

Mid Wales Joint Local Transport Plan 2015

Consultation Report

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Mid Wales Joint Local Transport Plan 2015

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1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

This document details the consultation strategy implemented as part of the formulation of the Mid Wales Joint Local Transport Plan (LTP). The feedback received during the consultation assisted the local authorities in preparing the Draft and Final Plan. A summary of the feedback received and the subsequent actions taken are also documented.

1.2 The Mid Wales Local Transport Plan

The LTP has been jointly produced by the three Mid Wales Local Authorities of Ceredigion County Council, Gwynedd Council and Powys County Council. The plan covers only the Meirionnydd part of Gwynedd with the remainder of the County being included in the Joint LTP for North Wales. It is a requirement of the Welsh Government that local authorities either prepare a LTP for its area or prepare one jointly with one or more local transport authorities.

1.3 Document Structure

This document has the following structure:

- **Section 2:** sets out the consultation strategy delivered in the preparation of the LTP;
- **Section 3:** outlines key themes of the consultation feedback received; and
- **Section 4:** documents the actions taken and the changes made to the LTP as a result of the consultation feedback received.

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2 Consultation Strategy

2.1 Introduction

The consultation strategy of the Mid Wales Joint LTP comprised three distinct components, firstly to engage with each of the three local authorities, secondly to engage with stakeholders and thirdly to undertake a full public consultation of the Draft Joint LTP prior to submission of the Final Plan to the Welsh Government in January 2015.

2.2 Local Transport Plan Guidance

The LTP has been produced in accordance with the LTP guidance issued by the Welsh Government in May 2014, which states that the LTP should provide details of who has been consulted and a summary of the feedback received.

2.3 Local Authorities

A programme of meetings to consult with local authority officers together with the TraCC Board took place throughout the development of the Joint LTP, as detailed in **Table 2.1**. These meetings steered the development of the Plan together with determining detailed components of the strategy.

Table 2.1: Local Authority Consultation Events

Event	Date
Officers Workshop	17 th September 2014
Individual discussions with each authority	September and October 2014
TraCC Management Group	29 th October 2014
TraCC Board	14 th November 2014
TraCC Management Group	9 th January 2015
TraCC Board	22 nd January 2015

2.4 Stakeholder Workshop

A workshop took place on the 3rd October 2014 with invited stakeholders from across the area. The presentation made at the workshop is included as **Appendix A**. The workshop assisted to confirm the vision, issues, outcomes and interventions of the Plan. The notes of the meeting including the list of stakeholders who attended the workshop is included in **Appendix B**.

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2.5 Public Consultation

A period of full public consultation was undertaken from 24th November 2014 to 5th January 2015 to receive feedback from the public and stakeholders on the Draft Joint LTP. The consultation documents and feedback form were available online on the TraCC website and a series of events were held across the LTP area where local authority officers and the Mid Wales LTP Officer were available to discuss the Draft Plan and take comments. A copy of the consultation documents are presented in [Appendix C](#).

Stakeholders were advised of the consultation period by email and the public consultation events were publicised by each local authority according to their usual procedures.

The attendance at the various events was recorded and whilst not all those who attended signed the attendance list, a total of 69 people were recorded.

Table 2.2: Attendance at Mid Wales Joint LTP Consultation Events

Venue	Date	Number Attending
Brecon	3 rd December	3
Llandrindod Wells	4 th December	15
Newtown	5 th December	12
Aberaeron	8 th December	16
Aberystwyth	9 th December	22
Dolgellau	17 th December	1
	Total	69

2.6 Recording Feedback

A feedback form (presented in [Appendix C](#)) was made available during the full public consultation period. The form was made available online on the TraCC website and paper copies were available at the consultation events. The completed forms together with responses by letter and email within the consultation period were collated.

The feedback form asked consultees five core questions to determine:

- Support for the LTPs vision;
- Agreement on the identified key transport issues;
- Views on the prioritisation of the LTP outcomes;
- Views on the prioritisation of the proposed transport projects by local authority area and for the Mid Wales region; and

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- Views on the accompanying Strategic Environmental Assessment, Habitats Regulations Screening Report and Equality Impact Assessment.

A summary of the feedback received is detailed in **Section 3** and the actions taken as a result of the consultation are documented in **Section 4**.

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3 Consultation Feedback

3.1 Introduction

This section summaries the feedback received during the consultation of the Mid Wales Joint LTP. In total 32 responses were received including completed feedback forms, as well as in-depth replies from interested bodies and from individual members of the public.

3.2 LTP's Vision

Overall, there is positive support for the LTPs vision with 89% of respondents stating their support. Of those who did not support the vision of the Draft Plan it was noted that the vision should specifically mention active travel and non-work related journeys, in particular specific reference to widening the use of active travel for more journeys, as well reference to the transportation of freight.

