



**CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL  
RHONDDA CYNON TAF  
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**GWŶS I GYFARFOD O'R CYNGOR**

C.Hanagan  
Cyfarwyddwr Materion Cyfathrebu a Phennaeth Dros Dro'r Gwasanaethau  
Llywodraethol  
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf  
Y Pafiliynau  
Parc Hen Lofa'r Cambrian  
Cwm Clydach CF40 2XX

Dolen gyswllt: Ms J Nicholls - Swyddog Gwasanaethau Democrataidd (01443 424098)

**DYMA WŶS I CHI** i gyfarfod o **PWYLLGOR CRAFFU - CYNNAL GWASANAETHAU CYHOEDDUS, CYMUNEDAU A FFYNIANT** yn cael ei gynnal yn **Swyddfeydd Cyngor y Fwrdeistref Sirol, Y Pafiliynau, Parc Hen Lofa'r Cambrian, Cwm Clydach (Y Siambr)**. ar **DYDD IAU, 27AIN MEDI, 2018 am 5.00 PM.**

Caiff Aelodau nad ydyn nhw'n aelodau o'r pwyllgor ac aelodau o'r cyhoedd gyfrannu yn y cyfarfod ar faterion y cyfarfod er bydd y cais yn ôl doethineb y Cadeirydd. Gofynnwn i chi roi gwybod i Wasanaethau Democrataidd erbyn Dydd Mawrth, 25 Medi 2018 trwy ddefnyddio'r manylion cyswllt uchod, gan gynnwys rhoi gwybod a fyddwch chi'n siarad Cymraeg neu Saesneg.

**AGENDA**

**Tudalennau**

**1. DATGAN BUDDIANT**

Derbyn datganiadau o fuddiannau personol gan Aelodau, yn unol â gofynion y Cod Ymddygiad.

Noder:

1. Mae gofyn i Aelodau ddatgan rhif a phwnc yr agendwm mae eu buddiant yn ymwneud ag ef a mynegi natur y buddiant personol hwnnw; a
2. Lle bo Aelodau'n ymneilltuo o'r cyfarfod o ganlyniad i ddatgelu buddiant sy'n rhagfarnu, mae rhaid iddyn nhw roi gwybod i'r Cadeirydd pan fyddan nhw'n gadael.

## 2. COFNODION

Derbyn cofnodion cyfarfod blaenorol y Pwyllgor Craffu – Cynnal Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus, Cymunedau a Ffyniant a gafodd ei gynnal ddydd Iau 28 Mehefin 2018.

5 - 10

## 3. ADRODDIAD Y CYFARWYDDWR GWASANAETH - IECHYD A DIOGELWCH Y CYHOEDD, A'R GYMUNED

Gwaith cyn y cam craffu: Llwybrau'r Fro: Cynllun Gwella Hawliau Tramwy Rhondda Cynon Taf

Ystyried adroddiad sy'n amlinellu Cynllun Gwella Hawliau Tramwy Rhondda Cynon Taf. Rhoi cyfle i Aelodau'r Pwyllgor Craffu - Cynnal Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus, Cymunedau a Ffyniant gynnal gwaith cyn y cam craffu yn y maes yma er mwyn argymhell ffordd ymlaen a rhoi adborth i'r Cabinet.

11 - 44

## 4. CYFLWYNIAD GAN GYFARWYDDWR GWASANAETHAU'R PRIFFYRDD A GOFAL Y STRYDOEDD

Derbyn cyflwyniad mewn perthynas a Strategaeth Ailgylchu mewn Mannau Cymunedol

## 5. ADRODDIAD AR Y CYD CYFARWYDDWR MATERION CYFATHREBU A PHENNAETH DROS DRO'R GWASANAETHAU LLYWODRAETHOL ACHYFARWYDDWR MATERION CYFATHREBU A CHYFARWYDDWR MATERION Y PRIFFYRDD A GOFAL Y STRYDOEDD MEWN PERTHYNAS

### Rhybudd o Gynnig:

Trafod ymateb y Pwyllgor Craffu i'r Rhybudd o Gynnig a gafodd ei gyflwyno i'r Cyngor ar 28 Chwefror 2018 mewn perthynas â datblygu cynlluniau i gefnogi seilwaith Cerbydau Carbon Isel (LCV) yn Rhondda Cynon Taf.

45 - 58

## 6. BUSNES BRYS

To consider any items, which the Chairman, by reason of special circumstances, is of the opinion should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

## Cyfarwyddwr Materion Cyfathrebu a Phennaeth Dros Dro'r Gwasanaethau Llywodraethol

### Cylchreliad:-

(Y Cyngorwyr Bwrdeistref Sirol Y Cynghorydd S Bradwick a Y Cynghorydd T Williams – Cadeirydd ac Is-gadeirydd, yn y drefn honno)

**Y Cynghorwyr Bwrdeistref Sirol:**

Y Cynghorydd M Weaver, Y Cynghorydd G Stacey, Y Cynghorydd A Chapman,  
Y Cynghorydd Owen-Jones, Y Cynghorydd W Treeby, Y Cynghorydd M Diamond,  
Y Cynghorydd M Fidler-Jones, Y Cynghorydd D Grehan, Y Cynghorydd E George,  
Y Cynghorydd G Hughes, Y Cynghorydd W Owen, Y Cynghorydd S Pickering and  
Y Cynghorydd E Stephens

Tudalen wag

# Agendwm 2

*Mae'r cofnodion hyn yn amodol ar gymeradwyaeth yng nghyfarfod priodol nesaf y Pwyllgor*

These Minutes are subject to approval at the next appropriate meeting of the Committee.

## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY, COMMUNITIES & PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held at the Council Chamber, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale, on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> June 2018

#### **PRESENT**

County Borough Councillor S. A. Bradwick – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors

A. Chapman	D. Owen-Jones
M. Diamond	S. Pickering
M. Fidler Jones	E. Stephens
E. George	W. Treeby
D. Grehan	T. Williams
G. Hughes	

#### **Officers**

Mr N. Wheeler – Director Highways & Streetcare Services

Mr S. Gale – Service Director, Planning

Mr S. Humphreys – Head of Legal, Planning & Environment

J. Nicholls – Senior Democratic Services Officer

#### **1. CHAIR'S REMARKS**

The Chair introduced himself to the new Scrutiny Members and welcomed them to his Committee. He outlined the key Scrutiny functions and politely requested that Members refrain from being parochial within the scrutiny arena and avoid political point scoring.

## **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from County Borough Councillor W. Owen, G. Stacey, M. Weaver and County Borough Councillor D. R. Bevan, Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development and Housing.

## **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**RESOLVED** -In accordance with the Code of Conduct, there were no personal declarations of interests made, pertaining to the agenda.

## **4. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** – to approve as an accurate record the minutes of the meeting of the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018 subject to it being noted that County Borough Councillor S. Bradwick resident's Parking Bay Zone is 302 not 202 as set out in the Minutes and subject to a misspelling of 'Trivallis' on page 6.

## **5. MATTERS ARISING**

**Minute No. 37** – Inclement Weather Arrangements – It was confirmed that the letter of thanks has been sent on behalf of the Scrutiny Committee to all the frontline staff across the County Borough to acknowledge their hard work during the recent snowfall.

**Minute No. 38** – The Chair confirmed that any issues relating to the Housing Associations would be dealt with by the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee. However, Members were advised that the Committee, sitting in its role as the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee would be considering Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) in partnership with the Housing Associations.

## **6. CHANGE TO THE ORDER OF AGENDA**

The Committee agreed that the agenda would be considered out of sequence and as detailed in the minutes set out hereunder.

## **7. ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF THE COUNCIL'S PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

The Committee received the Service Director, Planning who, with the aid of Power Point slides outlined the background to the work that was undertaken by Scrutiny in 2014/15 which resulted in the Council introducing a small dedicated Development Control Committee for the 2014/15 municipal year. The decision was influenced by the Council making more decisions contrary to officer recommendation than other Councils in Wales and by the Welsh Government/RTPI study which considered the performance of the Development Control Committees across Wales.

In addition in response to the work of Scrutiny improvements to the visual aids for the public were introduced and more use was made of technology in presentations.

Members were presented with a detailed slide which demonstrated the number of Members overturns which had declined to 0.79 cases a month under the new arrangement compared to 3.79 under the area committees. The Service Director also alluded to the previously larger agendas compared to the more manageable sized agendas currently circulated which allows Members to consider each application in detail.

In conclusion the Service Director Planning suggested areas for Scrutiny to consider in relation to the following:-

- Annual report and review using key facts and figures?
- Review and revision of 'Code of Good Practice'?
- Member Training Programme?
- Working Group?
- Any other innovations deemed appropriate?

Following the presentation, the Committee discussed the information and questioned the Service Director, Planning.

In response to a query regarding the appeals system, the Service Director confirmed that there was a review of the Planning system in Wales in 2014/15 that considered the appeals system and the changes suggested by the Member were considered and discounted in the review. It was reported that when Scrutiny last looked at the performance of the DC Committee, the majority of appeals lost following refusals contrary to officer recommendation involved highways reasons for refusals (often parking issues) and further explanation was provided in respect of the judicial review process. The Service Director suggested that Members may wish to invite the Director of Wales Planning Inspectorate to a future meeting of this Committee to discuss the issue in greater detail.

It was clarified that due to the change to the Scheme of Delegation (agreed by Council at the time the all Member DC Committee was reduced) whereby an increased number of applications are dealt with under Officer Delegation there has been a clear reduction in the number of applications going before the Planning and Development Committee. In response to a query regarding retrospective planning applications, the Legal Officer explained that a retrospective application can be made under section 73A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 although such an application is made at the risk of the developer as there is no guarantee that permission will be granted.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED** that:-

1. Appropriate training be given to all Members of the Council to facilitate their understanding of the planning process;

2. Progress in relation to the Planning and Development Committee be tracked via an Annual Report to be presented to the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee;
3. The 'Code of Good Practice' be reviewed and revised as appropriate; and
4. The Director of Wales Planning Inspectorate be invited to a future meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

## **8. STREET ENFORCEMENT**

The Committee received the Director, Highways and Streetcare Services who presented an overview of Streetcare Enforcement within Rhondda Cynon Taf. He advised of the current enforcement structure and the areas that are enforced such as littering, dog fouling and fly posting. A detailed update was provided in respect of the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) since its implementation on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017, under the following headings:-

- Number of Fines Issued
- Type of offence
- Where it's happened? Top 10
- Issues Encountered/Excuses
- Abuse

Scrutiny was informed that to date 209 (210 since the publication of the presentation) fines have been issued in respect of offences relating to dog fouling. Members were also informed that there has been an increase in the number of fly tipping prosecutions since 2015. In conclusion the Director alluded to new enforcement activity within the County Borough relating to the contamination of recycling, communal collection points, misuse of recycling bags and no side waste policy.

Following the presentation, scrutiny raised several queries in respect of the recent changes to the refuse and recycling arrangements within the County Borough and the Director reminded Scrutiny that the Service will respond to any concerns raised by Members within their communities. The Director confirmed that resources are sufficient to carry out enforcement activity efficiently across the County Borough and added that the improvements as a result of the introduction of the PSPO would be reported to Scrutiny in due course.

