



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CJC - REGIONAL TRANSPORT PLANNING
SUB-COMMITTEE
HELD AT BY TEAMS ON TUESDAY, 30 JULY 2024**

PRESENT

Rhys Richards (WSP), Gemma Thomas (WSP), Beverley Garner (WSP)

Powys County Council:

Members: Councillor Jackie Charlton (Chair),
Councillor Angela Davies,

Officers:

Matthew Perry (Chief Officer - Place),
John Forsey (Head of Highways, Transport & Recycling),
Sarah Leyland-Morgan (Passenger Transport Manager),

Ceredigion County Council:

Members: Councillor Alun Williams,
Councillor Keith Henson,
Councillor Clive Davies,

Officers: Ann Elias (Regional Officer Mid Wales Transportation),
Rhodri Llwyd (Corporate Lead Officer Highways and Environmental Services),
Katy Spain (Service Manager Transport Services),

Admin: Jonathan Aldred (Minutes), Nicola Davies (Translation)

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair formally welcomed all members to the meeting and expressed thanks to all the officers and the consultants who had brought this plan here today.

It was noted that because of the announcements regarding the General Election on 4th July, work on the RTP had needed to take account of the “pre-election” period requirements. Therefore, the programmed stakeholder engagements which had been planned to take place in June had needed to be delayed until July. This has meant that the turnaround requirements for data and consideration of feedback from engagement had been extremely challenging in order to have a draft RPT document ready for the Sub-Committee to consider and support.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

Powys County Council:

Members: Councillor David Selby,
Officers: Nicola Williams (Programme Manager - CJC),
Shaun James (Development).

Ceredigion County Council:

Officers: Phil Jones (Corporate Manager Highways Services),
Carwyn Jones-Evans (Corporate Manager - Strategic Economy Investment

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest from Members relating to items on the agenda.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST CJC RTP SUB COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY, 16TH MAY 2024

Councillor Alun Williams proposed that the minutes of the CJC Regional Transport Planning Sub Committee meeting held on 16th May 2024 be signed as a true record, Councillor Keith Henson seconded the proposal.

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

5. CJC REGIONAL TRANSPORT PLANNING REPORT
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The Chair asked for the meeting to transfer into closed session.

AE read out the Exempt Item report from the papers:

Appendix 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 EXEMPT ITEMS:

The Appendices below is exempt from publication because they contain information of the kind described in paragraphs 14 (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person) and 21 (public interest test) of parts 4 and 5 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

The transfer into closed session was proposed by Councillor Alun Williams and seconded by Councillor Keith Henson.

CLOSED SESSION

Mid Wales RTP Policy Development

Gemma Thomas took the meeting through the slides.

Raised by Committee	Response from Officers / WSP
KH – There is lack of funding within the system. It is good to see the aspiration within the plan.	
Chair – We need understanding that to deliver a rural transport network is challenging, and we would like that challenge to be expressed more clearly than it has been in the past.	
AE had circulated an email the day before the meeting with some proposed amendments to the RTP, made by Ceredigion County Council.	There were no additional comments on these changes. The changes were accepted by the meeting (Action noted).
JF – Have we got the pitch right to be able to lever the funding from Welsh Government?	AE had asked WSP to set out the amount of funding we have received over the last 5 years. If we are going to achieve any significant changes, we are going to need an indicative 5-year funding programme of considerably more money in order to do that.
AD – Is there something missing in terms of the publicity and promotion in terms of what we are doing and why, as there is some public resistance. People used to time their travel to when the buses went.	GT stated that this would come under the behaviour change policies. There is not a specific policy in the plan about publicising the schemes that are delivered, so we can include an additional policy that specifically refers to publicity (Action noted).
AW – Is there room for anything about the key role Mid Wales could play in the potential for a pan-Wales north-south, and east-west, transport system.	GT – That comes under strategic connectivity policies. There is no description of the potential future of Mid Wales as this link, but we can include comments around that (Action noted).
Chair – We are not just focussing on electric vehicles. We need to look at everything.	

Integrated Impact Assessment

Gemma Thomas took the meeting through the slides.

Raised by Committee	Response from Officers / WSP
The Ceredigion documentation has been used for the IIA. The Chair was happy with the way this had been put together.	

Integrated Wellbeing Appraisal Framework

Rhys Richards took the meeting through the slides.

