



# North Wales Regional Transport Plan

## Frequently Asked Questions

(Draft)





# Regional Transport Plan

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## What is a Corporate Joint Committee (CJC)?

Corporate Joint Committees (CJC) are regional corporate local government entities comprised of Local Authorities within their regional geographies. The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 created the framework for establishing the CJs in Wales and they were established on 1st April 2021.

The four CJs in Wales are:

- The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Wrexham)
- The Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee (Ceredigion, Powys)
- The South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee (Cardiff, Monmouthshire, Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil, Newport, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Torfaen, The Vale of Glamorgan)
- The South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire, Swansea)

Corporate Joint Committees have similar powers, duties, governance, and administrative structures as Local Authorities in Wales. They are required to comply with the same general duties as public sector organisations such as Equalities and Human Rights, Wellbeing of Future Generations and Welsh Language Measure provisions.

They have a statutory duty to produce a Strategic Development Plan and a Regional Transport Plan. In addition, they have the power to do anything that will enhance or promote regional economic wellbeing.

## Who is Ambition North Wales?

Ambition North Wales is a joint committee and decision-making body, overseeing the North Wales Growth Deal, which is an agreement that will generate a total investment of over £1 billion for North Wales in order to generate over 4000 new jobs. Ambition North Wales will take on the responsibilities of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee. The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee will adopt the name and branding of Ambition North Wales.

## What is a Regional Transport Plan?

A Regional Transport Plan (RTP) is a strategic document that outlines the long-term vision for a region's transport system, including goals, objectives and priorities for improving the transport infrastructure and services.

Our Regional Transport Plan will help us to address current and future local and regional transport issue over the next 5 years (2025-2030) by providing the framework for decisions on future investment. It sets out how transport can support the delivery of Llwybr Newydd, the Welsh Government's transport strategy, and contribute to the success, regeneration and development of our region.

## Why do we need a Regional Transport Plan?

The requirement for local authorities to produce a Transport Plan is set out in the Transport Act 2000, as amended by the Transport (Wales) Act 2006. This duty was transferred to CJs on 30th June



2022 by the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021. The North Wales CJC therefore has a duty to produce a Regional Transport Plan (RTP) for North Wales. The CJC must develop policies for local authorities to implement the Llwybr Newydd: Wales Transport Strategy 2021. These policies must include transport facilities and services that are:

- Required to meet the needs of people living or working in the region, visiting or travelling through the region;
- Required for the transportation of freight; and
- Facilities and services for pedestrians.

RTPs must consider the transport needs of disabled persons (within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010) and of persons who are elderly or have mobility problems, and more widely consider overcoming barriers.

## What is a Regional Transport Delivery Plan?

A Regional Transport Delivery Plan (RTDP) outlines the specific actions needed to implement the broader objectives and policies set out in the Regional Transport Plan (RTP).

Our RTDP sets out the interventions our local authorities will be progressing over the next 5 years. It includes our priorities over time, taking into account likely costs, impacts, and contributions to our regional objectives.

The RTDP takes the form of a list of schemes that is ranked in order of priority in terms of impact on delivering against our priorities. These are the schemes that local transport authorities intend to invest in to deliver the RTP. It does not include strategic 'trunk' road schemes, or rail projects, which would be delivered by other bodies such as the Welsh Government and Network Rail.

## What is an Integrated Wellbeing Assessment?

Integrated Wellbeing Assessment (IWBA) is required as part of the Welsh Transport Appraisal Guidance (WelTAG). Our IWBA shows how our policies will contribute to well-being, supported by the impacts assessments that have been undertaken to consider issues such as the environment, health, equality and biodiversity.

The IWBA is not just a 'tick box' exercise. The information in the IWBA must be used to design in benefits and design out any potentially harmful impacts. An IWBA must show how well-being has been addressed and should identify both positive and negative impacts and show how any negative impacts have been avoided or mitigated.

The IWBA should address four key questions based on the four ambitions in the Wales Transport Strategy:

- How will the programme or project benefit people and communities? (equality, health and safety and confidence)
- How will it benefit the environment? (reducing carbon emissions, benefiting biodiversity and ecosystems resilience and reducing waste)
- How will it benefit places and the economy? (place-making, innovation, freight)
- How will it benefit culture and the Welsh language? (arts and sport and the historic environment)

In helping answer these questions, the IWBA is supported by a range of impact assessments, including ones that are statutory, such as Strategic Environmental Assessment.



## What is a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan?

The Regional Transport Plan (RTP) must include a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan showing how regional progress in achieving the national priorities and ambitions in the Wales Transport Strategy (WTS) will be monitored, measured and evaluated. This must include the region's contribution to national decarbonisation and modal shift targets.

Our Monitoring and Evaluation Plan includes a set of measures with baseline information for each. The measures are based on the framework of measures used in the Integrated Well-being Appraisal (IWBA) and draw on the WTS Monitoring Framework adapted for regional needs. Transport for Wales published baseline data for the WTS Monitoring Framework which is being updated by Transport for Wales on an ongoing basis.

CJCs must submit annual performance reports on RTPs to the Welsh Government each year.

A comprehensive evaluation will be prepared after three years to assess whether the RTP is delivering its outcomes, providing value for money and whether there are any unintended consequences. The results of this comprehensive evaluation will feed into the subsequent RTP, and the subsequent National Transport Delivery Plan (NTDP).

## Who is supporting implementation of the Regional Transport Plan?

Local authorities have a key role to play in implementing the Regional Transport Plan (RTP). It is local authorities that are responsible for delivering the schemes that are identified in the Regional Transport Delivery Plan (RTDP).

