



City and County of Swansea

Notice of Meeting

You are invited to attend a Meeting of the

Economy & Infrastructure Policy Development Committee

At: Remotely via Microsoft Teams

On: Thursday, 22 October 2020

Time: 2.00 pm

Chair: Councillor Cyril Anderson

Membership:

Councillors: J E Burtonshaw, P Downing, P R Hood-Williams, P K Jones, M A Langstone, W G Lewis, P Lloyd, P M Matthews and T M White

Watch Online: <https://bit.ly/36OBrtj>

Agenda		Page No.
1	Apologies for Absence.	
2	Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interests. www.swansea.gov.uk/disclosureofinterests	
3	Minutes. To approve and sign the Minutes of the previous meeting(s) as a correct record.	1 - 4
4	Active Travel.	5 - 20
5	Amnesty on Waste (Verbal).	
6	Workplan 2019/2020.	21

Next Meeting: Thursday, 19 November 2020 at 2.00 pm

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Huw Evans'.

Huw Evans
Head of Democratic Services
Thursday, 15 October 2020

Contact: Democratic Services: (01792) 636923

Agenda Item 3



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the **Economy & Infrastructure Policy Development Committee**

Remotely via Microsoft Teams

Thursday, 17 September 2020 at 2.00 pm

Present: Councillor P Downing (Vice Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

J E Burtonshaw
P K Jones
P M Matthews

Councillor(s)

R Francis-Davies
W G Lewis
T M White

Councillor(s)

P R Hood-Williams
P Lloyd

Officer(s)

Scott Dummett
Martin Nicholls
Samantha Woon

Senior Lawyer
Director of Place
Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): V M Evans and M A Langstone

39 Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interests.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea, no interests were declared.

40 Minutes.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Economy and Infrastructure Policy Development Committee held on 20 February, 2020, be approved as a correct record.

41 Overview of Work Programme 19/20.

The Director of Place provided an overview of the topics considered by the Committee during 2019/2020.

- Green Infrastructure.
- Swansea's Economy (Tourism) – the effects of COVID 19 were discussed.
- River Corridor Strategy.
- Swansea's Economy (Implications of Brexit).
- High Street Empty Properties.
- Homes as Power Stations.
- Leader Attendance.

Members asked questions of the Director of Place who responded accordingly.

The Cabinet Member for Development and Regeneration referred to work being undertaken in relation to extending Swansea's Tourism season in order to assist with the negative impact of COVID 19.

Reference was made to a scrutiny inquiry regarding the implications of Brexit. The Director of Place confirmed that a report would be considered by the relevant Cabinet Member.

A discussion ensued regarding the Green Infrastructure Strategy and the various linkages with other aspects of Council Policy (e.g. Green Fairness Strategy).

Resolved that:

1. the Director of Place would examine the timescales of the Green Infrastructure Strategy to determine whether the Committee could consider this before consideration by Planning Committee.
2. The Director of Place consider the effects of COVID 19 on Swansea Tourism and prepare an update to a future meeting.

42 **Work Plan 2020/2021.**

The Vice Chair referred to the Work Plan.

Resolved that the Work Plan for 2020/2021 comprise the following:

15 October 2020	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Amnesty on Waste (Update). 2. Active Travel. 3. Local Toilet Strategy. (Link to be circulated to Members)
19 November 2020	
17 December 2020	
21 January 2021	
18 February 2021	
18 March 2021	
22 April 2021	
To be Scheduled	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Implications of COVID 19 on Swansea's Tourism. 2) Implications of Brexit.

	3) High Street Empty Properties. 4) Homes as Power Stations.
--	---

The meeting ended at 2.29 pm

Chair



City and County of Swansea

**Minutes of the Economy & Infrastructure Policy
Development Committee**

Remotely via Microsoft Teams

Thursday, 1 October 2020 at 12.00 pm

Present:

Councillor(s)

C Anderson
P R Hood-Williams
P Lloyd

Councillor(s)

J E Burtonshaw
P K Jones
P M Matthews

Councillor(s)

P Downing
W G Lewis
T M White

Officer(s)

Gareth Borsden
Huw Evans
Tracey Meredith

Democratic Services Officer
Head of Democratic Services
Chief Legal Officer / Monitoring Officer

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): M A Langstone

1 To elect a Chair for the Municipal Year 2020 - 2021.

Resolved that Councillor C Anderson be elected Chair for the 2020-2021 Municipal Year.

