



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Environment, Regeneration and Streetscene Services Cabinet Board

19th April 2024

Report of the Head of Engineering & Transport (David W. Griffiths)

Matter for Information

Wards Affected: All

REGIONAL TRANSPORT PLAN (RTP) – CASE FOR CHANGE – UPDATE FROM THE CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

Purpose of the Report:

To provide Members with an update on the progress of work relating to the Regional Transport Plan (RTP), with a focus on the Case for Change that has recently been submitted to Welsh Government by the Corporate Joint Committee (CJC).

Executive Summary:

This report is for information only in order to provide Members with an overview of the duties of the Corporate Joint Committee in developing a Regional Transport Plan for South West Wales.

The initial stage of producing the RTP required the CJC to submit a RTP – Implementation Plan to the Welsh Government, by 31st October 2023. Following the successful approval of the Implementation Plan by Welsh Government prior to Christmas 2023 the region has now moved to the next stage of the process and developed a Case for Change as per Appendix 1.

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 was tasked with producing a Case for Change setting out why the Regional Transport Plan (RTP) is essential for the ongoing development of the region.

The case for change demonstrates why our regional transport plan (RTP) is essential for the ongoing development of our region.

Our case for change is firmly led by opportunity; the opportunity to enable a growing and sustainable economy, the opportunity and need to ensure our transport system is sympathetic to the environment and the opportunity to ensure we can move around and beyond our region in the most effective way possible for all reasons. The basis of the case for change is to ensure the RTP is a vehicle to ensure the delivery at the regional level of Llwybr Newydd, the Wales Transport Strategy, 2021. This requires the RTP to be developed to reflect national policy and the challenges and opportunities that face the region in developing a fit for purpose and robust transport network. The transport network is at the heart of the region; it takes us to work, education and leisure activities across the region and further afield.

This Case for change was submitted to Welsh Government by their deadline of the 29th February 2024. The Case for Change is shown in Appendix 1.

Prior to submitting the Case for Change to Welsh Government, the Plan was considered and endorsed by the CJC Regional Transport Sub Committee at its meeting on the 12th February 2024, subject to the inclusion of rail travel data for all four Local Authorities in the Region. The overarching aims of the Regional Transport Sub Committee is to drive an accessible, sustainable and efficient transport system across the region; and they have the function to make recommendations to the Corporate Joint Committee on the development and delivery of the Regional Transport Plan.

Following the meeting of the CJC Regional Transport Sub Committee, the Case for Change was presented and approved by the CJC on 21st February 2024, and have subsequently been submitted to the Welsh Government by the deadline of 29th February 2024.

The RTP Guidance issued by Welsh Government set out the key requirements in order to develop the South West Wales RTP, these are listed below. Each requirement has a number of actions and work packages that need to be undertaken, further details on these can be found in the Implementation Plan included in the background papers.

- Development of the RTP Implementation Plan
- Development of the Case for Change
- Development of the Initial Draft of the Regional Transport Plan, Integrated Well-Being Assessment (IWBA) and Regional Transport Delivery Plan (RTDP) Development of the Final Draft of the Regional Transport Plan, Integrated Well-Being Assessment (IWBA) and Regional Transport Delivery Plan (RTDP)

- Development of the Final Regional Transport Plan, Integrated Well-Being Assessment (IWBA) and Regional Transport Delivery Plan (RTDP)
- Public and Stakeholder Consultation Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
- Equalities Impact Assessment
- Environmental Impact Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment.

The RTP Guidance issued by Welsh Government also set out the key dates in producing the RTP, these are shown in the table below. These dates are extremely ambitious given the volume of work required to produce the RTP, and there is a lack of funding and resources available; this was recognised by the CJC Regional Transport Sub Committee and the Corporate Joint Committee.

Key dates in producing the RTP	
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.

As identified in the table above, the next piece of work to be undertaken is the initial draft of the RTP, IWBA and RTDP; with the current deadline for submission to Welsh Government set for 29th May 2024.

Further update reports on the progress of the development of the RTP will be provided to future meetings of the Environment, Regeneration and Streetscene Services Cabinet Board.

Financial Impacts:

The Case for Change sets out why the Regional Transport Plan is required 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 awarded £125k of funding in the current financial year along with £100k for 2024/2025 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.

The letter was sent to Welsh Government with the Implementation Plan seeking commitment from Welsh Government to cover all costs associated with the development of the RTP a copy of the letter is included in the background papers.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

There is no requirement to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment as this report is for information purposes only.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

No implications.

Workforce Impacts:

The CJC has approved resources to support the development of the RTP and hence recruitment processes are being followed (through City and County of Swansea) to secure support. In addition, the region will procure specialist support as necessary to develop the RTP.

Legal Impacts:

The Case for Change is the second 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 in accordance with the timeframes for the discharging of specific functions.

Risk Management Impacts:

None.

Consultation:

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

Recommendation:

There is no recommendation associated with this report as it is for information purposes only

Reason for Proposed Decision:

There is no recommendation associated with this report as it is for information purposes only

Implementation of Decision:

There is no recommendation associated with this report as it is for information purposes only

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Case for Change for Developing a Regional Transport Plan for South West Wales.

List of Background Papers:

- [Welsh Government Regional Transport Plans: Guidance for Corporate Joint Committees](#)
- Agenda and Minutes from the Regional Transport Sub Committee meetings on 12th February 2024 Agenda and Minutes from the Corporate Joint Committee meeting on 21st February 2024.
- Implementation Plan for Developing a Regional Transport Plan for South West Wales (as submitted to WG by 31st October 2023)
- Letter to Welsh Government requesting that the statutory duty to prepare a regional transport plan is fully funded by the Welsh Government (as sent to WG by 31st October 2023).

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