
NORTH WEST CARDIFF CORRIDOR TRANSPORTATION STUDY: UPDATE

Reason for the Report

1. A report titled 'North West Cardiff Corridor Transportation Study: Update' is due to be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on the 17 June 2021.

2. The reasons for taking the report to Cabinet are described as:
 - For Cabinet to receive an update on the transportation study work that will identify the short-term and long-term public transport options that offer the best business cases in order to improve access through North West Cardiff towards the City Centre.
 - For Cabinet to note the outcome of the current stage of the study work and the way forward to progress the short-term and long-term business cases.

Structure of Papers

3. The following Appendices are attached to this cover report:
 - **Appendix A** – draft Cabinet Report;
 - **Appendix B** - Stage 1 WeITAG Report, which identifies a shortlist of potential short-term Phase 1 measures that could be delivered before 2025.

4. A copy of the draft Cabinet Report is attached at **Appendix A** and provides:
 - Relevant background information;
 - A short summary of the WeITAG Stage 1 Report undertaken by Mott Macdonald Transport Consultants;
 - An explanation of potential short-term Phase 1 measures proposed in the WeITAG Stage 1 Report up to 2025 and 2025-2030;
 - A short summary of the anticipated benefits of the proposals;
 - Financial implications;
 - Legal implications;
 - Report recommendations and the reasons for making the recommendations.

5. A short summary of some of the key points from the draft Cabinet Report (**Appendix A**) is as follows:

Background

- The Transport White Paper approved by Cabinet on 23rd January 2020 included proposals for major new rapid public transit for North West Cardiff into RCT. **Point 4** of the draft Cabinet Report sets out what was resolved by Cabinet at this meeting.

- **Point 8** of the draft Cabinet Report identifies the following as the key factors contributing to the need of enhancing the north west corridor:
 - The 2008, Wales Spatial Plan Update identified North West Cardiff / Talbot Green / Llantrisant as a strategic opportunity area within the Cardiff Capital Region;
 - There is a recognised need that in order to enhance Cardiff as a key economic driver for the Capital Region, a fully integrated, high quality transport system must be in place;
 - Both Cardiff and Rhondda Cynon Taf Councils' Local Development Plans have highlighted significant future growth taking place along the corridor, in terms of both residential development and economic activity.

- Prior to implementing proposals for major infrastructure schemes in Wales, organisers are required to follow a multi stage business case process which examines the Strategic, Economic, Financial, Commercial and Management Cases for implementing any new schemes. This process has been established by the Welsh Government and is known as WelTAG.

North West Corridor WelTAG Stage 1 Report

- In July 2019, Mott Macdonald Transport Consultants were commissioned to undertake a WelTAG Stage 1 study to investigate which short-term and long-term public transport options serving a corridor from North West Cardiff to the City Centre offer the best business case.
- The overarching purpose of the WelTAG Stage 1 study was to identify a short-list of potential public transport solutions for the corridor.
- **Point 11** of the draft Cabinet Report provides the shortlist of short-term Phase 1 measures identified by the study which could be delivered by 2025 and require further consideration as part of the WelTAG Stage 2 process.
- As detailed in **point 13** of the draft Cabinet Report, short term improvements up to 2025 will focus on bus related and active travel improvements. The later phase of work, 2025-2030, will include an assessment of rail and tram route improvements for Crossrail including lines serving North West Cardiff and beyond to Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT).

Next Stages

- The draft Cabinet Report, advised the following next stages –
 - Phase 1 WeITAG Stage 2 process, will examine the opportunity for new Bus Rapid Transit services, Park & Ride, transport hubs and interchanges, along with 4 trains per hour on the City Line. Assessment will also be undertaken on new stations, new tram-train routes including Cardiff Crossrail supported with Active Travel connections.
 - The WeITAG Stage 2 Outline Business Cases will identify preferred options to be assessed in detail in the WeITAG Stage 3 Full Business Cases.
 - The Business Cases will inform bids for grant funding and where appropriate to supplement s106 Developer Contributions.

Finance

- The financial implications section of the draft Cabinet Report notes that grant funding continues to be secured by Rhondda Cynon Taf Council from the Welsh Government's Local Transport Fund to progress WeITAG Stage 2 of the Business Case.
- This is being managed via Transport for Wales and Members will note that any expenditure will need to be in accordance with the terms, conditions and timescales of the grant.

Way Forward

6. The Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning & Transport has been invited to attend the meeting. He will be supported by officers from the Planning, Transport & Environment directorate.

Legal Implications

The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not making policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to the Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not making policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

7. The Committee is recommended to:

- (i) Consider the information in this report and the information presented at the meeting;
- (ii) Determine whether they would like to make any comments, observations or recommendations to the Cabinet on this matter; and,
- (iii) Decide the way forward for any future scrutiny of the issues discussed.

Davina Fiore

Director of Governance & Legal Services

9th June 2021