

# SOUTH WEST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER 2023

**Report Title: REGIONAL TRANSPORT PLAN (RTP) - IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To update Members on the Regional Transport Plan Implementation Plan which is to be submitted to Welsh Government.
<b>Recommendation(s)</b>	It is recommended that Member note the Implementation Plan, appended to this report to meet the requirements of the Regional Transport Plan mandate.
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## **Introduction / Background:**

The Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) for South West Wales 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 (2022).

The region has been tasked with producing an Implementation Plan setting out how the Regional Transport Plan (RTP) will be developed and adopted. It is expected that this implementation plan is submitted to Welsh Government by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023.

The Implementation Plan is shown in Appendix 1

The Implementation Plan was presented to and approved by the Corporate Joint Committee at its meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023. In addition to approving the Implementation Plan, the Committee approved a covering letter which will be sent to the Minister to deal with the risks highlighted in the plan.

The draft letter is shown in Appendix 2

## **Timescales:**

The Committee approved the draft Implementation Plan and submits Welsh Government prior to the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023.

## **Financial Impacts:**

The Implementation Plan is a statement of intent as to how a Regional Transport Plan will be developed for the South West Wales region. Hence the plan itself does not have a direct financial impact.

The CJC has allocated funding to assist with the development of the RTP and Welsh Government have indicated that they will make available £125k of funding in the current financial year towards the development of the RTP.

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

A proposed letter to Welsh Government on this point is set out at Appendix 2 for consideration.

### **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 being followed to secure support. In addition, the region will procure specialist support as necessary to develop the RTP.

### **Legal Impacts:**

The Implementation Plan is the first 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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 the timeframes for the discharging of specific functions.

### **Risk Management Impacts:**

None.

### **Consultation:**

No formal consultation required for the purpose of this report.

**Recommendation – For Noting:**

To ensure the Committee is aware of the Regional Transport Implementation Plan's submission to Welsh Government.

**Appendices:**

1. Implementation Plan for Developing a Regional Transport Plan for South West Wales
2. Proposed letter to Welsh Government requesting that the statutory duty to prepare a regional transport plan is fully funded by the Welsh Government.

**List of Background Papers:**

[Welsh Government Regional Transport Plans: Guidance for Corporate Joint Committees](#)