

## SOUTH WEST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE (SWWCJC)

### Overview and Scrutiny Sub Committee

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024

### Report of the Chief Executive

**Report Title: Regional Transport Plan (RTP) Policy Framework (Draft) & Consultation Update**

<p><b>Purpose of Report</b></p>	<p>To update Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Sub Committee of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (SWWCJC) on the progress with the Regional Transport Plan and seek endorsement for the Regional Transport Plan policy framework together with the revised programme of work to develop and deliver the Regional Transport Plan (RTP).</p>
<p><b>Recommendation(s)</b></p>	<p>It is recommended that Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Sub Committee of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (SWWCJC), ahead of seeking approval from the SWWCJC;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Note the verbal progress reports from officers on the RTP development workstreams</li> <li>2. Endorse the Regional Transport Plan policy framework</li> <li>3. Endorse the revised RTP development work programme</li> </ol>
<p><b>Report Author</b></p>	<p>Stuart Davies Head of Highways &amp; Transportation, City &amp; County of Swansea Council</p> <p>Mark Wade Director of Place, City &amp; County of Swansea Council</p>
<p><b>Finance Officer</b></p>	<p>Chris Moore</p>
<p><b>Legal Officer</b></p>	<p>Craig Griffiths</p>

## 1. Introduction:

The South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (SWWCJC) has been mandated to produce a Regional Transport Plan (RTP) for the region by Welsh Government, in conformity with the Transport (Wales) Act (2006) and to complement Llwybr Newydd: Wales Transport Strategy (2021).

Following the successful approval of the Implementation Plan by Welsh Government prior to Christmas 2023 the region submitted the Case for Change as approved by this Committee on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024.

Welsh Government is not proposing to offer formal feedback on the Case for Change, but officials have indicated their broad support for the Case for Change and advised the SWWCJC accordingly.

## 2. Progress:

### 2.1 Data Book and Accessibility Analysis

To aid the development of the RTP a 'data book' that sets out a quantitative analysis of various data sources has been produced including the regional indices of multiple deprivation (IMD), 2021 census population and transport information and information on environmental matters.

To support the analysis for the RTP officers have produced an analysis of accessibility by active travel, bus & rail and car to several key destinations across the region. This information when used in conjunction with the data book forms the broad basis on which policy requirements and schemes / interventions will be assessed.

### 2.2 Draft Regional Transport Plan Progress

The draft RTP continues to be developed. To ensure progress is made the policy aspects of the RTP have been developed in advance of the RTDP which is discussed below. The draft policy framework is appended to this report (**Appendix A**).

The policy framework follows the Welsh Transport Strategy core priorities of themes of (i) reducing the need to travel (ii) allowing people and goods to move easily from door to door by accessible, sustainable transport and (iii) encouraging people to make the change to more sustainable transport. Within these three priorities specific modes of travel and region-specific requirements covering, for example, tourism related tourism and the effect of the City Deal and Freeport initiatives on transport are explored.



### 2.3 Draft Regional Transport Delivery Plan Progress and Intervention Assessment Matrix

The Regional Transport Delivery Plan (RTDP) will set out the region's aspiration for specific schemes and interventions. The RTP guidance sees the RTDP as the region's recommended programme for investment. All specific schemes and interventions, if funding is allocated, will remain subject to further development under the Weltag process and the tests of value for money.

The RTDP requires an assessment matrix that will provide an evidence-based approach to scheme selection. The assessment matrix has been developed and will be populated with the details of specific schemes and interventions which will be assessed for deliverability and subject to both qualitative and quantitative analysis. The analysis will ensure that a programme of deliverable and worthy interventions forms the RTDP.

As technical work on scheme development continues, officers will provide a verbal update to the CJC on progress together with a presentation on the detail of the proposed assessment matrix which the CJC is asked to note.

### 3. Timescales:

Officers are currently reviewing the programme to deliver the RTP to reflect availability of supporting information and review of approval processes.

There are a number of unforeseen influences impacting on progress:

- General election and delayed informal consultation – consultation outcome report not available until mid-September.
- More complex metro programme – issues of data availability and scheme revisions.
- Lack of scheme development due to Southwest Wales not being subject to a “Burns Commission”.
- Awaiting further data inputs from Transport for Wales (TfW).
- Cabinet and Council approvals for each Authority within the region will be required prior to final submission in the spring of 2025.

