

Dear Deputy Minister,

Further to the meeting of the South West Wales CJC on the 24th October 2023, I confirm that the Implementation Plan for the Regional Transport Plan (RTP) has been approved by the Committee for submission and I attach a copy for your reference.

The Implementation Plan has been developed in line with the guidelines and indicative timescales provided by Welsh Government. However, in the CJC meetings a number of concerns were raised as follows;

- An initial funding allocation of £125k from Welsh Government is expected for the current financial year and I welcome confirmation that this will be provided as a matter of urgency.
- An accurate estimate of the total cost of developing the RTP is yet to be provided but it is clear that this will be significantly greater than the £125k initial funding allocation. Hence I would welcome a clear commitment from Welsh Government to fund all costs associated with the development of the RTP.
- The development of a meaningful and focussed RTP relies on a level of clarity as to the likely scale of funding which will be earmarked for the development and delivery of the transport priorities. The CJC have subsequently requested early dialogue to provide clarity on the likely level of capital funding which will be made available. This will ensure that the RTP is able to strike the right balance between ambition and reality in terms of the delivery of projects and programmes.
- The 2025 timescale for completing the RTP was set some considerable time ago and since then the timescales for providing guidance in addition to the challenges of establishing the CJC's have considerably compressed the development time for robust and aspirational RTP. The timescale for completion has remained fixed however which has compressed the remaining time available to complete the various stages / actions required to make the document suitably robust. This would include approvals/sign offs via our individual governance structures ahead of the CJC itself agreeing the final RTP. There are therefore significant

concerns about the time constraints for producing the RTP and the CJC is clear that it must be a document which sets out a clear vision and has been through an effective consultation period

I have been asked on behalf of the CJC to bring these matters to your attention, including the concern regarding the deadline for completion and respectfully request your commitment for early engagement on the concerns raised above so that the CJC can work towards developing an RTP which is ambitious and gives a strong vision for the region.

Yours sincerely

South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee