

Policy Framework

The policy context of the RTP

The RTP is designed primarily to bring a regional focus to the delivery of the Wales Transport Strategy, Llwybr Newydd, 2021.

The formal Welsh Government guidance for the development of RTP sets out that the RTP sets the policies for implementing Llwybr Newydd at a regional level. The policy of Llwybr Newydd is based upon a vision for an accessible, sustainable, and efficient transport system across all of Wales.

The Regional Transport Plan for Southwest Wales (“the RTP”) has been developed to ensure that the region has the transport network that it desires. The transport network is at the heart of the region; it takes us to work, education and play across the region and further afield.

The context is set locally by Swansea Bay City Deal, a £1.2billion investment in the region’s economy and social infrastructure and by the aspiration shown by the region’s local authorities. It is essential that complementary private investment is attracted to the region at a faster rate to ensure we have the economic activity and infrastructure to achieve great things. We also have a series of vital public services such as hospitals, local healthcare facilities, schools, colleges, universities together with retail sites, leisure facilities and employment sites that we need to access. Our city and town centres are vital hubs in our transport network and communities that they serve.

Nationally, Llwybr Newydd: the Wales transport strategy 2021 sets a new direction for transport in terms of both services and infrastructure and in terms of the movement of people and also goods. Llwybr Newydd sets out that in the changing world that surrounds our transport system, that the system must be accessible, sustainable and efficient. This means a transport system that is good for people and communities, good for the environment, good for the economy and places and supports a thriving Welsh language and culture. It should also ensure that the transport legacy we leave for future generations is tangible and capable of continued operation.

The transport system we have doesn’t operate in isolation. It is driven by the land-use and environmental choices we face and the level of economic activity we have. It is also shaped by the communities that we are all part of; our needs and aspiration for transport determine the level of use now and into the future. The system will need to meet these changing requirements and give us the capability to reach our potential whether individually or as a wider community.

To shape the RTP we have developed a vision that translates Llwybr Newydd into region specific aims to give shape to the RTP policy framework.

1. To have a transport system that provides access to opportunity and the social fabric of the region.
2. To have a transport system that recognises the diverse communities of the region and their varying transport needs.
3. To have a transport system that seeks to decarbonise its impact at the best rate possible.
4. To have a transport system that recognises a hierarchy of travel modes appropriate to geographic location and cost.
5. To have a transport system that is designed to allow sustainable delivery in other policy areas.
6. To promote sustainable travel choices wherever practical.

Set out below are the proposed policies that will provide the framework for the RTP. The precise wording of each policy is under development by officers and will reflect the outcomes of the recent public consultation and the ongoing stakeholder engagement.

Llwybr Newydd Priority 1

Llwybr Newydd Priority 1 sets out a clear vision to reduce the need for travel by bringing services and also facilities closer to people. The policies we propose in this area will set our general approach to reducing travel requirements by making access to local services better, by ensuring transport that stimulates economic activity is delivered in the most suitable way and by ensuring that the specific transport challenges our rural communities face are met.

Figure 1. Llwybr Newydd Priority 1 Summary

AN ACCESSIBLE, SUSTAINABLE AND	Llwybr Newydd Priority 1	Bring services to people in order to reduce the need to travel.	REGIONAL TRANSPORT PLAN AIMS	To improve physical connectivity through enhancing active travel infrastructure to local services.	REGIONAL TRANSPORT PLAN OBJECTIVES	To improve active travel infrastructure to local services in the first instance. Where this is not feasible enable residents to make sustainable travel choices. To have a transport system that supports the growth and development of sustainable economic activity in the region.
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The proposed policies:

Policy 1 – Reducing the need to travel

Policy 2 – Making local transport infrastructure and services fit for purpose

Policy 3 – Transport that enables economic development

Policy 4 – Transport and land use planning, including the Freeport and major developments

Policy 5 – Rural Areas and transport provision

Llwybr Newydd Priority 2

Llwybr Newydd Priority 2 provides the overarching context for investment in our transport system. The policies will provide the region’s view on how the transport system delivers for our communities and how choice of travel mode may be influenced.

