



Implementation Plan for Developing a Regional Transport Plan for South West Wales



1. INTRODUCTION

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)¹ and to complement Llwybr Newydd: Wales Transport Strategy (2022)². The RTP should be developed in line with the guidance issued by Welsh Government.

The RTP will be reflective of the aims, priorities and strategies for transport in the area covered by the following local authorities:

- Carmarthenshire County Council
- City & County of Swansea
- Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
- Pembrokeshire County Council

This area is shown in Figure 1:



Figure 1 – Area Considered in the South West Wales Regional Transport Plan.

¹ [Transport \(Wales\) Act 2006 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)

² [Llwybr Newydd: a new Wales transport strategy | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales)

Local authorities have been asked to develop an Implementation Plan setting out how the RTP will be developed and adopted. It is expected that this implementation plan be submitted to Welsh Government by 31st October 2023.

2. PROJECT GOAL

This Implementation Plan sets out how it is intended that the RTP for South West Wales will be developed. The aim of this piece of work is to:

Develop a Regional Transport Plan for South West Wales which sets out a plan for transport in the region that supports economic growth, encourages modal shift away from private car use, and reduces the negative environmental impact of our transport network.

It is expected that a proposed final version of the RTP be submitted to Welsh Government by 29th March 2025.

The RTP when completed and approved by Welsh Ministers will replace the existing SWW Joint Transport Plan 2015-2020.

It is imperative that the RTP is reflective of the Wales Transport strategy and aligned to other National, Regional, Local strategies and priorities, as shown in Figure 2.

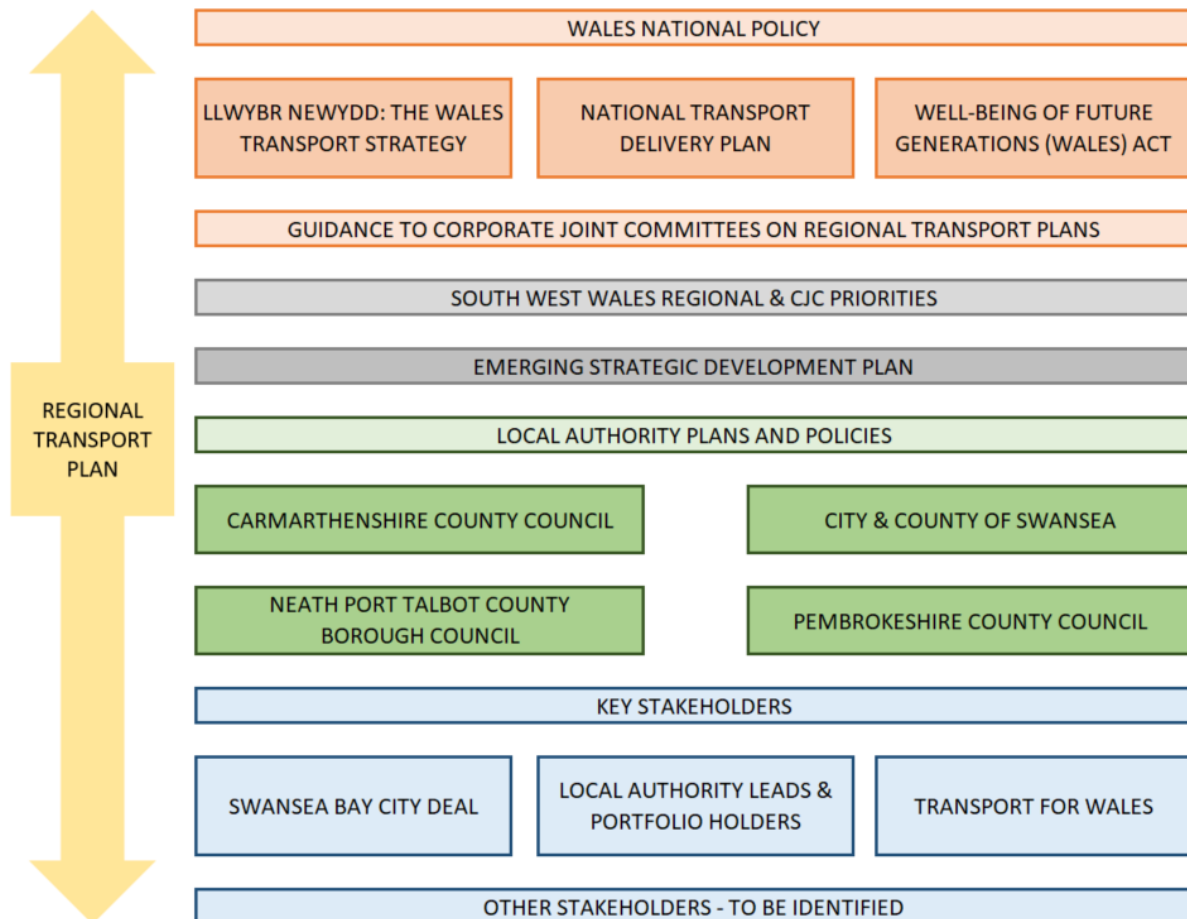


Figure 2: Policy Context for Regional Transport Plan

3. SCOPING THE KEY WORK PACKAGES

Table 1 below shows what are considered to be the key work packages that require completing to develop the South West Wales RTP.

