
NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

11 October, 2024

TITLE: Regional Transport Plan: Integrated Wellbeing Appraisal Scoping Report

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to present the work to develop the Integrated Wellbeing Appraisal (IWBA) Scoping Report which is a requirement for the Regional Transport Plan (RTP) to enable the CJC to execute its statutory duty.

2. DECISION SOUGHT

- 2.1. To accept and approve the IWBA Scoping Report, including technical appendices (available on request), which must be prepared in support of the RTP, as recommended by the Strategic Transport 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. The second element of the RTP includes the IWBA. To achieve this, the Strategic Transport Sub-Committee have considered developing components of the draft RTP to guide the work towards final approval, including agreeing the required steps and documentation for public consultation.
- 3.2. The IWBA is at a critical stage in the roadmap plan, and the Strategic Transport Sub-Committee at its meeting on the 1st October, have adopted the IWBA Scoping report, including appendices and recommends that the CJC approves the steps to take the work forward into the scoping consultation period.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1. An IWBA is a process for assessing the potential social, cultural, economic, and environmental impacts of a plan and aims to place sustainable development at the centre of decision making. IWBA is a valuable tool that can help influence plan development, aligning it with the Welsh Transport Strategy and demonstrating application of the principles of sustainable development whilst also meeting the following legislative requirements:

- Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (SI 2004/1656) (Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations)
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Welsh Language (Wales) measure 2011 and Standards

- Children’s Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA), as required by the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011
 - Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA), as required by the Equality Act (2010)
 - Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR) and the Natural Resources Policy (NRP) as required by the Environment (Wales Act (2016)
 - Habitat Regulations Assessment, as required by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 as amended (known as the Habitats Regulations 2017).
- 4.2. IWBA is also used to incorporate the non-legislative requirements of assessments relating to: rural proofing, health effects, and climate change.
- 4.3. It is a legal requirement for responsible authorities to undertake SEA and HRA of plans and programmes that are subject to preparation and/or adoption by an authority at a local, regional or national level and which are required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions.
- 4.4. The function of developing a North Wales Regional Transport Plan (NWRTP) is a power to be discharged by the CJC further to its Establishment Regulations. The SEA process has been used as a basis for the IWBA because it is a recognised and systematic process for evaluating the environmental consequences of plans and programmes. By expanding the assessment to include the requirements of other assessments (as listed above), the IWBA delivers one cohesive assessment using a collaborative approach across the different facets of sustainability, facilitating shared knowledge and identifying the intersectionality between the topics considered. This approach removes unnecessary repetition whilst allowing for a robust and transparent assessment which identifies sustainable development issues and opportunities that can be iteratively fed back into the development of the NWRTP.
- 4.5. The Scoping Report sets out the scope of the IWBA and provides information to allow consultation with the statutory bodies (Natural Resources Wales and Cadw) on the scope and level of detail to be considered within the assessment. It sets the context, identifies relevant sustainability objectives for the assessment framework, and establishes the baseline.
- 4.6. It is also intended to share the Scoping Report with non-statutory bodies including the North Wales local authorities, Welsh Government and Transport for Wales, to provide the opportunity for feedback during the consultation with the statutory bodies.

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 are referenced in the body of the report.

APPENDICES:

- Appendix 1:** RTP IWBA Scoping Report
[appendices available on request]
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STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer:

“I have no objections to the recommendation in this report from a legal perspective. Without the IWBA scoping report the CJC would not be able to fulfil its statutory responsibility in developing its RTP.”

ii. Statutory Finance Officer:

“The development of a Regional Transport Plan is one of the core duties of the Corporate Joint Committee. The Integrated Wellbeing Appraisal Scoping Report is an important step in this work, and I have no objections to the decision sought from the perspective of financial propriety.”