

23 September 2019

---

## Regional Transport Authority Transport Update – Metro Plus

---

### Reason for this Report

1. To provide an update on the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal's transport initiatives

### Background

2. Following agreement from Joint Cabinet on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2019 (<https://www.cardiffcapitalregion.wales/event/regional-cabinet-meeting-12/> Item 10 – Strategic Outline Programme for Metro Plus) to support a Metro Plus programme in collaboration with Welsh Government, three update reports were submitted to the Regional Transport Authority on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019 (<https://www.cardiffcapitalregion.wales/event/cardiff-capital-region-transport-authority-3/> Item 4 – Common Assessment Framework, item 5 – Metro Plus Package of Studies Update & item 6 – Metro Plus) which gave an update on the current position.
3. The Phase 1 Metro Plus Programme includes Transit Orientated Developments – such as future interchanges based around a range of uses beyond just transport; enhanced Park and Ride facilities that promote interchange and integration for all modes, and new and extended Metro networks that will open up and enable improved access to new and existing activities for work, training, education, culture, retail, leisure and community. The funding package is made up of £15m from Welsh Government, £15m from City Deal Investment Fund and £20m from a mix of Local Authorities' own resources and private investment.
4. On the 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019, Joint Cabinet (<https://www.cardiffcapitalregion.wales/event/regional-cabinet-public-meeting/> Item 7 - Regional Transport Authority Delegations) agreed a further report to amend the Regional Transport Authority's Terms of Reference (under the paragraph headed 'Functions') to include the following additional functions and delegated authority:

[A] Delegate authority to the Regional Transport Authority ('RTA') to make decisions as regards:

- (1) the allocation of City Deal monies to individual Metro Plus projects within the envelop of the approved budget of up to £15m and

(2) all associated matters required to facilitate the implementation of the Metro Plus Projects within the envelope of the approved budget of up to £15m;

[B] Delegate authority to the City Deal Programme Director in consultation with the Chair of the RTA (or in his absence the Vice Chair of the RTA), the Accountable Body S151 Officer and the local RTA Member to authorise spend on individual approved Metro Plus projects up to the sum approved by the RTA in respect of the Metro Plus project concerned (pursuant to the above delegation) and to deal with all associated matters required to facilitate the implementation of the Metro Plus Project PROVIDED Always that in exercising any delegated powers all decisions made should:

- consider the broader aims and objectives of the Common Assessment framework;
- be made in accordance with the requirements of the Joint working Agreement in relation to the delivery of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal;
- be within approved budgets and comply with any legal requirement; and
- a full record (report) of the exercise of such powers shall be kept by the City Deal Programme Director in respect of each decision taken and update reports provided to the RTA outlining decisions taken.

### **Issues – High level detail and opportunities to add value**

5. The Programme includes opportunities to enhance resilience of town centres, and viability of high streets and access to employment, are potentially significant. In this way, synergies with the Wellbeing Goals of prosperity, resilience, equality of access and community cohesion, are clear to see.
6. Beyond this, there is real scope for enhanced value through incorporation of a package of measures identified around renewables, energy storage and smart charging, enabling potential to future-proof these locations and potential future proposals, and to set a standard for the region. The recommendations of the initial Low Emission Vehicle Infrastructure requirements report provide information and data on forecast uptakes in 'plug-in' vehicles, including cars, buses and taxis and details of relevant local and national policies and investment opportunities including future consideration of local renewable energy development. This has the potential to convert into delivery of:
  - Latest technological advances in vehicle charging, including energy generation and storage wherever possible;
  - Potential for a car-club sharing and plug-in scheme;
  - Potential for on-site renewables;
  - Opportunities to improve air quality and support clean growth; and
  - A flexible system which responds to demand for up until 2025, with provision made for easy upgrades until 2030 in order for further demand to be seamlessly supported.

7. In addition, a Common Assessment Framework has been prepared for scheme proposals to be assessed against, setting out further opportunity for impact around:
- Promotion of active travel and developing the proposals in line with a standard to encourage and support walking and cycling. In particular, to explore an opportunity to roll-out 'Next Bike' provision at scale;
  - Skills development and training with the potential for a Targeted Recruitment and Training programme – delivered as a core component of all works contracts;
  - Direct and indirect;
  - Income generation and ROI that is capable of being recycled through the Infrastructure Fund and reinvested into scaling and supporting future Metro Plus schemes;
  - Synergies with prospective plans for digital infrastructure development and potential open data challenges that support development of apps and digital tools that help consumers make best use of new provision;
  - Synergies with plans for future energy supply and demand needs and understanding the potential for innovative joined-up practice; and
  - Connections with wider regional working to take forward the EV Bus initiative work to align with wider EV Strategy. Recognising that EV is an important part of the solution – but alongside the other options and opportunities set out in this report.

### **Metro Plus Package**

8. The Phase 1 Metro Plus Programme includes:-

#### **Interchanges**

EVR/ Abertillery Spur – Blaenau Gwent Council  
Caerphilly – Caerphilly CBC  
Porth – RCTCBC  
Barry Docks – VOGC

#### **Park & Ride**

Pentrebach Station – Merthyr CBC  
Pyle – Bridgend CBC  
Severn Tunnel Junction – Monmouthshire CC  
Pontypool and New Inn Station – Torfaen CBC

#### **Bus Priority**

Newport to Cardiff - Newport CC  
East Cardiff – Cardiff CC

9. Recommendation

It is recommended that Members of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the report and provide comment to Officers on the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal's transport initiatives

**Clare Cameron**

**Project Development Officer – Transport / Swyddog Datblygu Projectau –  
Transport**

**Swyddfa Cytundeb Dinesig Prifddinas Ranbarth Caerdydd | Office of the  
Cardiff Capital Region City Deal**

**Ffôn | Phone: 03000 040414**

**[www.cytundebdinesigprifddinasranbarthcaerdydd.cymru](http://www.cytundebdinesigprifddinasranbarthcaerdydd.cymru)**

**[www.cardiffcapitalregioncitydeal.wales](http://www.cardiffcapitalregioncitydeal.wales)**