
NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

6 September, 2024

TITLE: Regional Transport Plan: Progress update and recommendations

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to present a further update on the work to develop the Regional Transport Plan (RTP) which includes the establishment of the necessary governance structures to enable the CJC to execute its statutory duty.

2. DECISION SOUGHT

- 2.1. To note that, in accordance with CJC approval given on 21st June, 2024 the following lead Members have been appointed as co-opted members of the Transport Sub-Committee:

- Cllr. Goronwy Edwards (Conwy County Borough Council)
- Cllr. Barry Mellor (Denbighshire County Council)
- Cllr. Dave Hughes (Flintshire County Council)
- Cllr. Dafydd Meurig (Cyngor Gwynedd)
- Cllr. Dafydd Rhys Thomas (Isle of Anglesey County Council)
- Cllr. David A Bithell (Wrexham County Borough Council)

- 2.2. To note the update included in **Appendix 1** which includes a copy of the draft:

- North Wales Regional Transport Plan Vision statement
- SMART objectives
- Cross-cutting themes

- 2.3. The next phase of work to develop the RTP will be guided by the Transport Sub-committee and will include recommendations on the above and following components required to progress the RTP:

- Detailed project plan (building on the RTPs Implementation Plan)
- Integrated Well-being Appraisal (Statutory Assessments) Scoping Report
- Stakeholder Engagement Plan
- Draft list of policies, programmes, and projects
- Preparation for public consultation

- 2.4. The inaugural meeting of the CJC's Transport Sub-Committee will take place on the 1st October. A comprehensive timetable and forward plan will be presented at this meeting. The Sub-Committee is responsible for key policy development and preparation of the RTP, which delivers a co-ordinated joined-up and integrated strategic transportation service in North Wales. The Sub-Committee will report its recommendations regularly to the CJC on:

- steps taken to develop the Regional Transport Plan;
- timetable and progress towards its submission to Welsh Ministers for approval;
- development of policy aligned to the Wales Transport Strategy and the Regional Transport Delivery Plan for implementation by the local transport authorities;
- monitoring and review of the Regional Transport Plan and other strategic regional functions as set out in its terms of reference.

3. REASON FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1. The North Wales CJC is required to produce a Regional Transport Plan (RTP) and Regional Transport Delivery Plan (RTDP) in accordance with the Welsh Government guidance by the 31st March, 2025. To achieve this, the Transport Sub-Committee should consider the developing components of the draft RTP and guide the work towards final approval including agreeing the required steps and documentation for public consultation.
- 3.2. Work is progressing with the support of consultants, ARUP, who have created a roadmap in relation to critical delivery stages (**Appendix 2**), which will be developed to ensure that matters are appropriately addressed through the Sub-Committee and brought to the CJC in a timely manner for approval of key matters.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1. As set out in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and the Corporate Joint Committee (Transport Functions) (Wales) Regulations 2021, one of the statutory functions of a Corporate Joint Committee is to develop a Regional Transport Plan. Arup was appointed by Ambition North Wales on behalf of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee in March 2024 to provide consultancy support to develop the RTP.
- 4.2. The draft Case for Change for the Regional Transport Plan, including the vision and objectives, was presented to the CJC on 22nd March, 2024. These objectives have since been refined and strengthened to four specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timebound (SMART) objectives with five cross cutting themes which are considered critical for helping to achieve the vision and objectives.
- 4.3. On 21st June, 2024 the CJC confirmed the appointment of the co-opted members to the Transport Sub-Committee, and no changes have been advised in the interim period.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. The development of the RTP is one of the core duties of the CJC, for which a budget is in place.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. The legal implications in relation to governance are captured in the body of the report.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1: Regional Transport Plan (RTP) Update

Appendix 2: Roadmap in relation to critical delivery stages

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer:

“The report has been the subject of advice from the Legal Service. I have no observations to add in relation to propriety.”

ii. Statutory Finance Officer:

“Nothing to add from the perspective of financial propriety.”