

**Yr Adran Newid Hinsawdd
Department for Climate
Change**



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

County Councillor James Gibson-Watt

Chair of the Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee

15 December 2023

Dear James,

Thank you for your letter of 26 October 2023 to the Deputy Minister submitting the final copy of the Mid Wales RTP implementation plan. We trust this exercise has been helpful in setting a path for development of the Regional Transport Plan (RTP).

Comments are provided from Welsh Government and Transport for Wales in Annex 1 to this letter. For expediency, we do not ask the Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) to revise and resubmit the Implementation Plan in light of these comments. Rather we ask that they are taken into account in moving forward.

From this point, we look forward to the activities set out in the Implementation Plan moving at pace to achieve the timescales set out in the implementation plan. I would like to reiterate our offer that the Transport for Wales (TfW) Regional Transport Team stand ready to support the CJC in developing the plan, and I hope we can work closely across the CJC, TfW and Welsh Government to ensure we deliver this work efficiently and within the challenging budgetary and resource pressures we all face.

In terms of Welsh Government funding to support the development of the RTP, we are pleased to attach a grant award letter for FY2023-24 and FY2024-25. We will work with you to ensure you are able to complete as much activity as possible to make best use of the funding within that window. As well as developing the RTP, the funding should be used to support the development of the region's Strategic Development Plan, which should be closely aligned with the RTP.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Warner', written in a cursive style.

Christopher Warner, Deputy Director, Transport – Strategy & Policy, under authority of the Minister and Deputy Minister for Climate Change

Cc Nicola Williams, Strategic Programme Delivery Manager – Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) / Rheolwr Cyflenwi Rhaglenni Strategol - Cydbwyllgor Corfforaethol (CJC).

Annex 1 – Welsh Government and Transport for Wales Comments on the Mid Wales Regional Transport Plan Implementation Plan

Comment Number	Comment
1	Commissioning of services to assist the CJC in delivery of the RTP should not be contingent on any additional funding award by Welsh Government. The CJC's have a statutory duty to produce the RTP. Whilst WG may provide additional specific funding, if not the activity should be covered through existing funding streams.
2	Risks are noted on the new WeITAG Guidance and Rural Pathway. The final new WeITAG will not significantly alter from the long published draft. The Rural Pathway document will merely seek to provide ideas and case studies to assist in the development of the RTP. Progression of the RTP should not be delayed pending either of these documents.
3	Identify RTP Vision – Please be mindful that the RTP vision (and objectives etc) may need to be significantly different to the current LTP Vision or Growing Mid Wales Vision, due to significant changes in national policy and the need for the RTP to specifically deliver the Wales Transport Strategy on a regional basis. (We see the points noted to consider in the new Vision align with this).
4	Points noted for consideration in developing objectives are well aligned with national policies.
5	Approach to identifying high level interventions and policies is excellent, and well aligned to national policies.
6	Intention to seek support from WG/TfW on method for prioritising schemes noted and will be provided.
7	Programme risks are noted throughout. The CJC should strive to have an approved RTP in place as soon as possible, ideally of course before the start of the 2025-2030 implementation period, or failing that before the FY25/26. If an approved Plan is not in place before the start of the implementation period this will of course impact delivery, as would the later the plan is approved in respect of the start of the FY25/26. Activities to produce the Plan are recommended to be proportionate to the, relatively short, delivery period of 5 years to assist in securing an approved plan as soon as possible. We see this is recognised in Section 5 (risk identification).
8	Risk noted of staffing drop in events. WG/TfW can help support these events.
9	Estimation in Implementation Plan of funding required noted. Noted that the covering letter requests this funding be covered by WG. This is being considered but please note that WG is not required to provide any additional funding specifically for this.
10	There is currently little or no mention of how the RTP development will interface transport departments with land planning and economic regeneration equivalents. RTP Guidance requires that CJC's must take into account these interfaces. Collaboration with these departments may well offer significant opportunity to achieve transport (and shared) objectives by influencing their decision making. The CJC must consider how to interface these 3 departments in the development of the RTP.