



REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 9TH DECEMBER 2014

**SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF SOUTH EAST WALES VALLEYS LOCAL
TRANSPORT PLAN**

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Members views on the draft South East Wales Valleys Local Transport Plan (LTP) and to report the responses from the statutory and public consultation, prior to its presentation to Cabinet and Full Council for adoption.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Welsh Government (WG) requires all local authorities (LAs) in Wales to produce LTPs by the end of January 2015. The LTPs will replace the 4 Regional Transport Plans (RTPs) that are currently in place. A South East Wales Valleys LTP has been produced jointly by Caerphilly CBC, Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, Torfaen CBC, Blaenau Gwent CBC and Merthyr Tydfil CBC. Adoption of the final version of the LTP is required to enable submission of the document to the Welsh Government by the deadline.

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 LTPs are a statutory requirement as set down by the Transport Act 2000 and amended by the Transport (Wales) Act 2006. LTPs 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

- 4.1 The Welsh Government (WG) requires all local authorities in Wales to produce LTPs in accordance with WG LTP guidance that was issued in May 2014. The LTPs will replace the 4 Regional Transport Plans (RTPs) that are currently in place across Wales. The LTPs have to be submitted to WG by the end of January 2015 and as such there has been a very short timescale to produce the LTP.
- 4.2 On 29th October 2014, Cabinet gave approval for a joint 'South East Wales Valleys Local Transport Plan' to be produced by Caerphilly CBC, Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, Torfaen CBC, Blaenau Gwent CBC and Merthyr Tydfil CBC.
- 4.3 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. Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC has been identified as the lead authority for the South East Wales Valleys LTP.
- 4.4 The consultation version of the LTP is included as Appendix 1. The format of the LTP is in line with the WG LTP guidance and includes:
- A review of national, regional and local policies and plans.
 - Details of issues, opportunities and interventions across the 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.
- 4.5 The LTP sets out each of the 5 local authorities' priorities for transport schemes in the five year period 2015 to 2020, and medium and longer term aspirations up to 2030. The short term programme of schemes (up to 2020) within each of the 5 LA areas are listed in order of priority as required by the Welsh Government. Although the LTP is a joint document, there is no requirement to prioritise schemes across the whole South East Wales Valleys area. Any funding applications for the priorities and schemes identified will be on an individual LA basis unless agreed otherwise.
- 4.6 The majority of schemes within CCBC's LTP short and longer term programmes are included within the adopted Local Development Plan (LDP). The LTP will need to link closely with the LDP review during 2015.
- 4.7 In line with the Welsh Government's LTP guidance, the LTP programme does not include any 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 regional '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 these regional 'strategic' scheme proposals as part of the Metro programme.
- 4.8 The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) that were previously undertaken for the Regional Transport Plan were reviewed and updated as part of the development of the LTP. This process also incorporated information from the SEAs and HRAs that each of the individual LAs have in place to support their LDPs.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The LTP document has undergone Caerphilly CBC's Equalities Impact Assessment process. The current version of the Equality Impact Assessment form is included as Appendix 2. The

Equality Impact Assessment form will be reviewed and updated to reflect the final version of the LTP that is submitted to the Welsh Government.

- 5.2 Stakeholders in affected minority groups were consulted during the LTP consultation process in accordance with the Council's Equalities Consultation and Monitoring Guidance document. The consultation draft LTP was sent to equalities groups listed within the Caerphilly CBC's Equalities Consultation and Monitoring Guidance for review and comment. The consultation draft was also sent to Caerphilly CBC officers with an equalities remit for wider dissemination to their contacts.
- 5.3 Further detail of comments received from equalities groups during the consultation process is included in the Equalities Impact Assessment form (Appendix 2). All comments received from equalities groups have been reviewed and the key issues raised will be incorporated into the final LTP 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 funding.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 4.9 The draft LTP that was produced jointly by the 5 local authorities has been through a period of consultation. Due to the short timescales in which the LTP had to be produced, the consultation period on the draft Plan was limited to 3 weeks. An email to key stakeholders was sent 2 weeks prior to the start of the consultation to notify them of the forthcoming consultation.
- 4.10 The consultation included statutory consultees, key external stakeholders, Caerphilly CBC Members and relevant officers, Town and Community Councils and equalities groups. There was also a WG requirement to consult with the Cardiff Capital Region Board and neighbouring local authorities. Each consultee was sent a copy of the draft LTP to review and provide comments. The LTP was also uploaded to the websites of the 5 LAs to enable the public to comment on the draft plan. A questionnaire was provided to assist people in responding to the consultation. A copy of the consultation questions is included in the LTP Consultation Report (attached as Appendix 3).
- 4.11 A total of 46 consultation responses were received, which have been reviewed and summarised in the LTP Consultation Report (Appendix 3). The consultation report provides an overview of common themes or issues that were raised during the consultation. It also provides detail of any specific comments received that required consideration of whether changes to the LTP were needed. The LTP Consultation Report highlights the proposed changes to the LTP that have resulted from the consultation process. The proposed changes will be incorporated into the final version of the LTP.
- 4.12 The comments received on this report from the list of consultees have been incorporated within the report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 To seek Members' views on the South East Wales Valleys LTP prior to reporting to Cabinet and Full Council for adoption.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 To enable the South East Wales LTP to be submitted to the Welsh Government by the end of January 2015 to meet the Council's statutory obligations.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Transport Act 2000
Transport (Wales) Act 2006

Author: Gemma Thomas, Principal Engineer (Transport Strategy and Road Safety)
Consultees: Cllr T Williams – Cabinet Member for Highways, Transportation & Engineering
Cllr D T Davies – Chair of Regeneration and Environmental Scrutiny Committee
Cllr E Aldworth – Vice Chair of Regeneration and Environmental Scrutiny Committee
Chris Burns – Interim Chief Executive
Sandra Aspinall – Acting Deputy Chief Executive
Dave Street – Corporate Director – Social Services
Terry Shaw – Head of Engineering Services
Pauline Elliott – Head of Regeneration and Planning
Gail Williams – Monitoring Officer/Principal Solicitor
Clive Campbell – Transportation Engineering Manager
Mike Eedy – Finance Manager
Sian Phillips – HR Manager
David Thomas – Senior Policy Officer (Equalities and Welsh Language)
Rhian Kyte – Team Leader (Strategic and Development Planning)

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – South East Wales Valleys Local Transport Plan: consultation draft
Appendix 2 – Equality Impact Assessment Form
Appendix 3 – Local Transport Plan Consultation Report

Background Paper:

South East Wales Local Transport Plan – Summary of Consultation Comments (Available in Members' Library)