

Cycling UK Cymru briefing – Senedd election 2026

Greater transport choice & connectivity for all

Our current transport system in Wales is unfair and fails to provide affordable, attractive or realistic alternatives to driving a car. This forces many people in Wales into costly car ownership. We need an overhaul to make it safer, cheaper and easier to choose travel by bike, foot and public transport, and to combine modes of transport into a whole journey.

Cycling UK's manifesto ask

The next Welsh Government should deliver:

- A renewed commitment to **increase the proportion of journeys made by walking, wheeling, cycling and public transport**, backed by measurable targets and regular reporting.
- **Better integration of active travel and public transport**, including secure bike parking at stations, bike carriage on trains and rural buses, and joined-up route planning that reflects the needs of everyday users.

Context

[Llwybr Newydd](#) includes a key target for 45% of journeys to be made by public transport, walking and cycling by 2040. More consistent delivery and political commitment are needed to turn this ambition into reality, and in particular clarity is needed on how it will be delivered by new regional bodies.

Welsh Government's delivery plan makes it clear that it is working with councils and Transport for Wales to join up cycling and public transport to make whole journeys easier. More actions need to be outlined e.g. for better cycle parking at stations and ensuring councils work together to create joined up cycle networks across the nation.

Evidence and Impact

- **Choosing better:** The building blocks for transport choice already exist – walking, wheeling and cycling are widely recognised as viable modes for everyday travel, not just recreation. Governments and [public health bodies](#) in Wales have long endorsed active travel as key to healthy, sustainable mobility.
- **Social Inclusion & Equity:** A transport system offering real alternatives to cars provides [mobility to people](#) who cannot afford or do not own cars – unlocking access to jobs, education, services, and social opportunities.

- Increasing connections: When well implemented - with good connections, affordable pricing, and easy access - multimodal systems make it easier for people to reach their destinations efficiently. Transport hubs significantly improve connectivity and accessibility.
- Improved health and environment: Reducing reliance on cars helps lower air pollution and improves urban quality of life.
- Cycle routes work: In Wales, when safe, well-connected cycling routes are built, they attract cyclists. This demonstrates that investments in dedicated infrastructure - safe lanes, secure parking, integrated routes - are essential to shift travel behaviour at scale.

Conclusion

The case for providing greater transport choice through active travel and public transport, and for better integration of modes is strong, both on health and environmental grounds, and it makes social and economic sense. Investing in coherent, nationwide active-travel and public-transport networks is not a “nice to have”, it is a **foundation for a fair, healthy, sustainable and inclusive transport system.**