## A colorful star with black text  Description automatically generated

## THINK Secondment

### **Opportunity to work on the integration of bus and bicycle travel in Wales: P/T secondment with the Cross-Party Group on the Active Travel Act (CPGATA)**

We are looking for an individual currently employed in an organisation within our THINK network who will act as a Researcher for the CPGATA looking at better integration of bikes and buses as modes of transportation in Wales, particularly rural Wales.

The Transport and Health Integrated research NetworK (THINK) is offering financial support for secondments across the THINK membership. We believe the success of integrated research requires sharing knowledge between institutions. Hence, the secondment opportunity requires that the researcher already have an employment contract within a university or transport or health-based organisation. THINK can provide up to £2000 to be provided to your organisation (to cover your time away, for example) or your host institution.

Time commitment: 1 day a week over a 3-month period (12-14 days total, dependent on maximum contribution of £2k). We would be happy to consider a more condensed timeframe if required. The secondment must be completed by the end of September 2024.

The Senedd Cymru Cross-Party Group on the Active Travel Act is made up of Members of the Senedd from across all parties in the Welsh Parliament, local authority councillors and officials, national and local active travel groups, health and environmental charities, and a number of national bodies such as Transport for Wales, Public Health Wales and the Welsh Local Government Association, who all come together because of their interest in increasing active travel in Wales. The group discusses a wide range of topics and engages with the Welsh Government and other bodies in developing active travel policy. We have produced an Active Travel to Schools Toolkit and, last year, published a major review of the Active Travel Act.

The group is currently considering how better integration between bikes and buses in Wales could help promote modal shift away from the car and towards public transport and active travel. The group is aware that other countries achieve higher levels of trips that combine bikes and buses, either by improved integration and storage at bus stops/stations or by facilitating the carriage of bikes on buses. They are particularly interested in examining the potential for initiatives that could be applied to rural Wales given the generally greater length of trips, which can prove a barrier to active travel only journeys, and the greater distances involved in accessing public transport that would seem to favour the bike over walking.

The questions they would like to pose are:

1. What examples are there of effective integration between bikes and buses in rural areas?
2. What approaches were taken and what evidence is there of the success of the interventions?
3. Are the successful interventions focused solely on purposeful journeys or are leisure journeys a significant contributor to usage?
4. What resistance to the initiatives was encountered amongst the various stakeholder groups and how was this overcome?
5. How transferable to Wales are the interventions, taking into account the traffic and vehicle regulation is Wales?

The group is seeking significant detail in the answer to question two, including, for example, the number of bikes carried, and the devices used for their carriage.

The project is being managed by a small working group consisting of representatives from Cycling UK, Sustrans Cymru, Transport for Wales and the secretary of the CPGATA. At least one meeting between the secondee and the working group will take place during the course of the research work. Additional meetings may be arranged if required. The main point of contact for the secondee will be the secretary of the CPGATA. The CPGATA would be happy to accommodate secondees based in a different time zone.

An additional meeting with the working group will take place before the preparation of the final report at the end of the secondment. There may also be an opportunity to present the findings to a wider stakeholder group which would include relevant decision makers.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please provide a short letter of interest highlighting your experience that might help you in this role and identify why you want do it and acknowledging that your host institution is happy in principle for this to happen and email to think@aber.ac.uk. The deadline for expressions of interest for this secondment is **midday Monday 24th June.** If there are several high calibre expressions of interest, a member of the THINK delivery team and the secretary of the CPGATA will informally interview those on the short list to ensure the needs of the secondee and CPGATA are best met.

If interested or want more information, please contact Amy Nicholass, THINK Project Officer at think@aber.ac.uk