Implementation of the RTP is supported by Transport for Wales (TfW), who will work with local authorities to develop schemes that local authorities intend to deliver.

TfW will also support the delivery of our rail aspirations, and work with local authorities to identify enhancements to the bus network as we move towards franchising.

The Welsh Government and North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent (NMWTRA) will support the delivery of our strategic road network aspirations, as the bodies responsible for managing, maintaining and improving the strategic road network.

## When and who will approve the Regional Transport Plan?

The Strategic Transport sub-committee is responsible for the preparation and development of the Regional Transport Plan (RTP), with approval reserved to the CJC following a period of public consultation and submission to Welsh Government. The timeline for approval is July 2025.

## What is the role of the Transport Sub-Committee?

The Strategic Transport sub-committee membership is comprised of the transport portfolio leads from the Executives of each constituent Council. Co-opted onto the sub-committee are representatives from Eryri National Park and Transport for Wales.

The sub-committee is responsible for the preparation and development of the Regional Transport Plan (RTP) and following its approval by the CJC undertake the role of monitoring its impact.



## What happens once the Regional Transport Plan is approved

Once the Regional Transport Plan (RTP) is approved, it will shape the transport improvements that are introduced in North Wales over the next five years. Funding grants from Welsh Government for transport schemes will only be available for schemes that support the objectives of the RTP. It is expected that any transport improvements that will be delivered in North Wales is included in the Regional Transport Delivery Plan (RTDP).

## What is the role of the Local Authority Transport Lead Officers as an Advisory Group?

Officers from each of the Councils have an integral role in developing the Regional Transport Plan (RTP) by working with their Members, their Authorities and the Strategic Transport sub-committee. Officers support the sub-committee by meeting regularly as an Advisory Group to prepare and develop policies and plans, which feed into the sub-committee. The officers have a lead role along with their Members in supporting and implementing the RTP.

## How do I have my say?

Ambition North Wales are seeking views on the proposed Regional Transport Plan for North Wales and its supporting documents, which include a monitoring and evaluation plan, delivery plan for local authority schemes, and an integrated well-being appraisal.

Our draft Plan outlines our strategic policies and interventions for the next 5 years across various modes of transport, including rail, road, bus, walking, cycling, and digital connectivity. By focusing on integration and innovation, we aim to provide residents and visitors with more travel choices and better connectivity, while also reducing our environmental impact.

You can view our plans and respond to our consultation by completing a questionnaire online, available in our virtual exhibition room here: <https://northwalesregionaltransportplan.virtual-engage.com/>

Alternatively, you can email responses to [northwalesregionaltransportplan@arup.com](mailto:northwalesregionaltransportplan@arup.com).

Or, write to us and post printed copies of the questionnaire to: North Wales RTP, Arup, 4 Pierhead Street, Cardiff CF10 4QP

If you'd like to speak to us about our plans, you can also call us on: 01172 405 350

Paper or alternative copies can be provided to you on request by emailing us or leaving us a message on our telephone service (details above).

The consultation runs from 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025 for 12 weeks. Please submit your response to us by 23:59pm on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

We will carefully consider all the feedback we receive, which will be used to update and finalise our plans. We are aiming to publish and adopt our Regional Transport Plan in the Summer 2025.

## Who can I speak to if I have further questions?

You can contact the project team by emailing [northwalesregionaltransportplan@arup.com](mailto:northwalesregionaltransportplan@arup.com) or calling 01172 405 350.



## Where can I see a hard copy of documents?

You can view a paper copy of our Regional Transport Plan at most local library, community centre, college and university buildings across North Wales. If unsure, please contact us to confirm before you make a visit by emailing [northwalesregionaltransportplan@arup.com](mailto:northwalesregionaltransportplan@arup.com) or calling 01172 405 350.

## Can I attend a physical event?

Local authorities may arrange local events to help people discuss the Regional Transport Plan and encourage participation in the consultation. Please reach out to your local authority to find out more. Any details of local authority events may also be advertised on the Ambition North Wales website during the consultation period.

## Can I get a copy of the documents in Welsh?

Documents are available in both English and Welsh languages. Hard copies can be requested by contacting the project team at [northwalesregionaltransportplan@arup.com](mailto:northwalesregionaltransportplan@arup.com) or 01172 405 350.

## Can I get a copy of the documents in other formats?

Alternative formats of documents can be requested by contacting the project team at [northwalesregionaltransportplan@arup.com](mailto:northwalesregionaltransportplan@arup.com) or 01172 405 350.

## What are the next steps after this consultation?

We will produce a consultation report to take into account feedback to the consultation, and explain how it has helped shape our plans. Our finalised documents will be sent to the Welsh Government for approval in the spring 2025. The approved documents are likely to be published in the summer 2025.

## What is happening to my personal information?

Arup is undertaking the public consultation on the North Wales Regional Transport Plan on behalf of Ambition North Wales. Ambition North Wales's data policy can be found here: [Data protection \(llyw.cymru\)](#)<sup>1</sup>.

Arup act as a Data Processor on behalf of Ambition North Wales. At the end of the consultation all personal information is transferred to Ambition North Wales. Personal information is not retained beyond this time. When we do temporarily store your information, it is stored securely in our cloud infrastructure located within the EU.

Your feedback including any comments will be anonymised and used to help us finalise our proposals. A record of comments may be produced that could be published. Comments will not be made attributable to any individual or organisation if this happens.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Council/Data-Protection-and-Freedom-of-Information/Data-protection-.aspx>