Following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED**:-

1. To acknowledge the information contained within the presentation; and
2. To receive a list of officers, their roles and responsibilities for the Highways and Streetcare Service area.

## **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**



## **9. WORK PROGRAMME**

In accordance with the terms of reference of the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee, Members consideration was sought in relation to the draft Work Programme which was attached at Appendix 1.

The Chair outlined the key topics for consideration such as the review of Local Carbon Vehicle (LCV) infrastructure in Rhondda Cynon Taf which had been referred to Scrutiny as a result of a Notice of Motion to Full Council on the 28th February 2018, Town Centre Management and Recycling Strategy to be considered at the meeting in September 2018 and a review of the statutory process for the removal of caravans and other obstructions from the highway. It was suggested that any progress reports relating to the Community Infrastructure Levy would be referred to the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee who currently review the CIL Annual Report.

Members were also reminded that should they be in agreement, there will be two meetings of the Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Committees in October 2018 and February 2019, the latter to consider Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) in partnership i.e. with Housing Associations. It was confirmed that the Chief Fire Officer (CFO) would also be in attendance.

A request was made that Scrutiny undertakes a further visit to Viridor in Cardiff for the benefit of new Members.

In conclusion the Senior Democratic Services Officer pointed out two amendments to dates on the current work programme namely the 15<sup>th</sup> November and 13<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

Following consideration of the Work Programme it was **RESOLVED:-**

1. To agree the amended Committee Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2018/2019;
2. To agree the topics for consideration by the Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Committee; and
3. To undertake a visit to Viridor, the Energy Recovery Facility in Cardiff.

## **10. MOBILE LIBRARY CONSULTATION**

The Senior Democratic Services Officer referred Members to the Mobile Library consultation on the Council website which is seeking views on the proposal to improve the quality and range of services provided by the Mobile library Service by:-

- Reducing the number of existing vehicles used for delivery of the Mobile Library Service from 3 to 2;
- Investing in two new purpose built vehicles, which unlike the existing service vehicles would have onboard access to Wi-Fi and be suitable from which to provide other Council information services;

- Changing the method of delivery from 393 short stops per fortnight to 48 longer stops every three weeks that would enable the service to expand the range of provision available on the vehicles.

Members were reminded that the consultation closes on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018 and they were invited to forward their views as a collective should they wish to. The Senior Democratic Services Officer would collate them and forward them for consideration on behalf of the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the information.

The meeting closed at 6.30pm

Chair  
S. A. Bradwick



## RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY, COMMUNITIES AND PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

#### BRIEFING NOTE ON THE DRAFT "OUT AND ABOUT: THE RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR RHONDDA CYNON TAF"

#### REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Author: Mr David Batten, Head of Leisure, Parks and Countryside  
Tel: 01443 562202

#### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To advise the Committee on the preparation of the draft Right of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP).

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee scrutinise the draft plan and if satisfied, approve submission to the Cabinet so that the Council can meet the required deadline.

#### 3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Committee resolve to carry out a full review of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan in December 2017.
- 3.2 A draft Plan has been produced for Committee consideration, which needs to be completed by December 2018 to meet the guidelines set out by the Welsh Government.

#### 4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In December 2017 this Committee resolved that a formal review of Out & About: the Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf was necessary, and that the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee will pre scrutinise the review of 'Out & About'; the Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf at a future meeting, and feed back to Cabinet.
- 4.2. The draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan was subsequently prepared and signed off for Public consultation by the Cabinet Member in June. The draft Plan has been made available for public inspection in key Council Offices, in all Council libraries and on request. The document has also been available online, together with a survey about the draft plan. The consultation has been promoted online, via leaflets and to an extensive list of consultees via letter or

email. All Councillors were advised of the consultation. In addition, some informal consultation exercises have been held at public events and in parks around the County Borough.

- 4.3 The introduction provides the legal background for preparing the Plan and describes the area covered.

Section Two provides a brief background on the first Rights of Way Improvement Plan and a summary of the evaluation of that Plan.

Section Three provides a summary of the Assessment undertaken in 2017 to inform the review of the Plan. It considers the current condition of the access opportunities, future public need, Active Travel, the Public Services Board and the Well-being Plan and the conclusions of the Assessment: namely to prepare a revised Plan.

Section Four provides a background to the Statement of Action. The aims and priorities from the Assessment are described and, the long term strategic commitments identified. The purpose and content of delivery plans is explained and the proposed process of policy change set out.

Section Five is the Statement of Action. Unlike the first ROWIP, detailed actions are not included. Instead key themes for action are identified under each of the six objectives. The objectives are as follows:

- Promote outdoor countryside activity for health, regeneration, tourism and recreation
- Walking and cycling as transport options
- Protect the access resource
- Improve provision for walkers, cyclists, horse riders, off road vehicles and users with mobility or sensory disabilities
- Involving local community and voluntary organisations in the development, promotion and use of access opportunities
- Develop a more efficient management system for statutory Rights of Way work, including the Definitive Map

Section Six explains how Delivery Plans will be used to implement the Statement of Action.

Section Seven considers monitoring, reporting and Plan Review.

The draft Plan itself is appended to this report. The draft Delivery Plan for 2019/2020 is contained in the draft Plan as Annex A.

- 4.4 The statutory consultation period closed on 17<sup>th</sup> September. A total of 334 responses have been received including 170 from the online survey, 5 written responses (post or email), 103 completed paper survey forms and 54 people contributed to informal discussions at various locations. In addition, the Local Access Forum and Natural Resources Wales provided observations. The responses are currently being analysed and, together with the observations from this committee, will inform the final plan to be presented to Cabinet by the end of the year.

## **5 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no Equality or Diversity implications aligned to this report

## **6. CONSULTATION**

6.1 Public Services Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee were consulted on December 2017.

6.2 Public consultation was held between June and September 2018 as detailed in 4.4.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

## **8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no legal implications aligned to this report.

## **10 LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

10.1 Improved rights of way, provide a safer place for residents and visitors to access and enjoy the wide and varied green spaces of Rhondda Cynon Taf. They contribute to building cohesive communities and neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work. They also encourage active recreation which makes a significant contribution to Council priorities.

## **11. CONCLUSION**

11.1 The revised Rights of Way Improvement Plan will provide a strategic framework for the Council to manage and improve the extensive network of public footpaths and rights of way throughout the County Borough.

11.2 The revised plan will promote the use of rights of way to access outdoor activity for health, regeneration, tourism and recreation. All of which make significant contributions to the delivery of the Council's Community Plan.

11.3 That the Committee approve submission of the draft Plan to the Cabinet so that a revised ROWIP may be approved within the specified time.

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**Draft Out & About: Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Rhondda  
Cynon Taf  
June 2018**

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## **Executive Summary**

This is the second edition of 'Out & About; the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) for Rhondda Cynon Taf.

The introduction provides the legal background for preparing the Plan and describes the area covered. Section two provides a brief background on the first Rights of Way Improvement Plan and a summary of the evaluation of that Plan.

Section Three provides a summary of the Assessment undertaken in 2017 to inform the review of the Plan. It considers the current condition of the access opportunities, future public need, Active Travel, the Public Services Board and the Well-being Plan and the conclusions of the Assessment: namely to prepare a revised Plan.

Section Four provides a background to the Statement of Action. The aims and priorities from the Assessment are described and, the long term strategic commitments identified. The purpose and content of delivery plans is explained and the proposed process of policy change set out.

Section Five is the Statement of Action. Unlike the first ROWIP, detailed actions are not included. Instead key themes for action are identified under each of the six objectives. The objectives are as follows:

- Promote outdoor countryside activity for health, regeneration, tourism and recreation
- Promote walking and cycling as transport options
- Protect the access resource
- Improve provision for walkers, cyclists, horse riders, off road vehicles and users with mobility or sensory disabilities
- Involve local community and voluntary organisations in the development, promotion and use of access opportunities
- Develop a more efficient management system for statutory Rights of Way work, including the Definitive Map

Section Six explains how Delivery Plans will be used to implement the Statement of Action.

Section Seven considers monitoring, reporting and Plan Review.

A draft of the first Delivery Plan for 2019/2020 is at Annex A.



## **1. Introduction**

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW) required local highway authorities to produce a Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) for their area. In Rhondda Cynon Taf this was called 'Out & About' and included open access land, Key Countryside Sites, parks and other permissive access as well as public rights of way. It was published in 2007/8.

The CROW Act specified that plans should be assessed and considered for review within 10 years of publication. In 2016, Welsh Government published guidance on the review of ROWIPs in Wales and this has informed the review of Out & About.

The area covered by the Review is the same as for the previous Plan, namely the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf excluding the Brecon Beacons National Park. The National Park is also undertaking a review of their previous Plan.

## **2. Out & About: the first Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf**

### **2.1 Background**

The initial ROWIP was based on an assessment of the access resource, the extent to which it met current and likely future needs of the public and the opportunities provided for exercise, open air recreation and enjoyment. The ROWIP provided a strategic plan, a means of bidding for resources and the basis for developing work programmes. It contained 75 actions relating to six specific objectives.

The process of developing the plan took several years and involved a number of stages, each of which included stakeholder and public consultations (issues, assessment, draft plan and final plan). Once the Plan had been adopted by the Council, the implementation of the Plan was monitored through quarterly meetings with an annual summary report presented to the Local Access Forum. This monitoring continues.

### **2.2 Evaluation**

An evaluation of the existing Plan was undertaken as part of the assessment of whether or not to Review the Plan. This was completed in 2017 and used the quarterly monitoring information to consider progress over the last ten years. The evaluation considered both the detailed actions and the broader scope of work

carried out under each of the six objectives. This was published as appendices (2 and 3) to the Assessment (2017). A summary is included here.

### Individual actions

These were categorised as completed, ongoing, modified, no progress or abandoned. In 2017, of the 75 actions;

- 27 (36%) were completed,
- 30 (40%) were ongoing,
- 6 (8%) had been modified,
- 2 (2.8%) had made no progress and
- 10 (13.3%) had been abandoned.

The 2 actions where there had been no progress relate to 'Lost Ways' and re-opening PROW on Welsh Government forestry land. Actions have been modified where circumstances, organisations, funding streams or legislation have led to a different approach. Some actions have been abandoned, for example when the lead organisation has closed or not progressed with the project or where an anticipated role has not developed.

Welsh Government undertook an evaluation of ROWIPs in 2013. Nationally, at the half way stage evaluation; 74% of actions were completed, part-completed or recurring and 24% abandoned (pii summary)

### Objectives

The evaluation found that the objectives had stood the test of time better than the individual actions. In general, the priorities identified in the first ROWIP still reflect current concerns and had, to some extent, anticipated new legislation and guidance.

**Objective 1: Promote outdoor countryside activity for health, regeneration, tourism and recreation** was the means of ensuring that Out & About reflected the broader concerns of the Local Authority and that actions were co-ordinated. The evaluation concluded that this will continue to be important, particularly in the context of the Well-being of Future Generations Act (see below).

