation to be contacted). The outcome of these meetings was to discuss how Sustrans can best support them in the immediate and longer term with not only meeting the commitments of the charter but also the ongoing promotion of sustainable travel to employees both online and in the workplaces.

Examples of support that Sustrans has offered; Sustainable Travel Champion training, drop-in staff engagement sessions to promote walking and cycling, 'try an e-bike' event, 'bike breakfast' and online and workplace demonstrations to include 'clothing and basic equipment' and 'how to carry out basic maintenance on your bike'. Sustrans is also able to offer support for individual employees with personalised route planning and by offering a 'bike buddy' system to assist with less confident cyclists who are considering changing the way they travel.

- The above events will be planned and booked over the spring and summer months when more employees return to the workplace. Therefore, this quarter has been used to design and create bespoke promotional materials for Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, Cardiff Council, Natural Resources Wales, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service and the Senedd. These materials included the creation of both walking and cycling maps for each organisation to assist with the promotion of sustainable travel as well as supporting documents to help organisations recruit sustainable travel champions in their workplace. All public organisations that have had an

initial meeting have received these and maps for Blake Morgan are currently with Sustrans GIS mapping team.

- This quarter has also been used to set up a bike library that will be used to encourage behaviour change for employees. This included sourcing a suitable storage area as well as researching suitable bike shops, obtaining competitive quotes and purchasing a diverse range of suitable bikes, e-bikes, accessories and scooters that can be loaned out to encourage employees to try out a more sustainable way of travel.
- A review of all relevant paperwork associated with a bike library loan scheme to ensure all information/data collected is GDPR compliant.
- We have also carried out a review and provided feedback to [REDACTED] on the proposed, more ambitious and stretching, Level 2 Healthy Travel Charter.
- We will be attending a meeting of all signatories (26<sup>th</sup> April) to deliver a session on recruitment of sustainable travel champions and to discuss how we can work together to ensure the ongoing support and promotion of sustainable travel within the workplace, through an organised timetable of events delivered by Sustrans.

## 5.2 Paths for Everyone (National Cycle Network)

### Programme summary

The National Cycle Network is a UK-wide network of traffic-free paths for everyone, connecting cities, towns and countryside and loved by the communities they serve. Our vision is to provide accessible, traffic-free, paths for everyone and to realise the active travel and economic potential of the NCN.

Through this programme, we have already undertaken high level master-planning for all sections of the NCN in Wales, including identified gaps. The next stage of the work has involved developing more detailed plans for each section which needs improvement to meet the NCN design standards and Level of Services measures for users. 15% of the network has been completed to outline plan level, with this stage expected to be completed in 22/23 using ATNM data from Data Map Wales to inform network development where this coincides with the NCN.

All sections of the network previously removed or reclassified have been audited for new signage and signs have been obtained in preparation for completion of this work early in 22/23.

We have reviewed and continue to progress key activation projects, working with delivery partners to improve the network and engage local communities to support. The Brynmawr scheme has been completed pending addition elements linked to the A465 dualling.

<b>Objectives</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver a world class, safe and accessible active travel network in Wales by creating traffic-free routes that communities love, enjoy and use to travel actively for more of their everyday journeys.</li> <li>• Develop a series of flagship NCN routes that deliver active travel and local, regional and national economic benefits.</li> <li>• Use NCN improvement projects as a place to pioneer best practice and act as exemplars for the wider active travel network in Wales.</li> </ul>
<b>Highlights and progress</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed signing audits of Reclassified sections of network</li> <li>• Identified and completed outline design solutions for some key junctions and crossings on the network</li> <li>• Initiated 2nd phase of Network Development Plan - 15% complete.</li> <li>• Engaged three additional LAs in access control remediation and removal – Bridgend, Newport and RCT have all removed substantial numbers of barriers. Over 150 removed within 21/22. Access and sign Audits undertaken for Pembrokeshire, Anglesey and Gwynedd.</li> <li>• Procured NCN signage for Monmouthshire CC following previous sign audit and feedback from volunteers. Sign installation planned in 22/23.</li> <li>• Procured signage for improvements of selected sections of Lon Las Cymru (Route 8) following audit. Installation planned in 22/23.</li> <li>• Completed one Activation Project for Brynmawr and reviewed others.</li> <li>• Further progress on various Development Projects (Ongoing to 2040)</li> <li>• Quietways Pilot – identified several pilot areas for quietway signing and monitoring, working with LAs.</li> <li>• Preparation of audit tools for condition, access and signing audits</li> <li>• Audit and refurbishment of millennium mileposts through volunteer programme</li> <li>• Development of GIS mapping tools to record Network development progress</li> <li>• Produced 3 Year report of PfE programme progress 2018-21 to inform partners and public audiences</li> </ul>

