

Cllr. Sara Keeton

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*Our Ref:* RFD/WN  
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*Date:* 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024

Dear Cllr. Keeton

**RE: Response to Convener's Letter to Cabinet Members Robert Francis-Davies, Andrew Stevens and David Hopkins - Climate Change and Nature Scrutiny Panel 28 November 2023**

Thank you for your recent letter.

**1) Potential for adding short links between active travel routes and Leisure destinations.**

**Panel:** We feel Welsh Government Active Travel schemes are based more around commuters rather than going to leisure points and discussed how some of these commuter destinations are very close to tourist destinations. We queried if there is any potential for adding short links from the active travel routes to the tourist destination, as we believe many people would then use these routes. We heard the infrastructure in Swansea benefits tourists as much as residents, for example, the cycle routes into Mumbles and the Marina. We agreed a full response be provided by the appropriate Cabinet Member following the meeting.

**Response from Ioan Brannigan, Transport Strategy Officer:**

All active travel schemes that are delivered using Welsh Government's Active Travel Fund (ATF) must comply with the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 and its supporting Guidance. According to the Act's Guidance, an active travel journey includes travel to work, school, educational facilities, shops, leisure facilities, and public interchanges. Any alterations or extensions to existing active travel routes (which includes the addition of short links to leisure destinations), must align with the Act's principles of promoting everyday utility journeys. The development of future active travel routes is guided by Swansea's Active Travel Network Map (ATNM) where routes that have been assigned higher priority take precedence for future delivery and development. Any proposals for introducing short links between active travel routes and leisure destinations must therefore demonstrate how they link with the wider active travel network, contribute to

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Well-Being goals and align with the overarching objectives of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013.

### **2) Communication with Countryside Access for Wales regarding feedback in relation to Wales Coastal Path, upgrading and funding.**

**Panel:** We asked about the Wales Coastal Path and queried if any feedback the Council gets on any sections of the Path is communicated to Countryside Access for Wales, for example, a stretch of the Path that people would like to use more and that could be upgraded, and how money for this is drawn down. We heard from officers present that Rights of Way is an asset but maintaining it is a challenge, that there has been lots of investment at key parts of the path, and that the Tourism and Marketing Team have been able to promote this in some of its videos. Regarding ongoing investment, we heard the AONB Team look to the Tourism Department to provide research to back up any funding applications to Welsh Government. We agreed a full response be provided by the appropriate Cabinet Member following the meeting.

#### **Response Chris Dale, Countryside Access Team Leader:**

The Wales Coast Path is managed by the local authorities around the Welsh coast. Therefore, any complaints or comments about the coast path are dealt with at this Council by the Countryside Access Team. Annually the Countryside Access Team is offered a set amount of grant from Natural Resources Wales to maintain the coast path to a high standard. This is used for cutting back overgrown vegetation, and replacing gates, signs and bridges. In addition to this maintenance grant the Countryside Access Team can bid for additional funds to improve the coast path or to realign it when coastal erosion occurs.

### **3) Implementation of a 'ski-style' cycle map. Please provide your response to these, and any other comments about our letter by 11 January 2024. We will then publish both letters in the agenda of the next available Panel meeting.**

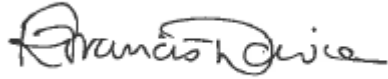
**Panel:** We discussed the cycle map of the area, and how previously in Scrutiny, members talked about a 'ski-style' map with red, blue, black, and green lines showing the difficulty. We queried if this has been implemented in the map and how this is going to link up with rural Gower. Cllr Francis-Davies and officers present stated they are not aware of anything like this but perhaps the Council could talk to Sustrans to check if they have any experience of it. We agreed a full response be provided by the appropriate Cabinet Member following the meeting.

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**Response from Ioan Brannigan, Transport Strategy Officer:**

Officers will consider this suggestion and investigate its feasibility and how it aligns with the principles of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013.

Yours sincerely



**Y CYNGHORYDD/COUNCILLOR ROBERT FRANCIS-DAVIES  
AELOD Y CABINET DROS FUDDSODDI, ADFYWIO A THWRISTIAETH  
CABINET MEMBER FOR INVESTMENT, REGENERATION & TOURISM**



**Y Cynghorydd David Hopkins / Councillor David Hopkins  
Dirprwy Arweinydd / Aelod y Cabinet dros Wasanaethau a Pherfformiad  
Corfforaethol  
Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member for Corporate Services & Performance**



**Councillor Andrew Stevens  
Aelod Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd ac Isadeiledd  
Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure**