



## **Local Transport Plan (LTP) Stakeholder Workshop**

Friday 3rd October 2014, 13.30.

Welsh Government Office, Ladywell House, Newtown, Powys. SY16 1JB.

### **Record of questions asked and statements made.**

See Appendix A for attendees.

See Enclosure A for presentation referred to in notes.

See Enclosure B for the handout used in the workshop exercise.

#### **1 Introduction to the LTP Process and Timetable**

- 1.1 Ann Elias gave the background to the TraCC Regional Transport Plan, as summarised in Slide 2.
- 1.2 In May 2014, the Welsh Government informed the Local Authorities that they did not want them to refresh the RTP, but the 22 Local Authorities in Wales were to produce LTPs, and could collaborate on these if they wished.
- 1.3 TraCC is a fully constituted committee of the 3 Local Authorities of Ceredigion County Council, Powys County Council and Gwynedd Council, and as such have decided to keep working together for the time being and to produce a joint LTP for the region.
- 1.4 The WG have said that this must be a refresh of the LTPs and not a reinvention.
- 1.5 There is no commitment from the Welsh Government as of yet as to whether or not they will fund this plan and programme.
- 1.6 Ann introduced Janice Hughes from Hyder Consulting, who have been engaged by TraCC to refresh the TraCC area's LTP.
- 1.7 Janice stated that we wish to consult the audience on the Outcomes and Higher Level interventions, so we can see what the Stakeholders see as being the priorities for the region.
- 1.8 Janice asked for feedback on the TraCC RTP Vision statement in Slide 6.
  - a) Comment: The words "and respects the environment" should be

replaced with “and makes an active contribution to the management of Carbon”.

- b) Comment: The statement omits reference to the reduction of funding for non-commercial services. There is a possibility that cuts in funding may lead to there not being bus services in Powys to support.
- c) Comment: Should the word “affordable” should be added to read “an integrated and affordable transport system”?

Janice stated that this is already covered with the reference to “sustainability”.

1.9 It was asked if the RTP Priorities in Slide 7 were in any particular order. Janice replied that they were not.

## **2 Workshop Exercise – Issues and Opportunities**

2.1 Janice asked the audience to form small groups and discuss the “Issues and Opportunities” listed on the handout document provided (Enclosure B). They were asked to provide their comments on the Welsh Government listed Issues and Opportunities, the other Mid Wales Issues and Opportunities, and to add their own comments in the space provided at the end.

2.2 Following the group workshop, Janice asked if there were any questions or issues the audience wished to raise.

- a) Comment: The WG priorities do not include a line for support of the most vulnerable; the aged and disabled.
- b) Comment: There is a general issue that you have captured access to employment in the draft outcomes, but there is no encouragement of the opportunities in the first place. There is no positive encouragement to the provision of employment through the LTP.

Janice stated that the guidance is specific to say the plan must not cover measures that the Local Authorities cannot deliver, these are to link in with the National Transport Plan. Ann stated that the brief from the WG is clear that we cannot comment on their network. The emphasis needed to be not on telling the Welsh Government what they should do but be supportive of what they are doing.

- c) Comment: There is a lack of information here about opportunities for collaboration to support transport delivery. How do we propose to support these?

Janice stated that a bit more context would be given to this.

- d) Comment: We seem to continue to work on the basis that we are

providing bus services in the usual way. We are going to face a reduction in money so we need to focus more on innovation.

- e) Comment: If we are not able to comment on rail or trunk roads, how are we able to say this is what we intend to do?

Ann stated that we would give an overview of the strategic issues that affect the region, but we cannot ask, for example, please can you deliver this bypass.

- f) Janice stated that it would be better if we can see the draft NTP before we go to consultation on the LTP, and that TraCC and Hyder would be pushing for this.

### **3 Draft Outcomes**

3.1 Janice went through the Draft Outcomes in Slide 9.

3.2 Comments relating to the second outcome " Access to Employment and Services":

- a) Comment: Increasingly we find that in Welsh Government documents that this is code for Communities First areas and it is away from rural areas, so by putting it in the Outcomes does it take it away from us?

Janice stated that this would be widened out. We recognise that this is about access and focus on the most poor and deprived.

- b) Comment: Bearing in mind that it needs tendered revenue support to service most routes in Mid Wales, how can you manage without revenue funding?

Ann stated that TraCC recognise this as a major issue and there needs to be some form of revenue plan to support it.

- c) Comment: Out of this we need something that is sustainable. We do not have a population base over a vast area to make it sustainable, so we cannot continue to have revenue funding allocated to Mid Wales in the same way that it has been over the past few years.
- d) Comment: It is a Wales-wide strategic issue, as we are at the centre of Wales and connect both North and South.
- e) Comment: Are we talking about social inclusion? We need to make sure that all people in society are included.
- f) Comment: There is a lack of emphasis on the aging population. The distance in access to health provision is increasing.

3.3 Comments relating to the fourth outcome: "Improved Safety and

Security”:

- a) Comment: Doesn't this come down to revenue funding?
- b) Comment: We were talking about this with the Newtown Bypass, and both of these were involved in the scheme.

