

## **The Vale of Glamorgan Council**

### **Cabinet Meeting: 22 January, 2018**

### **Report of the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport**

### **Review Process for Transport Network Studies at Dinas Powys & M4 JCT 34 to A48**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek the approval of Cabinet to the process, timescales and terms of reference for the Review Groups involved in the 'WelTAG' (Welsh Transport Approved Guidance) process for Improving Strategic Transport in Dinas Powys and M4 JCT 34 to A48 Transport Network Studies.

#### **Recommendations**

1. That Cabinet agrees the composition of the Review Groups for WelTAG at Dinas Powys and M4 JCT 34 to A48 as outlined in this report.
2. That Cabinet agrees the Terms of Reference for WelTAG review Groups as attached at [Appendix A](#) to this report.
3. That Cabinet receives a further report following the receipt of the draft WelTAG Stage 2 reports in Spring 2018.

#### **Reasons for the Recommendations**

1. To confirm the review group participants for the WelTAG studies.
2. To agree the Terms of Reference.
3. To update Cabinet on the outcome of the studies and to recommend ways forward to progress to WelTAG stage 3 work using the relevant Welsh Government Transport Guidance.

#### **Background**

2. Arcadis Consulting UK Limited was commissioned by the Council in 2017 to develop and appraise potential options for improving the strategic transport network in Dinas Powys and Junction M4 JCT 34 to A48 as part of two separate studies. WelTAG Stage one Reports have been presented to Cabinet and a way forward agreed for progressing to WelTAG Stage 2, Outline Business Cases for both schemes. As part of both studies, a Review Group was set up to ensure that the process being

followed aligned with the Welsh Government guidance at that time. The appraisal of options was in accordance with Welsh Government's latest June 2016 version of the Welsh Transport Appraisal Guidance (WelTAG). All transport schemes in Wales need to progress through the WelTAG process prior to being put forward for Welsh Government funding and accepted schemes for transport funding need to demonstrate value for money in addition to a range of other criteria.

3. The WelTAG Stage 1 reports advised on the issues of concern, exploring their context and presented a long list of possible solutions which were presented to Cabinet in July (Dinas Powys) and November 2017 (M4 JCT 34 and A48) (Min C50 & C145 refers). The Reports were further considered by Scrutiny Committee (Environment & Regeneration) on 14th September 2017 (Dinas Powys) and on 30th November 2017 (M4 JCT 34 to A48).
4. In respect of Improvement to Strategic Transport for Dinas Powys, an additional recommendation was approved by Cabinet on 9th October 2017 as follows:
  1. To consider the appointment of a representative by Dinas Powys Community Council of their choosing to sit on the review group.

In respect of M4 Junction 34 to A48 this report was agreed by Cabinet on 18th December 2017 (Minute C171).

### **Relevant Issues and Options**

5. The WelTAG Guidance has recently been updated by Welsh Government following a consultation process in 2017. This updated Guidance was released on 13th December 2017 and can be accessed via this link (<https://beta.gov.wales/welsh-transport-appraisal-guidance-weltag>).
6. As part of the WelTAG consultation process, there are opportunities to consult both stakeholders and the public. This has been undertaken for WelTAG Stage One for both schemes and a list of stakeholders have been identified for both studies. It is still intended to use these stakeholder groups for future WelTAG Stages as indicated in the relevant WelTAG Guidance.
7. The new Guidance advises:
  - A Review Group should be appointed for each WelTAG appraisal. The purpose of the Review Group is to consider the contents of the WelTAG Stage Reports, assess each of the options presented, and decide on the actions to be taken at the end of that WelTAG stage. The WelTAG Impacts Assessment Report contains the more detailed analysis that lies behind the material presented in the Stage Reports. This should also be made available to the Review Group.
  - The size and composition of the Review Group should be set out in the management case in the Stage One report, and should seek to involve individuals from a range of backgrounds and expertise including across the four aspects of well-being (social, cultural, environmental, economic). In many organisations the same Review Group will consider all the WelTAG appraisals being produced. Over time this Group will learn from the experience of previous appraisals. Even for low risk schemes a Review Group should be held as this provides an opportunity for peer review of the appraisal.
  - Depending on the scope of the intervention under consideration, it is recommended to designate an independent reviewer for the project. That role should be fulfilled by someone with experience or knowledge of the issues but who is not part of the

programme team. Their role is to provide an impartial and independent review of the evidence and the development of the case. All medium and high risk projects should include a review panel member with a high degree of active travel expertise.

