

# **Appendix C**

## **Compatibility Assessments**

# Compatibility Assessments

The purpose of this appendix is to present how the assessment process that will be undertaken for the Strategic Road Network (SRN) as part of the Wales Roads Review, which will subsequently be included within the NTDP, is compatible with the ISA Framework, which will assess the priorities and programmes in the NTDP. The WelTAG process will be followed for each road project, and assessed as part of an expert panel, to determine whether roads projects are necessary.

## Wales Roads Review

In June 2021, the Deputy Minister for Climate Change announced that there would be a pause on all new road schemes while the existing pipeline of schemes is reviewed due to the Welsh Government and many Local Authorities in Wales declaring a climate emergency.

Planning policy, as set out in Future Wales (February 2021), sets an aim for people to live in places where travel has low environmental impact and low emissions, with reduced reliance on private vehicles. The Wales Transport Strategy (March 2021), sets out how Welsh Government plans to reduce the number of journeys taken by private cars and increase the number of people walking, cycling and using public transport. The Net Zero Wales Carbon Budget 2 (October 2021) sets an aim to reduce the number of car miles travelled per person by 10% by 2030 (from 2019), and to increase the proportion of trips by sustainable modes (public transport and active travel) to 35% by 2025 and 39% by 2030.

The Roads Review is intended to examine the current pipeline of road investment by Welsh Government to assess whether it is aligned with these new policies.

The objectives of the Roads Review may be summarised as:

- to ensure road investment is fully aligned to the delivery of Llwybr Newydd the Wales Transport Strategy ambitions and priorities, Welsh Government Programme for Government commitments and Net Zero Wales
- to develop a set of criteria which identify appropriate circumstances for expenditure of Welsh Government funds on roads
- to use these criteria to recommend which of the current road projects should be supported, modified, or have support withdrawn
- to provide guidance on reallocating road space on parts of the road network which might in future benefit from enhancement
- to consider how any savings might be allocated, in order to ensure problems on the road network are addressed, and in particular to make recommendations on how to tackle the backlog of road maintenance.

Going forward the Welsh Transport Appraisal Guidance (WelTAG), which is currently being reviewed, will ensure that all transport projects are aligned to the delivery of WTS ambitions and priorities.

Nine criteria were developed by the panel to enable structured consideration of how well each scheme aligns with Welsh Government policy and meets the national well-being goals. Criteria 1-3 look at the scheme development process; criterion 4 looks at the impact of the scheme on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions; criteria 5-8 relate to the Wales well-being goals; and criterion 9 examines whether the scheme is robust to different possible futures.

A compatibility assessment has been carried out between the ISA Objectives and the nine criteria to show how the principles of the Wales Roads Review aligns with the ISA Framework.

Key:	
Objectives are compatible	+
Mutually incompatible	-
Compatibility unknown	?
No clear impact on each other	○

Compatibility Assessments

		Wales Roads Review Proforma Tests								
		1: Case for Change	2: Policy Alignment	3: Option Generation	4: CO2 Emissions	5: Good for People & Communities	6: Good for the Environment	7: Good for Places and the Economy	8: Good for Culture and the Welsh Language	9: Robustness to Different Futures
ISA Objectives	1. To contribute to an improvement in physical, mental and social health and well-being for all, including contributing towards a reduction in health inequalities across Wales	O	?	?	+	+	?	+	?	
	2. To create the conditions within which an improvement in social cohesion and equality can be achieved	O	?	?	O	+	O	+	?	
	3. To support sustainable economic development and diversity	O	?	O	?	+	O	+	?	
	4. To protect and promote Welsh culture and improve access to cultural and recreational spaces	O	?	O	O	O	?	?	+	
	5. To encourage the protection and promotion of the Welsh language	O	?	O	O	?	O	O	+	
	6. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transport	O	?	?	+	O	?	O	O	
	7. To enable climate change resilience	O	?	O	+	O	+	O	O	
	8. To protect and improve air quality	O	?	?	+	O	+	O	O	
	9. To protect and enhance the local distinctiveness	O	?	O	O	O	+	O	?	

