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Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

## Welsh Government Consultation Document

# Active Travel guidance

Date of issue: 14 February 2020  
Action required: Responses by 8 May 2020

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.  
This document is also available in Welsh.

## Overview

The Active Travel Delivery and Design Guidance were originally published in 2014 as separate documents. It is produced by the Welsh Government and provides guidance for the planning, designing and creation of active travel infrastructure.

The guidance has been revised to reflect current best practice and to take account of changes in regulations and the two separate guidance documents.

## How to respond

Please respond by:

- Completing the consultation response form; or
- Emailing or posting your response to the contact details below; or
- Contact us at [activetravel@gov.wales](mailto:activetravel@gov.wales) to attend a consultation event which will be held in February and March across Wales.

## Further information and related documents

**Large print, Braille and alternative language versions of this document are available on request.**

[Active Travel guidance](#)

## Contact details

For further information and to book onto one of the information sessions:

Active Travel Team  
Transport Department  
Welsh Government  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

[activetravel@gov.wales](mailto:activetravel@gov.wales)

## General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The Welsh Government will be data controller for any personal data you provide as part of your response to the consultation. Welsh Ministers have statutory powers they will rely on to process this personal data which will enable them to make informed decisions about how they exercise their public functions. Any response you send us will be seen in full by Welsh Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about or planning future consultations. Where the Welsh Government undertakes further analysis of consultation responses then this work may be commissioned to be carried out by an accredited third party (e.g. a research organisation or a consultancy company). Any such work will only be undertaken under contract. Welsh Government's standard terms and conditions for such contracts set out strict requirements for the processing and safekeeping of personal data.

In order to show that the consultation was carried out properly, the Welsh Government intends to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the person or organisation who sent the response are published with the response. If you do not want your name or address published, please tell us this in writing when you send your response. We will then redact them before publishing.

You should also be aware of our responsibilities under Freedom of Information legislation

If your details are published as part of the consultation response then these published reports will be retained indefinitely. Any of your data held otherwise by Welsh Government will be kept for no more than three years.

## Your rights

Under the data protection legislation, you have the right:

- to be informed of the personal data held about you and to access it
- to require us to rectify inaccuracies in that data
- to (in certain circumstances) object to or restrict processing
- for (in certain circumstances) your data to be 'erased'
- to (in certain circumstances) data portability
- to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) who is our independent regulator for data protection.

For further details about the information the Welsh Government holds and its use, or if you want to exercise your rights under the GDPR, please see contact details below:

Data Protection Officer:  
Welsh Government  
Cathays Park  
CARDIFF  
CF10 3NQ

e-mail:

[Data.ProtectionOfficer@gov.wales](mailto:Data.ProtectionOfficer@gov.wales)

The contact details for the Information Commissioner's Office are:

Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Tel: 01625 545 745 or  
0303 123 1113

Website: <https://ico.org.uk/>

## **Foreword**

The passing for the Active Travel (Wales) Act in 2013 was a reflection of our ambition to make walking and cycling the default option for everyday local journeys. And it was also a recognition that to achieve that we need to change the way we think about the way we design and build the infrastructure to encourage people to change their travel behaviour.

The Design Guidance that we published in 2014 was seen as ground-breaking and has been emulated elsewhere. It's now time to up-date it to reflect international best practice, and to take the opportunity to review the Delivery Guidance that we have asked our partners to work to over the last six years. In preparing this consultation document we worked closely with colleagues in local authorities who are charged with delivering active travel schemes to understand how we can make our approach more effective.

As a result we have brought together the design and delivery guidance into one document to reduce overlap. I hope that the update has made what already was an extremely comprehensive walking and cycling planning and design handbook even better and more user-friendly.

We have strengthened areas where the previous guidance was not clear enough, for example on our expectations for consultation and engagement. Unless we better understand the barriers to taking up walking and cycling for people who currently do not consider them as practical alternatives to the car we will never be able to achieve modal shift. We want Active Travel to become the 'normal' thing to do for the majority of shorter journeys in Wales. To achieve that, we need to listen to those people we are seeking to persuade to change their mode of transport to understand what type of infrastructure will enable them to make the change, and where the priority routes need to go.

We hope the updated guidance will give planners and engineers the tools to do this. We have managed to step up investment into active travel dramatically, with over £40m allocated in 2019/20. This means the scale of ambition can increase and we can take forward many more schemes across Wales. These range from relatively small scale improvements that are possible everywhere to large scale projects that have the potential to fundamentally transform travel patterns.

In addition to written responses, we will be running events during the consultation period which will present an opportunity to help shape this important guidance document and with them the future of active travel delivery in Wales.

I welcome your views on the updated Guidance. If this draft will not achieve our aims we are willing to change it, but we need you to tell us

**Lee Waters AC/AM**  
**Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport**

## **What are the issues?**

The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 is accompanied by statutory Guidance. This was published as two separate documents in 2014: the Statutory Guidance for the Delivery of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 (the so called Delivery Guidance) and the Design Guidance - Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013.

