



CABINET – 29TH OCTOBER 2014

SUBJECT: LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet approval for the production of a South East Wales Valleys Local Transport Plan (LTP) that will be produced jointly by Caerphilly, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Welsh Government (WG) requires all local authorities (LA's) in Wales to produce LTP's by the end of January 2015. The LTP's will replace the 4 Regional Transport Plans (RTP's) that are currently in place. Work is ongoing between the 5 'South East Wales Valleys' local authorities (i.e. Caerphilly CBC, Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, Torfaen CBC, Blaenau Gwent CBC and Merthyr Tydfil CBC) to produce a joint LTP. This report seeks approval to formalise this working arrangement.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 To work towards the Council's corporate objective of improving peoples' living environment through targeted actions, regulation, information and advice.
- 3.2 Contributes to the Single Integrated Plan priority to 'improve local employment opportunities including access to opportunities across a wider geographical area'.
- 3.3 Contribute to the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan aim to 'provide a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system that increases opportunity, promotes prosperity and protects the environment; where public transport, walking and cycling provide real travel alternatives.'
- 3.4 LTP's are a statutory requirement as set down by the Transport Act 2000 and amended by the Transport (Wales) Act 2006. LTP's must set out the LA's policies for 'safe, integrated, efficient and economic transport facilities and services to, from and within their area'.

4. THE REPORT

Requirement to produce a Local Transport Plan

- 4.1 The Welsh Government requires all local authorities in Wales to produce LTP's. These will replace the 4 RTPs that are currently in place across Wales. The LTP's have to be submitted

to WG by the end of January 2015 and as such there is a very short timescale to produce the LTP.

- 4.2 The WG has issued formal guidance on producing LTPs. Key points within the LTP guidance include:-
- LTP's should focus on updating/ refreshing the priorities and schemes within the current RTP.
 - LTPs should only include schemes within the LA's remit i.e. should not include schemes relating to the rail or trunk road network.
 - It is a decision for the LA whether to develop a joint LTP with another authority/ authorities e.g. as some transport services cross LA boundaries.
 - A template showing the required format of the LTP is included in the WG guidance.
- 4.3 The South East Wales Regional Transport Plan (RTP) was published in March 2010 and included a 5-year programme of projects and a 15-year strategy. The RTP's long term vision, objectives and priorities for transport in SE Wales remain current and will form the basis of the LTP. The RTP's 5-year programme of schemes will be reviewed and updated to reflect progress and priorities.
- 4.4 In line with the WG guidance, LTPs will not include rail or trunk road schemes i.e. schemes not with the LA's remit. Such schemes will be prioritised, progressed and delivered directly by WG. It is expected that these 'strategic' scheme proposals will be included in WG's National Transport Plan (NTP). The WG LTP guidance states that the next NTP is expected to commence in April 2015 i.e. after the LTPs have been submitted to WG. The Cardiff Capital Region Board will also have a role in prioritising scheme proposals as part of the Metro programme.
- 4.5 The format of the LTP will be in line with the WG guidance and will include:-
- A review of national, regional and local policies and plans.
 - Details of issues, opportunities and interventions in the LA area.
 - A programme of schemes for 2015 to 2020 and longer-term aspirations to 2030.
 - Details of statutory checks and consultation undertaken.
 - A monitoring and evaluation plan.
- 4.6 The document will include separate sections for each LA to set out the issues, opportunities, interventions and programme in their respective areas. Therefore, while the LTP will be a joint document, there is no requirement to prioritise schemes across the area. Any funding applications for the priorities and schemes identified will be on an individual LA basis unless agreed otherwise.
- 4.7 The LTP will require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), which will involve updating the SEA that was undertaken for the RTP.

Local Transport Plans in South East Wales

- 4.8 The option of developing a joint LTP for all 10 LAs in South East Wales was proposed at a South East Wales Directors of Environment and Regeneration (SEWDER) meeting. This would have enabled a direct update of the current RTP but was not agreed by SEWDER. As a result, some SE Wales LAs are now producing their own LTPs (Cardiff, Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend). Newport and Monmouthshire councils may work together to produce a joint LTP.
- 4.9 There is in principle agreement in place for the 5 'South East Wales Valleys' LAs to work together to produce a joint LTP (i.e. Caerphilly CBC, Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, Torfaen CBC, Blaenau Gwent CBC and Merthyr Tydfil CBC) and this work is progressing.

- 4.10 The proposal for a joint LTP was supported at a Cabinet Member briefing of the 5 LAs on 19th September 2014. The Welsh Government requires a lead authority to be identified in cases where LTPs are produced jointly between LAs. The role of the lead authority is solely to act as a point of contact with the Welsh Government. This has yet to be agreed between the councils.
- 4.11 Approval is now being sought to formalise this arrangement within Caerphilly County Borough Council and for a 'South East Wales Valleys Local Transport Plan' to be produced jointly between the 5 LA's. The Welsh Government LTP guidance states that WG approval for such joint working arrangements between LAs is not required.
- 4.12 Prior to submission of the LTP to WG at end January 2015, the draft LTP will go through a period of consultation during autumn 2014. This includes a requirement to consult with the Cardiff Capital Region Board. Following this, LA adoption of the LTP will be required and the document will be reported through Caerphilly County Borough Council's committee cycle during December 2014 to January 2015. The LTP will need to link closely with the adopted Local Development Plan (LDP) and the LDP review during 2015.

Funding the Local Transport Plan

- 4.13 The WG LTP guidance does not provide details of future funding sources for the schemes within the LTP. In 2014/15 LA's were able to bid into WG's Local Transport Fund but this could be a 'one off' grant that is not repeated in future years. It is likely that future funding will be made available from WG to fulfil Active Travel Act requirements. In addition, some schemes within LTPs may also be funded via the Metro programme e.g. bus corridor improvements. WG LTP guidance states that LAs should be creative in seeking additional funding to support transport spending e.g. their own resources, private sector financing, EU funding etc.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The LTP document will undergo Caerphilly CBC's Equalities Impact Assessment process as part of the consultation process in autumn 2014 and any relevant comments made at that time will be fed into the final document. All stakeholders in affected minority groups will also be consulted during the LTP consultation process in accordance with the Council's Equalities Consultation and Monitoring Guidance document.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 No direct financial implications in producing the LTP. The LTP will set down the future transport schemes that will form the basis of bids for transport capital funding.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 The comments received from the list of consultees have been incorporated in this report, other than the inclusion of a glossary of terms.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 It is recommended that Members approve the production of a South East Wales Valleys Local Transport Plan that will be produced jointly by Caerphilly CBC, Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, Torfaen CBC, Blaenau Gwent CBC and Merthyr Tydfil CBC.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 To enable a Local Transport Plan to be produced and submitted to the WG by the end of January 2015 and meet the Council's statutory obligations.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Transport Act 2000
Transport (Wales) Act 2006

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Background papers:

Guidance to Local Transport Authorities – Local Transport Plan 2015 (May 2014)