

Introduction to Sustainable Travel Strategy (Air, Noise & Sustainability Action Plan)

Sustainable Transport - What is it all about?

How we travel has a huge impact on the environment and our wellbeing. Road traffic can generate noise and air pollution, as well as producing carbon dioxide emissions that contribute to global warming. This isn't healthy for us, or the environment.

We are looking for your ideas and suggestions on how to make our transport network cleaner and greener. We're not asking for you to make a choice between taking funds away from other vital council services. Instead we will be seeking external grants (where available) in addition to our normal council functions. There is no guarantee that we will be successful in funding all of what is proposed. But that shouldn't stop us having a plan, it means we will be ready to act when funding is available, or can demonstrate to our Government where funding is lacking.

We want your views on a variety of actions grouped into three broad themes:

- Go Green Get Active – cycling, walking
- Electric All the Way – electric vehicles
- Planning for the Future – how the city changes

Think about how you get to work, drop the kids off at school, shopping, visiting friends, going to the gym... How can we support you making your journey as green as possible?

We would also like your views on our outline city wide plan. The plan isn't designed to be detailed or rigid; it is designed to focus the attention onto key areas. The detail will come when we talk to local communities in developing site specific / local plans that deal with issues such as poor air quality. This top down approach will mean we'll be able to demonstrate how the broad city approach can

support more detailed plans. Otherwise we may end up with a number of plans competing with each other with similar but slightly different approaches.

Here we've provided a summary of the key ideas. If you have time to digest the full document and feed back to us that would be great.

Why does it matter? Climate Change & Health

As humans we have changed the planet to suit our needs. Unfortunately the impact we have had is not always good, for example the continued release of carbon dioxide is changing the climate. The recent (IPPC) report has predicted that global temperatures will significantly increase without significant changes to the way we live, work and travel.

Cutting carbon dioxide emissions from our transport network will be challenging, but is required if we want to ensure that global temperature increases stay within a tolerable level for future generations. Petrol and Diesel vehicles generate carbon dioxide emissions. Changing to electric powered cars can significantly reduce our carbon footprint. Other strategies are in place or being developed to ensure the power for these vehicles will be zero emission.

Road traffic causes pollution in the form of Nitrogen Dioxide (from exhausts), Particulate (from exhausts, tyre wear & brake pads) and noise from the engine and the tyres on the road surface. The impact on our health from air pollution due to road traffic emissions is well documented. Where pollution levels are above the legal limit, such as nitrogen dioxide, an air quality management area (AQMA) has to be declared. Currently Newport has eleven AQMAs all due to road traffic emissions.

Noise from road traffic is something we often overlook; we are so used to having the background hum from the road that we don't notice it. With electric vehicles there is a significant opportunity to radically reduce the background noise level of the city. Cutting urban noise levels has significant benefits for our health and wellbeing, along with benefits for the environment as a whole.

We've done our best to cut the jargon – but it might spill out from time to time	
Sustainable Travel	A way of travelling that does not cause pollution.
Active Travel	Travelling under your own steam, walking, cycling etc. not just for pleasure
Particulate Material (PM10 or PM2.5)	Particulate Material PM10 – a very small bit of dust that can get into your lungs. PM2.5 a very, very small bit of dust that can get into your lungs and into your blood stream.
Nitrogen Dioxide	A chemical generated from exhausts of diesel or petrol vehicles that can be poisonous.

GO GREEN, GET ACTIVE!

One of the healthiest and greenest ways of traveling is under your own steam. Walking or cycling is the best way to travel. Not only does it mean you're cutting down on congestion, it means you are getting more exercise which leads to a healthier life over all. Ok, you might not be able to make every trip active, but walking or cycling should be an option.

CYCLING

In Newport we have a [strategy to develop an integrated cycle network](#). It will take time to implement, but we are on our way. To make cycling more accessible an on-street bike hire scheme could be implemented in Newport (similar to London's Boris Bikes, or Cardiff's NextBike Scheme). The more comprehensive and accessible cycling is, the more likely it will become the norm to travel on a bike rather than a car.

