

South West Wales Regional Transport Plan (RTP)

Summer 2024 Public Consultation – Summary of Findings

Introduction to the new RTP

The new Regional Transport Plan (RTP) is being prepared by the Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) for South West Wales, a new body for local government in the region. It will set out how national policy, as laid out by Welsh Government in Llwybr Newydd: the Wales Transport Strategy, will be delivered across Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire and Swansea over the period 2025 - 2030. The new RTP is in the early stages of development but once adopted will replace the existing Joint Local Transport Plan.

Background to the consultation

During summer 2024 an early stage of public consultation was held to:

- Let people know that a new RTP is being developed.
- Give people an opportunity to comment on the transport problems they are currently experiencing in the region and on their transport priorities for the future.
- Ensure the new RTP addresses the issues that are of most pressing concern.

This was an informal, non-statutory consultation focussed on problems and issues identified in the preparatory work for the RTP (called the Case for Change¹). Feedback was gathered via an online survey. The consultation ran for six weeks from Monday 15th July until Monday 26th August 2024.

Overall response



818 completed online surveys, plus additional letters and emails.



282 survey responses from Swansea



survey responses from Pembrokeshire



125 survey responses from Carmarthenshire



226 survey responses from Neath Port Talbot

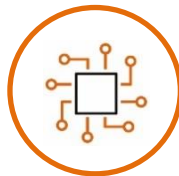
Most respondents were in the 40-74 age bracket (71%). 18% of respondents were under 39. For the next stages of consultation it will be important to consider how to encourage engagement across Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire and with younger people.

Feedback on problems and issues

The online survey asked respondents to what extent they agreed or disagreed with a list of previously identified problems and issues derived from the Case for Change. Overall, the results showed a high level of agreement with the problems and issues identified, suggesting that the RTP baseline work has correctly identified the key issues.



95% agreed that lack of practical alternatives to the private car in rural areas was an important issue.



92% felt that making trips that involve more than one bus, or a bus and a train, was difficult.



91% agreed that lack of a rail service in some areas was a key issue.



88% expressed concern that bus journeys take longer than by car or that bus routes don't go where people want them to.

¹ The Case for Change is available here: <http://www.cjcsouthwest.wales/media/19453/case-for-change-accessible-version-english.pdf>



87% noted that walking and cycling is not always practical in some areas or for some people.



86% felt that bus services are infrequent or unreliable.



85% felt that roads, footpaths and cycle tracks are in need of more maintenance.



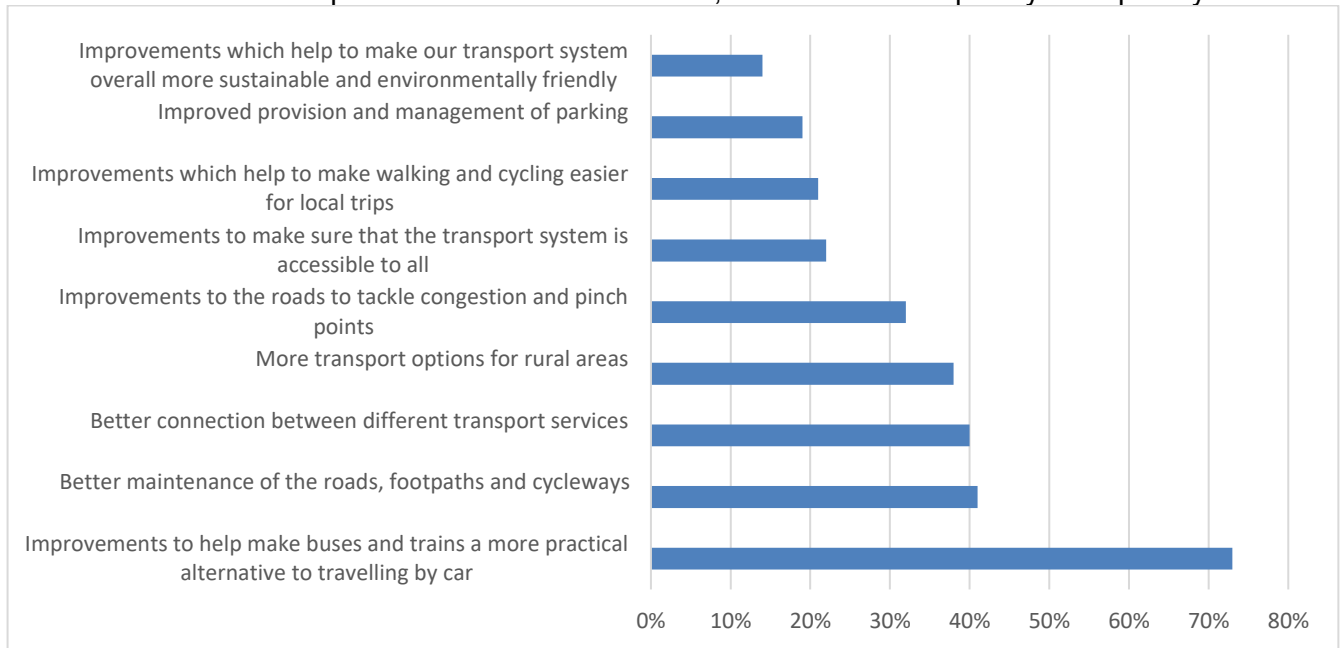
85% felt it was important new development is supported by good quality transport links and sustainable transport options.

Percentages express the number of people who strongly agreed and agreed to statements in the online survey. The above reflects only the top issues, therefore is only part of the dataset.

In the comments section, key additional problems and issues raised by respondents also included concerns around timetabling of services (in particular a need for more public transport services at weekends and in the evenings); the high cost of public transport; and complexity of ticketing.

Feedback on priorities for the future

The online survey asked respondents to identify their top three transport priorities for the future from a list of nine suggestions. The priorities echoed the problems and issues identified. The graph shows the percentage of respondents who included each priority in their top three. Measures to help make buses and trains a more practical alternative to the car, was the most frequently cited priority.



In the comments section other important priorities highlighted by respondents were cheaper fares, improved ticketing, overall improved quality of transport services and new/improved/more frequent public transport routes. Whilst respondents supported improvements to walking, cycling and public transport, many also noted that the RTP should recognise that the car remains important for many people and many journeys.

Next steps

The survey responses, letters and emails will be used to help shape the draft policies for the new RTP. There will be another full, statutory consultation in 2025 on a draft RTP document (including draft policies) and Regional Transport Delivery Plan (scheme list).