**Objective Two: Walking and cycling as transport options** preceded the Active Travel legislation but provided a focus for relevant Public Rights of Way (PROW) and broader access concerns pertaining to transport.

**Objective Three: Protect the access resource**

**Objective Four: Improve provision** were the main focus of the statutory rights of way work and are likely to continue to be important considerations for the future.

**Objective Five: Involving local community and voluntary organisations** has been a vital component of the plan implementation. This way of working is a key feature of the Well-being of Future Generations Act and reflects the sustainable

development principles. It also reflects the issues raised by the public in the CwmTaf Well-being assessment (see below). Finally **Objective Six: Management system** was central to improving the resources and organisational approach to rights of way and access issues.

### **3. Summary of the Assessment (2017)**

In an addition to the evaluation of the existing plan, the guidance stipulated a number of other issues the assessment should consider. A summary of the findings are presented here.

#### **3.1 Current condition**

RCT was well provided with access opportunities and this has not changed much over 10 years. The population in the south of the area has increased slightly, there has been a small increase in open access land and in Key Countryside Sites associated with new developments (such as at Cefn yr Hendy and the Church Village Community route). A ward by ward breakdown was appended (4) to the Assessment (2017)

Welsh Government Performance indicator for public rights of way, which was collected from 2000/1 until 2013/14 shows a steady improvement in %'easy to use' for Rhondda Cynon Taf from 21.1% in the first year to 78.79% in the final year.

The Countryside Access Management System (CAMS) has been used to manage the rights of way network since 2011. At the outset, a survey of all paths was undertaken and photos, conditions, limitations and issues were recorded on the system. There are 2576 items of furniture on the network including bridges, gates, stiles and steps. The Assessment considered the types of issues that are logged on CAMS and the rate at which they are resolved. Vegetation issues are the most frequent, followed by issues relating to furniture. More issues are being resolved than added each year but there is still a significant backlog.

The condition of the legal documentation of PROW was also assessed and the works in hand to review the 1971 definitive map for the Taff Ely area described. The need for work to update the Cynon (1995) and Rhondda (1992) definitive maps was also noted. Definitive Map Modification Orders were reviewed. There were 44 applications on the Register, 8 have been determined with a further 2 being progressed.

### **3.2 Future public need**

The assessment of future public need drew on the findings of the CwmTaf Well-being Assessment (2016), the Welsh Outdoor Recreation Survey 2008 and 2011, some of the emerging results from the Wales National survey 2016 and the general trends identified in the Welsh Government 'Future Trends' report 2017. The Local Access Forum also considered future public need. Mobility and Equalities issues are addressed and finally, the Welsh Government's 2017 consultation on Access to Outdoors.

The key themes emerging were that the population is generally more sedentary and less fit than 10 years ago and that 'traditional' activities such as hill walking and horse riding are minority concerns. The areas of growth are in sight-seeing, short walks, family excursions, dog walking, and to some extent active pursuits like cycling/ mountain biking and running. There is a good understanding of the importance of the outdoors for good physical and mental health and for children's development. The focus on the health and social benefits of the outdoors was a strong feature of the Well-being Assessment, together with the promotion of tourism based on a stunning natural environment with excellent access opportunities. Involving and supporting people in developing opportunities, in managing local green spaces, in improving their own health etc. was also a key theme. There is a need to cater for a huge diversity of minority concerns, not just in the traditional areas but, for example, for those with disabilities or protected characteristics, for Welsh speakers or those without access to a car.

### **3.3 Active Travel**

The assessment described the steps undertaken by the Council under the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013. There is a close working relationship between Active Travel and Countryside staff, and a mechanism is in place for joint working across the authority. More detail is given in s 4.2 below.

### **3.4 Public Service Board and Well-being Plan**

The Well-being Plan for Cwmtaf has been developed under the provisions of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015. The plan is being prepared by the Public Service Board (PSB) and covers the areas of Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr. The PSB is a collection of public bodies working together to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of people who live, work and visit Cwm Taf. The Well-being Assessment undertook extensive public and stakeholder consultation, in 2015/16, which informed the ROWIP assessment. The

draft objectives for the Well-being Plan were published in autumn 2017 and the final Well-being Plan will be published in May 2018.

### **3.5 Conclusions**

The purpose of the ROWIP assessment was to ascertain whether or not the first Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf was in need of review. The conclusion was that a review is required, largely because the legislative background has evolved significantly since the first Plan was written. A Report to Scrutiny Committee in December 2017 **RESOLVED**:-

1. That a formal review of Out & About: the Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf is necessary; and
2. That the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee will pre scrutinise the review of 'Out & About' ; the Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf at a future meeting and feedback to Cabinet.

## **4. Background to Statement of Action**

### **4.1 Aims and priorities from the assessment**

The assessment identified that the first Rights of Way Improvement Plan provided a useful framework for identifying, prioritizing and monitoring action across the County Borough. The objectives had stood the test of time, while many of the individual actions were ongoing, others had been completed, modified or abandoned with changing circumstances. Very few actions had made no progress. The objectives were considered to provide an appropriate framework for the revised Rights of Way Improvement Plan and reflected the priorities and the legislative change highlighted in the guidance.

The assessment identified the contribution of new public open space, created as part of new housing developments through S106 planning agreements. This was of particular importance in the south of the County Borough where the population has increased since the previous ROWIP.

The use of the Countryside Access Management System has dramatically improved the recording, monitoring and management of the rights of way network. The system provides scope for further improvement but this is currently constrained by a lack of resources (both financial and staff time).

Progress with practical works on the ground has been similarly constrained by the budget cuts arising from austerity. The number of ranger teams and the budget for contractors have both been reduced. Work with volunteers has also declined due to the lack of ranger time to co-ordinate, assist and monitor work. Despite this the percentage of the rights of way network that was 'easy to use' had steadily improved, although there is still a significant backlog of practical work.

Administrative and legal work to update the Definitive Map and Statement has commenced, using funding from the Welsh Government. Completion of the Taff Ely area (relevant date 01/01/1971) is a priority, with further work needed to update Cynon (15/12/1995) and Rhondda (11/11/1992).

The assessment of future public need identified a number of key themes of relevance to the revised ROWIP.

- *Active travel*, that is walking and cycling for journeys with a purpose rather than solely for recreation, is now a government priority. Ensuring that there is continuing close liaison with the Council's strategic transport planning team (who deal with the Active Travel legislation) and that the ROWIP reflects the Council's policy on active travel will be important. The active travel legislation only applies within the built up area. In RCT the links between settlements, and into the settlements from the surrounding countryside, will continue to be important for journeys with a purpose.
- Improving *public health* through the use of the outdoors has emerged as a serious policy concern at national and local level. Rising levels of obesity and poor mental health are areas where outdoor activity is seen as part of the solution. The population is generally more sedentary and less fit than 10 years ago.
- As mentioned above, the *types of outdoor activity* that people take part in is changing. 'Traditional' activities such as hill walking and horse riding are minority concerns. The areas of growth are in sight-seeing, short walks, family excursions, dog walking, and to some extent active pursuits like cycling/ mountain biking and running.
- Declining *childhood experiences of the outdoors*, both at home with families or peers and at school, is leading to a loss of knowledge of the local countryside and of the skills to explore and enjoy it. Perceptions of risk have changed and contribute to reducing outdoor freedom and a lack of challenging activities for young people.
- *Tourism*, based on a stunning natural environment with excellent access opportunities continues to be a local and national priority.
- *Involving and supporting people* in all aspects of the outdoors is still a priority. This is about much more than volunteering. Some local people want to be

involved in developing access opportunities, learning and sharing countryside skills, in managing local green spaces, discovering local history or wildlife, in improving their own health etc.

- There is a need to cater for a huge diversity of *minority concerns*, not just in the traditional areas but, for example, for those with disabilities or protected characteristics, for Welsh speakers or those without access to a car.

## 4.2 Long term strategic commitments

### 4.2.1 Sustainable Development and the Wales Well-being Goals

The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015 places a duty on all public bodies (including local authorities) to carry out sustainable development, which is defined as

*The process of improving economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals.*

The sustainable development principle means *meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs* and applying the following five ways of working.

- **Long term:** the importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to meet long-term needs
- **Prevention:** how acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives
- **Integration:** Considering how public body's well-being objectives may impact on each of the well-being goals, on their objectives and on the objectives of other public bodies.
- **Collaboration:** Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives
- **Involvement:** The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area that the body serves.

The Well-being Goals for Wales are :

A prosperous Wales

An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth

and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.

A resilient Wales	A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).
A healthier Wales	A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.
A more equal Wales	A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).
A Wales of cohesive communities	Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.
A globally responsible Wales	A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.

#### *4.2.2 Well-being Plan for Cwm Taf*

The Well-being Plan for CwmTaf has been prepared by the Public Service Board under the Well-being of Future Generations Act. It was published in May 2018 and contains 3 objectives each with immediate, short to medium term steps and a long term vision (see Figure 1). Within the Plan there are many references to the value that people have for their local environment, the importance of the outdoors for health and well-being, the opportunities for tourism and for being involved in managing and improving the local environment. These cut across the objectives of 'thriving communities', 'healthy people' and 'strong economy'.

Specific proposals include

- Utilising the strength of communities to support volunteering
- Community zones



- Helping local groups to adopt green spaces and develop creative activities
- Regular physical activity and use of 'social prescribing'
- Integrate outdoor activity into daily life: daily mile, outdoor learning in schools
- Planning for walking, cycling and access to the outdoors, so all ages can enjoy their local environment
- Cycling and mountain biking networks, walking routes in every community
- Marketing the Valleys and supporting the Valleys Landscape Park
- Making the most of the Metro proposals
- Green infrastructure
- Protecting the countryside