3.4 Comments relating to the fifth outcome: “Benefits and Minimised Impacts on the Environment”.

- a) Comment: Can we say “positively reduce carbon emissions,” as that is the bottom line?

Janice stated that it relates to flooding as well, but this could be included.

3.5 Overall comments:

- a) Comment: There is a lack of intervention shown in how we are going to resolve these issues. We need to show how innovative we are going to be in the delivery of our transport and the improvements in the network.
- b) Comment: There is not outcome for health. Would it be better to say “improving health” through walking and cycling?

Janice stated that she would think about that, but there needed to be some narrative about it.

- c) Comment: Consumer activity has considerably changed. There are large out of town supermarkets. Consumerism is very often overlooked in these sort of plans.
- d) Comment: There are key words that the Welsh Government like to hear. Rural proofing is not mentioned. We should be looking clearly and sharply at this so we can encourage the Welsh Government to meet their commitments towards delivering on this very important issue.
- e) Comment: Have you been able to identify the key destinations and markets?

Janice answered that we have had a piece of work done which looks at the information from the Census. We will present all of that evidence along with the document. The connections with the West Midlands will be referenced.

3.6 Janice asked if the audience were generally comfortable with the outcomes as given. Comments back mentioned carbon, health, access within a reasonable timeframe and quality of service provision.

3.7 Comment: There is a danger of having too many points which are difficult to measure, but the number of people who live in Powys but work across the border in England is easy to measure.

#### **4 Draft Higher Level Interventions**

4.1 Janice went through the Draft Higher Level Interventions in Slide 11.

- a) Comment: Is there a financial measurement of them, so it can be compared in terms of financial value and social value?
- b) Comment: Do we need to look at the active Travel Plan more?

Ann stated that it does tie in to some of those key issues, but the LTP also needs to be flexible enough to adapt to whatever the Welsh Government are promoting.

- c) Comment: Are you looking to acknowledge large transport developments in neighbouring regions, such as the bypass in Hereford?

Janice stated that any information on those schemes would be very useful.

- d) Comment: I have not seen “behaviour change” mentioned. This is fundamental to the health and economic aspects.

4.2 Janice stated that we are not intending to prioritise these interventions. The Local Authorities would do this and produce a programme. A draft document would be available for public consultation from 24 November, with the Local Authorities’ programmes in.

4.3 Comment: Travel in itself is not a bad thing. We do not need to reduce travel, for example take-up of bus services, walking and cycling.

4.4 Comment: Will you look at referencing transport issues in neighbouring areas?

Ann stated that all the other plans from the other regions would be out for consultation and would be looked at.

4.5 Comment: I have seen documents from some areas in South Wales that do not mention us at all, as if we do not exist.

4.6 Janice asked if there were any other interventions people would like to see there. The audience were happy with the interventions. Additional comments were received regarding ticketing schemes.

- 4.7 Comment: You need to say where schemes deliver on more than one intervention.

Janice stated that with the public consultation, we can ask where these schemes should be placed within these interventions.

- 4.8 Janice asked if there were any interventions which people considered especially important: A couple of answers were given: road maintenance and resilience. The feelings in the room were that generally people would find it easier to do so once the schemes are known.

- 4.9 Comment: If a scheme meets more than one criteria, maybe it should be given more priority than a scheme that just meets the one.

- 4.10 Comment: Where does education sit in this?

Janice stated that this would come under the access to key services.

- 4.11 Comment: In the RTP there was a line for Capital Enhancement for Community Transport schemes. Will this be in the LTP?

Ann stated that TraCC has asked the Welsh Government for guidance on this particular issue but had not so far received a response. Janice suggested that the Local Authorities put something in for Community Transport on the basis that if it is allowed they could then have it ready.

## 5 Conclusion

- 5.1 Janice stated that part of the process was to ensure we comply with all the statutory requirements. An SEA scoping document was being prepared. Equalities Impact and HRA screening was also being undertaken.

- 5.2 The public consultation period on the Draft LTP would run between 24 November and 5 January 2015, with submission to Welsh Government by 31 January 2015.

- 5.3 The handouts were collected and the meeting was concluded.

## Appendix A – Attendees, as recorded by Ladywell House Reception

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Ann Elias	TraCC / Ceredigion County Council
Chris Wilson	Ceredigion County Council
Jonathan Aldred	Ceredigion County Council
Janice Hughes	Hyder Consulting
Sarah Leyland-Jones	PAVO
Siân Summers-Rees	CTA Wales

David Beer	Passenger Focus
Cllr John Powell	Powys County Council
Dave Cooil	North & Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent
Councillor Jeremy Barnes	Powys County Council
Mr D Wyn Lloyd	Lloyds Coaches
Siân Lewis	Network Rail
Glyn Evans	Sustrans
Robin C Smith	Rail Freight Group
Medwyn Parry	Motorcycle Action Group
Jeremy Callard	Herefordshire Council
Mike Owen	Owens of Oswestry Coaches Ltd
Julie Thomas	Ceredigion County Council
Paul Harley	Bus Users Cymru
Paul Atkins	Public Transport Logistics Consultant
Councillor Alun Williams	Ceredigion County Council
Andrea M Jones	Carmarthenshire County Council
David Edwards	Heart of Wales Line Forum