

## **TRANSPORT, WALES**

### **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO:**

#### **THE REGIONAL TRANSPORT PLANNING (WALES) (AMENDMENT) ORDER 2008**

This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Economy and Transport Department and is laid before the National Assembly for Wales in accordance with SO 24.1.

#### **Description**

1. Article 5 of the Regional Transport Planning (Wales) Order 2006 requires all Regional Transport Plans (RTPs) to be produced and published by the 30 June 2008. This Order amends the date by which the regional consortia need to publish their plans to 30 June 2009.

#### **Matters of special interest to the Subordinate Legislation Committee**

2. None

#### **Legislative background**

3. Transport Planning is governed by the provisions of the Transport Act 2000. The Transport (Wales) Act 2006 introduced a number of changes to the transport planning system in Wales. The Assembly Government is now under a statutory obligation to prepare and publish a Wales Transport Strategy, which will set out clear national transport policies and priorities. The regional consortia are preparing RTPs but are unable to finalise these until the publication of the Wales Transport Strategy.

4. It is expected the Wales Transport Strategy will be published in May 2008. This is much later than first envisaged and consequently has produced issues for the development of the RTPs. In response to requests from the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and the Regional Transport Consortia it has been decided to amend the date by which the RTPs need to be published.

#### **Purpose and intended effect of the legislation**

5. The effect of the original Regional Transport Planning (Wales) Order 2006 is to ensure that transport infrastructure and services are planned and implemented on a regional basis to more effectively meet the travel needs of both individuals and businesses. In order to improve accessibility to work, leisure and welfare facilities, as well as the efficient distribution of goods, the development of an efficient and effective transport network in Wales is necessary.

6. The intended effect of this Order is to allow Regional Transport Consortia an extra year to publish effective RTPs.

#### **Implementation**

7. The coming-into-force date for this Order is 12 June 2008.

8. Should this legislation be annulled, Regional Transport Consortia will have insufficient time following publication of the Wales Transport Strategy to publish their RTPs.

### **Consultation**

9. The Order simply postpones the date for publication of RTPs by one year at the request of the WLGA and Regional Transport Consortia. Given the source of the request for the change and the simple and uncontroversial nature of the Order, a formal consultation was not undertaken.

### **Regulatory Impact Assessment**

10. A Regulatory Impact Assessment has not been produced. One was not considered necessary because the enabling power (Transport Act 2000) does not give the Welsh Ministers any discretion as to how to exercise the power.