Figure 1. Cwm Taf Well-being Objectives and Steps

<h2>The Plan on a Page:</h2> <h3>Cwm Taf Well-being Objectives and Steps</h3>			
<b>Cross-cutting Objective:</b> <b>Immediate</b>	<b>TACKLING LONELINESS &amp; ISOLATION</b> We will work in new ways to channel the undoubted strengths of our communities, including volunteering to tackle more effectively the loneliness and isolation which often exists within many of them.		
	<b>THRIVING COMMUNITIES</b>	<b>HEALTHY PEOPLE</b>	<b>STRONG ECONOMY</b>
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>1</b> To promote safe, confident, strong, and thriving communities improving the well-being of residents and visitors and building on our community assets.	<b>2</b> To help people live long and healthy lives and overcome any challenges.	<b>3</b> To grow a strong local economy with sustainable transport that attracts people to live, work and play in Cwm Taf.
<b>STEPS:</b> <b>Immediate</b> (1-2 years)	<b>1.1</b> Develop Community Zones as an area or place based approach focussing support to improve outcomes for our areas with the greatest challenges.	<b>2.1</b> Work with our communities to make sure everyone has the best chance to live long and happy lives e.g. First 1000 days, working with older people to stay fit and healthy for as long as possible.	<b>3.1</b> Stimulate and boost the aspirations and skills of our people to meet public and private sector or career opportunities.
<b>STEPS:</b> <b>Short to Medium Term</b>	<b>1.2</b> Work with our communities to provide consistent messages, links and signposting to community, public sector and business support within and close to communities.	<b>2.2</b> Collectively promote healthy lifestyles by encouraging "One More Healthy Behaviour" for all staff and citizens.	<b>3.2</b> Growth and promotion of tourism using the assets of our beautiful natural environment, heritage and culture for the health, prosperity and benefit of the whole community and alongside the development of the Valleys Landscape Park.
<b>STEPS:</b> <b>Short to Medium Term</b>	<b>1.3</b> Work with and support communities who want to manage and improve their local environment.	<b>2.3</b> To work together as public services and with our communities to reduce levels of obesity.	<b>3.3</b> To make the most of the investment and return opportunities of the £1.229 billion City Deal locally within Cwm Taf.
<b>STEPS:</b> <b>Short to Medium Term</b>			<b>3.4</b> Further explore the opportunities for sustainable housing and renewable energy developments with associated community funds.
<b>VISION:</b> <b>Long Term</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well coordinated community volunteers and public services with ACE informed and thriving communities.</li> <li>A safe, healthy environment which people use, value and enjoy.</li> <li>The communities shaping services to meet the needs of residents and visitors.</li> <li>A better understanding of our natural assets and how our actions impact on them.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce the frailty of our ageing population by improving the rates of the population that have 4 or 5 healthy behaviours to 20%.</li> <li>Improve the rates of healthy life-expectancy and life expectancy in Cwm Taf to the average Wales.</li> <li>People of all ages spend time outdoors, using and enjoying their local environment to improve their health and well-being.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage opportunities for development and regeneration as the City Deal delivers jobs and returns on its investments, including attracting hotels.</li> <li>Supporting the development of a clean economy.</li> <li>A sustainable, energetic and expanding economy with employment rates equalling the UK average.</li> <li>A vibrant tourist industry attracting people from near and far, enjoying our natural environment, history and culture.</li> </ul>

#### *4.2.3 Area Statement for South Central Wales*

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) is required to produce Area Statements, under the provisions of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, to implement the priorities set out in the National Natural Resources Policy (2017). These are :-

- Delivering nature-based solutions;
- Increasing renewable energy and resource efficiency; and
- Taking a place-based approach

Seven areas across Wales have been identified and RCT falls within the South Central area with Cardiff, the Vale, Bridgend and Merthyr. Engagement with partners about data and issues to inform the statements is due to commence in spring 2018 with the Area Statements likely to be completed in 2019

#### *4.2.4 Local Development Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf*

The existing Local Development Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf was adopted in March 2011. The LDP provides a land use framework which forms the basis on which decisions about future development in the County Borough are based. Policy AW7 includes protection for public rights of way, cycletracks and open space. Policies NSA 23 and SSA 21 list the proposed cycle network improvements which are also shown on the proposals map. The design and place making policies AW5 and AW6 promote sustainable transport options and a few developments have included new or improved walking and cycling infrastructure in their proposals. The LDP is subject to ongoing monitoring, culminating in an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). The Council are considering the results of these AMR's as part of the formal review procedure.

Recent changes in planning legislation (including the Planning (Wales) Act 2015) has put in place the opportunity for Strategic Development Plans (SDP's) to be prepared across various regions in Wales. Consideration is currently being given for such an SDP to be prepared across South East Wales, focused on Cardiff and 9 other authorities including the Valleys. There is also an opportunity to prepare replacement LDPs or reduced scale LDP 'Light' once SDP's, or certain stages of it, have been prepared and agreed. There is also the opportunity to work on elements of LDP and LDP Light preparation with other Local Authorities, or to actually prepare Joint LDP's/ LDP Lights.

#### *4.2.5 Local Transport Plan*

The Local Transport Plan (LTP) is prepared by Highway authorities under the provisions of the Transport Act 2000 and as amended by the Transport (Wales) Act 2006, often working in partnership across a wider area. There are strong links between the ROWIP and the LTP in Rhondda Cynon Taf. The Regional Walking and Cycling Strategy was a feature of the SE Wales Transport Plan and generated significant European funding for cycle / community route development and upgrading. The South East Wales Transport Alliance, which published the Regional Walking and Cycling Strategy no longer exists and this document has been replaced by a number of Local Transport Plans for South East Wales. More recently, a Regional Transport Authority for the Cardiff Capital Region has been established in order to take forward the City Deal investment for transport in the area which will include proposed programmes and projects which aim to improve connectivity across the region and achieve a modal shift from car use, including the Metro proposals. Their initial Strategy was published in early 2018 for consultation. It contains a number of proposals for new stations and rail-lines, park and ride, bus / rail interchange, bus corridor improvements and road proposals in RCT. The current Local Transport Plan, together with a number of other policy and strategy documents, is available to view at:

<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/ParkingRoadsandTravel/Travel/TransportSchemesandPolicies/TransportSchemesandPolicies.aspx>

#### *4.2.6 Active Travel in Rhondda Cynon Taf*

The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 aims to promote walking and cycling for everyday short distance journeys. Initially the Council was required to produce a map of the existing network of walking and cycling routes within the built up area and audit them against the Active Travel quality standards (The Existing Routes Map and Statement 2015). The second stage was to compile an Integrated Network Map containing proposals for developing routes over 5, 10 and 15 years (2016). This was approved in March 2018 by Welsh Government. Both stages involved public consultation and engagement. The proposals are available on line at <https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/ParkingRoadsandTravel/Travel/ActiveTravelandCycling.aspx> and Welsh Government funding allocations will be based on the approved proposals.

#### *4.2.7 Valleys Taskforce/ Valleys Landscape Park*

The Ministerial Taskforce for the Valleys was set up to develop a fresh approach to improve prosperity in the south Wales valleys. The high –level plan ‘Our Valleys, Our Future’ was published in 2017. Under their ‘my community’ theme: by 2021 they

propose to create a Valleys Landscape Park to help communities celebrate and make the most of the natural resources and heritage.

#### *4.2.8 Corporate Plan: Economy, People, Place*

In 2016, The Council launched its Corporate priorities for the period to 2020 under the title 'The Way Ahead' In 2017, the Plan was refreshed to reflect the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Each year the Council sets out its priorities for the economy, for people and for place.

### **4.3 Purpose and content of delivery plans**

The Guidance produced by Welsh Government for the review of ROWIP introduced the concept of Delivery Plans. These are not included in the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 and are therefore non-statutory. The guidance suggests that Statement of Action, included in the statutory ROWIP, should only include actions that are sufficiently long-term and strategic to avoid them becoming obsolete during the 10-year term of the Plan. It suggests that shorter-term commitments and work plans should be included in Delivery Plans and that these should be included as an annex to the ROWIP.

The guidance also notes that the Planning Inspectorate are unlikely to consider the content of delivery plans as 'material provisions' under the 1980 Act and suggests that content that should be considered in this regard be included in the core ROWIP rather than Delivery Plans.

It is proposed that a brief annual delivery plan will be produced to deliver the Statement of Action set out in section 5.

### **4.4 Process of Policy Change**

The original Out & About did not specifically address policy or policy change. However, the pressure on resources arising from austerity and the Welsh Government guidance for the plan review suggests a more comprehensive policy framework for Public Rights of Way should be developed.

The following list for the initial review or development of policy and guidance is proposed. Further detail will be included in the relevant delivery plans.

#### **Policy or guidance topic**

Legal Orders  
Volunteering  
Maintenance  
Planning

Diversions  
Promoted routes  
Enforcement  
General access

The procedure to be followed in developing each policy or guidance note will be as follows.

- Review existing
- Collate evidence re best practice (including discussion with LAF, local organisations, other stakeholders, other LAs)
- Draft document
- Internal consultation including legal, amend as required
- Consult Local Access Forum and others as necessary
- Amendment as required, re- consult for any significant change.
- Cabinet member approval

Once the Policy or Guidance Note has been adopted it will be utilised by the Council in decision making and will be a 'material consideration' where cases are taken before the Planning Inspectorate.

## 5 Statement of Action

### Introduction

S.60 of the CROW Act 2000 requires that ROWIP includes a Statement of Action the authority proposes to take for than management of local rights of way, meeting the needs and developing the opportunities identified in the Assessment.

The approach taken in this review of the ROWIP is similar to that taken in the first ROWIP. It considers public rights of way and other access opportunities (such as community routes, open access, parks and key countryside sites) and uses similar objectives to focus action.

### **Objective 1: Promote outdoor countryside activity for health, regeneration, tourism and recreation**

The Wales well-being goals and ways of working, encourage public bodies to 'join up' policy and action to achieve multiple benefits for local residents and visitors. The Well-being Plan for Cwm Taf is focusing on a 'place-based' approach, using the local assets and strengths to support new ways of working. The countryside has been identified as an important asset. It could make a contribution to addressing issues

as diverse as community cohesion, adverse childhood experiences<sup>1</sup>, air quality, economic regeneration and local pride.

This objective provides support for actions which promote outdoor countryside activity and utilise the rights of way network, community routes, open access resources and Council owned parks and Key Countryside Sites.

<sup>1</sup> *Adverse childhood experiences can affect peoples life chances. Minimising them is a key priority of Welsh Government, the Health Service, Polics, Local Council and othe rpublic services*

Actions will focus around the following themes:

1.1 Health	Actions under this theme could include support for social prescribing; liaison with ‘hubs’ developed for the Well-being Plan; Walking for Health groups; short circular walks near doctor’s surgeries; specific ideas generated by local communities or voluntary groups; practical work; promotion and community engagement.
1.2 Regeneration	Actions under this theme are primarily focused on local residents and businesses and could include local trails of historic or cultural interest, countryside running or walking route/app for a hotel or fitness business, initiatives in Parks, links to public transport.
1.3 Tourism	Although there will be some cross over with 1.2 above, actions under this theme are primarily focused on visitors. The outdoors is an important part of the local tourism ‘offer’ and actions will continue to develop, market and maintain existing facilities, such as the Taff Trail and the Pontypridd Circular Walk, and to develop new opportunities. Tourism has a ‘digital strategy’ to promote on-line information.
1.4 Recreation	Actions under this theme could include many of the ‘traditional’ countryside activities such as led walks, ramblers and riding groups, dog walking, visits to parks, family outings.
1.5 Education	Actions under this theme could include Walk to the Wild for primary schools; continued project working with the University of South Wales students; the ‘daily mile’; ideas developed by pupils and their teachers, cycle and road safety training, adventurous play and outdoor activity

### **Objective Two: Walking and cycling as transport options**

Walking and cycling as transport contributes to a variety of policy agendas including:

- climate change (reducing carbon emissions from transport),
- physical activity (for public health benefit),

- social inclusion and regeneration (access to employment and services for those without a car)
- independent mobility for children and young people and some disabled users
- local environmental quality (reduced air and noise pollution, green corridors)
- green infrastructure
- tourism promotion

As discussed above, the Active Travel legislation has raised the status of walking and cycling as transport options. Whilst the legislation only applies within the built up area, the existing community route network (largely on disused rail lines) and a number of public rights of way outside the built up area continue to be important for transport purposes. The model standards published by the Welsh Government relating to active travel routes are generally more onerous than for public rights of way, and will not be appropriate for many routes, especially in the countryside,

Actions will focus around the following themes:

2.1 strategic input	Actions under this theme could include input to policies in the Local Development Plan, the Local Transport Plan and the Active Travel network, local priorities and standards. It could also include regional working and cross border initiatives.
2.2 community routes	Actions under this theme would focus on existing and new community routes including the Taff Trail, Cynon Trail, Celtic Trail (route 4 and 47), the Rhondda Fach trail.
2.3 Rhondda Fawr and other Active Travel priorities	The Integrated Network Map has identified a number of priorities for development and actions under this theme would contribute to their achievement. The absence of a dedicated community route in the Rhondda Fawr is a particularly challenging priority.
2.4 schools	Actions under this theme would continue work to improve active travel routes to schools, in particular addressing issues raised by school pupils and teachers.
2.5 wider network	Actions under this theme could include links to the Active Travel network, links between towns, routes to public transport connections.