(Councillor C Anderson presided)

2 To elect a Vice Chair for the Municipal Year 2020 - 2021.

Resolved that Councillor P Downing be elected Vice-Chair for the 2020-2021 Municipal Year.

3 Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interests.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea, no interests were declared.

The meeting ended at 12.04 pm

Chair

Agenda Item 4



Report of the Director of Place Policy Development Committee – 22nd October 2020

Active Travel Programme Development & Delivery

Purpose:	To provide a briefing to the Policy Development Committee on the development and delivery of the Active Travel programme.
Policy Framework:	Joint Local Transport Plan for South West Wales 2015 – 2020 Active Travel (Wales) Act (2014) Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015)
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that the Policy Development Committee note the content of the report.
Report Author:	Ben George
Finance Officer:	Ben Smith
Legal Officer:	Caritas Adere
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The City & County of Swansea has planned for and consistently delivered one of the most ambitious active travel programmes in Wales over the past three years. The promotion of journeys by foot and bicycle is considered to be one of the key drivers to meeting a range of national and corporate policy objectives, and will serve to create a more sustainable and healthy environment for those who live and work within the City & County area.
- 1.2. This report will serve to set out the legislative and statutory requirements that have been placed upon Welsh Local Authorities to plan and provide for active travel as well as providing a summary of recent progress.

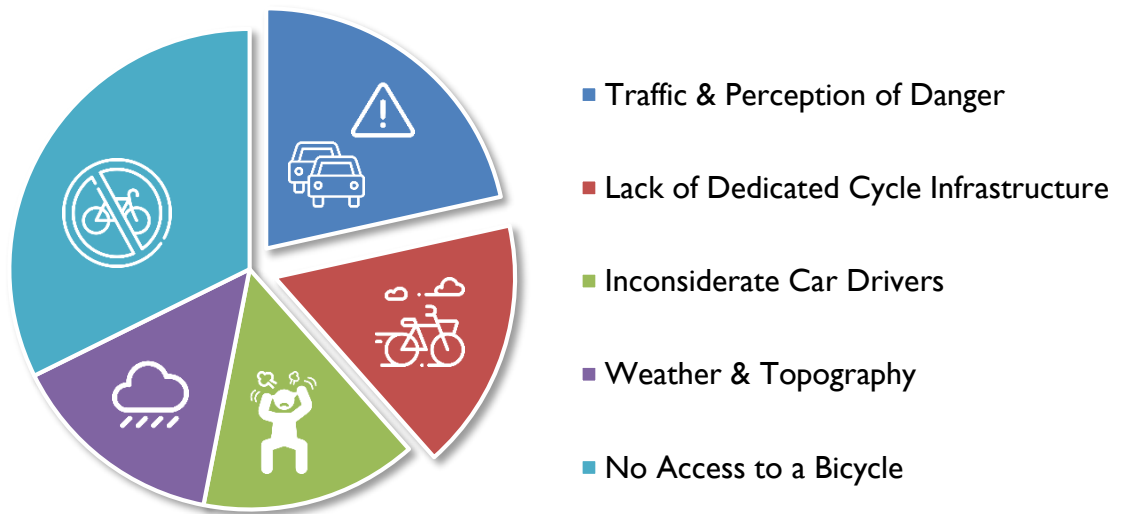
2. Policy Framework

- 2.1. The Welsh Government introduced the Active Travel (Wales) Act in 2014 as one of the first new pieces of legislation introduced since the devolution of the required powers. The Act is expected to encourage the uptake of walking and cycling for utility journeys as part of regular daily life.
- 2.2. The Act introduced three principal requirements for the twenty two local authorities:
 - To map out the existing infrastructure for walking and cycling;
 - To plan for improvements and expansion to these networks;
 - To make year-on-year improvements to these networks.
- 2.3. Whilst the Active Travel (Wales) Act has the most explicit role in promoting the uptake of walking and cycling journeys, there are a number of supporting policy and legislative documents which bolster and deepen the requirement for better planning and provision for the benefit of our communities. The additional policy framework is summarised below:
 - Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015);
 - Climate Change Act (2008);
 - The Road to Zero Strategy (2018);
 - Wales Transport Strategy;
 - Manifesto commitments to deliver the Wheelrights Manifesto.
- 2.4. Swansea Council is required to provide annual reports to the Welsh Government in respect of the Active Travel (Wales) Act to demonstrate its annual efforts to meet its aims and objectives. This acts as an additional check and balance to ensure that progress is made consistently on an annual basis.