### 5.3 School Travel Planning programme

<b>Programme summary</b>
<p>Building on our existing school streets work, we would continue to help local authorities identify suitable schools and provide advice on the best approach, based on experience, our technical and modelling approaches to propensity for active travel within schools networks and our broad UK experience. We would also provide guidance to target schools on how best to encourage the wider school community to adjust to the measures.</p> <p>Mindful of the legal and practical enforcement challenges, we would help local authorities with option appraisal and acceptability of approaches. We would bring local authorities together to share learning and experience with national or regional working groups.</p> <p>Our training and support of School Street wardens would also ensure the interventions had the desired effect of reducing congestion at the school gate. Where appropriate we would</p>



support activities like Walking Buses and link into our Active Journeys programme, to stimulate increased levels of active travel to school.
<b>Objectives</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To create safe space for children to walk, cycle and scoot to school.</li> <li>• To build confidence and skills for children, parents and school staff.</li> <li>• To promote healthy journeys through innovation.</li> </ul>
<b>Key milestones</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set up of first national/regional local authority working group (June 2021)</li> <li>• Deliver 2 subject themed best practice webinars and local authority Q &amp; A's (across year)</li> </ul>

Highlights and Progress since November 2021:

- Allocation of Active Travel Schools Planning (ATSP) Programme Manager.
- Recruitment and induction of 2 No. Active Travel Schools Project Officers (1 in North Wales and 1 in South Wales)
- Project planning workshops linking with Active Journeys Programme and building on existing learning
- Meetings with Cardiff Schools Planning Officers discussing and agreeing areas of collaboration.
- Collation and analysis of previous best practice and case studies
- Development of initial project delivery plan

## 6. National Cycle Network Improvements – capital programme

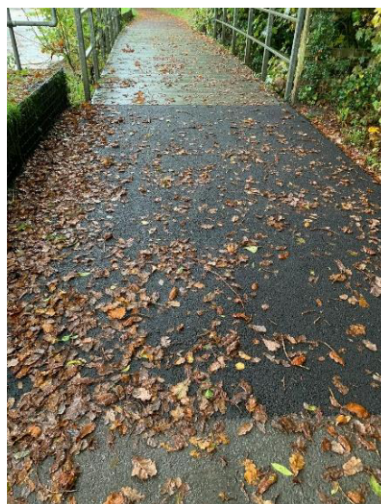
As a result of the capital funding provided for works on Sustrans owned or managed National Cycle Network routes, we have undertaken an extensive programme to upgrade and improve several sections of network, including remediation of some long-standing problems and issues.

Sustrans has engaged contractors and also used its in-house maintenance team to undertake the works. Support has included purchase of selected equipment to facilitate maintenance team operations. We have also purchased two e-bikes to support ongoing NCN Route audit work, especially in areas with challenging topography.

A new bridge has been fabricated and installed on the Brunel Trail in Pembrokeshire, replacing a worn out structure which represented a potential hazard for users. This work included extensive ecological and engineering assessments.



New bridge installation on Brunel Trail (Route 4)



Improvement work to a ramp access on a bridge in the Amman Valley has improved accessibility, particularly for wheelchairs and mobility scooters. This was particularly welcomed by a local resident who uses a mobility scooter on the path. The 20mm lip on either side of the bridge made it hard for him to use the path, but the smooth ramp access has removed the problem.

Extensive tree work has been undertaken to deal with risks from dangerous diseased Ash Die Back trees, where these were likely to impact path users. Some general tree work clearing overhanging vegetation and growth on structures has also been undertake. A significant element was emergency works relating to damage from Storm Eunice in the winter.

Tree root remediation has helped improve surface quality and access for users on a number of paths, particularly improving accessibility for mobility scooters and wheelchairs.

Drainage works in several areas have dealt with some long-standing problems which caused a particular issue in winter due to sheet ice on these routes. Fencing works have also ensured routes are more secure from livestock and help maintain good relations with adjacent landowners, particularly in rural sections. Several access controls have been removed or altered, including modified cattle grids to ensure compliance with current standards.

Materials have been purchased to support a volunteer-led project to provide benches at various locations on the network across Wales. This will provide up to 10 wooden benches and 5 metal. The benches will be constructed by volunteers through workday events managed by our maintenance staff, providing much needed seating to support a wider range of uses, particularly the elderly and those with impaired walking ability.

