

WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT

Title: Sustainable Travel Towns Initiative

Date: 10 March 2009

By: Ieuan Wyn Jones , Deputy First Minister and Minister for the

Economy and Transport

I am pleased to be able update Members on my plans for taking forward the Sustainable Travel Towns initiative in Wales.

Sustainable Travel Towns can deliver ecological as well as other benefits such as modal shift, reduced congestion and pollution, higher quality public transport, improved access to key services and healthier lifestyles by encouraging more walking and cycling.

To take this initiative forward, the Welsh Assembly Government will initially work with Cardiff City Council to develop a pathfinder scheme, focusing on Cardiff, a large urban area with high commuter traffic. Further details will be provided in due course. Subsequently we will develop a series of sustainable travel towns linked to other key settlements.

This approach will allow for a more targeted trial of a range of complimentary measures and interventions. Through building on the lessons learned in each town as the initiative is developed and through sharing experience, we will be able to identify the most effective measures that have the most potential for adoption elsewhere. Developing a range of tailored measures in this way will allow us to have a much bigger impact in supporting a reduction in CO2 emissions.