Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to clarify the law governing privately owned e-scooters and electric bikes, and to highlight the legal and safety risks associated with their unlawful use.

Neath Port Talbot Council's Road Safety Team is working with Community Safety, South Wales Police, and Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service to address concerns about the increasing use of e-scooters and illegal or non-compliant e-bikes, together with the risk of serious injury to riders, pedestrians, and other road users.

Under current law in Wales, privately owned e-scooters must not be used in public places, including:

- **Roads and pavements**
- **Car parks**
- **Parks, playgrounds, and recreational areas**
- **Shared-use paths and cycle routes**

Privately owned e-scooters may only be used on private land with the landowner's permission.

It is important to distinguish legal electric bikes from illegal or non-compliant models. A legal electrically assisted pedal cycle (EAPC) must have pedals that can propel it, a motor with a maximum continuous rated power of no more than 250 watts, and electrical assistance that cuts out at 15.5 mph. Riders must be aged 14 or over. A compliant EAPC may be used wherever conventional pedal cycles are permitted, but not on pavements.

An electric bike that does not meet these requirements is treated as a motorcycle or moped. This may include a bike with a motor rated above 250 watts, one that provides electrical assistance above 15.5 mph, or one without usable pedals. To be used legally on a public road, it must meet the relevant approval, registration, taxation and insurance requirements, and the rider must hold the appropriate driving licence and wear an approved motorcycle helmet. It must not be used on pavements, cycle tracks, cycle lanes, parks, playgrounds, or shared-use paths.

Anyone who uses a privately owned e-scooter or an illegal or non-compliant e-bike in a public place may face:

- **A fine and penalty points for offences such as riding without insurance or the appropriate licence**

- **The vehicle being seized by the police and, in some circumstances, destroyed**
- **Further penalties for offences such as riding on a pavement, using a mobile phone while riding, or riding carelessly or dangerously**
- **Investigation and prosecution where their actions cause injury or serious harm**

Neath Port Talbot Council's Road Safety Team and its partner organisations strongly advise parents and carers not to purchase, or request as a gift, a privately owned e-scooter or an e-bike that does not meet the legal requirements for its intended use.

Before purchasing an e-bike, please check its motor power, assisted speed, pedals, product markings, and any approval requirements. The fact that a product is available online or in a shop does not necessarily mean that it is legal to use on a public road.

E-Bike and E-Scooter Safety in the Home

E-scooters and e-bikes are usually powered by lithium-ion batteries. Although most are safe when used correctly, counterfeit, damaged, modified, or incorrectly charged batteries can overheat, catch fire, or explode. These fires can develop rapidly, produce toxic fumes, and be extremely difficult to extinguish.

Make sure you charge your e-bike or e-scooter battery safely. Follow these simple steps to reduce the risk of fire:

- **Don't leave your device charging unattended or when you're asleep.**
- **Don't charge or store your battery in the hallway or where it could block your escape.**
- **Only use the correct charger for your battery.**
- **It is recommended that a professional carries out and e-bike conversion.**
- **Only buy e-bikes, e-scooters and batteries from trusted retailers and manufacturers.**



Stop using or charging the battery immediately if it becomes unusually hot, swollen, damaged, leaks, produces an unusual smell or noise, takes longer than normal to charge, or begins to smoke.

Ensure that working smoke alarms are fitted in the home. If a battery or vehicle starts smoking or catches fire, do not attempt to extinguish it. Raise the alarm, leave the property immediately, close doors behind you if it is safe to do so, stay outside, and call 999.

If you're unsure whether your home is protected by sufficient smoke alarms, or would like free fire safety advice, we can provide a free Safe and Well Visit. Call 0800 169 1234 or visit www.mawwfire.gov.uk for more information.

Operation Grebe: tackling the illegal use of bikes



South Wales Police need information about bikes being ridden illegally, bikes that are not road legal, and bikes involved in criminality.

Useful information to report:

- **The exact location, date and time the bike or bikes were seen**
- **Anything distinctive- colour, make, whether the bike or bikes had a number plate**
- **Where are they stored?**
- **Who's riding them illegally, and what they were wearing?**
- **Who's causing criminal damage?**
- **Who's putting the public and themselves in danger?**

You can report by clicking the following link: Public Portal

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The legal, financial, and safety consequences can be serious. We would be grateful for your support in sharing this important message and helping children and young people make safe and lawful choices.

Neath Port Talbot Road Safety Team and Partners

DIOGELWCH FFYRDD ROAD SAFETY

Castell-nedd Port Talbot Mwy Diogel
Safer Neath Port Talbot

HEDDLU DE CYMRU
SOUTH WALES POLICE

Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru
Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service