



# Road Safety Wales Diogelwch Ffyrdd Cymru Low Down

## More than £100m to improve public transport and support economic growth

More than £100 million is being invested in improving public transport and to encourage economic growth, the Cabinet Secretary for North Wales and Transport, Ken Skates has said.

Wales' 22 local authorities were invited to submit proposals to the Welsh Government for local transport improvements in their areas that will help to deliver the priorities and ambitions of Wales' Transport Strategy - Llwybr Newydd.

These include:

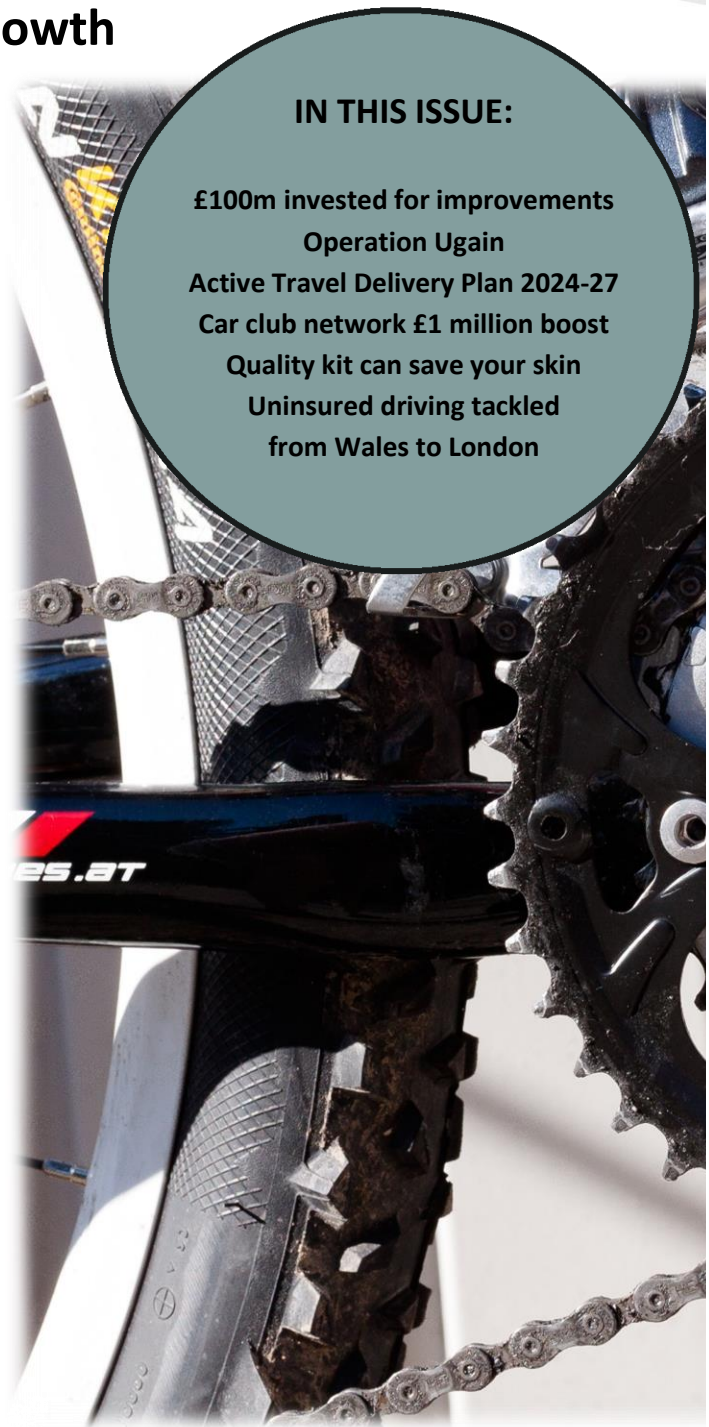
- Addressing disruptions to the highway network caused by severe weather
- Improving road safety
- Delivering walking and cycling routes
- Improving bus journey times and waiting facilities
- Delivering publicly available electric vehicle charging infrastructure

The substantial support, which is designed to help local councils to improve transport in their area, includes funding for active travel and safe routes, road safety, electric vehicle charging facilities, road resilience, local transport and unadopted roads.

