REPORT TO THE STRATEGIC TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE
13 July, 2026

TITLE: Regional Transport Planning Audit

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1. To inform Members about an audit of Regional Transport Planning in North Wales by Audit Wales that took place in May and June 2026.

2. DECISION SOUGHT

2.1. No decision is sought. Members are asked to note the report.

3. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

3.1. Audit Wales approached the Chief Executive of Ambition North Wales regarding the opportunity to undertake an audit of the regional transport planning process in North Wales, that would consider the development and approval of the Regional Transport Plan (RTP), the prioritisation and agreement of the Regional Transport Fund (RTF) programme, and the governance that supports those processes. The audit took place in May and June 2026.

4. OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE OF THE AUDIT

4.1 The objective for the audit was to assess if the North Wales CJC has put in place effective arrangements to discharge its statutory regional transport planning duties and deliver value for money. This focused on whether its planning, resourcing and performance management arrangements are operating as intended.

4.2 The audit did not examine individual transport projects, operational service delivery, detailed financial audit work, or unrelated CJC functions.

4.3 The audit was conducted under section 17 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 (the 2004 Act) and section 15 of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

5. QUESTIONS

5.1 The audit considered the overall question "Has the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee put appropriate arrangements in place to discharge its statutory regional transport planning duties and deliver value for money?

5.2 The more detailed questions were:

- Has the CJC clearly defined its statutory responsibilities, objectives and priorities for regional transport planning?
- Has the CJC put in place proportionate arrangements to plan, prioritise, and resource regional transport activity?
- Are there robust arrangements to manage programme delivery, monitor progress, and report performance against agreed objectives?

6. DATA GATHERING

6.1 Audit Wales requested a suite of documents for review, which were compiled by Ambition North Wales officers and shared.

6.2 A number of interviews also took place that included:

- Chair or the Strategic Transport Sub Committee
- Chief Executive of Ambition North Wales
- Ambition North Wales Portfolio Director
- Ambition North Wales Monitoring Officer
- Section 151 Officer
- Ambition North Wales Senior Transport Officer
- The consultant who worked on the RTP and RTF programme
- Ambition North Wales Strategic Planning Lead
- A representative from Transport for Wales

7. REPORTING TIMESCALES

7.1 The initial report is expected back from Audit Wales in late June or early July. Ambition North Wales will then have opportunity to review and respond to the report and any recommendations.

7.2 Those timescales did not allow a detailed consideration of the audit report to be included in these Sub-Committee papers, but it is intended to bring this analysis and detail to a future meeting.

7.3 Once finalised, the audit report will be publicly available on the Audit Wales website.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1. There are no direct financial implications arising out of this report.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1. There are no direct legal implications arising out of this report.

APPENDICES:

N/A

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer:

"The report is for noting and provides an update on the Audit Wales review of the CJC's regional transport planning arrangements. As no decision is sought at this stage, there are no immediate legal implications.

Once the Audit Wales report is received and finalised, any recommendations or improvement actions should be considered through the CJC's appropriate governance arrangements, with clear ownership, timescales and reporting lines. Any constitutional, financial or resource implications arising from the audit findings should be identified at that stage."

ii. Statutory Finance Officer:

"This audit was included in the performance audit plan that was presented by Audit Wales to the Governance and Audit Sub-Committee on 4 June 2026."