

Enterprise, Innovation and Networks Committee

EIN(2) 06-06 (p5)

Date: 20 September 2006

Venue: Committee Room 2, National Assembly for Wales

Title: The Wales Transport Strategy – Consultation Draft

Purpose

1. To inform the Committee of the current position on the development of the Wales Transport Strategy (Connecting Wales) and seek its views on the main consultation questions.

Summary

2. The Draft Wales Transport Strategy was released for public consultation on 13th July 2006. The closing date for comments is 14th October 2006.

Background

The Draft Wales Transport Strategy is a high level document which seeks to show how transport will play a part in delivering the strategic agenda of the Welsh Assembly Government. It proposes a series of outcomes which the Welsh Assembly Government will work towards and a series of indicators which will measure progress. The draft outcomes and the consultation questions are reproduced at Annex 1. The Strategy will be followed by a series of Assembly Transport Plans which (together with Regional Transport Plans to be produced by the Regional Transport Consortia) will set out in more detail how the outcomes are to be achieved.

Copies of the draft Strategy and explanatory leaflet have been distributed widely – including to business, environmental and transport interest groups; regional organisations; groups representing ethnic minorities, young and older people and people with disabilities; political and trade union interests; and neighbouring English Authorities and other UK administrations. The Draft Strategy is available on the Welsh Assembly Government website. Initial feedback to the publication of the Draft Strategy has been constructive and positive. All Assembly Members have received a copy of the Strategy.

Officers of the DEIN Department have attended meetings with many of the groups listed in paragraph 4 to outline the main elements of the Transport Strategy and answer questions.

Financial Implications

6. Finance for the consultation is included in DEIN budgets. The financial consequences of the

Strategy itself will be considered as part of the appraisal of the Assembly Transport Plans.

Action for DEIN Committee

7. To consider this report and offer comments on the draft Wales Transport Strategy.

Andrew Davies AM
Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks

ANNEX 1

The Wales Transport Strategy Outcomes

The outcomes have been grouped under the three elements of sustainability:

Social

- Improving access to healthcare;
- Improving access to education and lifelong learning;
- Improving access to shopping and leisure facilities;
- Encouraging healthy lifestyles; and
- Improving the actual and perceived safety of travel.

Economic

- Improving connectivity (links) within Wales and internationally;
- Improving the efficient, reliable and sustainable movement of people;
- Improving the efficient, reliable and sustainable movement of freight;
- Improving access to employment opportunities;
- Improving access to key visitor attractions; and
- Increasing the use of more sustainable materials in the maintenance of Wales' transport assets and in the provision of new transport infrastructure.

Environmental

- Reducing the contribution of transport to greenhouse gas emissions, adapting to the impacts of climate change and reducing the contribution of transport on air pollution and other harmful pollutant emissions;

- Reducing the negative impact of transport on the local environment – water

pollution, land contamination, noise and vibration, light pollution and links between communities;

- Reducing the negative impact of transport on our heritage – landscape, townscape, historical environment and Wales’ distinctiveness; and

- Reducing the negative impacts of transport on biodiversity and increasing positive impacts.

There are also 3 Main Themes in the Strategy:

Theme 1: To achieve a more effective and efficient transport system

Theme 2: To achieve greater use of the more sustainable and healthy forms of travel

Theme 3: To minimise the need to travel

Consultation Questions

Part 1 Meeting the Challenge outlines the wider policy framework, identifies a series of outcomes that provide the focus for this Transport Strategy. It also sets the transport context in terms of current travel patterns and considers key challenges before detailing the three core themes underlying the Strategy and the range of measures that will contribute to achieving these themes. Views are sought on the following issues

discussed in Part 1:

1 Do you broadly agree with the social outcomes identified? If not, what else needs to be included to ensure that this transport strategy supports the social priorities set out in our Wales Spatial Plan and inter-related strategy documents?

2 Do you broadly agree with the economic outcomes identified? If not, what else needs to be included to ensure that this Transport Strategy supports the economic priorities set out in our Wales Spatial Plan and Wales: A Vibrant Economy?

3 Do you broadly agree with the environmental outcomes identified? If not, what else needs to be included to ensure that this Transport Strategy supports the environmental priorities set out in our Wales Spatial Plan and Environment Strategy?

4 Do you broadly agree that the three themes (identified in Chapter 3) will provide the best means of addressing the outcomes?

5 Have we identified the most effective interventions, measures and initiatives for each of the themes to maximise the delivery of the outcomes?

Consultees should note that neither the transport themes nor the ‘tool-kit’ of measures have been prioritised. Rather, it is proposed that practitioners determine the emphasis on themes and measures dependent on local circumstances.

6 Do you think this flexible approach is right or should we be emphasising any one of the themes to maximise the role transport can play in the delivery of the outcomes?

Part 2 Delivering the Outcomes details the role that transport can play in helping to achieve social, economic and environmental outcomes. Views are sought on the following aspects considered in Part 2:

7 Is it helpful to include examples of best practice via case studies as detailed at the end of Chapters 5, 6 and 7?

8 Are there any other examples of best practice that we should be highlighting in this Transport Strategy?

9 Do the transport tools set out for each of the outcomes represent the most effective interventions? Are there any other key measures or initiatives that we should be highlighting?

Part 4 Delivery and Monitoring provides advice on funding and partnering arrangements to aid delivery of this Transport Strategy, coupled with a monitoring framework that incorporates a series of performance indicators. Views are sought in respect of the following issue:

10 Will the set of indicators presented adequately capture progress in delivering this Transport Strategy? If not, please identify any additional or alternative indicators.