

Meeting of:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 23 June 2022
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Environment and Regeneration
Report Title:	Update on Active Travel Network Map 2021 submitted to Welsh Government
Purpose of Report:	To update Cabinet of the progress on the Council's Active Travel Network Map (ATNM) 2021 and to approve Welsh Government proposals to further enhance the ATNM
Report Owner:	Cabinet Member for Sustainable Places
Responsible Officer:	Miles Punter - Director of Environment and Housing
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Operational Manager Engineering Accountant Environment and Housing Services Communications Manager Director of Place Legal Services (Committee Reports)
Policy Framework:	This Report is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 places duties on local authorities in Wales to map, plan for, improve and promote opportunities for active travel. Initial Active Travel Network Maps (ATNM's) were approved by Welsh Government (WG) in November 2017 and updated ATNMs must be submitted to WG every three years. Sustrans Cymru Ltd assisted Council officers with the undertaking of the Active Travel route auditing and production of future routes. A 12-week public consultation on the ATNM took place between 2nd August and 24th October, 2021. Three amendments to the ATNM were made following the consultation which were agreed by Cabinet following consideration by the Council's Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee. The Council's approved ATNM was submitted to Welsh Government for approval in January 2022 and four essential amendments are required by them to ensure network coherence. 	

- This Report seeks to inform Cabinet of the sections that need to be added to the ATNM in order for Welsh Government to approve the final document.

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet endorses the addition of four areas to the previously agreed Active Travel Network Map which will allow it to be approved by Welsh Government.
2. That delegated authority be granted to the Head of Neighbourhood Services and Transport in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Sustainable Places to agree any other minor additions to the Active Travel Network Map over the next three years.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. To obtain approval from Welsh Government on the revised Active Travel Network Map.
2. To allow any future minor additions to be added to the map as required.

1. Background

- 1.1** The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 places duties on local authorities in Wales to map, plan for, improve and promote opportunities for active travel. Initial Active Travel Network Maps (ATNM's) were approved by Welsh Government (WG) in November 2017 and updated ATNMs must be submitted to WG every three years. The current maps for the Council can be found here:

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/living/transportation/Active-Travel.aspx>

- 1.2** There is a legal requirement to prepare ATNMs which identify existing and potential future routes for development. Since 2021, the Act also requires new road schemes to consider the needs of pedestrians and cyclists at design stage.
- 1.3** Delivering Active Travel is an identified action in the Council's Corporate Plan as part of maximising the potential of the natural and built environment and is therefore a key priority for the Council. Active Travel focuses on providing the correct infrastructure to improve walking and cycling to key trip destinations, such as education or employment. Active Travel has an important part to play in the delivery of "Project Zero" which is the Council's pledge to reduce carbon emissions to net zero by 2030 and encourage others to make positive changes.
- 1.4** On 20th December, 2021 Cabinet was presented with a report detailing the consultation process that officers undertook on the proposed ATNM and subsequent amendments requested:

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2021/21-12-20/Active-Travel-Network-Map.pdf>