Following audit, signage for removed and reclassified sections of the network has been obtained for installation early in 22/23. We also have a stock of permanent direction signs for Route 8, Lon Las Cymru as part of the activation project to resign this route, and we have agreed new direction signs for Route 42 in Monmouthshire, which will be provided by Sustrans for installation by the council.

A variation to work outputs that occurred since the December claim was the inclusion of all costs associated with the Howarden Bridge refurbishment in Flintshire being met by the local authority. We therefore repurposed this capital funding to cover other elements of work as listed below, particularly additional ecology and tree works for the Bison Bridge installation in Pembrokeshire.

Individual works are listed below:

## 6.1 NCN Improvement works

Gilwern Cattle Grid and Gate repairs (NCN46)

Step repair and culvert clearance, Machen (NCN4)

Various Tree works at Hengoed (NCN47)

Removal of vegetation from bridges at Llanhilleth (NCN?) and Swiss Valley (NCN 47)

Ammanford Bridge ramp improvements (Amman valley Route)

Ash Die Back clearance (Tumble) -NCN47

Bison Bridge Pembrokeshire - construction and delivery (NCN4)

Bison Bridge Pembrokeshire Ecology, Tree Work and Installation (NCN4)

Drainage works at Clydach (NCN46) and Treforest (NCN 4)  
Fencing works at Abercynon (NCN8)  
Tree root removal Swiss Valley (NCN47)  
Fencing works at Hengoed (NCN47)

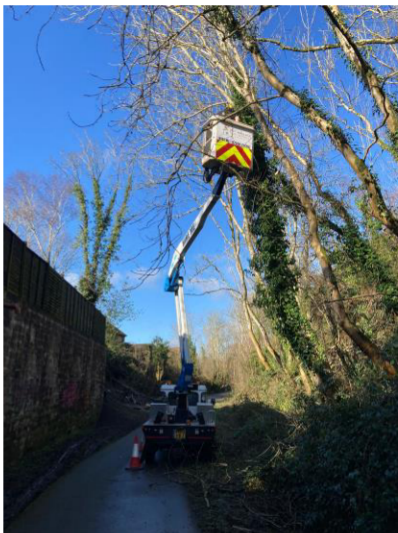
Devegetation - Clydach Gorge (NCN46)  
Tree work at Taffs Well (NCN8)  
Brunel Trail tree work contribution to Pembrokeshire CC  
Emergency Tree works – various locations



Drainage works at Treforest



New fence at Hengoed



Tree work at Hengoed

## 6.2 Other elements/assets

Pool E-bike and E-Brompton for network audits  
E-Bike for workplaces project

PfE 3 Year report printing  
Blower, Disc cutter and Compactor Plate for Maintenance team

Benches (6 x Metal Broxap + delivery)  
Benches (Wooden kits)  
Storage for benches  
NCN Signs for NCN42 Monmouthshire and NCN8.  
R&R Sticker signs

## 7. Funding breakdown for 2021/22

Programme	2021/22 approved grant award		2021/22 Actual spend	
	Capital	Revenue	Capital	Revenue
Strategic advice to delivery bodies	N/A	£50,000	£0	£86,774
Workplace behaviour change support	N/A	£30,000	£4304	£19,781
Paths for Everyone (National Cycle Network)	£300,000	£50,000	£289,379	£50,000
School Travel Planning programme	N/A	£50,000	N/A	£23,445
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£300,000</b>	<b>£180,000</b>	<b>£293,683</b>	<b>£180,000</b>

Project Name	Staff Time	External Exp	TOTAL EXP	Budget	Variance to Budget	Surplus
WG Core Grant 21/22 (Strategic advice and PfE Revenue)	(119,685)	0	(119,685)	100,000	(19,685)	(13,508)
WG Core PfE additional grant (NCN Capital)	(68,348)	(221,031)	(289,379)	300,000	10,621	(64,811)
Healthy Travel - WG Core (Workplaces)_	(12,920)	(10,525)	(23,445)	30,000	6,555	(13,234)
School Travel Planning - WG Core	(19,601)	(180)	(19,781)	50,000	30,219	(4,781)
	<b>(220,554)</b>	<b>(231,735)</b>	<b>(452,290)</b>	<b>480,000</b>	<b>27,710</b>	
		(4,304)	<b>(456,594)</b>			
			<b>£456,594</b>		<b>£23,406</b>	Underspend