### **Objective Three: Protect the access resource**

The initial ROWIP identified the range of duties that the local Highways Authority has to manage and protect the Rights of Way network. These duties remain and this objective provides the focus for the Council's policies with regard to their implementation.



The Local Development Plan for RCT (2011) includes policies to protect rights of way and public open space, as well as more general countryside protection policies. Any new development plans (regional/ strategic or local) should seek to retain protection for the access resource.

Managing the network involves joint working with the Council’s highway managers, development control and legal officers, public health and street care and the police, as well as practical works on the ground. Protection also embraces issues such as fly tipping and anti-social behaviour that can damage the resource as well as deter users.

Actions will focus around the following themes:

3.1 strategic planning	Actions under this theme could include input to the new Cardiff area Strategic Plan; the review of the Local Development Plan; Local Transport Plan; highways policy; the metro proposals.
3.2 NRW land	Actions would include continuing to press NRW to remove obstructions for PROW on the forested estate and to promote use of the majority of the estate that is dedicated as ‘open access’ . Temporary closures for operational reasons can be accommodated through normal processes.
3.3 Lost ways	In the CROW Act, 2026 is the deadline for claiming paths not currently registered as PROW. Welsh Government has consulted on the possibility of removing this deadline but it is not yet clear whether this will occur. Actions may be required during the Plan period.
3.4 routine works	Actions under this theme include inspection, enforcement; changes to the network; temporary closures; maintenance works; management of Key Countryside sites; observations on planning applications.

**Objective Four: Improve provision for walkers, cyclists, horse riders, off road vehicles and users with mobility or sensory disabilities.**

Improvements to the existing network, and in particular providing additional facilities suitable for particular groups of users remains a priority. This area of work is heavily dependent on external funding, especially as ‘austerity’ has inevitably focused local authority spending on statutory duties.

The priorities for improvement are likely to be driven by the external funders. For example the Active Travel legislation is likely to focus spending on the Council’s priorities for routes within the built up area, making it harder to attract funding for ‘rural’ routes such as the Taff Trail.

Seeking new sources of funding for improvement priorities, for example relating to health initiatives or community projects, will become increasingly important. It will also continue to be important to take advantage of funding opportunities in non priority areas which can create improvements that benefit local residents or visitors.

Actions will focus around the following themes:

4.1 Funding for improvements	Actions under this theme could include developing partnerships; joint projects; grant applications; S106 agreements relating to planning consents;
4.2 Access for all	Actions under this theme could include active travel improvements that create new opportunities for users with mobility or sensory issues; kissing gate replacements for stiles; support for new users;
4.3 Tackling anti-social behaviour	Actions under this theme could include waste and littering prevention; reducing motorbike trespass; tackling dog fouling; supporting local community initiatives:...

**Objective Five: Involving local community and voluntary organisations in the development, promotion and use of access opportunities**

The initial ROWIP recognised the importance of grassroots participation and utilised this objective to promote actions being promoted by user groups, Communities First, and a diverse range of local community and voluntary groups. Whilst many of the organisations have changed in the intervening period, the importance of the third sector in outdoor activity remains pivotal. Involvement is one of the five ways of working identified in the Well-being of Future Generations Act. Working with people who use the countryside provides an important perspective. Similarly, those who don't use the countryside can shed light on barriers to participation as well as their aspirations. The Well-being assessment identified a broad interest in the countryside and outdoor activity and highlighted a number of specific concerns (examples see below).

- young people expressed concern at the lack of challenging outdoor activities for them to take part in,
- some local groups wanted greater involvement in the use and management of Council owned land in their area,
- individuals wanted more information about where they could go,
- local organisations had formed around proposals to develop specific facilities
- more recently, a social prescribing initiative has identified outdoor activity as an area of demand with limited 'entry level' or supported provision.

The Well-being Plan includes proposals relating to ‘community zones’ and Community hubs which can provide information, advice and support which could be utilised to forward this objective. It also includes proposals relating to volunteering, which could support a broader engagement agenda.

The Local Access Forum will continue to provide the statutory input from user groups, landowners and other interested parties to the local recreation and access agenda.

Actions will focus around the following themes:

5.1 Local Access Forum	The LAF provides the statutory mechanism for users and landowners to contribute to policy, priorities and action relating to rights of way and countryside access. Each LAF has a term of 3 years, after which a new LAF is advertised and appointed.
5.2 Create your Space	This theme focuses on the two community based, seven year lottery funded programmes in Treherbert (Welcome to our Woods) and Ynysybwl (Ynysybwl Vision) who are developing new approaches to their local countryside.
5.3 Voluntary and community participation	This theme is a focus for actions arising from or developed with other local community and voluntary organisations. It could include developing relationships with the Well-being Plan ‘hubs’ to understand their aspirations for their local countryside and rights of way; developing a volunteering policy in conjunction with Interlink;
5.4 Adopt a Path	This theme would continue actions to support and promote the ‘adopt a path’ scheme and to develop initiatives like that with the Taff Ely Ramblers who have adopted the Pontypridd Circular walk.
5.5 Community Councils	This theme includes actions promoted or developed by Community Councils and includes the agency agreements that some Councils and the Brecon Beacons National Park have entered into.

### **Objective Six: Develop a more efficient management system for statutory Rights of Way work, including the Definitive Map**

Whilst significant progress has been made in this area in the last 10 years, there is still much to be done. The pressures of austerity have slowed the anticipated progress with the updating of the Definitive Map, but completion of this work remains a high priority, albeit currently dependant on external (Welsh Government) funding. Technological developments are continuing to provide opportunities for efficiencies

in management systems and for service improvements. These are rarely without an 'up front' and often recurring annual cost.

Actions will focus around the following themes:

6.1 Definitive Map	Actions under this theme will focus on completing the updating of the Taff Ely Definitive Map and statement and then progressing to the Rhondda and Cynon.
6.2 policy and guidance	Actions under this theme will include the review or development of a range of policy and guidance notes as set out in para 4.4 above.
6.3 protocols for routine tasks	Actions under this theme could include proformas for responses to planning applications and land searches, for surveys and inspections; standard letters; recording of practical works;
6.4 CAMS and other technological support	Actions under this theme could include hardware; software; training; adding layers such as the Active Travel network; permissive routes;

## **6 Delivery Plans**

Non statutory Annual Delivery Plans are proposed to provide the detail of actions to be undertaken each year. Annex A provides a template for the first Delivery Plan for 2019/20. The template may be modified prior to its commencement and in the future.

The content of the delivery plans will be informed by the objectives set out in the Statement of Action in Section Five above and by the resources available (including staff, capital and revenue funding, grant aid, voluntary and community support).

The Local Access Forum will have a role in determining the content of the Delivery Plan but the responsibility will remain with the Local Authority.

## **7 Monitoring, Reporting and Plan Review**

The internal quarterly monitoring of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan will continue and will consider both the overall Statement of Action (section 5 above) and the detail of the annual Delivery Plan. Each year, the Local Access Forum will receive a report of progress against each objective.

Welsh Government guidance suggests that the Rights of Way Improvement Plan will require a further round of assessment and potential review in ten years (2027/8).

## Annex A: Draft Delivery Plan for 2019/20 (subject to amendment)

### Objective 1: Promote outdoor countryside activity for health, regeneration, tourism and recreation

1.1 Health	Investigate town & village walks as per CwmTaf Well-being Plan (p17)
1.3 Tourism	Investigate new circular routes in partnership with Tourism and neighbouring access authorities (this would include BBNPA) and link into RCT Digital Strategy
1.5 Education	University of South Wales projects

### Objective Two: Walking and cycling as transport options

2.1 Strategic Input	RCT cycle group meetings and regional Taff Trail Meetings
2.2 Community Routes	Rhondda Fach – Joint working with Welsh Water re path improvements
2.3 Rhondda Fawr and other Active Travel priorities	Support Transportation Active Travel initiatives in the Rhondda Fawr and elsewhere (more detail once funding and priorities for 19/20 is known)
2.4 Schools	Ferndale Comprehensive school: investigate potential links to the community route post WW works (above)

### Objective Three: Protect the access resource

3.2 NRW land	Formalise Protocols and procedures
3.3 Lost ways	Adhere to claims policy, watching brief re legislative change
3.4 Routine works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TTROs)</li> <li>➤ Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMOs)</li> <li>➤ Public Path Orders (PPOs)</li> <li>➤ Legal Event Modification Orders (LEMOs)</li> <li>➤ Land Charge Searches</li> <li>➤ Maintenance tasks</li> <li>➤ Path Surveys</li> <li>➤ Formal and Informal Enforcement</li> <li>➤ Access Provisions under CRoW Act 2000</li> </ul>

### Objective Four: Improve provision for walkers, cyclists, horse riders, off road vehicles and users with mobility or sensory disabilities.

