

CABINET MEETING

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| Date of Meeting | Tuesday 15 December 2015 |
| Report Subject | Termination Of Taith Joint Committee |
| Cabinet Member | Deputy Leader Of The Council And Cabinet Member For Environment |
| Report Author | Chief Officer (Streetscene And Transportation) |
| Type of Report | Operational |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Taith was the North Wales Regional Transport Consortia (RTC) with a constituted mandate to deliver on Transport matters on behalf of the North Wales partner authorities. In January 2014 the Minister for Economy Science and Transport announced changes to the role of the organisation that in effect removed the majority of the functions of the RTC.

Since January 2014, the activities of the consortia have ended however the Joint Committee has continued to meet in line with the constitution for the committee.

The report seeks endorsement from Cabinet to support the Joint Committee's decision to end this arrangement and wind up the operations of the committee

RECOMMENDATIONS

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| 1 | That Informal Cabinet endorse the decision of the Taith Joint committee to terminate the role of the Joint committee with effect from the 29 th September 2015. |
| 2 | That Cabinet endorse the recommendation that a transport advisory forum be established as a sub-group of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board (NWEAB), consisting of the Portfolio holder for each Authority, to provide support and advice to the Connectivity and Infrastructure work stream. |

REPORT DETAILS

| 1.00 | EXPLANATION OF THE REASONS FOR THE TERMINATION OF THE TAITH JOINT COMMITTEE |
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| 1.01 | Taith was established as a Joint Committee of the six Local Authorities in 2007. The Aims and Objectives of the Joint Committee are contained in the Taith Constitution. This was last reviewed in 2013 to reflect the changes needed within the Constitution to allow Taith to manage and deliver the then new arrangements for Bus Funding. |
| 1.02 | As a Joint Committee, Taith has a mandate to deliver on behalf of the partner authorities in those areas included within the Aims and Objectives. In effect therefore, the partner Authorities have delegated to the Joint Committee, the power to act on their behalf in the areas identified. |
| 1.03 | In January 2014 the Minister for Economy Science and Transport, Edwina Hart AM, announced changes to the role of the then Regional Transport Consortia (RTC) that in effect removed the majority of the functions of the RTC. Up to the Ministerial announcement, Taith had a significant role coordinating regional transport advice for the Welsh Government and administering capital funding programmes on their behalf. These roles have ceased and with this the main part of the requirement for a Joint Committee has gone. |
| 1.04 | Importantly however the requirement to produce a Regional Transport Plan that was the catalyst behind the establishment of Taith and the other Regional Transport Consortia disappeared. The Welsh Government in 2014 made changes to the Transport (Wales) Act 2000 that discharged this obligation. Although the six partner Authorities successfully collaborated to produce a joint Local Transport Plan in 2014, this activity did not require a Joint Committee to deliver the plan. |
| 1.05 | The fact that the Joint Committee was in existence was helpful in that a mechanism to support the development of the LTP was available and the formula for the recovery of costs in the Constitution made the task easier. There remained a possibility that similar work may be needed in the future, which would be eased if the Joint Committee was still in place and could be reactivated without the need to negotiate a new arrangement. Such proposals could include future transport plans, delivering major cross-boundary projects or other transformational infrastructure services. In considering the issues at the Taith Board however, Members were of the view that the costs and audit requirements of retaining the Joint Committee outweighed the possible future utility. |
| 1.06 | On this basis the Taith Board agreed that the Joint Committee be wound up as soon as practicable. |
| | Future Arrangements |
| 1.07 | The requirement to have a strong voice for transport in North Wales still |

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| | exists. The North Wales Transport Taskforce initiated by Edwina Hart and chaired by Lesley Griffiths in 2014 produced a number of recommendations and among these were proposals that regional contributions to the identification of transport interventions should be coordinated through the North Wales Economic Ambition Board (NWEAB). The Chair of the NWEAB, Cllr Dilwyn Roberts subsequently received a letter from the Minister confirming this arrangement. |
| 1.08 | The NWEAB has a specific work stream on Connectivity and Infrastructure, as transport is a key component in supporting economic growth. |
| 1.09 | The Taith Board report highlighted that the NWEAB will need to utilise the experience of the Portfolio Holders for highways and transport that currently sit on the Taith Board, given that most members of the NWEAB do not have this portfolio responsibility. |
| 1.10 | Accordingly, the Chair of the NWEAB has proposed that a formal Transport Forum for the NWEAB be established to undertake this role. The Forum would meet two to four times annually, based on demand, to support the Connectivity and Infrastructure work stream and to ensure that an effective working relationship with the highways and transport teams in Authorities exists. |
| 1.11 | Such an arrangement would not need formal constitution arrangements similar to the existing Joint Committee, and could be established informally. |
| 1.12 | The proposal to establish a Transport Forum for the NWEAB is one that would ensure an effective link between transport Portfolio holders and the NWEAB. This would ensure that Members continue to have an input into region wide strategic transport issues. |

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| 2.00 | RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS |
| 2.01 | None |

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| 3.00 | CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT |
| 3.01 | None |

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| 4.00 | RISK MANAGEMENT |
| 4.01 | The role of the Transport Forum within the NWEAB will consider future strategic risk of all transport strategies and policies within the region |

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| 5.00 | APPENDICES |
| 5.01 | None |

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| 6.00 | LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS |
| 6.01 | None Contact Officer: Stephen Jones Telephone: 01352 704700 E-mail: Stephen.o.jones@flintshire.gov.uk |

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| 7.00 | GLOSSARY OF TERMS |
| 7.01 | NWEAB – North Wales Economic Ambition Board LTP – Local Transport Plan Taith – North Wales Regional Transport Consortia |