Cabinet Secretary for North Wales and Transport, Ken Skates said: "These grants are a substantial investment to support sustainable local economic growth, enhance public transport facilities and create and improve routes that will enable and encourage more people in Wales to walk, wheel and cycle."

"These projects are prime examples of the practical solutions we have asked local authorities to design in order to make it easier for residents to connect with their places of employment and businesses, and to do so more sustainably."

A list of all the projects being funding, by local authority, is available on the Welsh Government website.



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## Operation Ugain launches



GoSafe confirmed that on 8 January 2024, 'Operation Ugain' launched to deliver roadside engagement across Wales. The priority is an engagement focussed approach to 20mph locations to inform the public.

GoSafe, Welsh police forces, and Welsh fire and rescue services are focusing on engaging with communities in areas where the speed limit has changed from 30mph to 20mph. The aim is to help drivers adjust to the change.

Operation Ugain uses speed monitoring equipment to identify drivers travelling over the speed limit, before police officers stop the vehicle and give the driver a choice between roadside

engagement or points and a fine. While drivers will be offered the free engagement as an alternative, they can refuse, which will then result in prosecution. Those exceeding the speed limit to a greater degree will not be eligible for an engagement session and will be prosecuted.

If drivers choose the engagement, fire and rescue services will deliver a free presentation that lasts approximately 10 minutes. It aims to inform people on the change in default speed limit, the reasons behind the change, and how they can identify the roads it applies to.

Engagement sessions have already been conducted by GoSafe, Welsh fire and rescue services, local authorities and Welsh police forces prior to the launch of Operation Ugain. The new dedicated teams will allow for an increase in engagement activity.

## Written Statement: Publication of the Active Travel Delivery Plan 2024-27

A commitment in our National Transport Delivery Plan (NTDP), the Active Travel Delivery Plan sets out in more detail how we and our delivery partners will implement the active travel commitments in Llwybr Newydd and the NTDP.

The Active Travel Delivery Plan aims to increase modal shift by making active travel easier to access, more attractive to use and more inclusive. It provides details of the main actions we will be taking to deliver this goal across our four key delivery areas:

**Leading the change** - To deliver this major change requires clear and consistent leadership. Our plan sets out how we will provide training and resources to our leaders.

**Stepping up our delivery** - We will deliver new strategic programmes to maximise the capability and capacity to deliver high quality schemes which will have the greatest impact on the uptake of active travel.

**Demonstrating what active travel can achieve** - We will deliver a programme of activities to demonstrate the benefits investment in active travel can secure.

**Making active travel the first choice for more journeys** - We will continue to prioritise active travel investment to enable us to deliver a comprehensive programme, creating the right environment and providing the skills and knowledge for more journeys to be undertaken by active travel.

The full plan can be accessed [here](#).



## Car club network will connect rural communities thanks to £1 million boost

The Welsh Government will invest £1 million to create a network of car clubs to connect rural communities. The move comes as part of plans to meet ambitious targets for reducing carbon emissions with aims for public transport, walking and cycling trips to account for 45% of journeys by 2040.



The announcement builds on steps the Welsh Government has already taken to improve accessibility in rural communities, such as the response-led Fflecsi bus service.

The car club schemes, which provide an easy and affordable way for people to share the benefits of using a car, without the cost of owning one, will be delivered in rural communities across Wales including Newtown, Llanidloes, Welshpool, Machynlleth, Crymch, Cwmllynfell, Kilgetty, Llandovery and Llandrindod Wells.

The Welsh Government is committed to see public transport, walking and cycling trips account for 45% of journeys by 2040 (up from 32% in 2021).

Achieving this in rural areas will require a different approach to that taken in most urban areas. Car clubs are an easy and affordable way for people to share use of a car without the cost of owning one.

## Quality kit can save your skin

As a motorcyclist, what you wear is your only protection against injury if you're involved in a collision.

It's so important to always be kitted out correctly with the right clothing and equipment, whatever bike you ride, even if you're just heading to the shop.

Whether you're commuting or out for a weekend ride; on a moped or a supersport bike; a short slide on tarmac will shred clothes and then take skin down to the bone in no time. Quality kit really can save your skin.

