

## Safe Routes in Communities Schemes – Expressions of Interest

In recent years, Rhondda Cynon Taf Council has been invited to submit a bid for Safe Routes in the Communities (SRIC) schemes to the Welsh Government. The Safe Routes in Communities initiative is primarily aimed at encouraging greater participation in sustainable travel, in conjunction with improving safety throughout the wider community with a focus on areas around schools.

Choosing to undertake short journeys by sustainable modes of travel can have many benefits. It can help reduce air pollution and vehicular congestion, which will have a positive impact on any school and community. The school run is a major source of congestion during the morning peak, with as many as one in four cars on the road taking children to school. Walking and cycling to school, local shops and other community facilities can help improve mental and physical health and overall wellbeing through increased physical activity and wider social inclusion.

Whilst there is no guarantee of SRIC funding next financial year, the Council are preparing a programme of schemes so that we are in a position to submit bids should we be invited. Therefore, the Council would like to take this opportunity to invite schools to submit a an assessment pro forma if they believe there is a requirement to develop a scheme which will encourage more people to travel by more sustainable means such as cycling, walking or by public transport.

If you would like to be involved in this initiative and/or considered for future funding bids to implement an improvement scheme within the vicinity of your school, please fully complete and return the enclosed scheme request and assessment pro forma in line with the supplementary guidance attached.

We would advise that schools consider implementing a school travel plan if there is not one already in place. A Travel Plan guide is attached to assist you with this process. Also attached are class/parent survey templates, as there will also be a need to conduct school travel surveys as evidence when submitting potential schemes to Welsh Government. The Council's Road Safety Unit can help set up a walking bus for the school, and also the delivery of cycle training to year 6 pupils, should either of these be something you would like to implement to help your pupils to travel to school by sustainable modes.

Applications must be submitted by **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023** via [Transportationstrategy@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:Transportationstrategy@rctcbc.gov.uk) or by post to: Transportation Strategy, Sardis House, Sardis Road, Pontypridd, CF37 1DU.

*(Continued overleaf...)*

**Gwasanaethau Rheng-flaen**

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### Dewiswch iaith a diwyg eich dogfen | Available in alternative formats and languages

Croesawn ohebu yn Gymraeg a fydd gohebu yn y Gymraeg ddim yn arwain at oedi. Rhowch wybod inni beth yw'ch dewis iaith e.e Cymraeg neu'n ddwyieithog. We welcome correspondence in Welsh and corresponding with us in Welsh will not lead to a delay. Let us know your language choice if Welsh or bilingual.



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The Council are only able to submit a limited number of potential new schemes to Welsh Government each year, therefore, it is vital that your pro forma is completed as fully as possible, as this information will be used as a basis to assess and prioritise your request, against numerous other submissions. We would highly recommend that you consider the possibility of full school community involvement before submitting your request as this will need to be provided as evidence to Welsh Government.

Any potential schemes short listed at this point, may, following further assessment and development, be submitted as a bid for funding to the Welsh Government in February 2024. If your potential scheme is not short listed, then it will remain on file and be reassessed on an annual basis along with others that may have been submitted. It is important to note that only scheme requests received in the approved pro forma format will be considered for the Safe Routes initiative.

Please find attached an information leaflet containing all you need to know about the Safe Routes in Communities initiative. If you have any questions or queries in relation to any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact the Road Safety and Transport Planning Team on 01443 425001.

Yours faithfully

**Transport Strategy Team**