
REPORT TO THE STRATEGIC TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE

31 March, 2025

TITLE: Progress update on Strategic Development Plan (SDP) and relationship with the Regional Transport Plan (RTP)

AUTHOR: Alwen Williams, CJC Interim Chief Executive
Andy Roberts, Regional Strategic Development Planning Officer

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. This report provides an update to the Strategic Transport Sub-Committee on progress with preparing a Delivery Agreement (DA) for the regional Strategic Development Plan (SDP) as well as highlighting the broad nature of the relationship between the RTP and SDP.

2. DECISION SOUGHT

- 2.1. To note the progress to date.

3. REASON FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1. To ensure that the Strategic Transport Sub-Committee is made fully aware of the progress with the SDP from an early stage, to promote regular engagement and an integrated approach to strategic planning.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1. Statutory duties were imposed on Corporate Joint Committees by the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, relating to regional economic well-being, spatial planning, and transport planning.
- 4.2. The aim is to promote collaborative regional working to deliver more effective outcomes for communities by ensuring key issues, development and associated infrastructure is planned for in an integrated and comprehensive way, which is aligned tightly to economic development ambitions and Welsh Government's vision for a more strategic approach to both land-use and transport planning.
- 4.3. In regard to spatial planning, the statutory duty to prepare both a Local Development Plan (LDP) and an SDP is set out in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). The Town and Country Planning (Strategic Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2021 (SDP Regulations) were subsequently made enabling CJC's to prepare an SDP. A draft SDP Manual was issued to all Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) in Autumn 2022, which it is anticipated will be finalised in Spring 2025. The draft Manual provides guidance on high-level timelines to produce an SDP and is detailed and prescriptive, anticipating that an SDP should take five years to produce.

- 4.4. It is not anticipated therefore that the SDP will be adopted until 2030 earliest, and in the interim LDPs must be kept up to date, ensuring, for example, that investment and sustainable development can continue to take place in a Plan-led way, providing confidence to all stakeholders including investors, developers, and communities.
- 4.5. To support the preparation of the SDP, an appropriate officer from the North Wales Local Authority network to be the Regional Strategic Development Planning Officer (Corporate Joint Committee) regarding regional spatial planning has been recruited. This ensures representation for local authority (LA) and regional interests, allied to subject matter expertise. A secondment with the North Wales CJC started in this role in January 2025, initially on a shared time basis but to be full time from 1st April, 2025.

5. SDP PROGRESS

- 5.1. The Regional Strategic Development Planning Officer will initially support the preparation of the programme plan and Delivery Agreement (DA), which is a public statement that contains the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) setting out how and when stakeholders and the community can become involved in the Plan making process and a timetable (Regulation 10) for preparing the SDP - Regulation 11 (1). They will analyse the requirements of the SDP and liaise across all stakeholder groups, collaborating to produce the SDP.
- 5.2. The indicative timetable for this work is outlined below:
1. CJC to Authorise preparation of DA - January 2025
 2. Prepare draft DA and informally consult key consultees – February-March 2025
 3. Revise draft DA (if required) – April 2025
 4. Formally consult on DA – May-June 2025
 5. CJC to formally adopt DA – July 2025
 6. Submit adopted DA to Welsh Government – July-August 2025
 7. Publish DA on website and formally notify all stakeholders – asap following WG approval

6. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SDP AND RTP

- 6.1. Because of the inter-related economic, transport and land use remit given to the CJC, there is a real opportunity to integrate all these elements in the way it plans for growth, investment, movement and infrastructure provision. It is also a benefit that one component of this integrated strategic approach is already well on its way to being in place as the RTP is progressing through its public and stakeholder consultation stage. This provides a helpful context to inform the development of the SDP and in turn this can shape future monitoring and updates of the RTP. In summary:
- The SDP can help by shaping the pattern of development, reducing the need to travel between key land uses, and better incorporating inter-modal transport strategies into land use planning decisions, to enable people to make more informed and sustainable travel choices;
 - An effective strategic plan also sells a long-term story and ambitious vision supported by strong principles, through which policies and projects are better integrated and complementary, allowing public and government support to be secured;

- Other benefits of taking a collaborative integrated approach to strategic land-use and transport planning is the enhanced ability to deliver transformational projects and national priorities, a potential to pool knowledge and expertise, a pooling of resources to achieve efficiencies, and the ability to promote early engagement to identify shared priorities.

6.2. Once the SDP Delivery agreement is approved by Welsh Government work on the SDP will formally commence and the integrated approach referenced above can be further developed as the plan progresses.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1. Regulation 11 of the SDP Regulations requires the CJC to produce a Delivery Agreement to guide plan production.

APPENDICES:

None

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer:

"I welcome this progress report in relation to one of the key statutory functions of the CJC. It presents a clear timetable to take the process forward."

ii. Statutory Finance Officer:

"The decision sought does not create an additional financial commitment. A budget is in place to finance the work on the Strategic Development Plan and the Regional Transport Plan."