

ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Date: Wednesday 11 July 2001
Time: 2.00 to 5.00 pm
Venue: Theatr Brycheiniog, Canal Wharf, Brecon LD3 7EW

THE DRAFT TRANSPORT FRAMEWORK FOR WALES

Purpose

1. To advise the Committee of the draft Transport Framework following public consultation.
2. To seek the Committee's views on it as set out in paragraph 11.

Timing

3. To enable the Assembly to publish the Transport Framework early in the next session. The views of the Committee expressed at this meeting, those of the Welsh Trunk Forum and other responses to the consultation will contribute to the Framework.

Background

4. The aims of the Assembly as set out in BetterWales need to be reflected in a new Transport Framework to deliver the transport system in Wales. The Cabinet wishes to establish a clear Framework within which transport can contribute to those aims. The Committee first commented and endorsed an outline of the Framework on 29 November 2000. Since then the Assembly has consulted publicly and the report on the results of this consultation are at doc A. The draft Framework has been developed in light of the consultation responses and the latest working draft is at doc B.

Consideration

5. The draft Transport Framework for Wales heralds a new emphasis on improving accessibility to the transport system. The principal means to achieve this will be investment in public transport. This will help with the twin aims of greater inclusion for those who do not have access to a car and also provide alternatives for those who travel by car now. An integral part of the strategy is also to reduce the undesirable effects of transport on the environment of the people of Wales.

6. Overall the consultation responses agreed with the Framework. The responses from local authorities indicated disagreement in some areas. The draft Framework has been adjusted to reflect those concerns and we are in the process of engaging the local authority respondents to confirm whether we have satisfactorily addressed the issues raised.

7. A brief résumé of the adjustments made to the consultation version of the Framework is included in the Annex.

8. We will closely monitor how effectively this strategy achieves the aims as indicated in section 8 of the draft Framework. We are working on finalising how this will be achieved.

9. The Framework has enabled robust assessment criteria to be determined with the assistance of the Welsh Transport Forum to help with the prioritisation of programmes to deliver the desired outcome. These criteria will be applied to the bids for Transport Grants this year and also the trunk road programme. The trunk road programme will be announced after the budget announcement. We will also aim to achieve optimum use of Objective One funding for transport.

Cross-Cutting Themes

10. These are addressed generally within the Framework and the assessment criteria. The Framework aims, through these means, to produce a sustainable transport system. In addition to this the vast majority of transport projects are subject to detailed environmental assessment which explicitly addresses health issues. Consequently a separate health impact assessment will not be carried out. One of the principal aims of the strategy is to provide a transport system which is more widely available and safer for more vulnerable groups. This will help address inequalities in the existing system.

Action for the Committee

11. The Committee are asked to comment on the following aspects in respect to the Framework:

i. Has the Framework developed appropriately since the Committee first endorsed the outline last year?

ii. To note that the Framework acknowledges the Review of Public Transport being conducted by the Committee and that it is structured flexibly to take account of the Committee's final report.

iii. Are there any specific comments the Committee would make before the Framework is finalised?

iv. Other.

Contact Point

12. Tony Parker Transport Directorate.

Annex

Adjustments made to draft Transport Framework in Consultation Paper (March 2001)

Introduction	The purpose and scope of the Framework has been clarified.
Section 3.1.3	The aims taken from <i>BetterWales</i> have been extended.
Section 4.4	The Challenges have been linked to the aim and the Vision.
Section 5.1.1	The Vision has been set in context and extended slightly.
Section 6.2.1	The Strategy has been fleshed out by recording what is happening.
Section 8.4 to 8.7	A start made on developing indicators and targets.
Maps	These are being augmented (yet to be finished).