

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 2017-2018.

<p>The actions taken to promote active travel journeys</p>	<p>During 2017 - 2018, 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, together with an ongoing programme to convert all street lighting to LED.• 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.• Revamped the active travel and cycling page on the Council's website. Changes included more information about walking and cycling such as safety advice, behaviour of cyclists using shared space, availability of local training courses and details of the Integrated Network Map and proposals submitted to and approved by the Welsh Government.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Produced a Sustainable Travel Guide for Pontypridd town centre from surrounding communities which contains useful information about walking, cycling and using public transport.• Reintroduced, as part of the Council's Staff Benefits Programme and in conjunction with Halfords, a Cycle2Work Scheme.• Held a number of 'Cycling in the Dark' summer evening cycling sessions along local cycle trails.• Continued to support the 'Beat the Street' walking and cycling initiative in conjunction with Intelligent Health.• Commissioned a study to look into the potential for increasing cycle journeys to local rail stations.• Delivered National Standards cycle training to 693 pupils in 2017 - 2018 which provided young cyclists with the necessary training to be safer and more competent cyclists.• Delivered Kerbcraft training to 1,168 pupils in 2017 - 2018 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.
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The actions taken to secure new active travel routes and related facilities and improvements

The following information relates to 2017 - 2018.

- Following-up various feedback received during recent active travel public consultation exercises. For example, a review is being carried out over the current byelaw which requires cyclists to dismount when travelling through Aberdare Park or Ynysangharad War Memorial Park in Pontypridd.
- Implemented a number of highway and junction improvements which benefit cyclists. For example, undertook works to the A473/A4119 roundabout to facilitate crossing for cyclists and pedestrians as well as other preparatory works nearby in advance of planned major developments. Also, the provision of improved facilities for cyclists to assist them crossing the junction at Beddau Halt and the junction of the A473/A4222 near Talbot Green.
- Completed 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.
- Continued to progress to the next stages of development, and in conjunction with partner organisations, the reopening of the disused rail tunnels between Abernant and Merthyr Tydfil and between Blaencwm and Blaengwynfi to cyclists and walkers.

<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"> • £10,000 - installation and replacement of lighting along the community route between Coed y Cwm and Pontypridd High School. • £310,000 - construction of a new community route in Ystrad Rhondda providing improved links for cyclists and walkers to the railway station, Gelli Industrial Estate, Ysgol Hen Felin, Pontrhondda Primary School and the Rhondda Fawr Sports Centre. • £375,000 - construction of an extension to the community route between Talbot Green and Llantrisant (Cross Inn) to eventually link with the Church Village Community Route. • £225,000 - construction of Safe Routes in Communities Scheme in Porth. (includes £105,000 contribution from Council). • £454,200 - programme of works to improve / upgrade footways in RCT.
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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"> • £57,153 - (part funding) enhancement of structure on NCN 8 (Taff Trial), Pontypridd. • £75,000 - new Toucan crossing in Trefforest Industrial Estate.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £65,000 - (as part of a larger Big Lottery Fund contribution) to develop active travel forestry trails and routes near Ynysybwll.
<p>Length of new routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Walking - Cycling - Shared Use 	<p>Walking (new footways) 2.8km Cycling (on road) 0.6km Shared Use 1.5km</p>
<p>Length of improved routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Walking - Cycling - Shared Use 	<p>Walking (improved footways) 5.1km Cycling (on road) 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 Pontyclun following the refurbishment of a car park in the centre of the village. 8 new cycle storage facilities, a scooter rack and storage for 12 helmets at Pontrhondda Primary School. 10 cycle storage facilities at the Rhondda Fawr Sports Centre following completion of a section of the new community route in the Rhondda Fawr. Repair and restoration of the footbridge over the A4059 near Mountain Ash Comprehensive School and Ysbyty Cwm Cynon.

Additional information (optional)

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



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Bradshaw', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.
