

**REPORT OF PLANNING OFFICER (PARK DIRECTION)**

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**SUBJECT: DRAFT NATIONAL TRANSPORT PLAN 2015 – CONSULTATION  
RESPONSE**

Purpose of Report

To ask Members to agree the Authority's response to the Welsh Government on the Draft National Transport Plan 2015 consultation.

Introduction/Background

The National Transport Plan 2015 was published in December 2014 for consultation. The Plan sites within the framework provided by the Wales Transport Strategy (2010) and sets out in more detail now the Welsh Government proposes to deliver those areas of transport for which it is responsible to achieve the outcomes set out in the strategy.

The Plan focuses on delivering the following 5 key priorities:

Economic growth; access to employment; tackling poverty; sustainable travel and safety; and access to services.

The consultation period of the Plan closes on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

This National Plan is emerging following the decision of the Welsh Government to end funding for the Regional Transport Consortia in Wales with funding now going directly to the 22 Local Authorities. A Joint Local Transport Plan published by the former Authorities in the South West Wales Regional Transport Consortium (SWWITCH) has been approved by 3 of the 4 Local Authorities and is awaiting approval by the Welsh Government.

Summary Findings

The Plan sets a broad context for the Plan and future trends in matters such as population change, car usage levels and freight movement. The population of Wales as a whole is predicted to increase by 4% by 2022 and by 8% by 2037. It also takes account of current travel patterns and access to work and services. The Plan also makes reference to building in climate change resilience and the likelihood of increasing flood and erosion events leading to necessary changes to the road and rail networks over time.

Focussing on the south-west Wales area the plan notes wide variations due to the diverse nature of settlement patterns and more sparsely populated rural areas. Public transport use is lower than the national average with car travel to work slightly higher. Pembrokeshire is highlighted as having poor access to public transport to further and higher education and acute NHS Hospitals.

The Plan sets out priorities and interventions to be taken forward in the short (5 years), medium (10 years) and longer term (up to 30 years).

There are a number of generic actions included in the Plan, such as ensuring regular inspection and maintenance and delivery of road safety improvements. One example is the intervention to implement the recommendations of the Freight Task and Finish Group. One of these recommendations is to deliver, as quickly as possible all the commitments it has made to improving the A40 and A477 and reviews the business case for making additional improvements.

The specific actions for West Wales are limited to a medium-term commitment to improve the A40 between Llanddewi Velfrey and Penblewin (subject to the business case continuing to justify the expenditure) and to continue to progress proposals to potentially trunk a section of road between Johnston and Pembroke Dock. Neither of these physically impact on the National Park, although the implications for the work to the A40 as one of the main routes into and out of the County is intended to have general benefit for road users.

Whilst the generic interventions in the Plan will allow for consideration of a wide range of opportunities which may emerge to address the identified issues, the lack of detail does not help to provide a firm base on which to plan for the future.

#### Financial considerations

None

#### Risk considerations

No additional risks are involved.

#### Human Rights/Equality issues

None.

#### Biodiversity implications/Sustainability appraisal

None

#### **Recommendation**

**That the consultation response set out in Appendix A to the Welsh Government on the Draft National Transport Plan be agreed as the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority's response.**

#### Background Documents

National Transport Plan 2015 - <http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/transport/draft-national-transport-plan/?lang=en>

*(For further information, please contact Sarah Middleton)*

*Author: Sarah Middleton*

## Appendix A - National Transport Plan 2015

### Consultation Response Form

Your Name: Sarah Middleton

Organisation Name (if applicable): Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority

Email / telephone number: 0845 345 7275

Your Address: Llanion Park, Pembroke Dock, Pembrokeshire SA72 6DY

**Question 1:** We have analysed a lot of data in developing the National Transport Plan. Do you feel there are any significant gaps in the data considered?

**Yes/No:**

**If yes, please explain the reason for your answer:**

**Question 2:** The Plan sets out the key findings from the evidence. Do you consider there are any key findings missing?

**Yes/No:**

**If yes, please explain the reason for your answer:**

**Question 3:** Do the interventions address the findings from the evidence base?

**Yes/No:**

**If no, please explain the reason for your answer:**

This is clearly a strategic document with very few detailed interventions for West Wales and particularly Pembrokeshire. The Plan highlights significant access issues for high proportions of the Pembrokeshire population in relation to crucial services such as education and hospitals but there are no targeted proposals included to address this. The generic proposals are vague and whilst they allow consideration of emerging opportunities give very little detail on which to Plan for the future with certainty. This will have implications for other Plans such as the Local Development Plan for the National Park.

**Question 4:** Are the delivery timescales appropriate (Section 3)?

**Yes/No:**

**If yes, please explain the reason for your answer:**

With a lack of detail, as described above, it is not possible to determine whether the timescales are appropriate.

**Question 5:** With regards to funding the interventions are there any other funding streams we should be considering (Section 4)?

**Yes/No:**

**Question 6:** We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them.

The references to continuing to review the need for further improvements to the trunk road network in Pembrokeshire are welcomed. However it is disappointing that there is no commitment to improve rail services to and within the County, despite a significant increase in the number of users (61%).

Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here:

