

APPENDIX C

To the Welsh Ministers,

Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 Reporting Duties

In accordance with the duties under sections 7 (3) and 10 (2) of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013, please find below Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's annual report for 2020 - 2021.

The actions taken to promote active travel journeys	<p>During 2020 - 2021, the Council had been involved in the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implemented an ongoing programme of works to upgrade / improve sections of footway across the County Borough including resurfacing, provision of dropped kerbs, new railings and footway widening.• Undertook the removal of barriers, at selective locations and on a case-by-case basis, following an assessment of criteria at each location.• Continued its involvement in initiatives to promote RCT as a tourist destination for walking and cycling.• Continued its involvement in the Active Journeys (in Schools) programme at Ysgol Nant Gwyn, Llwynypia, Brynnau and Llanhari. Arranged in conjunction with Sustrans.• Ensured the Council's website pages covering active travel were updated.• In conjunction with Halfords, continued the Council's Cycle2Work Scheme for staff as part of its Staff Benefits Programme.• Delivered National Standards cycle training to 144 pupils in 2020 - 2021 which provided young cyclists with the necessary training to be safer and more competent cyclists.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivered Kerbcraft / Child Pedestrian Training to 533 pupils in 2020 - 2021 to give young pupils the skills and road safety awareness to be safer pedestrians. • Carried out extensive remedial work in the Rhondda Fach, following a major landslip near Tylorstown which closed a key active travel route following Storm Dennis. • Undertook a major online consultation exercise to obtain feedback from local residents and stakeholders about issues and barriers that may be deterring them from walking or cycling. Also, online consultation exercise sought suggested improvements that could be made to existing and potential new active travel routes.
The actions taken to secure new active travel routes and related facilities and improvements	<p>The following information relates to 2020 - 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A study has been commissioned to investigate the potential alignment and construction of new active travel routes within Aberdare, Pontypridd and Porth town centres and to/from surrounding communities. • Installation of a new footbridge across the River Taff between Pontypridd town centre and Ynysangharad Park, as part of the Llys Cadwyn new development. • Opening of the Cross Valley Link near Mountain Ash which includes a new footway. • Repairs and maintenance of existing footbridges such as over the A4119 roundabout, Williamstown, River Taff in Pontypridd town centre and at Nant Llonydd Park, Upper Boat.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In conjunction with partner organisations, business cases for reopening the disused rail tunnels (between the Rhondda Fawr and Gwynfi Valley and between the Cynon Valley and Merthyr Tydfil) to walkers and cyclists are continuing to be progressed. • Delivered further 'Safe Routes in Communities' Schemes in Llantrisant and Cilfynydd. • Implemented a number of highway improvements which benefit cyclists such as surface treatment works at various locations across RCT, construction of new lanes at key junctions and masonry repairs to river bridges and retaining walls. • Implemented a number of improvements to footways, footbridges, retaining walls and crossing points to improve pedestrian safety. For example, along Gwawr Street, Aberaman and Cardiff Road, Trefforest.
Costs incurred for new active travel routes and facilities and improvements of existing active travel routes and related facilities carried out in the preceding full financial year	<p>Principal works and costs are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1.3M – improvement / maintenance works to the footways in RCT. A total of 39 schemes were completed. • £704,000 – commissioning studies, undertaking improvements and progressing the next stages of proposed active travel schemes. • £581,000 - completion of Safe Routes in Communities Schemes in Llantrisant and Cilfynydd. • £300,000 – repairs to Nant Llonydd Park footbridge.

In addition to the above (optional):

Indicative spending for new active travel routes and facilities and improvements of existing active travel routes and related facilities funded or part funded by third parties.	Using specially adapted cycles, Pedalpower and Sustrans have undertaken a trial of those active travel routes where the access barriers have been removed and alternative features installed at the entry / exit points.
<p>Length of new routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Walking - Cycling - Shared Use 	<p>Walking (new footways) 0.2km Cycling (on road lanes) 0km Shared Use 0km</p>
<p>Length of improved routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Walking - Cycling - Shared Use 	<p>Walking (improved footways) approx. 16km Cycling (on road lanes) 0km Shared Use approx. 1.3km</p>
New and improved active travel facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycle storage stands provided at the new Llys Cadwyn development in Pontypridd town centre.

Additional information (optional)

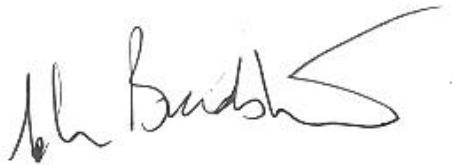
Rhondda Cynon Taf Council is examining the implementation of measures in order to encourage the users of active travel routes to show more considerate behaviour towards other users.

The Council is also introducing a reduced 20mph speed limit at a number of community locations in RCT, including schools, in order to create a safer environment for cyclists and pedestrians.

Various social distancing measures were put in place at many locations in RCT in order to improve the safety of pedestrians during the Covid-19 pandemic. For example, sections of footways were widened within Porth and Pontypridd town centres.

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

Chief Executive

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mr Bardsley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping final stroke.
