

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's annual report for the year 2021-22.

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| <p>The actions taken to promote active travel journeys</p> | <p>During 2021 - 2022, 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 updated.• 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 801 pupils in 2021 - 2022 which provided young cyclists with the necessary training to be safer and more competent cyclists.• Delivered Kerbcraft / Child Pedestrian Training to 2142 pupils in 2021 - 2022 to give young pupils the skills and road safety awareness to be safer pedestrians.• Carried out extensive remedial work in the Rhondda Fach, following a major landslip near Tylorstown which closed a key active travel route following Storm Dennis. Completion of Phases 1 – 3 has enabled the reopening of the majority of this active travel route. Progressing Phase 4 to enable full reopening.• Separate remedial work was undertaken nearby at Ynyshir in which another landslip had resulted in the closure of the active travel route following inclement weather. This route is now fully reopened.• Replaced the footbridge between Dyfodwg Street and River Terrace in Treorchy to provide an upgraded facility for active travel users.• Undertook a major online and face-to-face consultation exercise (at public venues) to obtain feedback from local residents and stakeholders about the draft Active Travel Network Map that the Council was preparing as part of its duties under the 2013 Active Travel (Wales) Act. |
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| <p>The actions taken to secure new active travel routes and related facilities and improvements</p> | <p>The following information relates to 2021 - 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progressing studies to investigate the potential alignment and construction of new active travel routes within Aberdare, Pontypridd and Porth town centres and to/from surrounding communities. • Undertook a review of the provision and coverage of cycle parking stands at key facilities across Rhondda Cynon Taf. • In conjunction with partner organisations, business cases for reopening the disused rail tunnels (between the Rhondda Fawr and Gwynfi Valley and between the Cynon Valley and Merthyr Tydfil) to walkers and cyclists are continuing to be progressed. • Delivered further 'Safe Routes in Communities' Schemes in Ton Pentre. • Implemented a number of highway improvements which benefit cyclists 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</p> | <p>Principal works and costs are as follows:</p> |

facilities carried out in the preceding full financial year

- £227,000 – repairs to Maes-y-Felin footbridge in Pontyclun.
- £1.152M replacing the footbridge between Dyfodwg Street and River Terrace in Treorchy to provide an upgraded facility for active travel users. Also, widening the footway along Station Road, Treorchy. A key access point into the town centre.
- £56,000 construction of a new pedestrian crossing along Brecon Road, Hirwaun as part of the Council's 21st Century Schools facilities.
- £894,000 repairs to Castell Inn Bridge, Trefforest (for walking and cycling users).
- £471,000 realigning the Taff Trail between Trallwn and Cilfynydd to become more resilient during inclement weather.
- £275,000 delivering improvements to mainly recreational routes which have the potential to become used for active travel journeys.
- £1.768M undertaking site preparation work in advance of the replacement of the footbridge across the river and railway at Brook Street, Ystrad Rhondda.
- £187,000 further designing / constructing crossing facilities for active travel users in Trefforest and Llanharan.
- £1.64M – improvement / maintenance works to the

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| | <p>footways in RCT. A total of 26 schemes were completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1.87M – commissioning studies, undertaking improvements and progressing the next stages of proposed active travel schemes. • £341,800 - completion of Safe Routes in Communities Scheme in Ton Pentre. |
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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:

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| 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. | Sustrans have identified parcels of land currently under their ownership which potentially could form the alignment of new (or re-alignment of existing) active travel routes which the Council is examining. |
| <p>Length of new routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Walking - Cycling - Shared Use | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking (new footways) 0km • Cycling (on road lanes) 0km • Shared Use 0.71km |
| <p>Length of improved routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Walking - Cycling - Shared Use | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking (improved footways) approx. 15.8km • Cycling (on road lanes) 0.0km • Shared Use approx. 9.6km |
| New and improved active travel facilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening of a new Gravity Family Bike Park facility in the Dare Valley Country Park. |

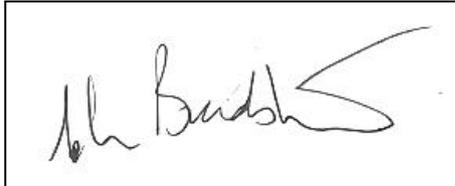
Additional information (optional)

Following widespread public consultation, the Council is formulating its strategy and policy for rolling out recharging points for electric cars and cycles across RCT.

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

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:

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature appears to be 'Chris Bradshaw' written in a cursive style.

Chief Executive Name:

Chris Bradshaw

Date of submission to Welsh Ministers:

28.09.22