

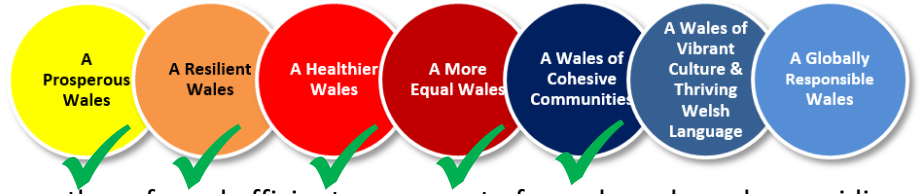


Well-being Objective 13

Healthy & Safe Environment - Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity

Why is this important?

- Transportation & highways play a key role in sustaining our community and deliver 'Prosperity for All.' A modern, successful economy is reliant upon the safe and efficient movement of people and goods; providing opportunities for people to gain access to employment, education, health, leisure, social and retail services.
- *United & connected* is one of the four Welsh Governments' aims in its 'Taking Wales Forward' plan. Providing integrated and affordable access for businesses, for residents and visitors can stimulate economic development, reductions in deprivation and social exclusion and an increase in well-being.
- Sustaining access to services will deliver improvements in health and wellbeing for all sections of the community e.g. that includes: walking, cycling, passenger and road transport.
- By 2030 South West Wales will be a confident, ambitious and connected City Region.



Why this should concern us?

- Our survey identified *transportation and highways as important* and in the top 10 priorities for the community was road maintenance, bus services and pavement maintenance.
- In our survey on satisfaction with services and the importance of services - *Road Maintenance and Repairs* were identified as one of the highest importance with low satisfaction.
- Our highway network is the second largest in Wales covering 3,545 Kilometres, more than double the Welsh average of 1,566 Kilometres; covering 16 million square metres of carriageway.
- The condition of our roads was ranked 17th out of 22 across Wales in 2017/18.
- 18.8% of residents do not have access to a car or van. However, 43.5% of households have one car per household, which may indicate reduced accessibility in areas not well served by public transport.
- Only 55% aged 80 or over have access to a car/van therefore public transport and community based services are important to enable people to continue to live within their communities; it can mean the difference between a person staying independent at home or entering residential care.
- Air quality is emerging as a concern is Llandeilo, Carmarthen and Llanelli.

What do we need to do?

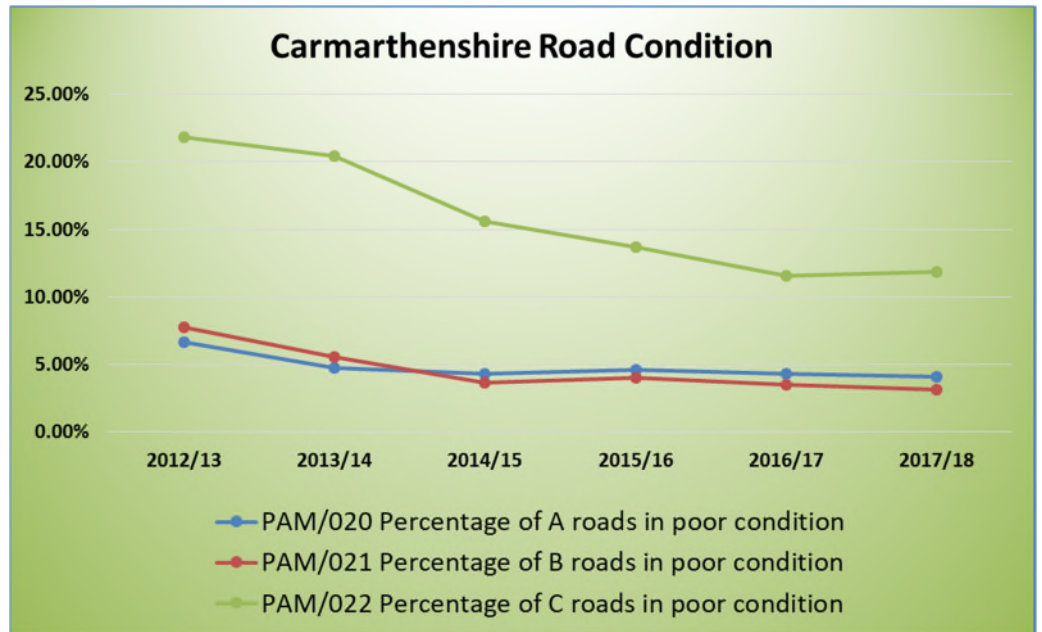
- We need to improve connectivity, reduce congestion and improve competitiveness to develop and support access to services.
- We need to sustain investment into our public and community transport systems and facilitate travel to and from schools to support our Modernising Education Programme.
- We need to also invest in infrastructure to support more sustainable journeys and Active Travel. For example through cycle ways, footpaths and public transport infrastructure.
- We need to continue to sustain investment in our existing highway infrastructure to improve connectivity;
- We need to maintain our focus on road safety and deliver our road safety strategy priorities.
- We need to ensure our fleet of vehicles are safe, modern and efficient, and design our replacement strategy to adapt to changes in vehicle technology.

How will we do this?

- A. We will develop the highway infrastructure to meet the priorities of our Regeneration Plan and Swansea Bay City Deal. We will continue to develop a new highway at Cross Hands and develop strategic schemes to connect communities to promote 'Active Travel' and tourism.
- B. We will continue the successful integrated public transport network such as Bwcabus/LINC and Traws Cymru, develop a Metro for South West Wales to integrate Active Travel, bus and rail stations and work with regional colleagues to improve rail connectivity and journey times to West Wales.
- C. We will plan to redesign our school transport network to support the Modernising Education Programme.
- D. We will continue to support community transport.
- E. We will meet our objectives set out in our Road Safety Strategy.
- F. We will continue to modernise our vehicle fleet to improve efficiency and reduce emissions, and support the development of electrical vehicle charging infrastructure.

Key Measure of Success

Through our investment in road repairs, we have seen an overall improvement in their condition. The additional Welsh Government funding will help to support our prioritised programme of surfacing our roads.



An example of what we are doing

Towy Valley Path



The first section of the Tywi Valley Path is now open. Over 750m of pathway linking Carmarthen Museum in Aberwgili with Bwlch Bach to Fronun and onto Whitemill, offers cyclists and walkers beautiful scenery including views of the Bishops Palace gardens and ponds.

We are putting our customers first by opening the first section and we are now striving for excellence as we work towards completion of the path!

The Tywi Valley Path is one of Carmarthenshire County Council's exciting capital projects, and has received £128,000 through the Welsh Government Rural Communities - Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, which is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. When complete, it is expected to boost the local economy by up to £2.4 million a year through increased tourism and visitor spend, which is part of a long-term vision for Carmarthenshire to be recognised as the Cycling Hub of Wales.



Lead Executive Board Member
Cllr Hazel Evans



View our [detailed delivery plan](#) against this objective