Raised by Committee	Response from Officers / WSP
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<p>The Chair noted that community transport is an important part of the way we will have to deliver transport across Wales to keep our communities vibrant and to support local residents. Has it been captured as well as it might be?</p>	<p>RR – There is a wide range of sub-criteria. Across those areas, community transport does feature, but we could make more direct reference to that within here – maybe within People and Communities (Action noted).</p>
<p>The Chair agreed that this would be valuable, and also noted that the community transport network had lost a lot of funding over the past few years, and it is not as recognised as it used to be. It also has a big part to play in the Welsh language and culture.</p>	
<p>SLM – The rurality of the communities requires the communities to work together, so the community transport and dial-a-rides remain an essential part of that network. There is a huge reliance on the volunteers, and we need to be careful that we do not focus on what is considered to be (but is not) a cheaper option.</p>	
<p>Chair – We need to make sure that we highlight that as being an issue that we feel is important to us in Mid Wales.</p>	<p>(Action noted)</p>

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Beverley Garner took the meeting through the slides.

Raised by Committee	Response from Officers / WSP
<p>Chair – The RTP has to be in line with where we are in both Local Authorities with addressing the Climate and Nature Emergencies that we are both committed to by 2030. Does the SEA align with our needs on this?</p>	<p>BG – The policy for the RTP as it stands only has the policy element within it. With the SEA running in parallel with the RTP, if it does identify any shortcomings in achieving these policies, there is an opportunity to revise the RTP to firm up those environmental commitments.</p>
<p>Chair – How do we as a Subcommittee monitor that to make sure it is happening?</p>	<p>When we have completed assessment on the policies, we can identify to you if there are any areas that do need further consideration in terms of the Climate and Nature Emergencies and make sure it is done (Action noted). There is a requirement in the SEA for transparency in the process, in showing how consultation feedback affects the plan and how we have made adjustments.</p>
<p>AW & JF had discussed in the meeting chat about whether at the moment there is an incentive for an internal combustion engine car user to use public transport to reduce their CO2, and if with an EV that incentive is lost. That incentive was not entirely lost because Rail is lower in CO2 than EVs.</p>	
<p>AD noted it was interesting to see that the</p>	

<p>key towns in Ceredigion are smaller in size than the hub towns in Powys. AW asked if we are comparing like with like and need to check that the presentation in the plan is as a region and not two Local Authorities side by side.</p>	
<p>KH stated in the chat that there are six main towns in Ceredigion – Aberaeron, Aberystwyth, Cardigan, Lampeter, Llandysul and Tregaron. Stakeholder engagement has highlighted that in Powys, there are plans for increasing the focus of service delivery through hubs and localities, with the main towns identified as Brecon, Llandrindod, Newtown and Welshpool.</p>	
<p>SLM stated in the chat that the comments around marketing and infrastructure are really important we never seem to have funding for replacement or repair let alone marketing.</p>	

There were no further comments on the above. The Chair and the Members stated their thanks for all the work done, and for the incorporation of their comments throughout the process.

The Chair stated that this document is being discussed in private session, but will become public, and we have at the base of the document a list of impacts – including financial impacts, legal impacts, etc – but there are no impacts on the Climate and Nature Emergency. The Chair had asked AE if there could be a discussion within the Sub Committee about having an impact in the reports that encompasses the Climate and Nature Emergency, so it gives us a fuller and rounder document. We need to have that conversation at a higher level as well (**Action noted**),

Decision Sought:

- A) To note the content of the report and tasks undertaken to deliver the development of a Regional Transport Plan for the Mid Wales CJC – **All were in agreement. There were no disagreements or amendments to this decision.**
- B) To agree the outline draft RTP required to be submitted to Welsh Government for comment ahead of formal public consultation – **All were in agreement. There were no disagreements or amendments to this decision.**

The Plan would be taken to the CJC in the afternoon

6.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS
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There was no other business.

7. DATES OF NEXT CJC RTP SUB COMMITTEE MEETINGS -
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CJC RTP Sub Committee Meetings 2024 –

- Thursday 19th September at 4 pm to 5 pm over Teams
- Tuesday 10th December – Time, duration and location of meeting to be confirmed (**Action noted**). The Chair stated a preference for the December meeting to be held in-person.

End of Meeting