
NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

17 January, 2025

TITLE: Regional Transport Plan for North Wales
– Case for Change and Stakeholder Engagement Plan

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to present the North Wales Regional Transport Plan Case for Change and Stakeholder Engagement Plan for North Wales. Both Plans were approved by the Strategic Transport Sub-Committee on 16 December, 2024. Both plans are a critical procedural step in developing the current draft North Wales Regional Transport Plan and create the necessary foundation to commence public consultation on 20th January, 2025.

2. DECISION SOUGHT

- 2.1. To approve the Case for Change including the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.
- 2.2. To support the commencement of public consultation on the draft Regional Transport Plan.

3. REASON FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1. Further to the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations 2021 transfers the function of developing transport policies in respect of the area of each of its constituent councils on the CJC. The development and implementation of a Regional Transport Plan is a statutory function exercised by the CJC through its sub-committee, supported by the Guidance to Corporate Joint Committees on Regional Transport Plans (Version 2) 2023. The Case for Change including the Stakeholder Engagement Plan are a key part of the process to develop a Regional Transport Plan for the North Wales region.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1. Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) have been formed to promote regional collaboration through a consistent and democratically controlled framework. CJCs are required to comply with all public body duties and have specific statutory duties including carrying out the function of the preparation and approval of Regional Transport Plans (RTPs). For North Wales, the CJC must develop transport policies to implement the Llwybr Newydd: the Wales Transport Strategy 2021, providing a long-term vision for the next 25 years. This work is being carried out collaboratively across the six local authorities that make up the Membership of the North Wales CJC, and representatives from the Eryri National Park Authority and Transport for Wales.

- 4.2. Sub-Committee members were presented with the policy context for the case for change at the meeting on 1 October. Work has been carried out to encompass the vision statement, SMART objectives and cross cutting themes into the case for change, which sets out the aim of the RTP. It draws on the Wales Transport Strategy (WTS) and other current strategic plans, as well as on existing knowledge of issues and opportunities including previous plans. The Stakeholder Engagement Plan as part of the Case for Change shows who will be involved in developing the RTP and how they will be involved, including details of the consultation process and other engagement mechanisms.
- 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.
- 4.4. The Strategic Transport Sub-Committee on 1st October recommended the CJC adopt North Wales Regional Transport Plan Vision statement, SMART objectives, and Cross-cutting themes for inclusion in the presented draft Case for Change and for the draft to be updated and presented to the sub-committee at its next meeting. The sub-committee was also requested to note the draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan presented, which must be prepared in support of the RTP, and to recommend any additional considerations that should be included. The sub-committee on 16 December approved the updated versions of the Case for Change and Stakeholder Engagement Plan and recommended that each constituent Council's Cabinet to be involved in the consultation process, review the draft RTP and respond to the consultation.
- 4.5. Both documents have been produced in partnership with Transport for Wales (Case for Change) and Arup (Stakeholder Engagement Plan). The CJC is requested to endorse the approval of both documents as the programme completes the development of the draft Regional Transport Plan (RTP), Regional Transport Delivery Plan (RTDP), Integrated Well-being Appraisal (IWBA) and its supporting evidence base to move towards public consultation with a commencement target of 20th January, 2025 (for 12 weeks). There may be minor technical amendments to these plans as part of the completion of the work, and anything that materially changes the strategic direction or content of what is being agreed will be brought back before Members.
- 4.6. The consultation is being carried out as a public consultation and in accordance with the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations, given the IWBA is being prepared to satisfy those Regulations, alongside wider impact assessments including but not limited to those helping to satisfy the Equality Act 2010 and Habitats Regulations. In accordance with the Welsh Government's guidance on public consultations, the consultation period will be 12 weeks, running from 20th January to 14th April, 2025. Whilst for the purposes of SEA in Wales, the Welsh Government has designated Cadw and Natural Resources Wales as 'Consultation Bodies' which must be consulted during the SEA assessment process, the public consultation will be open to all individuals and organisations to respond. All feedback will be carefully considered, and it is intended that updated documents will be produced addressing feedback as appropriate.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. Costs will be drawn from existing North Wales CJC budgets with the necessary support from Cyngor Gwynedd's Legal and Finance teams.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations 2021 sets out the duty on the CJC to develop policies for the promotion and encouragement of safe, integrated, efficient and economic transport. In exercising this function, they are tasked to develop and implement transport policies for their area of the Llwybr Newydd: the Wales Transport Strategy 2021. The development and implementation of a Regional Transport Plan is a statutory function exercised by the CJC through its sub-committee, with Transport Plan and policy approval retained by the CJC.

APPENDICES:

- Appendix 1:** Case for Change including Annex 1 Policy Context
- Appendix 2:** Stakeholder Engagement Plan
[Technical appendices available on request – Annex 2 Background Data & Research]
- Appendix 3:** Draft Regional Transport Plan (RTP)

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. **Monitoring Officer.**

“The report has been the subject of legal input. It based on detailed research an engagement as well as required impact assessments. I am satisfied with it's propriety.”

ii. **Statutory Finance Officer:**

“I have no objections to the decision sought from the perspective of financial propriety. I expect the work of developing the plan to be completed within the budget of the CJC.”