

Appendix F – Annual Report

To the Welsh Ministers,

Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 Reporting Duties

In accordance with the duties under sections 7 (3) and 10 (2) of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013, please find Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's annual report for the year 2022 - 2023.

<p>The actions taken to promote active travel journeys</p>	<p>During 2022 - 2023, the Council had been involved in the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implemented an ongoing programme of works to upgrade / improve sections of footway across the County Borough including resurfacing, provision of dropped kerbs, new railings and footway widening.• Undertook the removal of barriers, at selective locations and on a case-by-case basis, following an assessment of criteria at each location.• Continued its involvement in initiatives to promote RCT as a tourist destination for walking and cycling.• Continued its involvement in the Active Journeys (in Schools) programme. Arranged in conjunction with Sustrans.• Ensured the Council's website pages covering active travel were kept up-to-date.• In conjunction with Halfords, continued the Council's Cycle2Work Scheme for staff as part of its Staff Benefits Programme.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivered National Standards cycle training to 670 pupils in 2022 - 2023 which provided young cyclists with the necessary training to be safer and more competent cyclists. • Delivered Kerbcraft / Child Pedestrian Training to 1,222 pupils in 2022 - 2023 to give young pupils the skills and road safety awareness to be safer pedestrians. • Commenced Phase 4 of the extensive remedial work in the Rhondda Fach, following a major landslip near Tylorstown which closed a key active travel route following Storm Dennis. Completion will enable full reopening of this active travel route. • Undertook an online consultation exercise in connection with a proposed scheme to realign the route of the Taff Trail in the Trallwn area, Pontypridd.
<p>The actions taken to secure new active travel routes and related facilities and improvements</p>	<p>The following information relates to 2022 - 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progressed study to investigate the potential alignment and construction of new active travel routes within Aberdare town centre and to/from surrounding communities. Also installed several cycle storage facilities in Aberdare, Pontypridd and Porth town centres. Active travel will play a key role in the development of the Council's Placemaking Plans for its main town centres. These Plans include improved connectivity to important

	<p>facilities, gateways and quarters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In conjunction with partner organisations, a business case for reopening the disused rail tunnel between the Rhondda Fawr and Gwynfi Valley to walkers and cyclists continued to be progressed. • Delivered a further 'Safe Routes in Communities' Scheme to a local primary school (Maes y Bryn) in Llantwit Fardre. • Implemented a number of highway improvements which benefit cyclists (as well as motorists) such as surface treatment works at various locations across RCT, construction of new lanes at key junctions, renewal of traffic signals and masonry repairs to river bridges and retaining walls. • Implemented a number of improvements to footways, footbridges, retaining walls and crossing points to improve pedestrian safety.
<p>Costs incurred for new active travel routes and facilities and improvements of existing active travel routes and related facilities carried out in the preceding full financial year</p>	<p>Principal works and costs are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £565,331 – first phase of repairs to Gelli Isaf Tramroad Bridge, near Trecynon which is used by pedestrians coming off the Cynon Trail active travel route. • £319,790 – provision of various improvements to assist pedestrians along Llantrisant Road and Pantybrad,

	<p>Tonyrefail. Works included the provision of dropped crossing points, upgraded street lighting and a new, raised pedestrian crossing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £297,000 – commencing phased work to extend the active travel route along the Rhondda Fach to Maerdy. • £58,000 – progressing the next phase of a section of a new active travel route in Treorchy. This section will eventually form part of a new, long distance active travel route along the Rhondda Fawr, between Porth and the mouth of the disused rail tunnel in Blaencwm. • £3.699M - undertaking the phased removal and eventual replacement of the existing footbridge across the river and railway at Brook Street, Ystrad Rhondda. • £887,000 – improvement / renewal works to the footways in RCT. A total of 51 schemes were completed. Improvements to access for disabled people and pedestrians and footway renewal schemes were carried out. • £1.05M – commissioning studies, undertaking improvements and progressing the next stages of a number of proposed active travel schemes. • £454,800 - completion of a Safe Routes in Communities Scheme in Crown Hill, Llantwit Fardre.
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In addition to the above, the following information provides an overview of infrastructure that has been implemented during the previous year.:

<p>Indicative spending for new active travel routes and facilities and improvements of existing active travel routes and related facilities funded or part funded by third parties.</p>	<p>Where possible, the Council endeavours to obtain contributions from developers, as part of a S106 Agreement, to fund improvements to active travel facilities in the vicinity of their new development.</p>
<p>Length of new routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Walking - Cycling - Shared Use 	<p>Walking (new footways) 0.06km Cycling (on road lanes) 0.0km Shared Use 0.0km</p>
<p>Length of improved routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Walking - Cycling - Shared Use 	<p>Walking (improved footways) approx. 5.4km Cycling (on road lanes) approx. 0.0km Shared Use approx. 2.8km</p>
<p>New and improved active travel facilities</p>	<p>Opening of a new Tracks and Trails facility, with associated infrastructure, in the Dare Valley Country Park, Aberdare.</p> <p>Provision of improved facilities at Ffynnon Taf Primary School, Taffs Well and Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun in Penywaun. These facilities include new or additional cycle storage spaces.</p>

Additional information (optional)


The Council commenced implementing its policy and strategy for rolling out public recharging points for electric cars across RCT. These recharging points were installed at an initial 31 sites, followed by another 26 sites as part of Phase 2.

The Council continued to liaise closely with Transport for Wales in connection with its programme to improve parking provision for cyclists at rail stations across the network.

The Council undertook preparations in connection with the planned national roll-out of the Welsh Government's default 20mph speed limit in the autumn of 2023.

I confirm that this report will be published online and made available in hard copy on request, in accordance with the statutory Active Travel Act Guidance (2021 edition).

Chief Executive Signature:



Chief Executive Name:

PAUL MEE

Date of submission to Welsh Ministers:

12 October 2023