Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Active Travel in Wales

Welsh Government response to the report by the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee

Following the publication of Audit Wales' report into Active travel in Wales in October 2024, the Senedd's Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee undertook its own inquiry and published its report in December 2025. This document sets out the Welsh Government's response to the seven recommendations in that report.

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1. Introduction

The report published by the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee following its year-long inquiry into active travel in Wales is welcomed by the Welsh Government. It represents the culmination of an intensive, multi-year period of scrutiny on this matter, which saw active travel delivery investigated from many angles, including by the Senedd's Cross-Party Group on the Active Travel Act, the Active Travel Board, Audit Wales, as well as regular scrutiny by the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee. It complements the review of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 which we will publish in February 2026.

Collectively, these reviews and inquiries produced a wealth of recommendations, many of which have already been taken forward or are in the process of being implemented. Others have been superseded by broader changes. The Welsh Government accepts the recommendations made by the committee, as set out in the following pages, however, most will be for the next Government to consider and act on.

2. PAPAC Recommendations

Recommendation 1

The Welsh Government should share the outcome of its review into the operations of the Active Travel Board once it's completed with our successor Committee

Accept

The Welsh Government will begin a review of the Active Travel Board in its revised form and with its current Terms of References in Spring 2026, with the aim to conclude the review by the summer. The review will inform incoming Ministers. The outcome of the review of the Active Travel Board will be shared with the successor committee to PAPAC when this review has been completed and been considered by Ministers.

Recommendation 2

The funding allocated through Regional Transport Plans should prioritise multi-year settlements, to provide certainty for delivery partners, with a more effective blend of capital and revenue funding.

Accept in principle

The Welsh Government is constrained in its ability to allocate guaranteed multi-year funding to schemes coming forward through the Regional Transport Plan process by the annual budget setting process. To enable multi-year schemes to progress with a high degree of confidence, we have made provision for Corporate Joint Committees to submit schemes in the current 2026-27 cycle for funding in 2027-28 and 2028-29 up to a total of 50% of the budget available in 2026-27. This presents an appropriate compromise in providing greater planning confidence for larger schemes whilst not eliminating any flexibility to respond to emerging priorities and unforeseen circumstances in future years.

We continue to operate within current revenue budget constraints and expect Corporate Joint Committees and Local Authorities to optimise opportunities to strengthen delivery of promotional activities as an integral part of their capital programmes.

Recommendation 3

The Welsh Government and Transport for Wales should work with local authorities and/or the Corporate Joint Committees, as appropriate, to ensure that the refresh of the active travel network maps consider and identify opportunities for any smaller schemes that could help address local network gaps, that could have a considerable impact on the success of existing schemes. This should include reflecting on where routes can be made more inclusive retrospectively.

Accept

The next iteration of the Active Travel Network Maps are due to be submitted by 1 December 2026. Several local authorities have started their consultation processes for the revised maps. Due to the extensive networks identified as part of the last iteration, it is expected that the new maps will focus on network extensions into new development sites, connection to nearby towns and villages and addressing missing links. The Welsh Government and the Active Travel Regional Adviser team in Transport for Wales will provide feedback to local authorities to support them in updating their maps. Auditing of routes is a key element of the update process and helps identify accessibility barriers.

Recommendation 4

The Welsh Government should lead a national behaviour change programme, designed in partnership with stakeholders and delivery partners, which involves a cross-departmental approach to maximise its effectiveness. If possible, the programme should include professional support as part of the design process from experts in the field of behaviour change.

Accept

The Welsh Government already leads a large scale, multi-year, cross-departmental behaviour change and communications programme with Climate Action Wales, which includes green travel choices as a key action area. Active Travel Choices - Climate Action Wales

The programme is underpinned by behavioural science and research and subject to rigorous monitoring and evaluation. We will continue to identify and use all suitable behaviour change and communication mechanisms across government departments to embed and mainstream promotion of active travel.

Recommendation 5

The Welsh Government should share the outcome of any review into the Newtown demonstrator town pilot with the Committee (or its successor), once it is available.

Accept

The walking, wheeling and cycling demonstrator town programme is one of the key actions in our Active Travel Delivery Plan that was published in Spring 2024. The programme is now in its first full year, with Newtown selected as the demonstrator town, where the intention is to deliver a comprehensive programme of well-designed infrastructure interventions alongside complementary programmes, all grounded in effective community engagement.

The programme is intended to run for a minimum of four years. The programme as a whole, as well as key individual schemes will be subject to monitoring and it is accompanied by an overarching academic health economic evaluation led by Bristol University. Results of the evaluation will be published and will be shared with relevant committees at that time.

Recommendation 6

Transport for Wales should share the outcome of their review into route design guidance. Any future design guidance should ensure that a more robust approach is taken to addressing issues faced by vulnerable individuals during the design process. Transport for Wales should also reflect on their guidance around consultation with the public and should consider a wider range of approaches, in addition to more traditional methods, to access cohorts of the public that are not currently being consulted.

Accept

The Welsh Government is currently consulting on draft revised Active Travel Act Guidance, which comprehensively sets out expectations relating to the planning and design for walking, wheeling and cycling schemes in Wales, including design details for a wide range of infrastructure types. The guidance also sets out expectations in relation to consultation and engagement at different stages of the planning and delivery process.

The consultation is due to close on 13 February 2026. In addition to the online consultation, feedback is being sought from a wide range of stakeholders through a variety of channels and engagement events.

Supported by Transport for Wales, the Welsh Government will consider the feedback received on the draft document and finalise the new Guidance over the coming months. The final revised Guidance will be published.

Written Statement: Consultation on updated Active Travel Act Guidance (21 November 2025) | GOV.WALES

Recommendation 7

The Welsh Government should share the outcome of their post-implementation review of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 with the Committee at the earliest possible opportunity.

Accept

The report on the post-implementation review of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 has now been finalised following the publication of the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee's report on Active Travel in Wales in December 2025. It is due to be published in February 2026 and will be shared with Senedd Members at that time.