

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 below Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's annual report for 2018 - 2019.

<p>The actions taken to promote active travel journeys</p>	<p>During 2018 - 2019, 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.• 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, in conjunction with Sustrans.• Undertook a further revamp of the active travel and cycling page on the Council's website. Page now includes the location of cycle storage facilities across Rhondda Cynon Taf.• Produced an updated Sustainable Travel Guide for Pontypridd town centre from surrounding communities and new Sustainable Travel Guides for the centres of Ferndale and Porth. All three guides contained useful information about walking, cycling and using public transport.• In conjunction with Halfords, continued the Council's Cycle2Work Scheme for staff as part of its Staff Benefits Programme.• Adopted an updated Rights of Way Improvement Plan for RCT.• Supported local community partnerships with their plans to develop recreational cycling trails as a
--	--

	<p>measure to boost tourism and regenerate the local areas. Eg Daerwynno Outdoor Activity Centre, Ynysybwl.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produced a map of Trefforest for students and visitors showing the walking routes between the two university campus sites, location of cycle storage stands and nearest bus stops. • Held a number of 'Cycling in the Dark' summer evening cycling sessions along local cycle trails. • Delivered National Standards cycle training to 997 pupils in 2018 - 2019 which provided young cyclists with the necessary training to be safer and more competent cyclists. • Delivered Kerbcraft / Child Pedestrian Training to 1,443 pupils in 2018 - 2019 to give young pupils the skills and road safety awareness to be safer pedestrians. • Held regular meetings of a cycle working group which it established. Participants include representatives from various Council departments, Sustrans and Public Health Wales. The group shares knowledge and best practice.
<p>The actions taken to secure new active travel routes and related facilities and improvements</p>	<p>The following information relates to 2018 - 2019.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following publication of the INM, commissioned several separate studies to investigate the potential alignment of new or extended active travel routes in various areas of RCT. In particular, the two Rhondda Valleys, within Trefforest Industrial Estate, along the Cynon Valley and between Brynna / Bryncae and Talbot Green via Llanharan. Studies are at various stages of development, but initial public engagement exercises have already been carried out in connection with some of these studies. • In conjunction with partner organisations, progressed the business cases for reopening the disused rail tunnels (between the Rhondda Fawr

	<p>and Gwynfi Valley and between the Cynon Valley and Merthyr Tydfil) to walkers and cyclists.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constructed a number of new links to improve access to/from the recently opened section of the Llantrisant Community Route. • Completed or further progressed a number of 'Safe Routes in Communities' Schemes to take account of the planned reorganisation of schools and the creation of new walking and cycling routes in local areas. eg Porth area Phase 2 and Pontyclun. • Implemented a number of highway improvements which benefit cyclists such as surface treatment works at various locations across RCT and masonry repairs to river bridges.
<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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £250,000 – (i) construction of new links to provide improved access to/from the recently opened section of the Llantrisant Community Route, (ii) construction of new link to/from the Taff Trail at Nantgarw. • £37,000 - construction of a short cross valley link between Aberaman and Cwmbach and installation of new street lighting and guard rail. • £165,000 - completion of Safe Routes in Communities Scheme in Porth Phase 2 and Pontyclun. • £1,252,000 – pedestrian and road safety improvement schemes at sites in Abercwmboi, Clydach Vale, Cwmaman, Cymmer, Tonypandy, Tonyrefail and Treorchy. • £767,000 covering various footway works such as resurfacing, new kerbs, securing loose pavier, widening etc.

In addition to the above (optional):

<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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £20,000 contribution from the Council towards a joint initiative with Sustrans to pilot the development of active travel journeys focussed on Hawthorn Primary and Secondary Schools near Pontypridd.
<p>Length of new routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Walking - Cycling - Shared Use 	<p>Walking (new footways) 0.09km Cycling (on road lanes) 0km Shared Use 0.185km</p>
<p>Length of improved routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Walking - Cycling - Shared Use 	<p>Walking (improved footways) approx. 17km Cycling (on road lanes) 0km Shared Use 0km</p>
<p>New and improved active travel facilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 new cycle storage facilities provided in Tonypany following the completion of public realm works in the town centre. • New and updated directional signage installed at various locations throughout RCT. • New signage on the Taff Trail.

Additional information (optional)

Undertook a survey amongst staff, out-patients and visitors at Ysbyty Cwm Cynon, Mountain Ash to identify the barriers which are preventing more walking, cycling and public transport journeys being made to / from the Hospital. A report was presented to Cwm Taf University Health Board.

Work has been carried out to design a replacement bridge along the Taff Trail over Nant Cae Dudwg. Other design work has been undertaken in association with the proposed reopening of the disused rail tunnels in the Rhondda and Cynon Valleys.

I confirm that this report will be published online and made available in hard copy on request, in accordance with the statutory Delivery Guidance.

Chris Bradshaw
Chief Executive