4.1 Funding for improvements	External funding opportunities Regional Taff Trail Meetings
4.2 Access for all	Agree preliminary Actions for Doctors Surgery Walks, possibly linked to 1.1 above

	Agree preliminary Actions for Maintenance Policy
4.3 Tackling anti-social behaviour	Collaborate with CSP, Police and any other stakeholders on targeting problematic sites

**Objective Five: Involving local community and voluntary organisations in the development, promotion and use of access opportunities**

5.1 Local Access Forum	Quarterly meetings
5.2 Create your Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Support Ynysybwl Vision and creation of new promoted routes</li> <li>➤ Welcome to our Woods – support access initiatives</li> </ul>
5.3 Voluntary and community participation	Volunteering policy Explore potential of ‘community hubs’
5.4 Adopt a path	Continue development of scheme
5.5 Community Councils	Agency agreements to be reviewed

**Objective Six: Develop a more efficient management system for statutory Rights of Way work, including the Definitive Map**

6.1 Definitive Map	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Republish Definitive Map for Taff</li> <li>➤ Seek authorisation under the Council's Scheme of Delegation to process LEMO's for Rhondda and Cynon DMs</li> </ul>
6.2 Policy and guidance	Legal Orders
6.3 Protocols for routine tasks	Quarterly meetings to review delivery plan progress.
6.4 CAMS and other technological support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Improve Data Management handling with consideration to GDPR</li> <li>➤ New technology to improve management systems</li> </ul>

## Appendix One timetable and Consultation list

### Community Councils

Ynysybwl & Coed Y Cwm CC, Jeanette Wattleby  
Rhigos CC, Susan Harvey Powell  
Hirwaun and Penderyn CC, Emma Nelmes  
Pontypridd Town Council, Gethin Williams  
Llantwit Fardre CC, Leanne Handley  
Llantrisant CC, A Jenkins  
Llanharry CC, Gillian Lewis  
Llanharan CC, Peter Davies  
Tonyrefail CC, Pauline Williams  
Gilfach Goch CC, E Jones  
Pontyclun CC, Cath Craven  
Taffs Well CC, Derek Allinson

### County Councillors

Aberaman North, Linda Marty DeVet  
Aberaman North, Sheryl Evans  
Aberaman South, Anita Calvert  
Aberaman South, Tina Williams  
Abercynon, Elaine George  
Abercynon, Rhys Lewis  
Aberdare East , Steven A Bradwick  
Aberdare East , Michael Forey  
Aberdare West / Llwydcoed, Gareth Jones  
Aberdare West / Llwydcoed, Sharon Rees  
Beddau, Richard Yeo  
Brynna, Roger K Turner  
Church Village, Graham Stacey  
Cilfynydd, Stephen Belzak  
Cwmbach, Jeffrey Elliot  
Cymmer , Margaret Tegg  
Cymmer, Gareth Caple  
Ferndale, Susan Morgans  
Ferndale, Philip Howe  
Gilfach Goch, Aurfron Roberts  
Glyncoch, Doug H Williams  
Graig, Jayne Brencher  
Hawthorn, Martin Fidler Jones  
Hirwaun, Karen Morgan  
Llanharry, Wayne Owen  
Llantrisant Town, Glynne Holmes  
Llantwit Fardre, Mike Diamond  
Llantwit Fardre, Joel S James  
Llwynypia, Wendy Lewis  
Maerdy, Jack Harries  
Mountain Ash East, Pauline Jarman  
Mountain Ash West, Wendy Treeby  
Penrhiwceiber, Adam S Fox  
Penrhiwceiber, Gavin Williams  
Pentre, Shelley Rees-Owen  
Pentre, Maureen Weaver  
Penygraig, John L Cullwick  
Penygraig, Joshua Davies  
Penywaun, Helen Boggis  
Pontyclun, Margaret Griffiths  
Pontyclun, Kate L Jones  
Pontypridd Town, Heledd Fychan  
Porth, Julie Williams  
Porth, Alun G Cox  
Rhigos, Graham Philip Thomas  
Rhondda, Christina Leysdon  
Rhondda, Robert W Smith

Taffs Well, Jill Bonetto  
Talbot Green, Stephen M Powell  
Tonteg, Lewis Hooper  
Tonteg, Lyndon Walker  
Tonypany, Gareth Wyn Hughes  
Tonyrefail East, Danny Grehan  
Tonyrefail East, Dan Owen-Jones  
Tonyrefail West, Alexandra Davies-Jones  
Trallwng, Michael J Powell  
Treforest, Steve Powderhill  
Treherbert, Geraint R Davies  
Treherbert, Will Jones  
Treorchy, Alison Chapman  
Treorchy, Sera M Evans-Fear  
Treorchy, Emyr John Webster  
Tylorstown, Mark Adams  
Tyn-y-nant, Clayton J Willis  
Ynysybir, Darren Macey  
Ynysybwl, Sue Pickering  
Ystrad, Lorraine Jones  
Ystrad, Elyn Stephens

### Neighbouring Authorities

Brecon Beacons National Park, Eifion Jones  
Bridgend County Borough Council, Andrew Mason  
Caerphilly County Borough Council, Andrew Powell  
Cardiff County Borough Council, Jennifer Griffiths  
Merthyr County Borough Council, Cheryl Jones  
Neath Port Talbot C B Council, John Griffiths  
Powys C B Council, Mark Stafford  
Vale of Glamorgan C B Council, Gwyn Teague

### Other Organisations

Abercynon Action Team  
Aberdare Business and Tourism Association  
Action for Hirwaun  
Action on Hearing Loss Cymru  
Age Concern Morgannwg  
Age Cymru  
Angling Association (Taff Bargoed)  
Angling Association (Merthyr Tydfil)  
Arts Factory  
Assembly of Welsh Counties  
Auto Cycle Union  
Black Environment Network  
Caerphilly Commoners and Brinkers Association  
Barnados Cymru  
BI Cymru  
Briars Bridleways  
British Association of Shooting and Conservation  
British Horse Society  
British Mountain Bike Federation  
British Mountaineering Council  
British Trust for Conservation Volunteers  
British Trust for Ornithology  
Bronwyn Thomas Landscape Architect  
Bruton Knowles (Chartered Surveyors)  
Bryncynon Angling Association (F.O.R.T.)  
Bryncynon Strategy (Green Valley)  
Butterfly Conservation  
Byways & Bridleways Trust



## **Other Organisations (cont`d)**

### **CADW**

Cadw Welsh Historic Monuments  
Cambrian Lakeside – Leisure  
Secretary of the Cambrian Mountains Society  
Camping & Caravaning Club  
Cardiff Conservation Volunteers  
Cardiff Cycling Campaign  
Cascade Angling Association (F.O.R.T.)  
Chwarae Teg  
CLA Cymru  
Cefn Pennar Welfare Association  
Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation  
Commission for Racial Equality  
Community Education Centre (Blaengwawr)  
Community Service Volunteers Wales  
Council for National Parks  
Country Land and Business Association  
Country Landowners Association  
Countryside Management Association  
Cwmparc Community Rivercare Group  
Cwmparc Community Association  
Cycling UK  
Cynon Culture Community Learning  
Cynon Valley Ramblers  
Dai Davies Community Centre  
Daerwynno Outdoor Centre  
Dare Valley Riding School  
Deafblind Cymru  
Dewis Centre for Independent Living  
Disability Can Do  
Disability Wales  
Dwr Cymru Welsh Water  
Ebbw Vale and District Development Trust  
Farmers Union of Wales  
Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group  
Ferndale & District Womens Institute  
Fernhill Rhondda Conservation Group  
Field Studies Council  
Forest Enterprise Wales  
Friends of Aberdare Park  
Glamorgan & Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd.  
Glamorgan Badger Group  
Glamorgan Bat Group (east)  
Glamorgan Bird Club  
Glamorgan Federation of womens Institutes  
Gelligaer YFC (Young Farmers Club)  
Llantrisant YFC (Young Farmers Club)  
Maendy YFC (Young Farmers Club)  
Neath YFC (Young Farmers Club)  
Wick YFC (Young Farmers Club)  
Glamorgan Fungus Group  
Glamorgan Mission to the Deaf  
Glamorgan Moth Recording Group  
Green Days Project  
Groundwork Wales  
Guide Dogs  
Hirwaun YMCA  
Interlink RCT  
Keep Wales Tidy  
Land Access & Recreation Association  
Llanharan Community Development Project Ltd  
Mid Fach Rivercare Group (F.O.R.T.)

Menter Iaith  
Mountain Ash Rivercare Group  
Motoring Organisations' Land  
Mountain Leader Training Board  
National bureau for students with disabilities  
National Caravan Council Ltd  
National Association of Local Councils  
National Farmers Union (Wales)  
National Trust  
National Parks Wales  
Natural Resources Wales  
Open Spaces Society  
Osprey Fly Fishers Association (F.O.R.T.)  
Pedestrians Association  
Pen Y Rhondda Trust  
Penywaun Riverfield Group (F.O.R.T.)  
Pontypridd Canal Conservations Society  
Pontypridd Historical Cultural Centre  
Pony Club -Cantref Riding Centre  
Pony Club- Cardiff Riding School  
Pony Club- Green Meadow Riding School  
Public Health Wales  
Race Council Cymru  
Ramblers Cymru 3  
RCT Access Group  
RCT District Scout Council  
Rhondda Civic Society  
Rhondda Mencap (Mencap Cymru)  
River Care  
Royal National Institute of blind people Cymru  
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds  
Royal Welsh Agricultural Society  
S A F E  
Sense Cymru (deafblind)  
South Wales Fire & Rescue Service  
South Wales Outdoor Activity Providers Group  
Snap Cymru  
Spider Recording Scheme  
Sports Council for Wales  
Sustrans  
Taff Ely 50+ Forum  
Taff Ely Ramblers  
Taffs Well and Nant Garw Community Garden  
Tanglewood  
The Fern Partnership  
The Forum of Older People  
Treherbert Gardening Group  
Timber Growers United  
Wales Association of Community Councils  
Wales Council for Deaf people  
Wales Council for voluntary action  
Visit Wales  
Wales Environment Link  
Welcome to our Woods  
Welsh Cycling Union  
Welsh Orienteering Association  
Welsh Trail Riders Association  
Wildlife Trust South and West Wales  
WWF Cymru  
Ynysybwll Regeneration Partnership  
Youth Hostel Association England & Wales  
Yr Urdd  
YMCA

**Cabinet Members**

Leader of the council and chair of the cabinet, Andrew Morgan  
 Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Council Business, Maureen Webber  
 Cabinet Member for Education & Lifelong Learning, Joy Rosser  
 Cabinet Member for Adult Community Services & Welsh Language, Geraint Hopkins  
 Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Housing, Robert Bevan  
 Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Mark Norris  
 Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure & Heritage Services, Ann Crimmings  
 Cabinet Member for Children & Young People, Christina Leyshon  
 Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, Wellbeing & Cultural Services, Rhys Lewis

**Timetable**

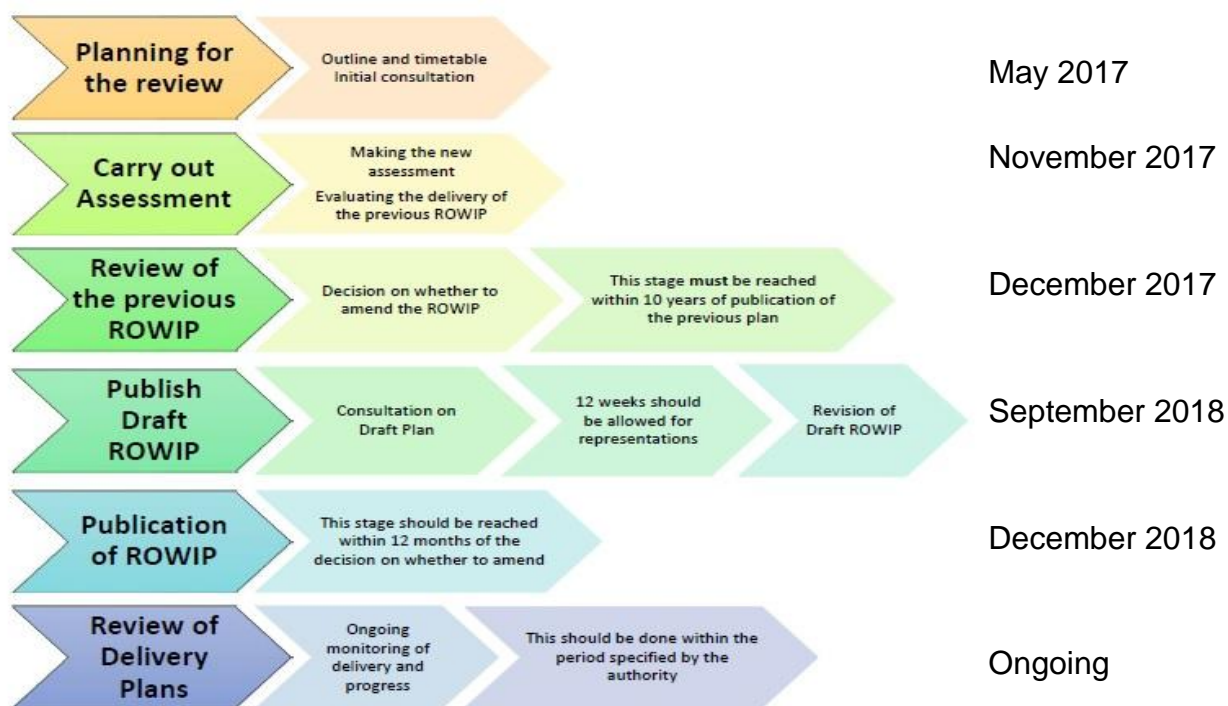


Diagram 1: Summary of the ROWIP process and timetable

## **Appendix Two: significant changes from first ROWIP**

The original Out & About was published following a three year long process of consultation with an Issues Paper, Assessment and Draft Plan preceding the final document. As such, Out & About drew on a major collation of evidence and information about countryside access and opportunities in Rhondda Cynon Taf, not gathered together before. The Welsh Government (WG) guidance for the Review of the Plan sets a shorter timeframe and focuses on areas in need of change. The Assessment (2017) sought to identify these areas.

The major changes in the Welsh policy framework, identified in the Guidance, are reflected in the new ROWIP. The WG strategy 'Climbing Higher', which was used to establish monitoring indicators for the first ROWIP, is no longer relevant. New legislative requirements have been addressed.

Changes to policy and structures within Rhondda Cynon Taf, voluntary and community organisations and statutory bodies have been reflected in the new Plan. Any new issues identified by the review of the policy framework have been considered in the Plan.

Changes in the needs of different users and the use, demand and reasons for access have been considered and future public need identified in the Assessment (2017).

The Assessment also considered what had been achieved by the first ROWIP and the continuing relevance of the original objectives. The objectives in the new Statement of Action remain broadly the same but detailed actions have been omitted and instead broad themes for priority actions identified. Detailed actions will be included in the non-statutory annual delivery plan.

Tudalen wag



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**MUNICIPAL YEAR 2018 /19**

**PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY, COMMUNITIES & PROSPERITY SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE**

**DEVELOPMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT LOW CARBON VEHICLE  
OWNERSHIP**

**27th SEPTEMBER 2018**

**JOINT REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS AND STREETCARE  
SERVICES AND DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INTERIM HEAD OF  
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

**AUTHOR: James Vale, Strategic Projects Manager**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to advise Members on background information and issues for consideration in relation to the development of infrastructure to support low carbon vehicle / ultra low emission vehicle ownership.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Members of the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee:

- 2.1 Note the contents of the report
- 2.2 Agree to form a working group to consider the detail of this report.

**3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 To enable the development of a policy which will improve the infrastructure required to support low carbon vehicle / ultra low emission vehicle ownership in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

#### **4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 4.1 In February 2018 a Notice of Motion, calling for a Scrutiny Working Group to consider options to develop Low Carbon Vehicle (LCV) infrastructure in RCT, was approved by Full Council.
- 4.2 In advance of Scrutiny consideration, officers have been undertaking research regarding LCV infrastructure and requirements, to identify the associated issues which will need addressing.

#### **POLICY AND LEGISLATION**

- 4.3 Members will be aware that the UK Government plans to ban the sale of petrol and diesel only combustible engine cars from 2040 and have reiterated this commitment in the “Road to Zero” Strategy, published July 2018.
- 4.4 The development of infrastructure to support low carbon vehicle / ultra low emission vehicle ownership in Rhondda Cynon Taf would complement the Welsh Government’s Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015; the Environment Act (Wales) 2016 and; the council’s commitments as a member of the UK100.

#### **TERMINOLOGY**

- 4.5 Low Carbon Vehicle (LCV) is the term used to describe vehicles which emit fewer toxic and harmful gases than a standard car. <sup>1</sup>
- 4.6 A more specific term used to describe some collective LCVs is Ultra Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV). A ULEV is a vehicle that produces less than 75g/km of CO<sub>2</sub>. Types of ULEV include:
- Electric Vehicles (EV)
  - Hybrids – combustion engine and electric propulsion motor. Battery charged through regenerative braking, very low zero emission range.
  - Plug in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEV) – option to plug in to extend use of battery
  - Range Extended Electric Vehicles (REEV) – on board internal combustion engine used to recharge the (larger than normal) battery)
  - Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles (FCEV) - electric motor with Hydrogen energy source <sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.energysavingsecrets.co.uk/LowCarbonVehicles.html>

- 4.7 When discussing low carbon fuels, alternatives to Petrol and Diesel also include Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG), Natural Gas – either Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) or Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), and biofuels.

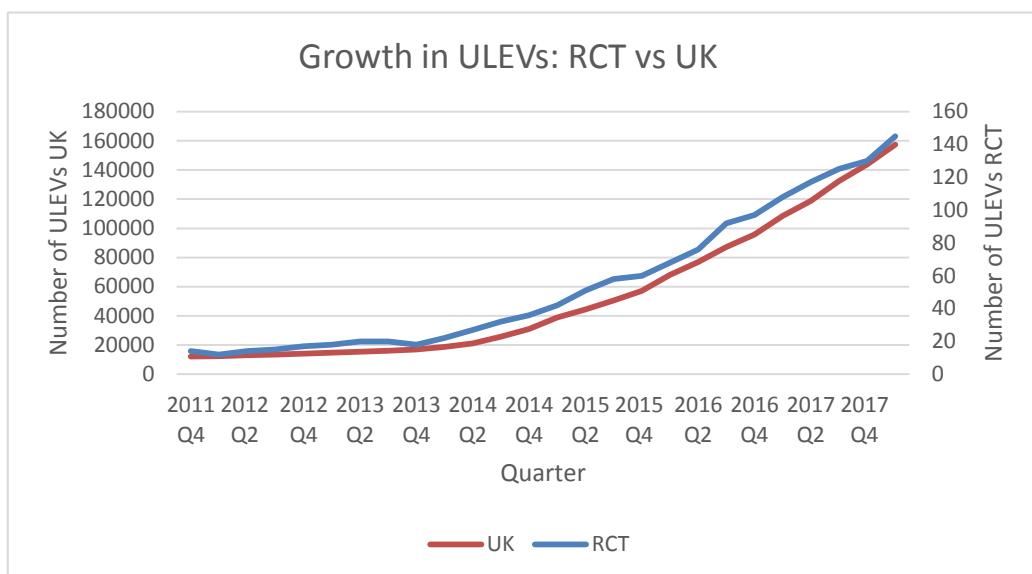
**SCOPE**

- 4.8 This report focuses on vehicles using electric as the most commercially available fuel type, and one which requires the development of supporting infrastructure i.e. charge points.
- 4.9 Officers will continue to monitor potential advancement of other technologies, such as Hydrogen, and report any future opportunities back to Members at the appropriate time.

**CURRENT PICTURE**

- 4.10 As at the end of Quarter 1 2018, there were 145 ULEVs registered in Rhondda Cynon Taf. Figure 1 demonstrates that the trend-line for ULEV registrations in Rhondda Cynon Taf is broadly consistent with the UK. Demand is predicted to rise rapidly with one million ULEVs projected by the early 2020s and as many as nine million by 2030. Based on this, and assuming the trend-line for ULEV ownership in Rhondda Cynon Taf continues in alignment with the UK generally, there could be over 900 ULEVs registered in Rhondda Cynon Taf by the early 2020s and over 8,000 by 2030.

*Figure 1: Licensed ultra low emission vehicles by local authority: United Kingdom*



<sup>2</sup> <https://www.osv.ltd.uk/what-is-an-ultra-low-emission-vehicle/>

- 4.11 There are currently (as at June 2018) six electric vehicle charging points (EVCP) in Rhondda Cynon Taf – one of which is generally available to the public, with four only available to customers. The remaining charge point is not currently in use but is located at Ty Glantaff. It was installed to charge an electric vehicle previously operated by the council.
- 4.12 Via the council's Salary Sacrifice Car Lease Scheme, two out of the 44 vehicles leased to date are ULEVs.

### **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING**

- 4.13 Grant funding support is currently available via the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) for the following:

#### **On-street Residential Parking Scheme (£4.5M for 18/19 and 19/20)**

- Local Authorities can receive a grant to part fund (75%) the capital costs relating to the procurement and installation of on-street electric vehicle charge point infrastructure in residential areas
- OLEV will provide up to £7,500 per charge point installation (inclusive of connection costs and associated groundworks)
- Each project should not exceed more than £100k in OLEV funding (applications exceeding this will be reviewed on a case by case basis)
- Grants will be paid by OLEV in arrears upon completion of the project
- Car parks that are owned by Local Authorities and are accessible to residents 24/7 are eligible charge point locations (minimum expectation is that residents can access car parks for free overnight)
- First come, first served basis

#### **Workplace Charging Scheme**

- Any business, charity or public authority is able to claim the grant towards the installation costs of EV charging points providing they have dedicated off street parking for staff and/or fleet
- Funding available up to £300 per socket up to a maximum of 20 sockets

#### **Welsh Government**

The Welsh Government announced funding of £2m to support the development of ULEV infrastructure. To date no further details have emerged as to how this funding will be allocated and whether a Wales wide approach will be taken.



## 5. KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR SCRUTINY

### CHARGE POINT TYPES, COSTS AND LOCATIONS

5.1 There are a number of different charging unit options ranging from trickle charge – using a standard three-pin plug - to rapid charge. The table below outlines detail for different charge types.

*Figure 2: Charge Type Details*

Charge Type	Output Rate	Typical Use	Time to Charge	Approx. Miles Per Hour of Charge (where available) <sup>3</sup>
Trickle	3kWh	Homes	12 hours	
Slow	3.7kWh	Homes	6-8 hours	15
Fast	7kWh	Homes / Workplaces / Public Places	3-5 hours	30
Fast	22kWh (NB not all EVs can charge at this rate but units can be used at 7kWh)	Public Places	1-2 hours	80
Rapid	43kWh and above	Motorway Service Stations	30 minutes to 80% capacity	

**NB** Charging speeds from fast chargers will depend on the car's on-board charger, with not all models able to accept 7kW or more. These models can still be plugged into the charge point, but will only draw the maximum power accepted by the on-board charger. For example, a Nissan Leaf with standard 3.3kW on-board charger will only draw a maximum of 3.3kW, even if the fast charger is 7kW or 22kW.