Developing the Case for Change		
Work Package	Description	Key Dates
Member and key stakeholder engagement	Seek the views of the CJC representatives, portfolio holders and/or other Members, and key stakeholders about the issues to be captured in the case for change and the policies / schemes needed to address them. Agree approach to engaging members and key stakeholders. A consistent approach should be utilised to engage members across all four authorities.	CJC is essential to the process Approval at CJC Meeting 23rd January 2024
Define the Area of Study	Description of the South West Wales area including a map showing the 4 authorities etc.	Submit To Welsh Government 29th February 2024
Set out the Strategic Case	Set out the local impact on National, Regional and Local plans and strategies including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Llywbr Newydd: Wales Transport Strategy • National Transport Delivery Plan • Local Authority Local Development Plans • Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act • Local Authority Transport Plans and Council Plans Previous Joint Local Transport Plan	
Review of Evidence and Identify Issues and Opportunities	Identify transport aspirations for the Region. GIS mapping. SW Transport Model findings. Consideration will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rurality and access to services • Car dependency • Household Access to Car by area • Bus – improvements including Fflecsi, TrawsCymru, opportunities from franchising and future plans etc. • Rail - opportunity for SWML proposals and connections; West Wales Frequency; • Swansea Bay and South West Wales Metro • Road network: M4; A40 • Port Access • Walking and cycling • Housing and economic growth • Supporting tourism • Supporting industry • Origin and destination of trips, and importance of cross-border movement • Decarbonisation of transport 	

<p>Identify RTP Vision</p>	<p>Development of a vision for the RTP.</p> <p>Consideration to be given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to employment, services and attractions • High quality active travel and public transport networks • Decarbonisation <p>Current JTP vision: <i>To improve transport and access within and beyond the region to facilitate economic regeneration, reduce deprivation and support the development and use of more sustainable and healthier modes of transport.</i></p>	
<p>Identify RTP Smart Objectives</p>	<p>Development of SMART objectives for the RTP aligned to the priorities in the Wales Transport Strategy.</p> <p>Consideration to be given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce carbon emissions and enhancing the environment • Reducing inequality/transport poverty • Wellbeing • Support businesses • Improving public transport connectivity • Making public transport more affordable • Enhancing rail services and improving cross-border connectivity • Sustainable access to main centres of tourist demand • Supporting the tourist economy • Supporting growth in Enterprise Zones and Free Ports • Increasing active travel • Supporting / encouraging the take up of Zero emission vehicles • Safety • Enhancing freight connectivity to key destinations; including ports <p>Current JTP higher level outcomes focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport network resilience • Capacity and safety enhancements • Integration with strategic PT services • Improved links to employment • Access to services • Encouraging sustainable travel 	
<p>Governance</p>	<p>Identify Governance arrangements for development, sign off and adoption of the RTP both within the CJC and LA's.</p> <p>Determination of the stages of development that the RTP needs to be approved i.e. prior to public engagement, prior to submission of draft to WG etc.</p>	