3. Barriers & Trends

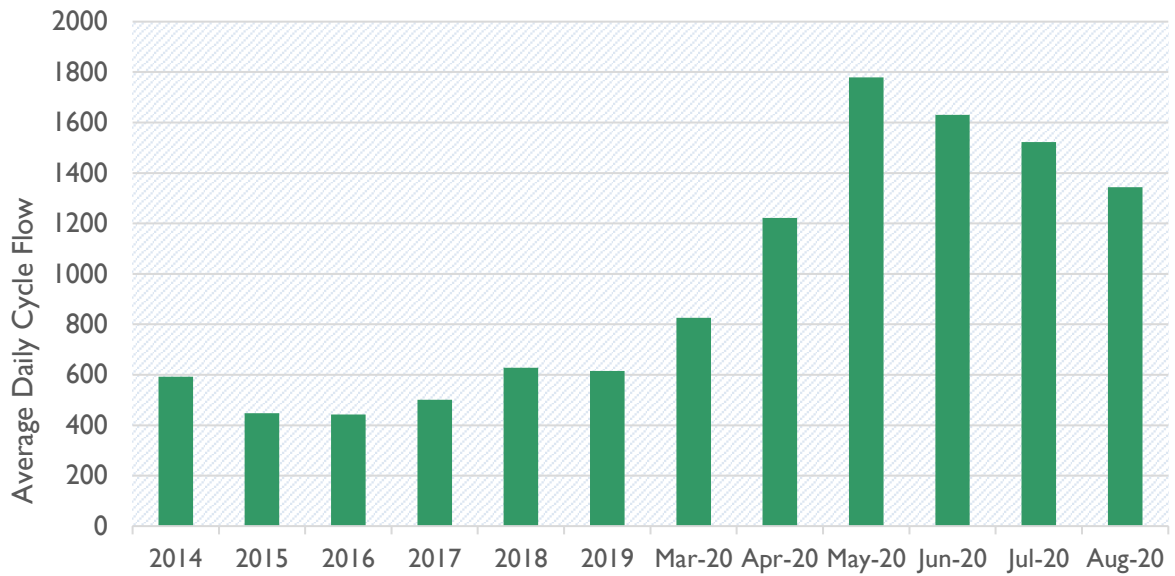
- 3.1. The barriers to the uptake of active travel are fairly well researched and understood, particularly with regards to the drive for modal shift away from conventional motorised transport.
- 3.2. The majority of research papers on this issue highlight a common set of barriers as summarised in the figure below.

Figure 1 – Common Barriers to Active Travel



- 3.3. Whilst it is not within the Council's ability affect some of these barriers, namely the local topography and prevailing weather conditions, the Local Authority can focus on some of the substantive issues such as the danger posed by traffic and the provision of dedicated cycle infrastructure.
- 3.4. Levels of active travel across Wales have remained largely flat for the past five years or so. Some localised areas will have experienced significant growth due to land use policies, such as been experienced with the Fabian Way Bay Campus where levels of cycling increased from around 120 movements per day in 2014 to circa 600 in 2019. The prevailing trend has however been otherwise fairly uniform across the network.
- 3.5. The Covid pandemic and ensuing local lockdowns that have been in place for much 2020 have elicited a significant change in the number of people walking and cycling on the shared use networks. The Council monitors its active travel networks from a series of fixed cycle counters spread across the network. These counters have demonstrated growth of two to three times the volumes recorded in the pre-Covid period. This is obviously a positive contribution to the policy aims set out above, but has also quite quickly demonstrated that at the busiest times, the Council's active travel network is unable to cater for this level of demand. There is some indication that these abnormally high levels are now beginning to subside now that inclement weather has returned in the early autumnal months.
- 3.6. Given the unprecedented nature of recent months, it is not possible to determine with any level of certainty what the medium and long term implications of the pandemic will be, whether to bolster or to detract from the active travel policy agenda.

Figure 2 – Blackpill Cycle Counter 2014 to August 2020

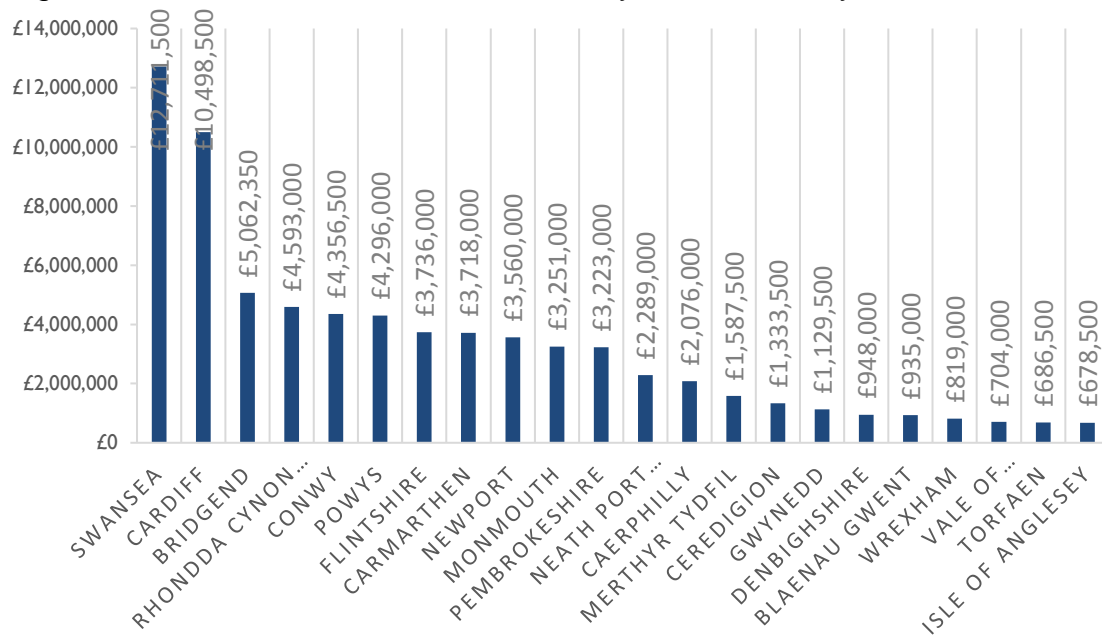


4. Active Travel Programme

- 4.1. The Welsh Government announced in late 2017 that a new funding stream was to be made available to support the aims of the Active Travel (Wales) Act. Swansea Council has bid for this funding stream in each of the years since 20218/19 and has been very successful in securing funding from to improve and expand the walking and cycling network across the County area.

- 4.2. The figure below demonstrates the relative performance of each of the Welsh Local Authorities in securing funding from the Active Travel Fund over the past three financial years.

Figure 3 – Active Travel Fund Allocations by Local Authority 2018/19 – 2020/21



PROJECTS

- 4.3. The consequence of having secured £12.7million over the past three years is that Swansea’s active travel networks have increased by 25% over the past three years to a total length of 128km by the end of the current financial year. The County benefits from a particularly good quality strategic network which now bounds the main urban conurbation area. The target for Officers is therefore to now increase its penetration into the residential areas in order to provide infrastructure from within the community. Presently 60% of the resident population is within 500 metres of an off-road cycle route; this is a figure which will need to continue to increase if active travel is to become a viable alternative to the car.
- 4.4. Swansea Council has developed a number of active travel projects over the past few years. Whilst it would be impractical to list all of these, a few have been selected below to highlight some of the most significant examples:
- 4.5. *SWANSEA NORTHERN LINK*: Whilst Swansea’s urban areas largely benefit from National Cycle Network Routes 4 & 43, which bound the city and its suburbs on three sides, the northern communities have remained disconnected from this. The Swansea Northern Link seeks to address this deficiency by constructing a new off-road cycle route from Skewen in the east to Gorseinon in the west, passing through Llansamlet, Morryston, Llangyfelach and Penllergaer. This project will deliver a new route measuring 16.5km and was commenced in 2018/19. To date, 10.7km of the entire project has been delivered.