Make sure it fits well, is comfortable to wear and doesn't restrict movement. To help other road users see you, consider fluorescent clothing in the daytime and reflective material at night.

It may be tempting to scrimp and save on clothing after spending a lot of money on your bike, but what you wear when out riding is your only protection against injury should the unfortunate happen.

Good quality motorcycle clothing with a high safety rating will not only protect you from the wet and cold, but it could also make the difference between getting some bumps and bruises or sustaining injuries that could stop you riding again.

When choosing motorcycling clothing, look for abrasion resistant materials such as leather, as well as padding or body armour to protect from impact injuries. Also look to see if the clothing is waterproof or if additional waterproof layers will need to be purchased. Choosing fluorescent and reflective garments will also make you more visible to drivers.

The first thing you do in a motorcycle crash is put your hands out to protect yourself - it's just instinctive. A decent pair of gloves is essential all year round. They'll protect your hands from cold, wet weather and from injury if you do come off.

Your helmet is your most important piece of kit so research your purchase thoroughly. Read helmet reviews, seek the recommendations of friends and definitely visit the SHARP website where you'll find a wealth of information on helmet safety ratings, helmet care, and on the importance of getting the right fit for you.

Wearing the right kit can reduce injuries and save lives. Hopefully you'll never need to rely on it, but it could save your skin. Please visit [walesbybike.com](http://walesbybike.com) for more information about safer motorcycling.



# Police forces from Wales to London work together to tackle uninsured driving

Five police forces worked in collaboration in a first of its kind operation, tackling uninsured driving along the length of the M4 from London to Swansea.



The MIB (Motor Insurers' Bureau) initiative working alongside officers from South Wales, Gwent, Avon and Somerset, Wiltshire, and Thames Valley Police has seen uninsured vehicles seized along the 170 mile stretch of M4 carriageways.

Uninsured driving is, sadly, not a standalone issue. Over a quarter of the stops uncovered secondary offences, including stolen vehicles and drug offences.

This was the first of a series of multi-force one-day operations across UK motorways, led by MIB, the UK entity that exists to protect people from the devastation of uninsured and hit-and-run drivers. MIB supported the forces to enable the dedicated resourcing of additional officers, marked vehicles, ANPR cameras, control room operatives and intel staff.

To support each of the forces, who are the first to run an MIB-supported multi-force operation focusing on uninsured driving, MIB law enforcement liaison officers joined officers at the roadside. This provided a direct link to the MID and to the MIB Police Helpline, speeding up the process of confirming a vehicles insurance status.

Taking dangerous uninsured vehicles off the road doesn't just make them safer, it can help identify individuals of interest, stolen vehicles, and wider crime networks.

Superintendent Ryan Francis, from Gwent Police, said: "We're delighted to have MIBs support, and to work with the other M4 services, in tackling an issue that reaches much further than what is seen on the surface. We know that through our efforts today, we'll have stopped stolen and cloned vehicles, individuals with outstanding court warrants, and disqualified drivers, alongside identifying other traffic offences that pose a risk. This collaborative approach provides both focus and attention to a really serious problem in all areas of the UK."

Superintendent Colin Hudson, Head of Roads Policing for Thames Valley Police & Hampshire Constabulary, said: "Regrettably, some individuals persist in driving without adequate insurance, putting innocent road users at risk. By using the intelligence insights and data from Operation Tutelage and MIB, we've successfully removed numerous hazardous vehicles from the roads during this operation."

Chief Constable Jo Shiner, Sussex Police, NPCC Lead for Roads Policing, said: "Tackling offences remains a daily priority for all police forces, but when initiatives such as 'Operation M4' are deployed onto our roads we can really see how working together saves lives."

MIB are already in the process of exploring future collaborative operations on other major UK road networks, as part of their £5 million investment to reduce uninsured driving.

Martin Saunders, Head of Enforcement at MIB said: "We know that all priorities are pressing for our police colleagues. Whilst we work with the police throughout the year, supporting forces in designating time to focus on uninsured driving allows this issue to be tackled head on in a targeted way. We know the benefits will be widely felt across all different areas of the force and the community, making the M4 and surrounding areas safer.

These multi-force operations are just one more way, in a wider range of initiatives, in which we're making sure that those flouting the law have nowhere to hide."