The proposed programme milestone amendments are set out below and have recently been discussed with Transport for Wales, who have acknowledged the challenging timeline.

The SWWCJC is asked to approve the proposed revisions which provide for a draft RTP and RTDP to be submitted to the Welsh Government in December 2024. Formal Statutory consultation will commence in January 2025, resulting in the final plan submission in June 2025.



## Activity Timeline (Programme)

	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	
Activity timeline																								
CJC to submit implementation plan to WG	31/10/2023 completed																							
CJC to submit RTP Case for Change (including SMART objectives) to WG					29 Feb Completed																			
First informal public consultation									General Election PEP		Completed													
CJC to submit initial draft of RTP, WBA and RTDP to WG (before public consultation)								29/05/2023 (Update Only)				Submit policy update & cons. Feedback												
CJC to submit final draft of RTP, WBA and RTDP to WG													31-Oct		Dec									
Statutory consultation & feedback (Including IWBA)																								
Governance (CJC and Councils)																								
CJC to submit final RTP, IWBA and RTDP to WG																		29-Mar			Cabinets & Council	CJC		
WG decision on approval of RTP.																							30-Jun	
Develop a Monitoring & Evaluation Plan																								



Parc Cenedlaethol  
 Arfordir Penfro  
 Pembrokeshire Coast  
 National Park



#### 4. Consultation and stakeholder engagement:

The development of an engagement plan has previously been documented in the approved Implementation Plan, and then presented in the approved Case for Change document.

As noted at the May 2024 meeting of the CJC, informal public consultation on the vision for the RTP and the Case for Change together with the current state of the transport network was undertaken from July 15th to August 26th, 2024 (Delayed due to General Election).

The public consultation has been supported by briefings to elected Members across the region and to Community Council representatives.

The initial public response rate is judged by officers to be at a level where meaningful conclusions can be drawn from the responses made.

A full report on the recent informal public consultation will be published and a verbal update on matters emerging from the consultation provided to the CJC.

In parallel to the informal public consultation a series of themed workshops with technical and subject matter expert stakeholders have been scheduled throughout September 2024.

Please see the stakeholder engagement map figure 1.

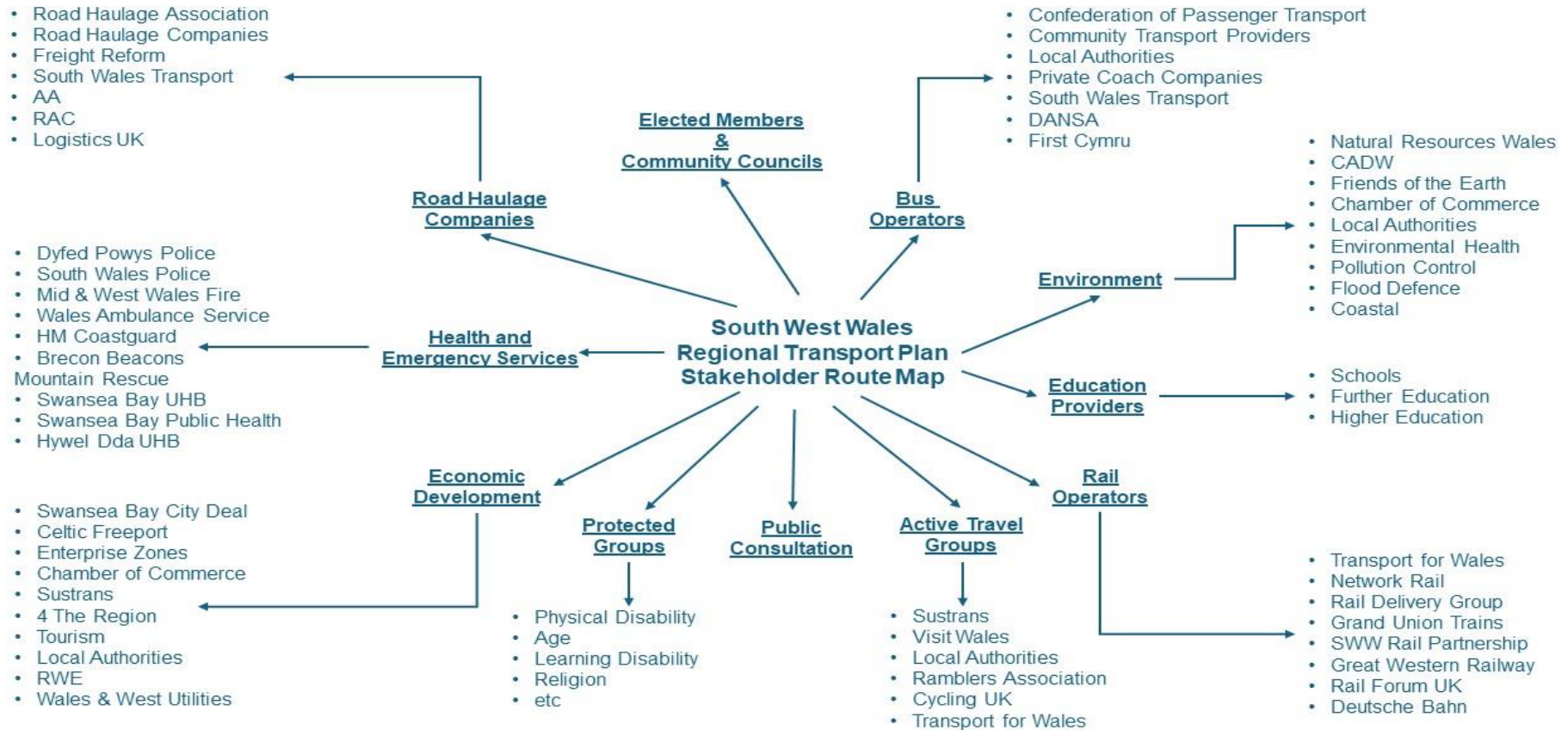
Please note, the list of cohorts mentioned is not exhaustive, and the region is actively encouraging everyone to engage in the development of the plan.

