

SOUTH WEST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

Southwest Wales Transport Sub Committee

7th May 2024

Report Title: South West Wales Regional Transport Plan – Programme Update

Purpose of Report	To inform and seek endorsement of an amendment to the programme of works for the SWW Regional Transport Plan – initial draft stage and that it be commended to the Corporate Joint Committee for approval.
Recommendation(s)	It is recommended that members endorse an amendment to the programme of works for the SWW Regional Transport Plan – initial draft stage as identified in this report and that it be commended to the Corporate Joint Committee for approval.
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Finance Officer	Chris Moore
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Introduction / Background:

The Southwest Wales team have worked effectively to date, delivering the Implementation Plan and Case for Change stages of the project in a timely manner. This has recently been commended by Ken Skates, the new Cabinet Secretary for North Wales and Transport.

'The South West must be congratulated for producing this Case for Change efficiently and moving forward swiftly in the RTP development.' (**Appendix 1**)

Prior to submitting the draft Regional Transport Plan by the 31st of October 2024 deadline, it has been suggested by Welsh Government that we should undertake an additional early public consultation during May and June to verify our proposed direction of travel. The timeline for this consultation is further challenged by the pre-election period for the Police and Crime

Commissioner elections. This will delay the proposed submission of the initial draft to Welsh Government which was originally intended for the 29th May 2024.

Timescales:

Next Phase

The proposed amendment to the programme indicates that we will continue with the full draft submission by 31st October 2024. The intention is to submit a ‘policy only’ update to Welsh Government in late July, following the May/June consultation. The team have been told this is acceptable by Welsh Government.

Proposed Draft RTP timeline:

Initial Timeline	May	July	October
Draft RTP	Submit first draft 29 th May		Submit final draft 31 st October
Proposed Timeline	May/June	July	October
Draft RTP	Technical stakeholder, community councils and public consultation	Submit policy update to Welsh Government	Submit final draft 31 st October

Remaining Programme Delivery

To note, whilst the region has expressed concern regarding both finance and the final completion timeline to Welsh Government, response indicates there remains no change to either. **(See Appendix 1)**

The working group continues to be concerned about the inadequate amount of budget allocated and the completion of a meaningful final plan by 29th March 2025. A possible general election in the Autumn could impact significantly on full consultation of the draft plan in Oct, November and December 2024 as currently planned, leading to further delays. The overall programme for RTP development remains extremely challenging.

Financial Impacts:

The CJC has allocated funding to assist with the development of the RTP and Welsh Government has made £125k of funding available for 2023-24 work, and £100k available for this new financial year towards the development of the RTP.

The full cost of the RTP is yet to be determined but further funding will be required. The funding will need to be provided to enable the plan to be progressed and this will need to be identified and allocated through discussion with Welsh Government.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

The CJC is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

In recognition of the above duties, the CJC has adopted an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) Tool which allows for a 2 stage approach to be undertaken to measure any potential impact of its decisions. It is not considered that an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) is required for this report as it does not seek a substantive policy decision from Members

The CJC approved its Corporate Plan 2023-2028 in March 2023. The Corporate Plan includes the CJC's Equality Objective which is set out below for ease of reference:

“To deliver a more equal South West Wales by 2035 by contributing towards:

- (a) The achievement of the [Welsh Government's long-term equality aim](#) of eliminating inequality caused by poverty;*
- (b) The achievement of the [Equality statement set out in Llwybr Newydd](#) which is to make our transport services and infrastructure accessible and inclusive by aiming to remove the physical, attitudinal, environmental, systemic, linguistic and economic barriers that prevent people from using sustainable transport, and*
- (c) [The achievement of the Welsh Government's long-term equality aims](#) of cohesive communities that are resilient, fair and equal and where everyone is able to participate in political, public and everyday life. There will be no room for racism and / or discrimination of any kind.”*

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Alignment with CJC Corporate Plan 2023-2028 and the identified CJC Well-being objectives:

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

The CJC approved its Corporate Plan 2023-2028 in March 2023. The Corporate Plan contains the CJC's well-being objectives and frames the corporate direction of travel. To this end, it is considered that the recommendation(s) contained within this report align(s) to the corporate policy framework of the CJC as set out within its Corporate Plan, most notably in terms of Well-being Objective 2 as outlined below for ease of reference:

Well-Being Objective 2

“To produce a Regional Transport Plan for South West Wales that is founded on collaboration and enables the delivery of a transport system which is good for our current and future generations of people and communities, good for our environment and good for our economy and places (rural and urban).”

Workforce Impacts:

The CJC has approved resources to support the development of the RTP and hence recruitment processes are continuing to be followed to secure support. In addition, the region will procure specialist support as necessary to develop the RTP.

Legal Impacts:

The draft phase of developing a Regional Transport Plan is a duty placed on the CJC by Welsh Government pursuant to the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021. The South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations came into force on 1st April 2021 which contains the timeframes for the discharging of specific functions.

Risk Management Impacts:

None.

Consultation:

No formal consultation required for the purpose of this report.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

To meet the duty placed on the CJC.

Implementation of Decision:

Following the 3-day call in period.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – WG Letter 9.4.24

List of Background Papers:

None

