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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Welsh Government
Consultation Document

Welsh Transport Appraisal Guidance 2017 (WeITAG 2017)

Date of issue: 8 December 2016
Action required: Responses by 2 March 2017

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.

Overview

The Welsh Transport Appraisal Guidance (WelTAG) was published in 2008. It is produced by the Welsh Government and provides guidance for use in the development, appraisal, and evaluation of transport related projects.

The guidance has been revised to reflect current best practice in this area and to provide a consistent approach with the Five Cases Business Model which is commonly used for business cases that accompany applications for funding by the public sector. The opportunity has been taken to reduce the length of the guidance and to embed the principles of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

How to respond

Please submit your response to this consultation by completing the response form and returning to us by 2 March 2017, in any of the following ways:

Email: Weltag@wales.gsi.gov.uk

By Post: WelTAG
Transport Policy, Planning and Partnerships
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Further information and related documents

Large print, Braille and alternative language versions of this document are available on request.

Insert any references to the internet, documents or information which might be useful to consultees e.g. consultation web address, detailed appendix to consultation

Contact details

For further information:

Transport Policy, Planning and Partnerships
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

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How the views and information you give us will be used:

Any response you send us will be seen in full by Welsh Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about. It may also be seen by other Welsh Government staff to help them plan future consultations.

The Welsh Government intends to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the person or organisation who sent the response are published with the response. This helps to show that the consultation was carried out properly. If you do not want your name or address published, please tell us this in writing when you send your response. We will then blank them out.

Names or addresses we blank out might still get published later, though we do not think this would happen very often. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 allow the public to ask to see information held by many public bodies, including the Welsh Government. This includes information which has not been published. However, the law also allows us to withhold information in some circumstances. If anyone asks to see information we have withheld, we will have to decide whether to release it or not. If someone has asked for their name and address not to be published, that is an important fact we would take into account. However, there might sometimes be important reasons why we would have to reveal someone's name and address, even though they have asked for them not to be published. We would get in touch with the person and ask their views before we finally decided to reveal the information.

The Foreword

This consultation will inform the update of our Welsh Transport Appraisal Guidance (WeITAG), and help us to make better decisions to achieve improved outcomes for Wales both now and for future generations.

We recently published our well-being objectives, which will form a key part of the strategic business case in all future transport interventions, and enable improvements to the social and cultural, environmental, and economic well-being of Wales for now and in the future.

We are living at a time of particular financial uncertainty, which makes it even more important to strengthen the way we develop and prioritise transport investment, and the need to achieve value for money for public sector investment. WeITAG has been combined with the Welsh Government's Five Case Model for Public Sector Business Cases to make sure decisions on transport investment consider the full business case for proposed transport schemes.

The principles of the Well Being and Future Generations Act are embedded in WeITAG 2017. Users are guided to consider both the short term and long term impacts of options, as well as options to prevent problems from getting worse or occurring in the first place. Integration, collaboration and involvement are essential throughout a WeITAG appraisal to make sure transport interventions are not developed in isolation and consider wider impacts.

I very much welcome your views on the new WeITAG and how it will work in practice.

Ken Skates AM
Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Infrastructure

What are the main issues?

The original guidance was published in 2008. It was a lengthy document and contained some technical material that has now become out of date.

The general principle of WeITAG 2008 is to understand the problem and sift through a long list of options (Stage 1), then further develop and appraise a short list of options and then the preferred solution (Stage 2). This approach is still valid. However, experience of using WeITAG 2008 showed that Stage 2 covered a large part of the appraisal process and could benefit from division into further stages.

In addition, the Welsh Government has developed the Five Cases Business Model for public sector business cases. The proposed revisions to WeITAG are designed to provide a co-ordinated and consistent approach to the appraisal of transport schemes using WeITAG and the preparation of business cases using the Five Cases Business Model structure.

Where are we now?

Welsh Government officials have updated the WeITAG guidance. Because WeITAG will be the appraisal tool used for making decisions on transport investment in Wales, we are seeking comments and feedback from all interested parties before the new edition is finalised.

What is the evidence for change?

The main changes we are proposing are designed to:

- Reflect current best practice in transport appraisal, whilst reducing the length of the document and the need for future updates;
- Combine WeITAG and the Five Cases Business Model so that decisions on transport investment consider the full business case for the intervention; and
- Embed the principles of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Welsh Transport Appraisal Guidance (WeITAG) 2017

Consultation Response Form

Your name:

Organisation (if applicable):

email / telephone number:

Your address:

Question 1: Do you think WeITAG 2017 is an improved process for developing, appraising, and evaluating transport related projects?

Yes/No:

If no, please explain the reason for your answer:

Question 2: WeITAG 2017 has been written to encompass the goals, objectives, and ways of working set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Are there specific areas where the document needs to be improved or strengthened?

Yes/No:

If yes, Please explain the reason for your answer:

Question 3: It is our intention to provide Advisory Notes to accompany WeITAG 2017. What advisory notes would you find helpful?

Please respond in the box below:

Question 4: Are there any areas where you would find additional training and support helpful?

If yes, please make your suggestions below:

Question 5: Do you have any other comments on the guidance?

Please respond in the box below:

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: