To the Welsh Ministers,

**Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013: Annual Report on Active Travel**

In accordance with the duties under sections 7 (3) and 10 (2) of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 outlined below is **Wrexham County Borough Council’s** Annual Report.

- **Actions taken to promote active travel journeys**

Wrexham Connected is the **Wrexham County Borough Council’s** Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan for 2016.

The plan sets a clear vision for the future of transport in Wrexham enabling residents to make healthy, active, safe and sustainable travel choices. The plan supports Wrexham’s General Transport Hub and Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan 2016 (SUMP). Adopting the SUMP principles and visions and driving forward a range of projects that are aligned with the current Welsh Government (WG) position on the SUMP and the Local Development plan, strongly supporting all strategic sites to be highly accessible by walking, cycling and public transport.

1 **Road Safety – Education, Training, Publicity and Engineering.**

1.1 The Road Safety Education and Training development programme continues to be delivered to Infant, Primary and Secondary school pupils in Wrexham and students at Yale Campus, Coleg Cambria, Wrexham.

1.2 National Standard Cycle Training, Level 1 & 2 is offered to all Year Six pupils in the Borough. During 2015/16, 675 pupils successfully completed the training course.

1.3 Kerbcraft Child Pedestrian training has been delivered to 1112 year one pupils across 20 Primary schools during 2015/16.

1.4 Junior Road Safety Scheme – a small number of Primary schools Independently continue to support the scheme which was previously managed by Road Safety personnel in conjunction with the pupils.

1.5 School Travel Plans – Wrexham Officers work in conjunction with partners Sustrans in local Primary Schools to deliver Active Travel projects.

1.6 Safe Routes in the Community schemes have been completed in Plas Madoc and the Rhos areas of the Borough.
2 Active Travel Consultation and Engagement

2.1 Wrexham County Borough Council undertook a statutory 12 week consultation on its Active Travel Existing Route Map from 25th September to 11 December 2015. Whilst the consultation mainly sought to promote and raise awareness on proposed Active Travel Routes on the draft Existing Route Map it also promoted making active travel journeys through various activities held during the consultation period.

2.2 The WCBC Press Office published the consultation on the Councils website and arranged publicity in the local printed press. Social Media - Facebook and Twitter were also utilised. In addition emails were sent out to identify delivery partners who were invited to review and respond to the consultation. In addition during the consultation the Council issued press releases with photographs and undertook social medial activities to promote Active Travel.

2.3 The Local Member of Parliament Ian Lucas also added his support.

2.4 In addition to the questionnaire and publicity campaign 2 events were held which specifically targeted young people and one of the largest employers in Wrexham – WCBC staff. Officers from the Authority and Sustrans attended a drop-in session at Coleg Cambria, Yale, Wrexham to consult on and promote the Active Travel Agenda on 10th December 2015 and an event was held at the WCBC healthy Staff Event on 4th November 2015 which was attended by over 400 WCBC staff.

3 Signage Schemes

3.1 A signage scheme has been designed and implemented to promote the designated cycle route from/to the town centre to Wrexham Industrial Estate.

3.2 Installation of new directional signage and waymarks on the Public Rights of Way network is reviewed yearly to provide the public with information on designated walking routes.

4 Websites/ Social Media /Publications

4.1 Wrexham Connected – provides travel choices for all, supports Wrexham’s General Transport Hub and Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan 2016 (SUMP) Adopting the SUMP principles and visions and driving forward a range of projects that are aligned with the current WG position on the SUMP and the Local Development plan, strongly supporting all strategic sites to be highly accessible by walking, cycling and public transport.

4.2 A Travel web page has been developed on Wrexham County Borough Council’s website. The page includes information on Active Travel with useful links to various sites such as Sustrans, NHS change 4 life – Active Travel.
4.3 Information relating to Road Safety, Rights of Way, Cycling and other useful documents relating to Active Travel are also publicised on the WCBC website.

4.4 Published Public Rights of Way are promoted on the council’s website. Information includes on-line mapping, designated walks and riding routes. A range of information leaflets are also available on line which are available to be downloaded and printed.

5. Schemes

Wrexham County Borough Council is working to achieve the five sustainable ways of working under the Well-being of Future Generations Act and the Active Travel Act. These schemes include:

5.1 Wrexham County Borough Council’s Cycle to Work Scheme.

5.2 Staff and Member Travel Plan – increasing awareness of more sustainable forms of travel choices which aims to influence a shift in behaviour.

