



Well-being Objective 11 Healthy & Safe Environment - Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity

Continued deterioration of highways infrastructure

We have adopted a risk-based approach which has focused investment in road surfaces predominantly on the higher-class roads.

Why this Well-being Objective is important

- Transportation & highways play a key role in supporting and sustaining our communities, it provides the vital infrastructure which connects people to one another, binds communities and enables businesses to grow and expand. A modern, successful economy is reliant upon the safe and efficient movement of people and goods and providing opportunities for people to gain access to employment, education, health, leisure and shopping.



How well are we doing (and how do we know)? 📄 Sources of evidence

Success Measures / Explaining the Results

Roads that are in poor condition:



3.6% of our **A** Class

(An improvement on 4.1% in 2020/21)

2.8% of our **B** Class

(An improvement on 3.4% in 2020/21)

11.8% of our **C** Class

(An improvement on 12% in 2020/21)

The number of people being killed or seriously injured on the roads during 2021 to **81**

(2nd highest in Wales)

(55 in 2020)

Source: Stats Wales

- The condition of our main roads in Carmarthenshire has improved during 2021/22.** Carmarthenshire has the second largest highway network in Wales, more than double the Welsh average, and although we are a predominantly rural County, we have the third highest traffic volumes. Through additional investment and in line with our risk-based approach we have improved the condition of our main roads, and this benefits a large number of road users. Compared to other local authorities we are still within the lower quartile for road condition, so more investment is required to maintain this key infrastructure than is available.
- Carmarthenshire has the second largest road network in Wales and the third highest traffic levels which has an influence on road collision statistics. In 2020 the covid pandemic suppressed travel levels in Wales generally which then rose in 2021 towards pre-pandemic levels. This has unfortunately led to an associated increase in the number of casualties killed or seriously injured on our roads, from 55 in 2020 to 81 in 2021 (111 in 2019). The overall trends remain downwards, and our Traffic & Road Safety Team continue to work in partnership with emergency services to promote improved road safety through education, enforcement and engineering. Specific initiatives focused on motorcyclists such as Dragon Rider provides training sessions to enhance riding skills and the Bike Down training sessions for motorcyclists to provide first aid skills in emergency situations to enable those first on scene to preserve life. The number of motorcyclists killed or seriously injured on our roads increased to 16 in 2021 from 10 in 2020 but remains lower than pre-pandemic figures of 25 in 2019. The number of 16-24 year olds killed or seriously injured reduced to 5 in 2021 (from 8 in 2020 and 17 in 2019). Our work with partner agencies to influence further reductions continue with a range of measures and engagement events, such as our Pass Plus Cymru initiative, where we work with driving instructors to give our young drivers enhanced skills as they take to our roads and our Mega Drive initiative focuses on 16-18 year olds to enhance road safety awareness and is delivered in partnership with Go Safe and our emergency services.

Progress on the steps we are taking to achieve this Well-being Objective

Developing highway infrastructure

Key projects:

- **Cross Hands Economic Link Road** - this will be completed in the Summer of 2022. This represents the culmination of many years of planning and construction to deliver a key project which opens access to strategic employment and economic areas in Cross Hands and the wider area and will significantly improve traffic flows in the area. A shared use path is also being created along the link to encourage and support more walking and cycling in the area.
 - **M4 Junction 48 Improvements** - working in partnership with Welsh Government this major highway improvement scheme was completed in the winter of 2021. The project has significantly improved traffic flows at this crucial artery serving the Llanelli area and eased traffic congestion.
 - **Tywi Valley Path** - this ambitious project will create a 20Km off-road walking and cycling route linking Carmarthen to Llandeilo running alongside the River Tywi. **We have secured £16.7m of Levelling Up funding to enable the development and delivery of this key project.**
- For Active Travel, we have installed bike hire stations at key travel nodes such as Carmarthen Bus and Llanelli Railway Stations.
- Internally, there is a need to align and adapt our services to ensure we can meet the major challenges ahead. Several of our IT and information systems need to be developed and modernised, our workforce has adapted and will need to adapt further for the future, to enable us to digitally transform our operational processes to improve customer experience and efficiencies.
- Public Rights of Way service which manages an extensive network of footpaths, bridleways and byways.

Route Type	Number of Routes	Length (KM)
Footpath	2956	2282.0
Bridleway	138	166.06
Byway Open to All Traffic	88	81.3
Restricted Byway	1	1.6
Totals	3183	2530.96

*September 2022

We are improving Electric Charging Infrastructure. We now have 41 fast charging points across the county. We have launched our ten-year Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy. The superfast charging hub, pictured, is located off the A48 in Cross Hands and will provide four 50KW rapid chargers and one 150KW super rapid charger. The chargers draw power from 100% renewable energy sources and the photovoltaic cells on the canopy roof linked to battery backup storage on site will help reduce draw from the national grid. The project is funded through the Welsh Government's Ultra-Low Emission Vehicle Fund.



Our new, first of its kind in Wales, electric vehicle charging hub in Cross Hands

Integrated Public Transport Network

- We are working with our regional partners and Welsh Government to develop a strategic passenger transport project, referred to as the Metro for South West Wales. This will provide sustainable travel with rail and bus corridors through the region along key corridors routes which integrate with local connections.
- We are currently actively progressing the introduction of electric buses on the well-established T1 bus service between Carmarthen and Aberystwyth (see case study) and to explore the potential role and feasibility of piloting hydrogen powered buses in the region. This exciting project may represent a key alternative fuel source for the future with significant transport implications.