- 4.6. *KINGSBRIDGE LINK*: This project will link the communities of Gorseinon, Kingsbridge and Grovesend to Gowerton and importantly the onward National Cycle Network Route 4 links accessible from there. Despite its rather modest length of 1.4km, it has been in development for over a decade for a variety of complex technical issues. Nevertheless the completion of the project will provide direct access to the network for an additional 13,832 residents. The project is due to complete in November 2020.
- 4.7. *TRALLWN LINK*: This is a good example of a project which begins to penetrate into residential areas, linking Swansea's residents to the extensive strategic network. The 1.5km link was completed in 2019. The link enables residents in Trallwn to access a variety of routes in Swansea valley enabling direct access to a range of local services and employment.
- 4.8. *BIRCHGROVE LINK*: Similarly to the project above, the link to Birchgrove was completed in 2019 and provides off-road, traffic free access for the 7,392 residents in this community to access the extensive network which skirts the district.

BAYWAYS PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGN

- 4.9. Whilst the Council has expended considerable resource in expanding its active travel networks and its penetration into the residential areas over the past few years, it has given significantly less attention to the promotion of this infrastructure.
- 4.10. To this end, Highways & Transportation contracted with an external communications agency in 2019/20 to develop a brand and campaign to promote its active travel infrastructure.
- 4.11. The campaign has increased the perception of the programme and is continuing to expand opportunities with employers and user groups to ensure that the benefits of active travel modes are fully realised.

FORWARD PROGRAMME

- 4.12. Having achieved such prominent levels of investment and expansion to its network, Swansea Council will now be keen to ensure that this trend is maintained. Highways & Transportation Officers are therefore continually working to ensure there is a good supply of projects in development to allow for the continually improvement that is required by the Active Travel (Wales) Act.
- 4.13. *CORE FUNDING*: The Welsh Government makes an annual hypothecated funding allocation to each of the Local Authorities in Wales to support the ongoing development of projects. Swansea's allocation for 2020/21 is £773,000, which is being used to support the development of twelve

projects, some of which includes minor physical works. A plan for these projects is included in Appendix A.

- 4.14. *ACTIVE TRAVEL NETWORK MAP*: The Council is required to update its forward plan for new active travel infrastructure by the end of December 2021, by producing what is known as the Active Travel Network Map (ATNM). This resource is a record of existing and planned active travel infrastructure that Council expects to deliver over the next fifteen years. The Active Travel (Wales) Act requires that this map be updated every three years.
- 4.15. The Act requires that the development of the ATNM be underpinned by an extensive public consultation exercise. Given the good progress the Council has made in expanding its networks over the past three years, this engagement will be all the more important in identifying the areas of greatest need for expansion. The Council is currently in the process of procuring external resource to provide the resource and support for the planning and consultation exercises that will be required. The public consultations are expected to commence in early 2021.

5. Community Benefits

- 5.1. Highways & Transportation Officers have worked to capitalise upon the investments made in recent years through expanding its investments to wider community benefits in conjunction with its Delivery Partners.
- 5.2. The projects have been constructed using local small to medium sized enterprises to achieve best value and maximise opportunities for local employment and to support the a local sustainable supply chain.
- 5.3. The benefit of supporting local contractors has resulted in skills development through apprenticeships and the Bricks and Mortar Initiative, which are essential in supporting the current skill shortfall within the industry.
- 5.4. The Contractors have fully engaged with the Authority in supporting their local communities through a number initiatives and charitable donations. This approach was recently accredited with the prestigious Value Award through Construction Excellence Wales.

6. Equality and Engagement Implications

- 6.1 The Council is subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty (Wales) and must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Our Equality Impact Assessment process ensures that we have paid due regard to the above.

6.2 The development of the projects described above will all be subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment during their development.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