The next stage of the process will be to undertake statutory public consultation over the Winter 24/25 period.

The current stakeholder engagement schedule is noted in (**Appendix B**). Timelines may be subject to variation as the programme progresses.



Figure 1. Stakeholder engagement map



## 5. Financial Impacts:

The SWWCJC has allocated funding to assist with the development of the RTP.

Welsh Government made £125k available in 2023-24 with a further £100k in 2024-25.

The full cost of the RTP is yet to be determined but it remains clear that 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 ongoing discussion with Welsh Government.

## 6. 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 two stage approach to be undertaken to measure any potential impact of its decisions.

**Following the consultation undertaken during January 2024 on the proposed actions to deliver the well-being objectives, the findings were incorporated within an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) and the Corporate Plan updated and approved as version 002. Whilst the actions were subject to amendment the well-being objectives remain unchanged.**



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.

### **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).”*



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Neath Port Talbot Council



Parc Cenedlaethol  
Arfordir Penfro  
Pembrokeshire Coast  
National Park

Bannau  
Brycheiniog 2



**The Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) (Appendix C) associated with the Corporate Plan has been utilised to inform the draft policy framework. An informal consultation was undertaken during the period of 15<sup>th</sup> July – 26<sup>th</sup> August 2024, the findings will aid the preparation for a formal consultation on the Regional Transport Plan and assist in the development of a fuller integration impact assessment that will be created when the Regional Transport Plan is ready for approval.**

## **7. Workforce Impacts:**

The regional support team is now fully resourced, following the appointment of an additional officer in July 2024.

## **8. Legal Impacts:**

The production of the draft RTP and RTDP is the third stage of producing a Regional Transport Plan which 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 the timeframes for the discharging of specific functions.

## **9. Risk Management Impacts:**

None

## **10. Consultation:**

Whilst no formal consultation is required for the purpose of this update report, an informal consultation was undertaken (15<sup>th</sup> July – 26<sup>th</sup> August 2024) on the Case for Change. The findings will aid the preparation for the formal consultation on the Regional Transport Plan due early in 2025.

## **11. Reasons for Proposed Decision:**

To meet the duty placed on the Corporate Joint Committee for South West Wales (SWWCJC).

## **12. Implementation of Decision:**

Following the three day call in period.



## Appendices:

Appendix A – Regional Transport Plan (RTP) Policy Framework

Appendix B – Stakeholder Engagement Schedule

Appendix C – Integrated Impact Assessment associated to the Corporate Plan  
2023-2028 ver002

## List of Background Papers:

**South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (SWWCJC)  
23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024**

South West Wales Regional Transport Plan – Programme Update

[SWWCJC - RTP Update May 24 230524 Final.pdf \(npt.gov.uk\)](#)



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