3.3 Key Transport Issues and Opportunities

The consultation asked respondents if they agreed that the nine key transport issues and opportunities identified in the Draft Plan fairly reflect the transport situation in Mid Wales. The identified nine key transport issues and opportunities were:

- Employment and tourism access;
- Inclusive access to services;
- Integration of public transport;
- Active travel potential;
- Journey time reliability and strategic connections;
- Freight connections;
- Highway condition and road safety;
- Resilience to climate change; and
- Availability and sustainability of funding.

Overall respondents (79%) agreed that the transport issues and opportunities fairly reflect the transport situation in Mid Wales.

The feedback received centred on the need for the Plan to highlight the greater need for collaboration in the delivery of transport, the need to highlight visitor transport and the need for the provision of fast and reliable broadband in order to improve access to employment and widen opportunities.

It was noted that a greater focus in the Plan should be placed on reducing the reliance on private car ownership in order to reduce transport poverty across Mid Wales, through reducing the need to travel, by improving opportunities for active travel (particularly for shorter local journeys), public transport and car sharing, as well as a greater focus on the role community transport in providing inclusive access to services.

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Respondents also commented that a greater need for transport schemes to be integrated and incorporated in the delivery of major projects, promotion of cross-border services and promoting play opportunities should be specifically highlighted in the Plan.

The feedback form asked to identify which issue or issues respondents thought were most critical to be addressed by the Plan. The sum of the number of responses to each of the issues and opportunities is shown in **Table 3.1**. The need to improve integration of public transport was identified as the key issue/opportunity to be addressed, closely followed by the need for inclusive access to services. Freight connections and the resilience to climate change was identified as a priority by the fewest number of respondents.

Table 3.1: Prioritisation of Issues and Opportunities for Mid Wales Joint LTP

Issues and Opportunities:	Total
Employment and tourism access	6
Inclusive access to services	9
Integration of public transport	10
Active travel potential	7
Journey time reliability and strategic connections	5
Freight connections	1
Highway condition and road safety	4
Resilience to climate change	1
Availability and sustainability of funding	3

3.4 Transport Outcomes

Respondents were asked to rank the five identified outcomes in terms of priority and of those who responded an average score for each outcome has been calculated as shown in **Table 3.2**. The outcome access to employment and services received the highest priority, followed by access to key destinations and markets and improved safety and security. It was noted by respondents that there is a need for greater reference to the role of freight, in particular rail freight and to the equestrians within the Plan.

Table 3.2: Prioritisation of Outcomes for Mid Wales Joint LTP

Outcome:	1	2	3	4	5	Avg
Access to Employment and Services	8	3	2	3	1	2.18

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Access to Key Destinations and Markets	1	7	4	3	2	2.88
Improving Health and Well-being by Increasing Walking and Cycling	2	4	2	4	5	3.35
Improved Safety and Security	3	2	7	2	3	3
Benefits and Minimised Impacts on the Environment	3	1	2	5	6	3.59

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3.5 Priority Projects

The LTP identified five higher level interventions under which transport schemes from each of the local authorities were identified. Consultees were asked to prioritise the projects in their local authority area and for the Mid Wales region as a whole.

Due to the small sample size and the varying manner in which this question was answered, it has been difficult to draw concise patterns of project priority from the consultation responses. However, from the answers given it is clear that respondents prioritised the following interventions namely improving strategic connections, improving accessibility to employment and services and integrated public transport networks.

The need for a capital enhancement scheme community transport across the region was identified as a gap in the proposed programme, as the replacement of vehicles is a major issue for community transport operators.

A large number of detailed comments relating to individual projects were received, as well as a number of proposed new projects were identified. These comments have been passed onto the relevant local authorities.

3.6 Summary

Whilst not statistically based, the analysis of the prioritisation of issues/opportunities, outcomes and projects/interventions indicated that the priorities for Mid Wales are to improve the integration of public transport, improve access to employment and services and to improve strategic connections across the region.

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4 Actions Taken following Consultation

4.1 Introduction

The comments received were summarised and discussed with senior officers of the local authorities and amendments made as appropriate to enable this final document to be submitted to Welsh Government by 31st January 2015.

4.2 Transport Projects

All comments relating to the individual transport projects have been passed onto the relevant local authorities.

The projects included in the interventions were updated to give greater consistency of approach, with a range of projects for road safety, active travel, and community transport for example becoming all authority projects.

4.3 Prioritisation

The comments on priorities for projects were taken into account in identifying which of the projects under each intervention should be 'Regional Priority Projects', alongside contribution to outcomes and scale of benefit.