<sup>3</sup> <https://pod-point.com/landing-pages/how-long-does-it-take-to-charge-an-electric-car>

- 5.2 Electric vehicle owners tend to charge on a top-up basis, plugging in at the gym, supermarket etc. (infrastructure allowing), before plugging in for a full charge, typically at home overnight. Supermarkets etc. are increasingly providing free charging provision to encourage electric vehicle owners to shop in their store whilst charging their car.
- 5.3 Listed below are a number of options in terms of possible locations and charge types, which could be considered by the working group:

*Figure 3: Location Analysis*

<b>Location</b>	<b>Charge Type</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
Leisure Centre / Town Centre Car Parks	Fast 22kWh	To provide opportunities for top-up and/or full charging in locations which will encourage town centre footfall and/or use of leisure facilities. Potential for use as charging hubs to serve residents without home charging capability
Visitor Attractions	Fast 7kWh	To provide opportunities for electric vehicle owners to top-up or fully charge their vehicle whilst spending time at a visitor attraction such as the Welsh Mining Experience at Rhondda Heritage Park
Park and Ride Car Parks	Slow 3.6kWh	To provide opportunities for top-up and/or full charging in a location where electric vehicles are likely to be parked for a long period of time – typically for the working day. Use of fast or rapid chargers may not be maximised if a car is plugged in for the entire working day as they will be charged within 30minutes (if rapid charge) to four hours (if fast 7kWh charge)
Council Offices	Slow 3.6kWh	To provide opportunities for staff and/or visitors to top up electric vehicles.

- 5.4 As well as the installation of charge points, factors such as enforcement and signage will also need to be considered as part of policy development.
- 5.5 Work is being undertaken to ascertain potential costs to provide charge points in the above locations. Costs will be incurred for connection and associate infrastructure development as required via Western Power, groundworks and for the charge point unit. Where units are installed in publically accessible car parks which are available 24/7, funding may be available from OLEV via the On-street Residential Parking Scheme (as outlined in 4.13).
- 5.6 Different models exist for fees and charges and the management of back office functions. This council will need to determine on what basis fees and charges are applied i.e. subsidised, cost recovery or commercial, or a

combination, and the most appropriate back office management arrangements i.e. in-house or use of charge point provider.

- 5.7 Particularly in the case of rapid chargers, companies are keen to undertake all installation work and provide rapid charge units in strategic locations, paying the local authority rent for land or parking spaces. Should this approach be pursued the council will have little or no control over fees but will receive an income from the charging provider.
- 5.8 Members will be aware of the high volume of houses within the county borough with no off-road parking. This presents a challenge to both electric vehicle owners and the local authority as clearly cables cannot be run from properties across footways and highway to plug into vehicles as they would be deemed as an obstruction to the highway.
- 5.9 One option being pursued by other local authorities is the use of street lighting columns, with some able to be adapted to allow the installation of charging units. However, research undertaken has identified a number of issues – including safety concerns relating to earthing requirements, and the infrastructure in place not being able to cope with the load requirements – meaning that the use of lighting columns cannot currently be considered a viable option for this council.
- 5.10 Should charging infrastructure be installed in either town centre car parks or leisure centre car parks (Appendix 1), the vast majority of residents would be within three miles of a fast charge point.
- 5.11 Potential areas outside of the three mile radius include north Cynon (Hirwaun, Rhigos and Penderyn) and areas of Taff Ely such as Llanharry and Llanharan. It is however considered likely that infrastructure will be installed in the future near to these locations given their proximity to strategic highway routes namely the M4 and the A465 Heads of the Valleys Road.
- 5.12 Members may also be aware that relatively recently oil companies such as BP have entered the electric vehicle charging market by procuring charging companies – Chargemaster in the case of BP. This indicates that there will be opportunities for residents to charge their vehicles in much the same way as they currently fill up with petrol or diesel in the future.
- 5.13 Other local authorities considering the installation of electric vehicle charging points have opted to consult with ULEV owners and potential owners. This may be considered a useful approach by the working group and could be facilitated to support their work.

## **ELECTRIC VEHICLE TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS**

- 5.14 It is anticipated that technology, such as wireless charging and vehicle-to-grid, will continue to be developed and become more mainstream in the future. This highlights the importance of ensuring infrastructure does not become obsolete as technology develops.
- 5.15 With this in mind and given there remains uncertainty around how quickly and in which direction technology will develop, it is recommended that any initial investment in infrastructure meets current and predicted short-term future demand. This approach will ensure longer-term infrastructure requirements can be assessed and take into account developments in technology.

## **COLLABORATION**

- 5.16 The majority of charge point providers use apps and provide access on a pay-as-you-go basis. With other organisations such as Cwm Taf University Health Board and Housing Associations currently also considering their own electric vehicle charging infrastructure, there may be an opportunity to work together to obtain best value for money and to provide a more consistent service to residents i.e. avoiding the need for multiple apps to access a range of charge point providers.

## **PLANNING AND COUNCIL DEVELOPMENTS**

- 5.17 Welsh Government recently consulted on an update to Planning Guidance which stipulated future non-residential developments will require one electric vehicle charging point for every ten spaces.
- 5.18 As at July 2018, it is unknown whether, and if so when, this guidance may be implemented. Therefore it is the view of officers that Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) could be considered to clarify the council's position on electric vehicle charging points for developers. SPG on this matter could also potentially include guidance on residential developments.
- 5.19 The council is current delivering a number of investment projects such as developments in Robertstown and Coed Ely, and the redevelopment of the former Taff Vale site. In advance of any formal guidance from Welsh Government, the council is aiming to ensure electric vehicle charging points are included in designs.

## **RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES**

- 5.20 An alternative to connecting to the grid to power charging points is the use of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind. Such an approach would provide "green" energy and negate potential WPD connection costs and strain on the grid.

- 5.21 Considerations would need to include how much wind and/or solar energy would need to be produced to sufficiently power proposed charging units; infrastructure costs; payback period and; potential to link in with existing or planned projects.

**6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no equality and diversity implications directly associated with this report.

**7. CONSULTATION**

The Scrutiny Working Group may wish to undertake or recommend consultation with ULEV owners / potential ULEV owners to help inform policy. However, there is no requirement to do so.

**8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications directly associated with this report, but detailed consideration of the capital and revenue implications will be required in order to inform a preferred strategy.

**9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

There are no legal implications directly associated with this report. Legislation considered has been outlined in the report.

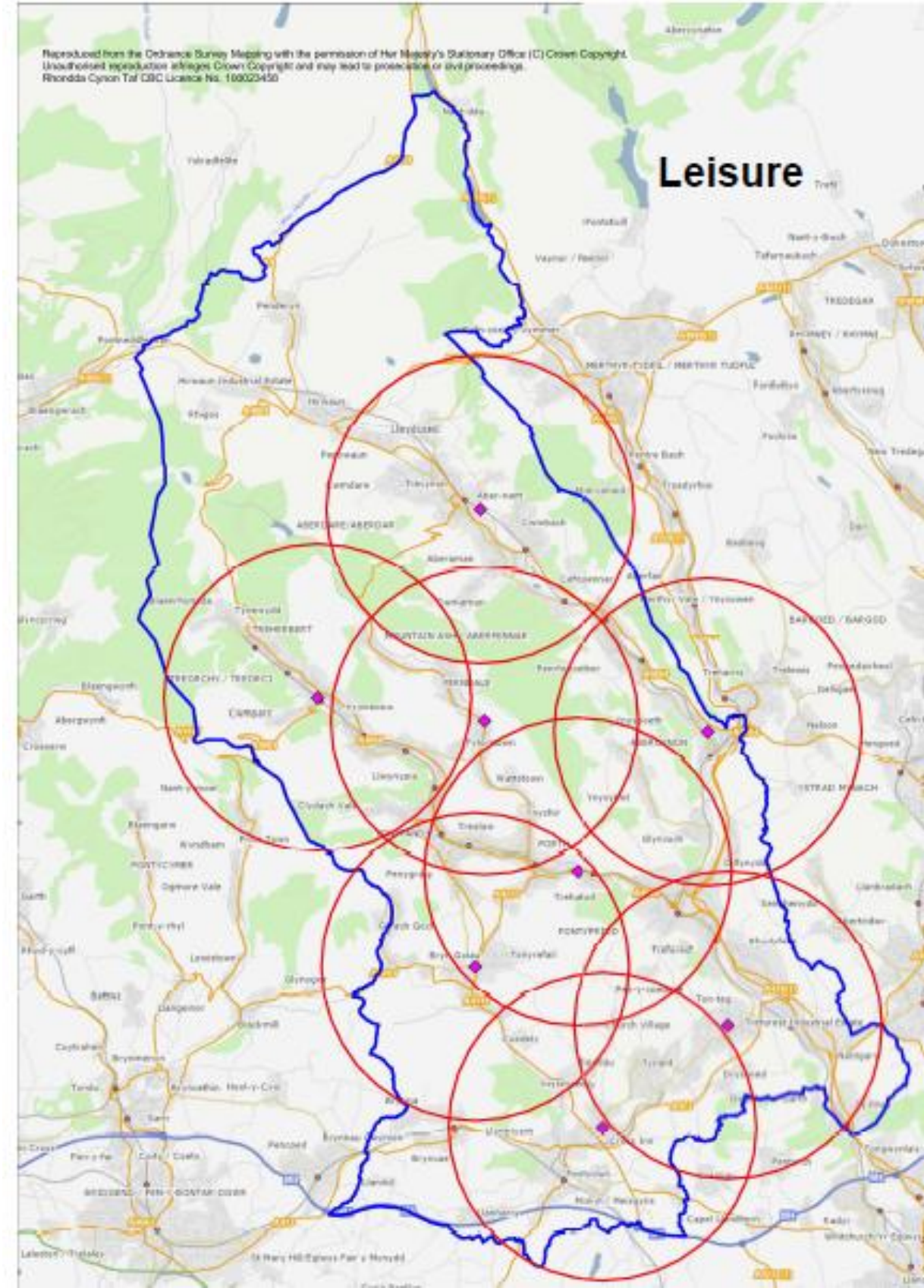
**10. CONCLUSION**

- 10.1 A Scrutiny Working group is required to consider the detail outlined in this report, undertake further research, and report findings and recommendations to Cabinet.

## APPENDIX 1

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# Leisure



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

**as amended by**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

Report to Full Council: 25 JULY 2018

**PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY, COMMUNITIES & PROSPERITY SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE**

**DEVELOPMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT LOW CARBON VEHICLE  
OWNERSHIP**

**XX SEPTEMBER 2018**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF STREETCARE AND HIGHWAY SERVICES**

**SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME: 2018/19 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

Officer to contact: James Vale, Strategic Projects Manager





Tudalen way