

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 2024-25.

<p>The actions taken to promote active travel journeys</p>	<p>During 2024 – 2025, 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, and where necessary, flood alleviation works.• Undertook the continued removal of barriers, at selective active travel route locations and on a case-by-case basis, following an assessment of criteria and local feedback at each location.• Continued its involvement in initiatives to promote Rhondda Cynon Taf as a tourist destination for walking and cycling.• Provided free bike balance training for 18 3-5 year old pupils to learn how to start riding a bicycle and become more confident.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Delivered National Standards cycle training to 540 pupils which provided young cyclists with the necessary training to be safer and more competent cyclists. • Delivered Kerbcraft / Child Pedestrian Training to 605 young pupils in order to give them the skills and road safety awareness to be safer pedestrians.
The actions taken to secure new active travel routes and related facilities and improvements	<p>The following information relates to 2024 – 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian access and safety improvements undertaken along a section of the A4119, at its junction with Mwyndy which incorporated the upgrading of a shared cycle and footway. • Delivered various measures to assist walking and cycling to/from local primary schools in Penygawsi (Llantrisant), Pontyclun and Hawthorn. • Remediation works to the river embankment along the Cynon Trail near Penywaun to safeguard this active travel route. Works also included investigatory trial holes to be carried out as part of the preparation of a future landslide remediation scheme.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of a new footbridge across the A4119, near Coed Ely, as part of the ongoing dualling scheme. • Construction of Phase 4 of the new active travel route in the Upper Rhondda Fach. Work included upgrading the path on the alignment of the old railway line, stretching across Ferndale from a point north of Ffaldau Terrace (near Maerdy) to a point north-east of Dolycoed Funeral Home (Tylorstown). This section passes Blaenllechau and also includes a new link to Avon Street at the northern end of Ferndale. Two new footbridges have also been installed along with new fencing, signage and heritage benches. • Installation of a new zebra crossing for pedestrians along Tynant Road, near Beddau. • Undertook a public consultation exercise over the final phase of the new active travel route along the Upper Rhondda Fach and planning approval subsequently given. • Progressed the potential alignment and design of a new active travel route between Talbot Green and Llanharan. Work included identifying possible land acquisition and the preparation of design plans. • Implemented a number of highway improvements which benefit cyclists (as well as motorists) such as surface treatment works at various locations across RCT, renewal
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	<p>of traffic signals, masonry repairs to river bridges and retaining walls and various flood alleviation schemes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replaced a footbridge near Llwydcoed, used by both pedestrians and cyclists, which was in poor condition. The new structure is compliant with current active travel standards and maintains a link to the Cynon Trail for the local communities. • Installation of active travel monitoring counters at various locations on the active travel networks.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £7.5M - delivering a number of major road resurfacing and footway renewal schemes across the County Borough. • £379,350 – delivering further improvements at various locations in Hirwaun as part of the ‘Safe Routes in Communities’ Scheme. It included the following elements - upgrade of the existing pedestrian crossing at the junction of Brecon Road and Harris Street, extension of the ‘prohibition of waiting at any time’ restrictions on Harris Street, by introducing double yellow lines, to ensure the safety of the public on the approach to the new pedestrian crossing and implementation of two new zebra crossings at High Street and Rhigos Road. • £316,000 – Hawthorn Safe Routes in Communities scheme. Elements of this scheme involved installing a

	<p>new toucan crossing along A4054 Cardiff Road, with alterations to an adjacent junction for improved safety, removing the holding lanes at Cardiff Road to reduce the width of the carriageway, which has improved pedestrian safety, upgrading the footway along School Lane to a shared use active travel route, including new directional signage for pedestrians and cyclists, providing new parking laybys to improve the visibility for pedestrians at several local junctions, improving sections of footway and installing and upgrading informal crossings using tactile paving.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £4.269M – construction of Phase 4 of the Upper Rhondda Fach active travel route, with links to surrounding communities, together with works associated with the development of Phase 5 of this scheme. • £934,700 – provision of an upgraded, active travel compliant, bridge and embankment works to maintain access to the Cynon Trail. • £1.05M – progressing a number of active travel schemes which are at various stages of development. These include enhancements at various locations, Aberdare and Pontypridd town centres, Treorchy to Treherbert, the Cynon Trail near Cwmbach and improving the resilience of The Taff Trail near Nant Cae Dudwg.
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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.:

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.	Where possible, the Council endeavours to obtain contributions from developers, and other third parties either in the public or private sectors, to fund improvements to active travel facilities or promote active travel generally.
Length of new routes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Walking - Cycling - Shared Use 	2.98km 0km 4.61km
Length of improved routes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Walking - Cycling - Shared Use 	5.90km 0km 2.63km
New and improved active travel facilities	Provision of a new, covered cycle storage area, as part of the major investment being delivered, at Llanilltud Faerdref Primary School in Church Village. Provision of improved cycle storage facilities as part of the new transport interchange which has opened in Porth.


Additional information (optional)

Four cyclists undertook a journey of 365 miles from Pontypridd Common to Den Bosch in the Netherlands to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of this city.

Creation of a bicycle pump track recreational facility, off Station Road and Taff Street in Ferndale, as part of the end use for a Receptor Site used as part of the Tylorstown Landslip Remediation Scheme. The track uses material that had slipped from the Llanwonno Upper Tip in Storm Dennis.

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 dark ink. The signature appears to be 'P. Mee' with a stylized, cursive script.

Chief Executive Name:

Paul Mee

Date of submission to Welsh Ministers:

06/11/2025