The policies proposed also reflect the need to ensure that the transport system decarbonises and minimises the wider impacts of demand for travel. To support these overarching policy objectives, a series of mode-specific policies will provide the detail required to support choices on future investment.

Whilst the RTP cannot promote rail schemes nor seek infrastructure maintenance funds through the RTP they form essential elements of the provision of the transport network that in policy terms the RTP will be required to comment upon.

Figure 2. Llwybr Newydd Priority 2 Summary

AN ACCESSIBLE, SUSTAINABLE AND EFFICIENT TRANSPORT SYSTEM	Llwybr Newydd Priority 2	Allow people and goods to move easily from door to door by accessible, sustainable and efficient transport services and infrastructure.	REGIONAL TRANSPORT PLAN AIMS	To achieve a shift away from private car use to more sustainable travel modes through service and infrastructure improvements.	REGIONAL TRANSPORT PLAN OBJECTIVES	To have a transport system that recognises the hierarchy of travel modes identified in Llwybr Newydd, which is as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Walking and cycling (highest priority) 2. Public transport (rail, bus, community transport and taxis) 3. Ultra-low emission vehicles 4. Private motor vehicles (lowest priority). To have a transport system that recognises the diverse communities of the region and their varying transport needs.
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The proposed policies:

Policy 6 – The transport system reflecting local communities in Southwest Wales

Policy 7 – Travel Mode choice

Policy 8 – Decarbonisation and environmental impacts

Policy 9 – Walking, Cycling and Active Travel

Policy 10 – Rail

Policy 11 – Bus

Policy 12 – Facilitating of ultra-low emission vehicles

Policy 13 – Roads and road users

Policy 14 – Ports, freight and logistics

Policy 15 – Access to aviation services, local aviation infrastructure

Policy 16 – Maintenance of existing infrastructure

Llwybr Newydd Priority 3

The aim of Llwybr Newydd Priority 3 is to promote the availability and use of sustainable travel choices wherever possible. The geography and demographics of Southwest Wales are such that sustainable travel will, in some instances, not be appropriate for everyone; the policies in the area will be designed to encourage and enable sustainable travel choices. The issues to be considered by the policies are far wider than simply providing access to the most sustainable mode of travel for a particular journey. They range from how people plan their journey and the use of technology to provide information and assistance, how access to information can be supported without access to current technology, to the cost of travel on an attractive network.

Figure 3. Llwybr Newydd Priority Summary

AN ACCESSIBLE, SUSTAINABLE AND	Llwybr Newydd Priority 3	Encourage people to make the change to more sustainable transport.	REGIONAL TRANSPORT PLAN	To enable our residents to change their travel behaviour to use low- carbon, sustainable transport.	REGIONAL TRANSPORT PLAN	Make sustainable transport more available, attractive and affordable. To promote sustainable travel choice wherever possible.
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The proposed policies:

Policy 17 - An available, attractive, accessible and affordable transport network

Policy 18 – Transport information provision

Policy 19 – Use of technology to deliver transport outcomes

Policy 20 - Promotion of sustainable travel

Policy 21 - Tourism and transport

Management and monitoring of the RTP and RTDP

To support the Llwybr Newydd priorities it is essential that the RTP sets out a policy framework for management of the RTP and monitoring of it and the RTDP. This will reflect the CJC structure and the role each authority will play in delivering the RTDP. We also need to provide a process for engaging on transport matters with our neighbouring regions to support the informal engagement that occur regularly now. Much detail is still to emerge in conjunction with the Welsh Government about funding and how this will be distributed but the RTP will need to set out some general principles. Given the importance of the RTP to the region, monitoring our progress and how we measure success will be essential in confirming that the RTP policies make a difference and that the RTDP is delivering on the ground change. Finally, as the RTP and RTDP have an initial 5-year life, a policy to ensure progress is reviewed and changes made if circumstances change is recommended. Again, details of the monitoring and review processes are expected to emerge in conjunction with the Welsh Government.

The proposed policies:

Policy 22 – Regional Governance

Policy 23 - Cross-border transport planning in the RTP context

Policy 24 – Funding and delivery of the RTDP

Policy 25 – Monitoring the RTP and RTDP and measurement of success

Policy 26 – Reviewing the RTP and RTDP