
REPORT TO THE STRATEGIC TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE 2 NOVEMBER, 2026

TITLE: Regional Transport Planning Audit

AUTHOR: Adam Graham, Senior Transport Officer

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. To inform Members about the final report received from Audit Wales after their audit of Regional Transport Planning in North 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, which 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.
- 3.2. Members were informed that the audit had taken place at the Sub-Committee meeting on 3 July 2026, but the final report and recommendations had not been received at that time. The final report was received from Audit Wales in August 2026.

4. OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE OF THE AUDIT

- 4.1. The objective of the audit was to assess whether 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. FINDINGS

- 5.1. A summary of Audit Wales' findings included in the report is "The CJC is continuing to develop its transport planning arrangements, taking a pragmatic approach to managing funding and resource constraints. While progress is being made, current projects focus on individual local

authority priorities and performance reporting focuses on activities. Focusing on regional outcomes when making decisions helps achieve long term value for money.”

- 5.2. Detailed findings of the audit can be seen in the report that is included as Appendix 1.

6. AUDIT WALES RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1. Audit Wales recognise that the CJC is a new organisation that is in a transitional phase regarding regional transport, moving from planning to implementation.

- 6.2. The recommendations Audit Wales have made aim to help the CJC strengthen its arrangements to support delivery of its regional transport plan. The recommendations are:

- R1: In order to ensure effective oversight of delivery and performance the CJC should:
 - o Introduce a clear set of key performance indicators, outcome measures and benefits realisation metrics aligned to strategic objectives
 - o Fully implement the monitoring and evaluation framework, including use of existing tools to track benefits and demonstrate value for money
 - o Use performance data proactively and consistently to challenge delivery, drive improvement, and inform strategic decisions
 - o Embed regular performance review procedures with clear escalation routes for underperformance.
- R2: In order to strengthen risk management and oversight the CJC should:
 - o Develop and maintain a formal transport risk register that captures all key risks and assigns ownership and accountability for managing and monitoring
 - o Identify appropriate controls and mitigating actions
 - o Establish defined risk escalation procedures, including thresholds and reporting routes
 - o Ensure risk information is used to support consistent performance monitoring and inform decision-making.

7. RESPONSE TO REPORT

- 7.1. Ambition North Wales has welcomed the report, which notes the quality of the Regional Transport Plan and the collaborative working across the region, whilst acknowledging the transitional phase of regional transport funding and the emerging internal processes of the organisation.

- 7.2. The report makes some useful recommendations regarding performance management and risk management, which are now being actioned. Two Transport Officers have been recruited, and part of their role will be to support this process. That performance and risk management work will be used to inform future updates to the Sub Committee.

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:

Appendix 1 – Audit Wales report on Regional Transport Planning in North Wales

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer:

“The proposed reporting of progress on performance and risk management will support the Sub-Committee’s oversight. Future updates should identify progress against the audit recommendations, outstanding actions and any matters requiring a decision.”

ii. Statutory Finance Officer:

“I welcome the report. Finance will collaborate with the relevant officers as required to implement the report’s recommendations.”