

Report To: Cabinet  
Date of Meeting: 29th March 2016  
Lead Member / Officer: Cllr David Smith, Lead Member Public Realm  
Report Author: Head of Highways & Environmental Services  
Title: **Winding Up of Taith Joint Committee**

## **1. What is the report about?**

To seek Cabinet endorsement to end and wind up the Joint Committee and to consider successor arrangements.

## **2. What is the reason for making this report?**

To support the Joint Committee's decision to wind up.

## **3. What are the Recommendations?**

That Cabinet endorses the decision of the Taith Joint committee to terminate its role, with effect from 29th September 2015.

That Cabinet supports the establishment of a Transport Advisory Forum under the North Wales Economic Ambition Board to include the Lead Member Public Realm as Denbighshire's representative.

## **4. Report details**

In 2007, alongside the other North Wales authorities, Cabinet agreed to support the Taith Joint Committee to further regional transport co-operation. It was one of seven regional transport consortia (RTC) so established. Via a Joint Board, Taith had a mandate to deliver on behalf of its partner authorities and, in effect, its partners had delegated the power to act on their behalves regarding regional transport matters. Taith produced the regional transport plan and associated documents, offered advice to the Welsh Government and administering capital funding programmes on behalf of North Wales authorities. Its constitution was last reviewed in 2013 to allow Taith to manage and deliver what were then new arrangements for bus funding.

In January 2014, the Minister for Economy Science & Transport removed RTCs' co-ordinating, regional planning and capital monitoring responsibilities. This represented the majority of Taith's work. Thereafter, authorities have collaborated on the production of successor local transport plans without the need for the Taith Joint Committee.

The decision at that time to continue formally with Taith resulted from the possibility that it may be required to produce similar work in the future. The Taith Board

subsequently considered these issues and concluded that the costs and audit requirements of retaining the Joint Committee outweighed its possible future value and usefulness. Consequently, the Taith Board agreed that the Joint Committee be wound up as soon as practicable.

## **Future Arrangements**

The requirement for a regional transport “voice” to support economic growth remains. The 2014 North Wales Transport Taskforce chaired by Lesley Griffiths recommended and the Minister subsequently agreed transport interventions should henceforward and where possible be co-ordinated regionally through the North Wales Economic Ambition Board (NWEAB), now discharged through the NWEAB’s Connectivity and Infrastructure workstream. The workstream recognised the need to use the respective transport portfolio holders’ knowledge & experience given that most members of the NWEAB did not have this portfolio responsibility.

Accordingly, the Chair of the NWEAB has proposed that a Transport Advisory Forum under the NWEAB be established to undertake this role. The Forum would meet biannually or up to quarterly, based on demand, to support the Connectivity and Infrastructure work stream and to ensure an effective working relationship between the highways and transport teams within each Authority.

Such an arrangement would not need a formal constitution and could be established informally. It would ensure that Members continue to have an input into region wide strategic transport issues.

### **5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?**

The Transport Forum helps support the Economic and Community Ambition Strategy, a corporate priority.

### **6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**

No direct costs.

### **7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (Equal) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqlA template should be attached as an appendix to the report**

None required.

### **8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?**

None undertaken.

### **9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

The Council no longer contributes financially to the Taith Joint Board. The new arrangements have a zero impact on direct budgets.

**10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**

Limited risk to the Council.

**11. Power to make the Decision**

Informal forward arrangement only.