

Y Grŵp Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig  
Climate Change and Rural Affairs Group



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Dafydd Trystan Davies  
Chair of the Active Travel Board  
d.trystan@colegcymraeg.ac.uk

Eich Cyf/Your Ref:  
Ein Cyf/Our Ref:

28 June 2023

Dear Dafydd

Thank you for the constructive discussion of our draft Active Travel Delivery Plan at the Active Travel Board's meeting on 26 May 2023 and for sending me the Board's feedback.

We are grateful for the opportunity to test our thinking with Board members and valued the recommendations made to improve the plan. Please find attached a revised Active Travel Delivery Plan, which has been amended to take account of the points raised.

We have accepted the recommendation for targets to be developed and agree that these should be based on robust baseline data. We therefore commit to work with the Active Travel Board and other partners to develop these once the first set of data from the National Travel Survey is available. In the meantime, we will focus on starting to collect and report data in line with the comprehensive monitoring framework that is being developed, of which a previous draft was shared with the Active Travel Board last year. Due to the ambition to publish this plan in July and the need for the monitoring and evaluation framework to go through a further internal quality assurance phase in TfW, we will not be able to include it as part of the plan, but I attach the current draft for the Board's information. We expect the framework to be finalised and published in early autumn, and I hope you will find it reassuring that most of the illustrative measures you suggested are covered by the indicators that are included in the framework.

As recommended, we have summarised the actions included in the plan in a table as an annex, and provide a timescale for each action, as well as clarifying who is the lead for each action and other partners that have a key role to play.

With respect to resources, I agree that additional officer support would be both beneficial and warranted. While there are significant constraints on this at the present time, we will continue to look for opportunities as they arise. In the meantime, our assessment is that the actions in the plan are crafted to those interventions that can make the best use of existing resources to achieve modal shift. Clearly, this is a judgement that we will need to keep under review. It is based on the substantial groundwork that has been laid over the last few

*Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.*

*We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.*



Parc Cathays • Cathays Park  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

Ffôn • Tel XXXXXXX  
@gov.wales  
Gwefan • website: [www.llyw.cymru](http://www.llyw.cymru)  
[www.gov.wales](http://www.gov.wales)

years with the rigorous appraisal and management framework that has been created for the Active Travel Fund as our primary funding stream and the evidence-based national prioritisation tool which is currently in its testing stage. This will be strengthened with the planned development of the new assessment and funding framework which will take more holistic account of each local authority's approach to active travel, the introduction of the stage gate process, and the active travel hub.

With regard to the recommendation to make the Active Travel Fund process more agile, we continue to look for ways in which we can simplify and streamline the process. For example, based on feedback received during the review of the previous year's process, TfW pre-populated application forms for schemes that had been previously submitted on the local authorities behalf and other aspects were also simplified for the 23/24 funding round. There is of course a risk that the development of the new assessment and funding framework, which will draw on aspects of the work undertaken by Active Travel England, will create new burdens and we are keen to work with the Board and local authorities to strike the right balance between ensuring the investment is having the greatest impact and empowering local authorities to make progress with their plans.

We have strengthened the recognition of active travel as a policy area with benefits that have broad cross-government reach and which accordingly need to be reflected and supported across many policy areas. We have addressed this through providing examples of how we have already created firm foundations that bind active travel into other policies and programmes and which will be replicated in future ones.

We have brought out more clearly that all our efforts to improve active travel must be fundamentally guided by an inclusive approach, identifying and addressing barriers, in particular those faced by people with protected characteristics.

We fully accept the recommendation for detailed planning of the active travel town proposal and are looking to put dedicated resources in place to provide sufficient focus. We will welcome the Board's input into the development of the programme.

I will forward the detailed response to the complete set of recommendations made by the Cross-Party Group when it is finalised in the coming weeks.

Overall, the Active Travel Delivery Plan is an ambitious work programme that seeks to significantly improve the framework for active travel delivery in Wales. It will rely on support and collaboration from many partners to succeed and we look forward to further advice, challenge and scrutiny from the Board as we seek to take it forward.

Your sincerely



**Peter McDonald**

Cyfarwyddwr Cysylltedd Trafnidiaeth a Digidol / Director Transport and Digital Connectivity