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		Wales Roads Review Proforma Tests								
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	of our landscapes and townscapes									
	10. To promote the conservation and enhancement of heritage assets	O	?	O	O	O	+	O	+	
	11. To promote the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, geodiversity and ecosystems	O	?	O	?	O	+	O	?	
	12. To ensure the sustainable use of natural resources	O	?	?	?	O	+	O	O	
	13. To enable the protection of tranquil areas and prevention of noise and light pollution	O	?	O	O	?	+	O	?	

## **WelTAG Guidance: Integrated Impact Assessment**

The Integrated Impact Assessment Report is produced as part of the WelTAG process as an overview of how the project could impact on well-being and what action could be taken to avoid, reduce or mitigate any harmful impacts. Although it is primarily qualitative, an Integrated Impact Assessment should be supported by quantitative data wherever possible.

An Integrated Impact Assessment report has two purposes:

- The first is that it can help design a better scheme that delivers wellbeing benefits. It helps to anticipate – and hopefully avoid – any unintended impacts or harm that the project may have.
- Secondly, it shows how the project has taken well-being into account.

The four ambitions of the WTS (Good for People and Communities, Good for the Environment, Good for the Economy and Places in Wales and Good for Culture and the Welsh Language) have been used to structure the Integrated Impact Assessment report guidelines.

The table below demonstrates how the WelTAG guidance and the ISA Framework are compatible as assessment frameworks. It establishes that, although the questions follow a different format, the considerations covered are similar.

WeITAG Guidance – Integrated Impact Assessment															
	How will your project address equality issues?	How will your project contribute to health outcomes?	How will your project ensure that everyone feels confident, safe and secure using sustainable transport?	How will you contribute to decarbonising transport?	How will you benefit biodiversity and ecosystem resilience?	How will you reduce waste?	How will your project meet the needs of different parts of Wales including rural areas (cohesive communities)?	How will your project support operational, technological or digital innovations that enable and encourage more people to use sustainable transport?	Will your project contribute to a more sustainable system of distributing goods in Wales?	Will your project impact on socio-economic disadvantage?	How will your project help the Welsh language to thrive?	How will your project help more people to enjoy arts and sports events and natural and cultural heritage in Wales using sustainable transport?	How will your project protect and enhance Wales' historic environment?	Will your project support heritage transport services?	
ISA Objectives	1. To contribute to an improvement in physical, mental and social health and well-being for all, including contributing towards a reduction in health inequalities across Wales	+	+	+	○	+	○	+	○	?	?	○	?	○	
	2. To create the conditions within which an improvement in social cohesion and equality can be achieved	+	+	+	○	○	○	+	?	○	+	?	○	○	
	3. To support sustainable economic development and diversity	○	○	○	?	○	○	?	+	+	+	○	?	○	
	4. To protect and promote Welsh culture and improve access to cultural and recreational spaces	○	○	○	○	○	○	?	○	○	○	?	+	+	+
	5. To encourage the protection and promotion of the Welsh language	?	○	○	○	○	○	?	?	○	○	+	?	○	○
	6. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transport	○	?	○	+	?	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
	7. To enable climate change resilience	○	○	○	+	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
	8. To protect and improve air quality	○	?	○	+	?	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
	9. To protect and enhance the local distinctiveness of our landscapes and townscapes	○	○	○	○	○	?	○	○	○	○	○	+	?	○
	10. To promote the conservation and enhancement of heritage assets	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	+	+	○
	11. To promote the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, geodiversity and ecosystems	○	○	○	+	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	+	○	○
	12. To ensure the sustainable use of natural resources	○	○	○	+	○	+	○	○	?	○	○	○	○	○
	13. To enable the protection of tranquil areas and prevention of noise and light pollution	○	○	○	+	?	?	○	○	○	○	○	?	+	○

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