PEDESTRIAN ROUTES

In 2019 Newport City Council will take on the powers of parking enforcement. This will mean that our pavements will no longer be blocked by illegally parked cars. This will open up the pedestrian routes to make them safer for all of us. Further improvements could be part of our strategy to encourage their use.

SCHOOLS

Schools can play a critical role in changing how we (and future generations) will travel around the city. A comprehensive plan could be developed to support schools to encourage walking and cycling to school, along with an educational package. The hope is to reduce pollution, congestion and improve road safety around all of our schools, at the same time encouraging the next generation that will see walking or cycling as the preferred way of travelling.

ELECTRIC ALL THE WAY!

Electric vehicles are no longer an oddity. Most car manufactures now offer electric vehicles of one type or another. Unlike petrol and diesel, electric vehicles don't produce any exhaust emissions and are much quieter. They are not perfect as they still produce emissions from the brake pads and tyre wear, but they are much better than what we currently have. The sale of new petrol and diesel cars will be banned in the UK by 2040.

EV CHARGING POINTS

Electric cars will need charging points. In Newport at the end of 2018 we had 13. Clearly this is not enough to support the change of thousands of vehicles to electric. Where national guidance and policy allows, and there is the capacity and funding, we will install charging points, such as in our public car parks. We are also asking that Electric Vehicle Charging Points are included in new developments. The proposed plan could encourage the installation of electric vehicle charging network.

Taxis

Taxis make up an important component of the city's transport network and will continue to be a vital part in years to come. Supporting the transition to electric vehicles should recognise that taxis will have particular requirements with electric vehicle charging. The proposed plan could support and encourage this change.

BUSES & PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Electric trains and the metro are on the way. The bus fleet in Newport is an important part of the city's transport network and is likely to become even more important in the future. Encouraging and supporting the electrification of the bus fleet will be a vital part of the future plans to ensure a zero emission transport network.

Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs)

Electric all the way... well not quite yet. HGVs are the workhorses of the city; almost everything you own will have been transported on a HGV. At the moment there are no suitable alternatives for HGVs, so we are likely to have diesel powered vehicles on our roads for some time. But that doesn't mean we should ignore them.

Newport City Council is supporting HGV / fleet operators through a fuel economy scheme. The idea is simple, less fuel burnt = more money saved + less pollution generated.

In 2018 Newport City Council joined over 25 other local authorities with the ECO-STARS scheme. This provides free advice and expertise to fleet operators on how to be fuel efficient. For more information on the scheme visit <https://www.ecostars-uk.com/eco-stars-schemes/>

Planning for the Future

As technologies and attitudes change so must our implementation and use of them. Making sure the city has the right approach will always be a matter for debate, but what is clear is that we need to provide as much information as possible to openly discuss what changes should take place and how they should be implemented.

Planning and construction

Planning and construction has a big impact upon the way the city will develop in years to come. Ensuring that fundamentals of sustainability are incorporated into the design of new developments is critical to shape how the city will develop in the future. A variety of easy to use toolkits and guidance will be produced to help influence new developments, making sure each one plays a part in ensuring a sustainable future.

Newport City Council has produced supplementary planning guidance for air quality and aims to build upon these guidance toolkits to ensure that clean sustainable travel is incorporated from conception, design to implementation - rather than an afterthought or merely a paper exercise.

Incorporating Active Travel into the design and build of future developments is the best way to ensure that there is an alternative to the car.

Clean Air Zone (CAZ)

A Clean Air Zone (CAZ) is an area of the city, or even the whole city where certain vehicles types are charged to travel through it.

A number of cities across the UK (and Europe) have, or are in the process of, declaring CAZs (such as London, Southampton, Manchester, Bristol, Leeds and Glasgow). Our nearest neighbour, Cardiff, is in the process of determining if a CAZ is appropriate for them.

CAZ have been shown to radically improve air quality, however they require significant resources to work out - how big or small they should be? What type of vehicle(s) should be targeted by a charge? How should it be enforced? Is it fair? How will a neighbouring CAZ affect Newport? If Newport declares a CAZ how will it impact our neighbours? These are all questions that need to be answered if we go down that route.