5.3 Active Journeys Project - Schools are encouraged to participate in active travel plans and safe routes to schools plans. Our partners, Sustrans work in conjunction with Officers at the Primary schools identified through a school application process via Education and Transportation each year.

5.4 Corporate Health Scheme – Gold standard achieved to date the Council is working towards the Platinum standard.

6. National and Local Events

6.1 Cycle to Work Day (this year - 14th September 2016) is promoted on the Councils website and internal internet as well as on public Social Media applications.

6.2 Tour of Britain, September 2015 – Wrexham hosted the prestigious final of 1st stage of last year’s tour.

6.3 Mark Cavendish Cycling Event – cycle event crossing the border from Cheshire into Wrexham.

These Cycling Events have helped increase the profile and popularity of cycling in Wrexham as well as promote the health and associated cost benefit of choosing cycling as a more sustainable form of transport.

7. Travel Planning

7.1 As part of the remit of the Regional Travel Plan Co-ordinator, the promotion of Sustainable travel themes are regularly undertaken to encourage active travel journeys at key locations such as Yale Campus, Coleg Cambria, Wrexham.
7.2 Travel plans have been secured through the planning process which include measures to encourage active travel journeys in areas including Wrexham Industrial Estate, large residential developments, health and educational facilities.

Measures vary for each Travel Plan and can include improved infrastructure, provision of secure cycle storage, provision of changing facilities for walkers/cyclists, cycle schemes, provision of maps and other information to encourage active travel journeys.

- The actions taken to secure new active travel routes and related facilities and improvements - 2015/16

8. Infrastructure secured through direct funding, grant funding and those negotiated as part of the Planning Process.

8.1 Weston Gateway – infrastructure negotiated as part of the planning process. A combined foot/cycleway with cycle storage facilities. Designated walkways into the town centre have also been provided as part of the planning process.

8.2 Wrexham Industrial Estate – Clywedog Road South. A combined foot/cycleway on the approach from the town centre to the major industrial area of the County Borough.

8.3 Cefn Road to Redwither Lane, Wrexham Industrial Estate. Shared Foot/cycleway constructed - previously no existing facilities were available for walking and cycling on this approach to the industrial estate.

8.4 Johnstown Village – 2 new pedestrian crossing facilities have been installed on the main approaches to the School.

8.5 Interactive warning signage alerting drivers to a reduction to speed limits particularly around the vicinity of schools to further encourage walking to school.

8.6 A plan to implement a programme of 20mph schemes outside 60 schools over a period of 7 years is progressing. During 2015/16 - 5 schools were completed. The engineering solutions are supported by Education and Publicity activites in the schools and pupils are invited to participate in a competition to design a warning sign which would alert drivers to the new speed limits on the approaches to and within the vicinity of the school.

8.7 Speed limit review are carried out on A and B roads - speed reduction on urban roads will assist to encourage more walking and cycling.

9. Other Schemes – 2016/17

9.1 Wrexham County Borough Council has secured a grant of £179,000 through the Local Transport fund for 2016/17 to deliver Active Travel infrastructure. This will be utilised for the following schemes:-
• Ruthin Road, Wrexham – shared cycle/walkway and signage improvements.
• Rhyd Broughton Roundabout - tactile paving on footpath approaches.
• Gatewen Railway Line – shared cycle/walkway and signage improvements.

Safe Routes in Communities funding will be utilised to progress the 20mph schemes outside schools. The secured grant for 2016/17 is £79,200.

Road Safety Education, Training and Publicity funding has been secured for the provision of National Standard Cycle Training - £27,972 and Kerbcraft - £24,986.

9.2 Street Lighting Upgrade – over 2,000 street lights will be upgraded to LED Lanterns.

• 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

10. The Local Transport Fund 2015-16 awarded to Wrexham County Borough was £273,200. This was used for the following schemes:-
• Active Travel Mapping
• Active Travel Link – Improved Access to Wrexham Industrial Estate
• Active Travel Link – Improved Access to Vauxhall Industrial Estate

11. Monitoring and Evaluation

11.1 Capital Engineering Schemes

Wrexham County Borough Council monitors all Capital Engineering projects Pre and Post scheme implementation. Data is recorded, collected and analysed and evaluation is undertaken as part of the monitoring programme.

11.2 Education, Training and Publicity

All Road Safety schemes are monitored and evaluated in conjunction with data provided by the North Wales Police analyst. Pre and post scheme data is analysed to track progress on the effectiveness of the scheme on casualty reduction and behavioural change.

All monitoring and evaluation is reported back to Welsh Government as part of the terms and conditions of the award of Grant Funding to the Authority.