The following table is a guide to the type of assessment and Review Group for different scales of projects:

Project Risk	Project characteristics	Assessment Type	Review Group
High	Large, novel, complex, significant impact, sensitive, significant resources required	Gateway Review or equivalent	Project Manager, SRO/ Project Board, Experienced independent practitioners from a range of backgrounds
Medium	Previously tested approach, moderate level of impact, some sensitivities, some degree of resource commitment	Peer Review	Project Manager, SRO/ Project Board
Low	Routine, well tested, experienced, minimal resource, low impact, clear project boundaries	Self Assessment	Project Manager, SRO

8. As both studies have significant financial implications if delivered, it is considered that they will be assessed within the High Project Risk Assessment category as identified in the Guidance. Therefore, for avoidance of doubt, and to set out the Council's intention on how it intends to proceed with complying with the Review process, the following process is proposed for both Stage Two reports.

a. Draft Report received from Consultants and considered by officers.

b. Consideration by the Review Group, which it is suggested to meet the Guidance, now comprises:

- Vale of Glamorgan Council relevant technical officers
- Welsh Government
- Network Rail
- Arriva Trains Wales
- Relevant Public Transport Operators
- Sustrans
- Road Haulage Association
- Freight Transport Association
- Relevant Neighbouring Local Authorities (NEW)
- Health Board (NEW)
- A representative designated by the Community Council (For Dinas Powys Scheme)

- A representative designated by the Community Councils from each of the three Community Councils (for M4 J34 to A48 scheme)
  - c. Cabinet to receive a report on the findings.
  - d. Consideration of the Report by the Council's Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.
  - e. The Stage 2 report to be considered by a separate independent Consultant appointed to act as an Independent Reviewer taking all comments on Board.
  - f. A Final Draft Report presented to Cabinet which will include an appendix of the Independent Reviewer's Report. Cabinet will be asked to agree any changes if applicable to the WelTAG Report at this stage.
- 9. Suggested 'Terms of Reference' for the Review Group are attached at Appendix A. The role of the Review Group will be to consider the proposals in the technical WelTAG report and to identify any support or concerns with the proposals and to make suggestions for any missing evidence and information. The Review Group will be chaired by the Head of Neighbourhood Services and Transport, and a report produced that will be considered by the Independent Reviewer and reported to Cabinet for further consideration. The Groups need to be formally invited to get involved and initial meetings are arranged for 16th January 2018.
- 10. This proposed way forward should ensure that the process for both Schemes complies with the relevant Guidance. Complying with the process will assist the Council to apply for funding as needed for the next stages of the WelTAG process. The Review process will also be used for all future WelTAG Stages undertaken. Any Reports prepared by the Independent Reviewer, will be recorded as an official log of the work undertaken and will be included in the evidence for change in any future bidding applications for funding.

### **Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)**

- 11. The maximum budget available for these Projects is £70,000 (Dinas Powys) and £60,000 (M4 Junction 34 to A48) including all expenses. The Independent Review process will also need to be funded through existing resources.

### **Sustainability and Climate Change Implications**

- 12. Sustainability, including environmental impacts, will be considered as part of the WelTAG process.

### **Legal Implications (to Include Human Rights Implications)**

- 13. There are no legal implications associated with this Report.

### **Crime and Disorder Implications**

- 14. Improvements to transportation systems can assist with providing a safe environment for passengers to travel to and from their home for employment, and leisure activities.

### **Equal Opportunities Implications (to include Welsh Language issues)**

- 15. The provision of a well organised transport network helps to increase mobility and accessibility.

## **Corporate/Service Objectives**

16. The provision of a reliable, efficient and value for money transport network is recognised by the Visible Service and Transport Plan (2017). The relevant Wellbeing Outcome is An Environmentally Responsible and Prosperous Vale with the relevant Wellbeing Objective being to promote regeneration, economic growth and employment.

## **Policy Framework and Budget**

17. This is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet.

## **Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)**

18. As this report deals with the principles of the engagement of Review Groups for any WeITAG studies, and these could be Vale wide, no local ward Member consultation has been undertaken. The relevant local ward Members will however be consulted on the details of any WeITAG studies covering their particular wards.

## **Relevant Scrutiny Committee**

19. Environment and Regeneration

## **Background Papers**

WeITAG Guidance 2017

## **Contact Officer**

Emma Reed - Head of Neighbourhood Services and Transport

## **Officers Consulted**

Legal - Committee Reports  
Accountant - Environment and Housing Services  
Operational Manager - Regeneration  
Operational Manager Highways and Engineering  
Head of Planning and Regeneration

## **Responsible Officer:**

Miles Punter - Director of Environment and Housing Services