- ! The passenger transport industry has experienced very turbulent times and there are continuing factors impacting the industry. COVID-19 has had a fundamental impact on passenger numbers and hence revenues for operators. We have worked with Welsh Government to support the bus industry through this very difficult time and further global influences such as high fuel prices, driver shortages and staff sickness continue to create challenges within the industry. Our Passenger Transport Team have worked with operators to support them through this difficult time to continue providing essential services for customers. People in Carmarthenshire feel the pressures of the loss of public transport.
- ⊙ To improve the customer experience, we have utilised Welsh Government funding to install 42 Real Time Information displays, high quality bus shelters, wayfinding signage, significant infrastructure enhancements at Carmarthen and Llanelli Bus stations. These improvements are designed to encourage modal shift away from the private car thereby contributing to carbon reduction, social inclusion and economic activity, as well as improving the attractiveness, accessibility and vitality of our economic centres.

Support Community and Rural Transport

- ⊙ We successfully manage and provide a lead role in the LINC project on behalf of Welsh Government which includes the Fflecsi, Bwcabus and Trawscymru networks. These initiatives provided essential transport services throughout COVID-19, enabling key workers to continue to access employment. The service continued to be available 6 days a week 7am-7pm throughout the pandemic. Bwcabus has formed a new partnership with Viavan and Transport for Wales in May 2021, utilising Transport for Wales' new booking system and launching the rebranded service Fflecsi Bwcabus in October 2021. Fflecsi Bwcabus now enables passengers to book and manage journeys via an App as well as via a new call centre.

Road Safety Strategy

- ⊙ A new 20mph speed limit has been introduced in large areas of North and South Llanelli. These two large scale Welsh Government funded projects have involved working in partnership with local communities, elected representatives and schools.

Modernising our vehicle Fleet

- ! Our vehicle fleet are an essential supporting part of the services provided across the Council. Continuing to support our fleet and bringing in additional vehicles to maintain services through the COVID-19 pandemic has been particularly challenging but nevertheless achieved. Whilst the pandemic is now receding, new challenges are emerging such as high fuel prices, driver shortages across the logistics industry and a shortage of vehicle fitters which continue to provide a stern test.
- ⊙ We are currently reviewing our Fleet Replacement Strategy which will include a transition to vehicles with sustainable fuel sources. This must carefully align with market supply as it continues to develop to ensure that the technological risks and financial risks to the Council are minimised and will need to ensure supporting infrastructure for fuelling and maintenance are in place.
- ⊙ The market supply for electric vehicles, and particularly for cars and small vans has developed quickly and is now providing reliable electric vehicle options for our Council Fleet. To support this transition Welsh Government funding has been secured to introduced 2 additional electric pool cars in 21/22. We also have the following programme to install 6 rapid and 13 fast chargers at our depots:
 - Trostre Depot (Llanelli) – 3 Rapid chargers (50kW) and 6 fast chargers (7-22kW)
 - Cillefwr Depot (Carmarthen) – 2 Rapid Chargers (50kW) and 4 fast chargers (7-22kW)
 - Cwmamman Depot (Glanaman) – 2 fast chargers (7-22kW)
 - County Hall (Carmarthen) – 1 Rapid Charger (50kW) and 1 fast charger (7-22kW)

The market supply for larger and heavy goods is less developed and operational challenges exist. Alternative fuel sources such as hydrogen are likely to be part of a future solution, but this area requires further development.

Electric Buses for the TrawsCymru T1 Service: Carmarthen to Aberystwyth

We are bringing forward an exciting project in partnership with Welsh Government, Transport for Wales to replace the current bus fleet operating the T1 Carmarthen to Aberystwyth service with a brand new electric bus fleet. This £5m+ project is being funded by Welsh Government and will include the construction of a new bespoke bus depot located adjacent to the Nant y Ci Park and Ride site in Carmarthen just off the A40.

The service will operate with a fleet of 8 new electric buses which are currently being built. The new fleet of electric buses are expected to come into service in September 2022. Thousands of customers every year will benefit from an improved ride quality on high specification vehicles with wi-fi facilities and know that the journey is being made on a zero-emission vehicle.



What and how we can do better

Our delivery plan to achieve this objective

Ref	Actions and Measures	Date/Target	Owner/Resp. Officer
A	Highway Infrastructure		
1	Deliver key infrastructure schemes Action ID 15713/15714	Sep 2022	Adrian Harries
B	Integrated Public Transport Network		
1	We will continue to work with national and regional bodies to develop the Southwest Wales Metro to support carbon reduction and the local economy Action ID 15759	March 2025	Stephen Pilliner
2	Monitor supply market for passenger transport to adapt services where required to changing supply conditions Action ID 15764	March 2023	Alwyn Evans
C	School Transport network		
1	We will continue to support the delivery of the Modernising Education Programme – redesigning networks to facilitate the movement of pupils as set out in our home to school transport policy Action ID 15767	March 2023	Alwyn Evans
D	Support Community and rural Transport		
1	Develop Community Transport Strategy to enable access to essential services from rural communities Action ID 15773	March 2023	Alwyn Evans
E	Integrated Public Transport Network		
1	We will support the development and delivery of a new railway station at St Clears Action ID 15787/15788/15789	Nov 2023	Simon Charles
F	Modernising our vehicle Fleet		
1	Update Fleet Replacement Programme & Strategy to transition towards Ultra Low Emission Vehicles and Depot Infrastructure Action ID 15716/15717/15718/15719/15720/15721/15722/15723	March 2023	Antonia Jones



View our [detailed progress commitments and targets here](#) for 2021/22 against this objective