
NORTH WALES CJC STRATEGIC TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE
13/07/2026

Present: Councillor David Bithell (Wrexham County Borough Council) (Chair).

Councillors:

Ieuan Williams (Isle of Anglesey County Council), Craig ab Iago (Cyngor Gwynedd), Mike Priestley (Conwy County Borough Council), Barry Mellor (Denbighshire County Council), and Glyn Banks (Flintshire County Council).

Co-opted Members (Non-voting):

Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd (Eryri National Park), Keira Sweenie (Eryri National Park) and Henry Bradshaw (Transport for Wales).

Constituent Councils' Liaison Officers:

Huw Percy (Isle of Anglesey County Council), Gerwyn Jones (Cyngor Gwynedd), Geraint Edwards (Conwy County Borough Council), Emlyn Jones (Denbighshire County Council), Katie Wilby (Flintshire County Council), Darren Williams (Wrexham County Borough Council), and Gwen Thomas (Wrexham County Borough Council).

Officers present:

Mark Watkins (Monitoring Officer), Dewi Morgan (S151 Officer), Dave Hole (Corporate Joint Committee Implementation Programme Manager), Adam Graham (Senior Transport Officer), Courtney Jones (Democracy Services Officer), and Sera Whitley (Democracy Services Officer).

Others present:

Anthony McKenna (Transport for Wales), Robyn MacNamara (Network Rail), and Jan Chaudhry (Transport for Wales).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:-

- Alwen Williams (Chief Executive of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee)
- Dafydd Wyn Williams (Cyngor Gwynedd) with Gerwyn Jones deputising
- Helen Edwards (Deputy Monitoring Officer)

2. ELECTION OF A CHAIR FOR 2026/27

It was decided to elect Councillor David Bithell as Chair of the Sub-committee for 2026/27.

3. ELECTION OF A VICE-CHAIR FOR 2026/27

It was decided to elect Councillor Glyn Banks as Vice-chair of the Sub-committee for 2026/27.

4. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interest.

5. URGENT ITEMS

No urgent items were raised.

6. MINUTES

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 March 2026 as a true record.

7. PRESENTATION: NORTH WALES NETWORK

An update on the North Wales Network was given by Transport for Wales and Network Rail.

8. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The report was presented by Adam Graham, Senior Transport Officer.

RESOLVED

The Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for the Regional Transport Plan and the schemes funded by the Regional Transport Fund were approved, including the roles and responsibilities of the relevant partners.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

When the Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) was in the process of developing a programme of schemes to be funded through the Regional Transport Fund, the Welsh Government issued guidance stating that "The CJC will need to establish systems and be adequately informed to effectively oversee all projects in the programme, monitor delivery to schedule and report on any changes to the work programme and/or expenditure profile."

A different set of desk-top instructions issued by the Welsh Government include how Corporate Joint Committees should evaluate outcomes in relation to the Regional Transport Fund.

DISCUSSION

The report was presented, highlighting that the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan had been adopted as part of the Regional Transport Plan. It was confirmed that additional guidelines had been received from Welsh Government since the report was last presented to the Subcommittee.

Attention was drawn to the fact that the appendix provided a full list of schemes and data sources used for the Monitoring and Evaluation Process.

The officers were thanked for their report.

9. REGIONAL TRANSPORT PLANNING AUDIT

The report was presented by Adam Graham, Senior Transport Officer.

RESOLVED

To note the report.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

None to note.

DISCUSSION

It was reported that Audit Wales had audited the Regional Transport Planning process in May 2026 and June 2026, to consider whether the North Wales CJC had put in place the appropriate arrangements to carry out its statutory Regional Transport Planning duties and provide value for money. It was noted that several internal and external individuals had been interviewed, including the Chair of the Sub-committee and Senior Transport Officer.

Members were informed that the report by Audit Wales had not yet been received, however it was confirmed that it would be shared at a future meeting of the Sub-committee. It was confirmed that the final report would be in the public domain once published.

It was noted that the only matter raised by Audit Wales related to the CJC's monitoring arrangements on the work programme of the Strategic Transport Sub-committee, and particularly as to whether there were sufficient challenge and scrutiny of the Regional Transport Plan. It was explained that Audit Wales could present this as a recommendation to the Sub-committee. It was confirmed that Audit Wales was otherwise satisfied.

10. DECISION MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR IN-YEAR MANAGEMENT OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORT FUND

The report was presented by Adam Graham, Senior Transport Officer.

RESOLVED

The Strategic Transport Sub-Committee to recommend to the Corporate Joint Committee that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair of the Strategic Transport Sub-Committee, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Finance Officer and relevant local authority transport leads, to approve and submit regional change requests to the Welsh Government in respect of the in-year management of the Regional Transport Fund programme.

The Sub Committee should note that the Welsh Government would remain as the final grant decision-maker regarding the Regional Transport Fund.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

This decision would allow more efficient and timely decision-making regarding in-year changes to the budget and maximise the benefits of Regional Transport Fund funding for North Wales.

DISCUSSION

The report was presented, highlighting the expectations placed on the CJC as part of the Sub-committee's responsibilities of managing the Regional Transport Fund during the year. It was noted that the region was required to make recommendations to the Welsh Government for any changes to the programme.

It was noted that it was difficult to cope with the current governance decision-making process required by the Sub-committee, where reports were submitted to the CJC on a quarterly basis. It was explained that this report asked the Sub-Committee to make a recommendation to the CJC for delegated authority to allow decisions to be made. It was noted that any final decision on changes to the programme would rest with the Welsh Government.

In response to a question about democratic accountability, it was confirmed that Ambition North Wales was monitoring the programme and working closely with officers at a local authority level to deliver the Plan. It was explained that this involved regular meetings and quarterly meetings and this was where any initial discussions about democratic accountability would be identified. It was noted that the best approach was to retain funding within the local authority to which the money was allocated, but that this depended on contingency plans and staff capacity in local authorities.

It was clarified that the decisions in question would still be made by elected members who had the democratic mandate, in terms of moving the decision-making process from the CJC to the Sub-committee as stated in the decision sought.

It was noted that it would be useful to distribute the full list of schemes and the reserve list as information to members. Given that funding would come directly to the CJC next year, it was noted that the Sub-committee needed to be aware of the lists of schemes for the Regional Transport Plan. It was confirmed that the list of schemes was already in the public domain, but that it would be included in an appendix when the report was submitted to the CJC.

The meeting started at 14:00 and concluded at 15:20.

Chair