

## **WELSH GOVERNMENT**

### **Position Statement**

**Examination Hearings: June/July 2012**

**Hearing Session 15: Transport**

**Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan**

## SESSION 15 TRANSPORT

### Question 1.

#### **1.1 Which of the various transport projects in the Plan are aspirations and which ones have a realistic chance of being delivered over the lifetime of the Plan\*?**

\* The Council is directed to present its evidence in response to Question 1 in a table showing when the various projects in the Plan are planned to proceed. The table should indicate any firm funding pledged towards their delivery.

#### **1.2 Which transport projects are critical to the delivery of the spatial strategy and the other targets in the Plan?**

#### **1.3 Are there robust plans in place to deliver them? When will they be delivered?**

See at Question 3 below

### Question 2.

#### **Does the Plan give sufficient emphasis to the desire/ need to promote sustainable forms of transport including cycling?**

No comment

### Question 3.

#### **How will Policy SP6 be implemented?**

WG funding is only one source of funds for transport schemes.

Deposit Plan Section 9 Delivery & Implementation specifies WG as responsible for delivery of the following transport schemes:

- T2.1 (extension of rail link to Ebbw Vale town)
- T2.2 (new station & public transport interchange at Ebbw Vale)
- T2.3 (new station at Cwm)
- T2.4 (extension of rail link to Abertillery)
- T2.5 (new station and Park&ride at Abertillery)
- T6.1 (A465 dualling)

National Transport Plan (WG, March 2011)

- Proposal no.82: Has the target date of 2014 for completion of the A465 Tredegar to Gilwern section, and start of the Brynmawr to Gilwern section. This is the same as the information contained in paragraph 8.42 of the Deposit Plan (RJ to policy T6) as attributed to the 2009 NTP. (This A465 Dualling is also included in The Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan May 2012 – page 152.)
- Proposal no.90: Commits to appraise the feasibility of a new rail station in Ebbw Vale town centre between 2012 & 2015, in line with the regeneration of the town. This supports the inclusion in the deposit Plan of the station at policy T2(2).
- Proposal no.32: Target investment in the rail and trunk road networks in a way that supports the Regional Transport Plans.

Prioritised National Transport Plan (WG, December 2011)

- NTP reference 82: Ongoing commitment - Complete the dualling of the A465 Heads of the Valleys road (by 2020);
- NTP reference 90: Beyond 2015 - Deliver new station at Ebbw Vale town;
- NTP reference 32: Ongoing commitment - Target investment in a way that supports the Regional Transport Plans (NTP reference 32).

Funding information is contained in the Sewta RTP (doc SD100) which advises that:

- enhancement of rail infrastructure and services will be implemented by WG through the Wales Rail Forward Programme and directly funded by WG. (RTP bid.) (para 6.5);
- legacy highways schemes will be funded through a continuing Transport Grant process (para 6.8);
- non highway legacy schemes will be funded from the Sewta block grant from WG (para 6.8);
- other possible sources include European Structural Funds, developer contributions, planning obligations, private sector contributions.

*N.B. We are currently in discussions with Lynda Healy (BIGwent) concerning completion of the Table you have requested from the council indicating funding pledged towards delivery of transport projects.*

**Question 4.**

**In the absence of an adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance note, how would the Council secure appropriate levels of on site car parking, cycling and the facilitation of public transport that might be associated with new development?**

No comment

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