<p>Develop a Stakeholder management and public engagement Plan</p>	<p>Develop a stakeholder management and public engagement plan to enable the message to reach as many residents as possible.</p> <p>Consideration to be given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of key partners and stakeholders. • Agreeing approach for engaging key partners and stakeholders. • Method of engagement – working groups, forums, email, formal consultations, online engagement etc. • Production of engagement materials – all engagement materials to be bilingual and be clear and concise. • Agree and develop a feedback platform such as a focused questionnaire. • Agree the required number and location of face-to-face public engagement events. • Agree arrangements and approach for engaging with the CJC and elected members from each LA. • Consider innovative ways of engaging with hard to reach groups and those with protected characteristics. • Method for recording engagement activities and consultation responses (in accordance with GDPR regulations). 	
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Developing the Regional Transport Plan		
Initial Draft of RTP		
Work Package	Description	Key Dates
Identifying the High Level interventions and policies	<p>Assess the objectives of the RTP against the Wales Transport strategy and other National, Regional, Local strategies and priorities.</p> <p>Identify the policies that will address the issues/opportunities and support delivery of the objectives.</p> <p>Review and align with work undertaken on the emerging Strategic Development Plan.</p> <p>Balancing the priorities of policies to deliver the needs in both urban and rural areas.</p> <p>Review expected outcomes from existing JTP.</p>	<p>First draft BEFORE PUBLIC CONSULTATION to be submitted to WG by 29th May 2024.</p>
Review of schemes from existing JTP	<p>Undertake a review of the schemes included the existing JTP, considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What has been delivered (remove) • What is no longer considered a priority (remove) • What cannot be delivered in light of policy and budget changes (remove) • What new challenges/opportunities have been identified that require further consideration 	
Identify a methodology for prioritising schemes	Identify and agree a robust methodology for assessing schemes against impact on Wales Transport Strategy priorities and sub priorities.	
Prioritise schemes	Prioritise schemes using the methodology identified above.	
Final Draft of RTP		
Work Package	Description	Key Dates
WG feedback	Review and action WG feedback	<p>Final draft to be submitted to WG by 31st October 2024.</p>
Consultation feedback	Consultation in accordance with stakeholder management plan. Review consultation responses and action consultation feedback.	
Governance	In line with identified requirements.	
Final RTP		
Work Package	Description	Key Dates
WG feedback	Review and action WG feedback	<p>Final report to be submitted to WG 29th March 2025.</p>
Governance	In line with identified requirements.	

Develop the Integrated Well-being Assessment		
Step 1	Review the Case for Change, undertake scoping to establish what specialist work packages may be needed to develop the IWBA including any supporting statutory impact assessments, and develop a brief/s to commission that work and ensure it is fed into the process of developing the RTP.	First draft BEFORE PUBLIC CONSULTATION to be submitted to WG by 29 th May 2024. Final draft to be submitted to WG by 31 st October 2024. Final report to be submitted to WG 29 th March 2025.
Step 2	With reference to WelTAG guidance an integrated well-being framework should be developed and agreed with key partners. Options for projects should be reviewed against that framework.	
Step 3	When the draft RTP is published for consultation: it should be accompanied by a draft IWBA report showing how well-being has been taken into account and how the five ways of working have been followed.	
Step 4	When the final RTP is submitted to WG it should be accompanied by a final IWBA report taking on board any consultation responses.	
Public and Stakeholder consultation		
Work Package	Description	Key Dates
Plan proposed consultation period and stakeholder engagement	This will be as per the stakeholder management and public engagement plan	Consultation after submission of first draft of RTP and IWBA to WG (late May 2024).
Monitoring and Evaluation Plan		
Work Package	Description	Key Dates
Contribution to National Priorities	Develop a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan that monitors regional progress in achieving the National and Regional objectives.	To be submitted following the approval by WG of the RTP.
Agree measures to monitor	Identify an appropriate set of quantitative and qualitative measures that can be used to monitor progress of the RTP and to inform CJC annual reports and three year assessment of the RTP.	
Equalities Impact Assessment		
Work Package	Description	Key Dates
Undertake EqIA	An EqIA will be undertaken in line with best practice and will include a Welsh language impact assessment.	In line with WG RTP guidance requirements
Environmental Impact Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment		
Undertake EIA and HRA	EIA and HRA will be undertaken in line with statutory requirements.	In line with WG RTP guidance requirements

Note activities relating to the easy read version and the Welsh translation version will be completed once the RTP has been signed off by the WG.

4. RISK IDENTIFICATION

At this early stage, the high level risks associated with delivering a Regional Transport Plan for South West Wales are considered to be:

- ❖ Political agreement on polices and high level outcomes
 - To be mitigated through engagement and discussion throughout the process.
- ❖ Regional agreement on prioritised RTDP schemes list
 - To be mitigated through the development of a robust and impartial scoring methodology
- ❖ Challenging timescales for submission and adoption of the RTP
- ❖ Available resource within Local Authorities to deliver the RTP
 - Dedicated Programme Manager for the RTP to be appointed.
- ❖ Number of specialist studies to be undertaken in the development of the RTP and lack of funding to deliver.
 - Funding from WG to deliver.

5. TIMELINE AND KEY DATES

13th July 2023	Guidance issued to CJC's
31st October 2023	CJC to submit implementation plan to WG
29th February 2024	CJC to submit RTP case for Change (including SMART objectives) to WG
29th May 2024	CJC to submit initial draft of RTP, IWBA and RTDP to WG (before public consultation)
31st October 2024	CJC to submit final draft of RTP, IWBA and RTDP to WG
29th March 2025	CJC to submit final RTP, IWBA and RTDP to WG
30th June 2025	WG decision on approval of RTP.