This consultation on a draft revised Active Travel Guidance updates and brings together these two sets of guidance and will inform the final version of the revised Guidance to be published later this year.

## **Where are we now?**

The current versions of the guidance, published in 2014 can be found here:

- [Guidance for the Delivery of the Active Travel Wales Act 2013](#)
- [Active Travel Design Guidance](#)

## **Why are we revising it?**

The current guidance has been used by local authorities and others involved in planning and designing active travel routes and facilities, and fulfilling the wider duties imposed on local authorities by the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 for a number of years. We ran feedback workshops with users and want to improve the guidance, drawing on this user experience. Since the publication there have also been a number of regulatory changes that are relevant to the design of active travel infrastructure, which are reflected in the revised guidance, such as changes to the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (TSRGD) and new Regulations on Sustainable Drainage.

## **Key proposed changes for Part 1 – Delivery include**

- Reflecting changes in law and policy
- Highlighting how it relates to different local authority functions
- Introducing Active Travel Network Maps, which bring together the Existing Routes Maps and Integrated Network Maps
- Greater clarity on mapping active travel routes outside designated localities
- Greater clarity on consultation and engagement expectations
- Clearer emphasis on the objective of achieving modal shift from car to active travel

## **Key proposals for Part 2– Planning and Design include**

- Significantly expanded consultation and engagement chapter
- Changes to design elements following revised TSRGD and drawing on new best practice, including:
- Changes to cycle flow volumes associated with width requirements for cycle tracks

- Discouraging unsegregated cycle lanes on carriageway in most cases
- Changes to bus stop – cycle track interfaces

## Consultation Response Form

Your name:

Organisation (if applicable):

E-mail / telephone number:

Your address:

**Q1:** The revised guidance seeks to eliminate unnecessary duplication and to reformat the guidance into a single manual in two parts rather than the previous two completely separate documents.

Does the document work better now as a cohesive set of guidelines with equal status between technical and delivery elements?

Please enter here:

**Q2:** The revised guidance seeks to place greater emphasis on the duties of the Act specifically being about creating modal shift towards walking and cycling.

Has this been achieved and if not what would you like to see added to help enforce this overarching aim of the Act?

Please enter here:

**Q3:** Do you agree with the intention to show both the Existing Routes Map and Integrated Network Map together as the Active Travel Network Map (ATNM) in future mapping cycles? (1.1.4 and 5.5)

Please enter here:

**Q4:** The policy context has been updated reflecting new laws and regulations. This includes an explanation of links between Planning Policy Wales 10 and Active Travel and also how active travel dovetails with the principles and approach set out in Well-being of Future Generations Act.

Are there other policy area links which should be highlighted and if so what information about them would you like to see included in the guidance?

Please enter here:

**Q5:** The guidance now highlights more clearly that the duties under the act fall to the whole local authority and lists sections of particular relevance to certain functions.

Are there further areas that should be highlighted?

Please enter here:

**Q6:** The concept of mesh density for the active travel route network has been introduced with a view to a mesh of 250m needing to be achieved by the third time the maps are updated.

Does this clarify previous ambiguities about what constitutes an active travel network? (5.6.4)

Please enter here:



**Q7:** If your role involves fulfilling statutory duties under the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013, does the revised guidance provide you with greater clarity on how to do so? If not, what else would you like to see covered?

Please enter here:

**Q8:** Please highlight any other points you wish to make in relation to the revised Part 1: Delivery.

Please enter here:

**Q9:** Specific design details have been provided to align with the updated Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (TSRGD) 2016.

Are you confident in the consistency of approach between various sets of guidance, for example on dealing with junctions or treatment of side road interfaces with active travel routes?

Please enter here:

**Q10:** The width required for cycle tracks for different cycle flow bands has been adjusted, which may reduce the width requirement for parts of the network envisaging moderate use. (DE021, DE023)

Do you consider the right balance has been struck between enabling additional routes to be created and the comfort and safety of all users?

Please enter here:

**Q11:** In relation to design elements, have any design features not been included which you consider would be essential in helping deliver high quality schemes?

Please enter here:

**Q12:** On an individual scheme level, the explicit requirement to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment at the earliest stage is intended to ensure that full engagement with all users informs the scheme design.

How confident are you that this process will enhance the quality of schemes and minimise potential conflict between users who have differing access requirements?

Please enter here:

**Q13:** Chapter 20 on Monitoring has been expanded to give more specific guidance and includes a template.

Does this provide sufficient clarity?

Please enter here:

**Q14:** Please highlight any other points you wish to make in relation to the revised Part 2: Planning and Design.

Please enter here:

**Question A:** We are under a duty to consider the effects of our policy decisions on the Welsh language, under the requirements of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

We would like to know your views on the effects that the Active Travel guidance would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favorably than English.

What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

**Question B:** Please also explain how you believe the proposed Active Travel guidance could be formulated or changed so as to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favorably than the English language, and no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favorably than the English language.

**Question C:** We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them:

Please enter here:

Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here: