
STRATEGIC TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE

1 October, 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 an update on the work to develop the Regional Transport Plan (RTP) which includes the establishment of the necessary operational structures to enable the CJC to execute its statutory duty.

2. DECISION SOUGHT

- 2.1. To recommend that the:

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

detailed in **Appendix 1** are presented to the North Wales CJC for adoption and inclusion in the Regional Transport Plan's Case for Change and draft North Wales Regional Transport Plan. And to request that the draft Case for Change be updated and presented to the sub-committee at its next meeting.

- 2.2. To note the key milestone dates as presented in **Appendix 2** for delivery of the Regional Transport Plan and to direct further work to achieve the key milestones in accordance with the Welsh Government guidelines.
- 2.3. To note the draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan in **Appendix 3**, which must be prepared in support of the RTP, and to recommend any additional considerations that should be included.
- 2.4. To note that the lead officer will be a senior officer with responsibility for transportation from the Authority represented through the elected Chair. This lead officer will act as the link between the Transportation Advisory Group and this Sub-committee.

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 Strategic 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.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1. The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 includes provision for the creation of Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) which are formed to promote regional collaboration through a consistent and democratically controlled framework. CJCs are required to comply with all public body duties and are assigned statutory responsibility for the preparation of Regional Transport Plans (RTPs)¹. For North Wales, the CJC must develop transport policies to implement the Llwybr Newydd: the Wales Transport Strategy 2021², providing a long-term vision for the next 25 years. Membership of the North Wales CJC includes representatives from the six local authority areas of the Isle of Anglesey, Wrexham, Conwy, Flintshire, Denbighshire, and Gwynedd, and the Eryri National Park Authority.
- 4.2. 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.
- 4.3. The draft Case for Change for the Regional Transport Plan, including the draft 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. Updated Draft Regional Transport Case for Change included as **Appendix 4**.
- 4.4. The work to support policy development will be undertaken by the Strategic Transport Sub-Committee, and on 21st June 2024 the CJC confirmed the appointment of the co-opted members to the 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:	Proposed Vision, Objectives and Cross Cutting Themes
Appendix 2:	Roadmap outlining critical delivery stages
Appendix 3:	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
Appendix 4	Draft Regional Transport Plan Case for Change

¹ CJCs also have responsibility for the preparation of Strategic Development Plans

² Llwybr Newydd: the Wales transport strategy 2021 – online at: <https://www.gov.wales/llwybr-newydd-wales-transport-strategy-2021>

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer:

“The function of developing a Regional Transport Plan is a power exercised by the CJC, and this report outlines some of the key components necessary to develop the Plan. I have no objections with the contents of this report in terms of proprietary.”

ii. Statutory Finance Officer:

“I can confirm that the Corporate Joint Committee has a budget in place for the development of the Regional Transport Plan. I have no objections to the decision sought.”