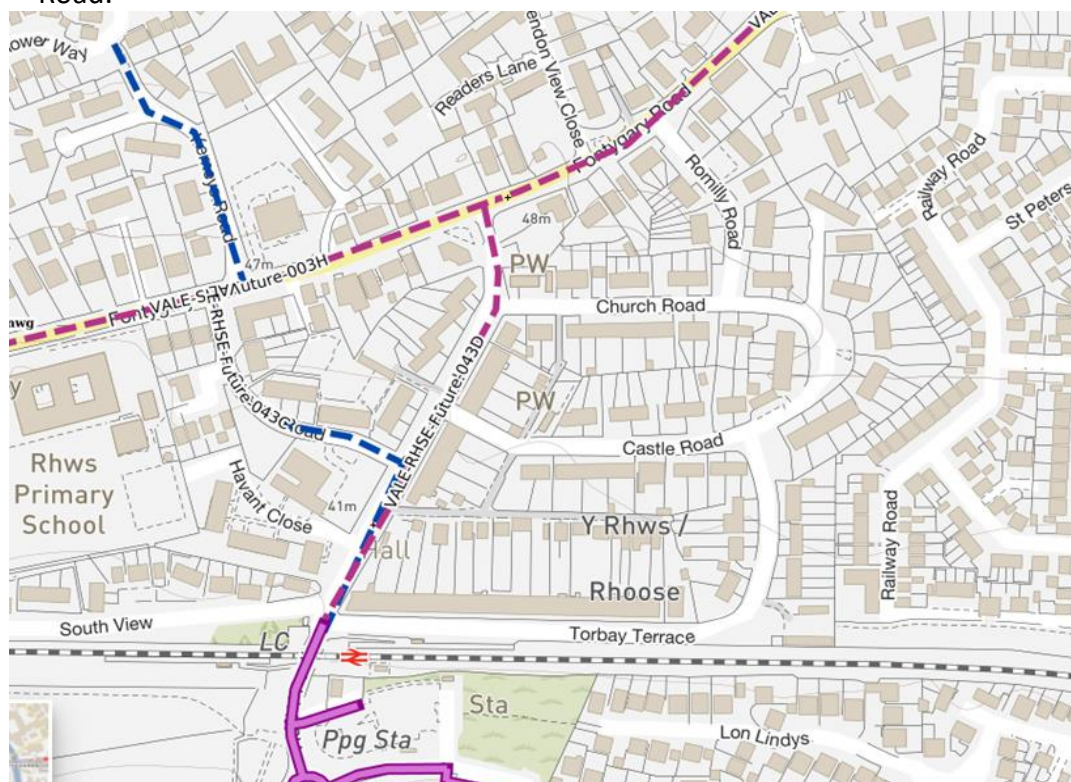
- 1.5 The Report was subsequently referred for consideration to the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on 18th January, 2022 and endorsed. Minute 753 refers:

[https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/ Committee%20Reports/Scrutiny-ER/2022/22-01-18/Minutes.pdf](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Committee%20Reports/Scrutiny-ER/2022/22-01-18/Minutes.pdf)

- 1.6 The ATNM was then submitted to Welsh Government on 24th January, 2022 for their approval.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1 Following submission, Welsh Government undertook a review of the Vale of Glamorgan ATNM and have recently advised Officers that they require four additions to the ATNM that will ensure network coherence.
- 2.2 Transport Officers have reviewed the requests and agree with the additions which are detailed below.
- 2.3 The first addition in Rhoose, links Fontygary Road with the Transport Interchange via Station Road, providing a more direct route for cyclists and pedestrians. The route has been added to the ATNM below as VALE-RHSE-Future-043D Station Road.



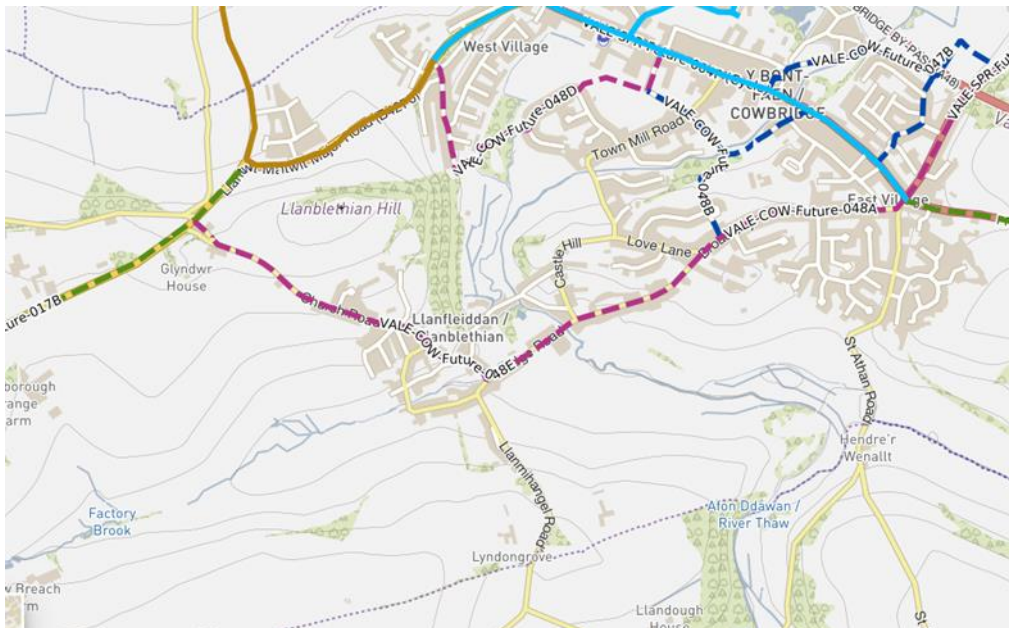
- 2.4** The second addition, in Rhoose, links Fontygary Road with Fonmon Road which provides a more direct cycle route. The pink dotted line on the map below represents this addition which will be called VALE-SPR-Future-003I.



- 2.5** The third addition connects Rhoose and Barry through Porthkerry Park. The green dotted line on the map below shows the link to be added which will be called VALE-PKRY-Future-042A.



- 2.6 The fourth addition links Llanblethian to Cowbridge town centre. The pink dotted line on the ATNM below shows the area to be added which will be called VALE-COW-Future-048E.



- 2.7 Once agreed by Welsh Government the ATNM will be publicly available on the hosting platform, DataMapWales with a link to it provided on the Council's own website.

<https://valeofglamorgan3.commonplace.is/>.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1 The overall vision for Wales is expressed in the seven well-being goals in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Sustainable Development Principle and ways of working which need to underpin them.
- 3.2 Increasing rates of active travel in Wales will directly support the achievement of every one of the well-being goals. This means that supporting active travel is a very straightforward way in which local authorities and the WG can contribute to meeting their duties not only under the Active Travel Act, but also under the Future Generations Act.
- 3.3 Equally, the Sustainable Development Principle with its five ways of working are fundamental to the way in which active travel interventions should be planned and delivered.

Long Term

- 3.4** The ATNM gives us a long-term plan to install, maintain and upgrade infrastructure throughout the Vale of Glamorgan which will encourage more of our citizens to walk, cycle and scoot (non-electric)

Prevention

- 3.5** Active Travel can assist in preventing ill health, car dependency, isolation, lack of access to employment and training opportunities.

Integration

- 3.6** Integration of active travel, as part of the local and strategic highway network, as well as supporting the potential for enhanced integration with public transport services and facilities is essential and forms part of Llwybr Newydd – The Wales Transport Strategy 2021
https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-03/llwybr-newydd-wales-transport-strategy-2021-full-strategy_0.pdf

Collaboration

- 3.7** To ensure we are successful in achieving modal shift away from private car usage there needs to be effective collaboration between departments within the local authority and Welsh Government, as well as between stakeholders such as Sustrans Cymru and Transport for Wales.

Involvement

- 3.8** As part of the consultation the public were consulted and involved in shaping our ATNM. This engagement with the public will continue as specific scheme designs for active travel routes are taken forward.

4. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 4.1** Improved cycling and walking infrastructure throughout the Vale of Glamorgan will allow residents to choose low carbon transport options like public transport, cycling and walking rather than using a private motor vehicle, assisting in the Council's commitment to meet Project Zero by 2030.

5. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 5.1** There are no further financial considerations as part of this Report.

Employment

5.2 There are no employment considerations as part of this Report.

Legal (Including Equalities)

5.3 There are no legal considerations as part of this Report.

6. Background Papers

None.