



north wales economic ambition board
bwrdd uchelgais economaidd gogledd cymru

REPORT TO TRANSPORT DELIVERY SUB-GROUP

DATE: 14th May 2021

Title: *Regional Bus Update*

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1. Purpose of the Report

For Members to receive a presentation and update on progress from Transport for Wales on work being undertaken on a Wales National Bus Network Review. The presentation will also highlight how this supports work on the Bus Emergency Scheme in Wales

2. Decision Sought

Members are invited to note the update and proposed further work planned.

Further work is planned to develop an operational plan for the delivery of the proposed network vision, the role of the Delivery Sub-Board in relation to on-going work will need further consideration

3. Reasons supporting the need for a decision.

The report is largely for information, to advise members of progress with the Network Review, the initial findings and outcomes and proposed next steps

No formal decision is required as a result of the report, however some of the emerging proposals may require further consideration of regional governance arrangements.

4. Background and Relevant Considerations

Members have received reports at recent meetings regarding proposed changes to bus network management and funding, primarily relating to the impacts of reduced bus usage as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic

Members will also recall that Welsh Government have long wished to be able to better exert some control over the quality of bus networks and service provision. Welsh Government working through Transport for Wales have carried out a significant review of current networks and management arrangements with detailed work undertaken by Arup and Atkins. Detailed discussions have been held with local authorities through ATCO

Members will receive a presentation on the work carried out to date and the emerging proposals. The presentation will also consider the planned next steps and timescale for further work and the development of an implementation plan and potential pilot delivery projects.

5. Considerations

The proposals for more effective management arrangements will have impacts on governance and management of bus networks in North Wales. Although there is some regional coordination of bus funding schemes with Flintshire acting as a lead authority, each local authority currently procures bus services independently.

Delivery of the revised network proposals will involve changes to existing governance arrangements in relation to funding and procurement of bus services.

5. Financial Implications

There are no specific financial implications from this report, it is mainly information on work that has been completed to consider proposals to improve bus networks in Wales.

The impacts of these proposals once adopted could well have significant financial impacts, but these will be highlighted in future update reports or during the consultation that should be undertaken prior to implementation.

6. Legal Implications

There are no specific legal implications from this report. Consideration of management and governance arrangements for the delivery of the BES 2 scheme will be required.

7. Staffing Implications

There are no specific staffing implications at this stage – the report provides updates on work currently underway. It is likely that any agreed approach to manage funding or bus networks on a regional basis could have implications on staffing within existing bus teams.

8. Impact on Equalities

There are no specific equalities implications at this stage – the report provides updates in work currently underway. Detailed consultation on any reports where impacts are possible will be carried out at the appropriate consultation process.

9. Consultations undertaken

There are no specific consultations required at this stage – the report provides updates in work currently underway. Detailed consultation on any reports where impacts are possible will be carried out at the appropriate consultation process.

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer – responsible body:

No observations to add in relation to propriety.

ii. Head of Finance – responsible body:

I note that there could be significant financial impacts when these proposals are adopted, and funding sources (if additional contributions are required from any partners) will need to be confirmed before considering a final decision on the way forward at subsequent meetings.