



## Well-being Objective 13

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

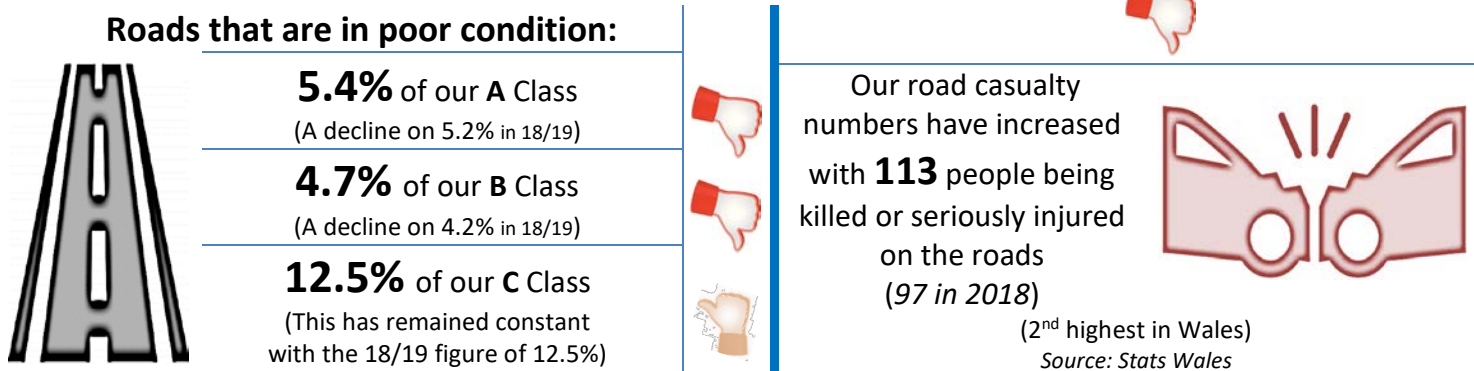
#### We have improved road infrastructure, rural transport and active travel

Our Transportation and Highway related services facilitate the safe movement of goods and people. Enabling access to raw commodities and markets as well as providing opportunities for people to gain access to employment, education, health, leisure and social activities. We have continued to develop Active Travel by investing in shared paths and cycle paths, improved the road infrastructure to encourage economic activity and maintained a rural bus service through our Bwcabus and country cars service.

#### Why it is important

- *Transportation and highways* play a key role in sustaining our community. 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 and 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* through Active Travel plans will deliver improvements in health and well-being for all sections of the community including walking, cycling, passenger and road transport.
- By 2030 South West Wales will be a confident, ambitious and connected City Region.

#### Success Measures



#### Explaining the Results

- **Road conditions in Carmarthenshire have deteriorated during 2019/20.** Carmarthenshire has the second largest highway network in Wales. The combined % of A class, B and C class roads in Carmarthenshire in a poor condition (red zone) has increased; with A class roads increasing from 5.2% to 5.4%, B roads from 4.2% to 4.7% but C roads have remained in a steady state condition with 12.5% in poor condition. The overall increase of poor condition (red zone) during last year equates to some 175km of road, this is a significant length of the network. Due to budget limitations, investment is not keeping pace with the rate of deterioration. We shall submit an additional funding case in order to address the 'red' sections and also request increased investment in preventative maintenance.
- **A total of 113 people were killed or seriously injured** on Carmarthenshire's roads in 2019, this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest figure in Wales behind Powys and an increase on 2018 of 97. These include 25 motorcyclists and 27 persons aged 16-24. Although we cannot control the number of road traffic incidents on the county road network, we do work with partner agencies to encourage the safer use of the road, engage with high-risk road user groups (motorcyclists, the elderly, young drivers), invest in targeted road safety engineering projects and assist the Police with speed enforcement campaigns and address community concerns about speeding.

## Progress Made

- ⦿ There has been significant investment in *Safe Routes in the Community and Safe Routes to Schools* to encourage more sustainable travel.
- ⦿ We have been developing masterplans for *Active Travel* provision that will support access to employment, education health and leisure £1.4m has been successfully secured from Wales Government to progress active travel schemes in Llanelli Carmarthen Ammanford and Cross Hands a number of schemes are nearing completion.
- ⦿ Funding has been allocated to the South West Wales region to further develop an integrated *METRO style transport system*. Whilst funding is administered via City and County of Swansea, Carmarthenshire has been working hard to ensure the County and Regional interests are fully considered for the development of a Metro transportation system. Work is currently being undertaken on rail services. Priorities have been submitted for Carmarthenshire which includes a requirement for a faster rail service to West Wales using the Swansea District Line. Our bid of £450k for Local Transport Network Fund to the Wales Government was successful. This will be used to improve key strategic public transport infrastructure across the County.
- ⦿ **Cycling Hub:** We have continued to develop our aim to establish Carmarthenshire as the Cycling Hub of Wales. Our Strategic Boards continue to meet and are progressing with a number of actions set out in the Cycling Strategy. We continue to make progress on the Cycling infrastructure such as Tywi Valley Path and *Active Travel networks*. An initial £313k funding was awarded by the Welsh Government to progress the design and feasibility of our Active Travel aspirations. Challenges remain for rural Authorities such as Carmarthenshire to benefit from Active Travel funding, which is being targeted by the Welsh Government at urban areas.



A **£1.8million scheme** has improved the Wind Street and Tirydail junction in Ammanford. The new roundabout has significantly helped ease congestion after it replaced the old four-way traffic light system.

We secured the funding through the Welsh Government's Local Transport Fund to improve the layout and boost the town's long-term regeneration plans.

## The way we work



### Bwcabus

A rural bus service that has been described as a lifeline to its passengers is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Bwcabus** operates six days a week in the Teifi Valley within north Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion, and across Pembrokeshire, allowing users to pre-book journeys or use fixed services to link into TrawsCymru and other local bus services.

Its users have otherwise little access to the public transport network, and - they say - it helps them maintain jobs, see their GPs, and socialise with friends.

Passengers such as Janet Davies, from Talgarreg, said Bwcabus was her *'only lifeline'* and played an important part in maintaining her independence. She uses the service weekly as she has no other means of transport. *"This bus is amazing – the service is so reliable and the drivers are always pleasant,"* she said. Anona Jones, from Ffostrasol, is one of the service's longest serving users. She said she was only able to hold down her job at Glangwili Hospital thanks to the reliable service Bwcabus provided. Now retired, she continues to use the service for socialising, and said: *"without Bwcabus I would be in a mess – we would have to move."*

Launched in Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion on August 24, 2009, the *'demand responsive'* service is led by ourselves, on behalf of a cross-county partnership. Such was the success of the scheme that it was extended into Pembrokeshire in 2017 to further benefit rural communities.

### Carmarthenshire Roads

We have invested **£2.65m** on Carmarthenshire roads over the year. A host of improvement works, and resurfacing have been completed after investment by the authority and funding from the Welsh Government.



Executive Board Member For Environment:  
**Cllr Hazel Evans**