PUBLIC BODIES

Newport has a Public Service Board which brings together many organisations such as the health board, council, fire service etc. who have all agreed the Newport Well Being Plan. Within this plan there is a section on sustainable travel which binds the public bodies to encourage active travel and reducing polluting forms of travel.

PUBLIC AWARENESS / INFORMATION

Sharing information and raising awareness is really important to ensure we all know what is going on, there are a number of ways we could do this – social media, dedicated website, awareness events, toolkits and resources etc.

SO WHAT WILL ENCOURAGE YOU TO GET OUT OF YOUR CAR AND ONTO A BIKE? OR WALK? OR CATCH A BUS? OR TAKE THE TRAIN?

You've read some of the ideas and here is where we try and put it together into a plan. It is vague on the exact details, but provides a focus and direction. At this stage, nothing is set in stone, we want your opinion.

Once this consultation has finished we will analyse the results, finalise the document and start work on the site local plans (such as areas of poor air quality) and the city centre.

CITY WIDE – Action Plan

This plan outlines what actions Newport City Council intends to focus on to help reduce carbon dioxide emissions, air pollution and noise from our transport network. For the majority of the actions the detail on how they will be implemented will follow in the site specific plans.

A - PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION

- ▶ Supplementary Planning Guidance for sustainable travel.
- ▶ Ensure that Construction and Environmental Management Plan(s) (CEMP) designed with good practice for construction sites are implemented with new developments.

B – CLEAN AIR ZONE

- ▶ Investigate the feasibility of a city wide Clean Air Zone and if appropriate implement.

C – HGV / LGV

- ▶ Implement a city wide Fuel Economy HGV/LGV partnership scheme.

D – TAXIS / ON STREET CAR HIRE

- ▶ Develop and implement a policy to encourage a low emission taxi fleet.
- ▶ Implement a city wide Fuel Economy Taxi partnership scheme.
- ▶ Encourage and support the installation of electric vehicle charging points at Taxi ranks.

<p>E – BUSES, TRAINS (PUBLIC TRANSPORT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Implement a city wide fuel economy bus fleet partnership scheme. ▶ Encourage and support the uptake of zero emission vehicles. ▶ Support and promote public transport across the district.
<p>F - COACHES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Implement a city wide fuel economy scheme for coach operators.
<p>G – PETROL & DIESEL CARS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Where possible - passively discourage the use of petrol and diesel vehicles promoting the use of less polluting forms of travel.
<p>H – HYBRID / ELECTRIC CARS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Develop a city wide strategy for electric vehicle charging points at key locations and where appropriate install. ▶ Partnership work with major destinations to encourage the installation of electric vehicle charging points ▶ Encourage the installation of electric vehicle charging points through the planning process.
<p>I – WALKING & CYCLING (ACTIVE TRAVEL)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Continued development of the city’s active travel network. ▶ Implementation of a city wide bike hire scheme.
<p>J – Public Bodies (Best Practice)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Work towards the council becoming an example of best practice with regard to encouraging active travel and policies that actively encourage a reduction in vehicle trips / emissions. ▶ Encourage the Public Service Boards members to implement similar changes in their respective organisations in line with Newport’s Well Being Plan.
<p>K - SCHOOLS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Develop with key stakeholders a pilot scheme capturing all of the possible elements that could be targeted at schools to encourage zero emission forms of travel. Once proven successful expand to all schools in the district in a phased approach.

L – PUBLIC AWARENESS / INFORMATION

- ▶ Regular website updates / social media
- ▶ Annual events around clean air day that include a public forum

M – STREET / ROAD IMPROVEMENTS & ENFORCEMENT

- ▶ Ensure that new schemes do not cause additional air quality or noise impacts.
- ▶ Encourage schemes that are likely to significantly (or on balance) improve air quality and noise.
- ▶ Support measures that will encourage strict road traffic enforcement.
- ▶ Encourage and support green infrastructure across the city.

N – LIGHT GOODS VEHICLES / DELIVERIES

- ▶ Investigate the feasibility of local distribution hubs across the district.
- ▶ Encourage the installation and use of delivery lockers at key locations where traffic will be drawn away from unnecessary repeat trips.

Now you have read a summary of our Plan please take the time to answer our survey

Newport City Council, May 2019