8. Legal Implications

8.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

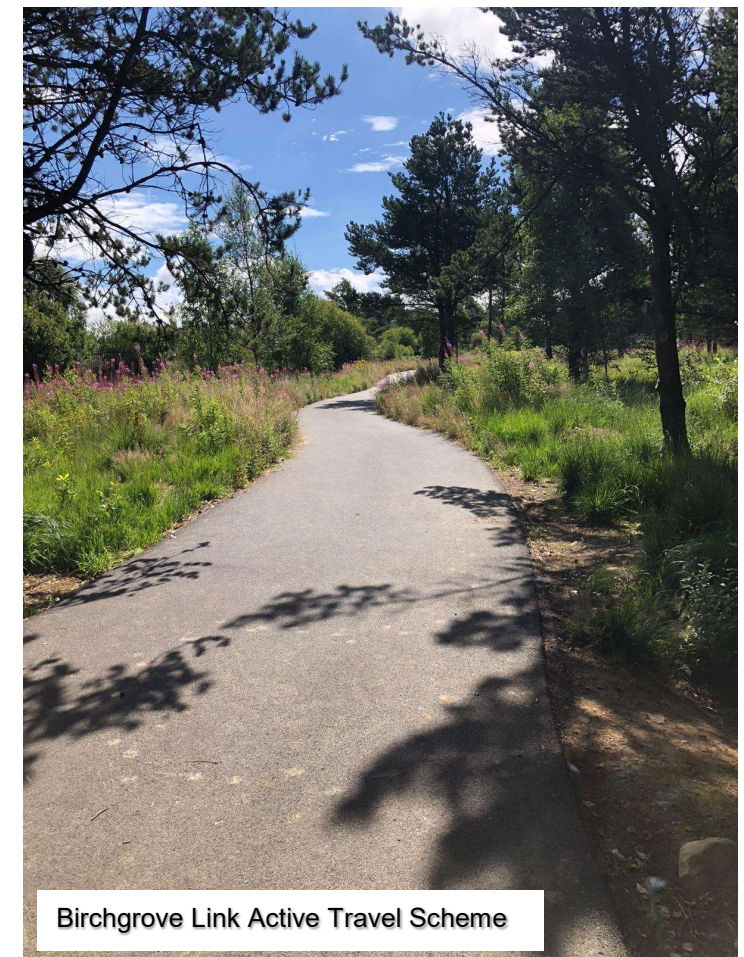
Appendix A	Summary Plan of the Core Funded Projects
Appendix B	Completed Active Travel Schemes
Appendix C	Active Travel Promotion
Appendix D	Skills Development
Appendix E	Community Benefits



Trallwn Link Active Travel Scheme



Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport Lee Waters at the opening of the Trallwn Active Travel Scheme



Active Travel Enhancements at Singleton Park

Page 16



Wood carving sculpture provided by the Contractor for the local community



Ynystawe Active Travel Scheme

Case Study

Kevin Thomas, labourer

Kevin was employed as a groundworker after being out of work for some time. He is still with Griffiths, now being put forward for his CPCS, Site Supervisor training.

“He has proven to be a really reliable honest and hard working individual. A real find.”

Carwyn Davies,

Regional Contracts Manager for Griffiths

Case Study

Ciara was recently shortlisted for the Construction Excellence Wales Apprentice of the Year. She was commended for her work on supporting the delivery of the Active Travel Programme and in particular her ability to support wide ranging community benefits programme.



The Ynystawe link scheme was designed by a former apprentice Charlie Clenton, and served to provide improved Active Travel Links to his former school. Charlie supported the school through leading on a community benefit programme and by discussing the opportunities of a career in Engineering with the school children.



Ciara is one of two apprentices employed to support the Active Travel programme and she was recently awarded a Quest scholarship from the Institution of Civil Engineers. She also acts as a STEM ambassador for the region outside of her main work role, helping to mentor the next generation into the science and technology industry.



Appendix E – Community Benefits



Hi Viz vests donated by Ian Davies Plant for Schools running the Walking Bus Programme across Swansea



Cycle storage shelters donated at local Primary and secondary schools across Swansea



Free bikes awarded to school children as part of a design a poster campaign to promote the benefits of Active Travel



Scooter storage pods donated to various primary schools across Swansea



Free bikes awarded to school children as part of a design a poster campaign to promote the benefits of Active Travel



Free bike awarded to the winning entry of an Active Travel poster competition



Cycle safety training funded by the appointed Contractor

Agenda Item 6



Economy & Infrastructure PDC – Work Plan 2020-21

Meeting Date	Agenda items and Format
15 October 2020 Cancelled	1. Amnesty on Waste (Update). 2. Active Travel. 3. Local Toilet Strategy. (Link to be circulated to Members)
22 October 2020	1. Active Travel. 2. Amnesty on Waste.
19 November 2020	1. Local Toilet Strategy.
17 December 2020	
21 January 2021	
18 February 2021	
18 March 2021	
22 April 2021	
To be Scheduled	1) Implications of COVID 19 on Swansea's Tourism. 2) Implications of Brexit. 3) High Street Empty Properties. 4) Homes as Power Stations.