

1. When WelTAG stage 1 was completed we asked for an estimate of cost for stage 2. Feed back from Capita (that undertook stage 1) was between £950k and £1.3m. It was emphasised that this was a very rough estimate and some have questioned how accurate this is.
2. Conversations at an officer level have suggested that funding from both Glos CC and FoD DC would not be available in 19/20 but there is support in principle for the next stage being commissioned and that they would wish to contribute to the terms of reference for the Stage 2 study. MCC has acknowledged that funding will need to come for local authorities (and MCC will contribute) but funding from central government should also be sought.
3. WG has granted £50k towards the study in 19/20. Next week MCC officers are meeting with WG officers to discuss the study in greater detail and to understand better what aspects of the study might be priorities for WG.
4. MCC CEO, Paul Matthews, has met with Monmouthshire's MP, David Davies and parliamentary Undersecretary of State at the Welsh Office, Kevin Foster MP, to discuss the issues in both England and Wales that have prompted the Stage 1 study. It was acknowledged that this is a problem that affects England and Wales and that the solution(s) must equally be shared.
5. There is continuing correspondence from the local MP, AM, members and the public demonstrating ongoing acknowledgement of the problems being encountered and seeking wider support for the study to proceed.

This is a very quick summary of the main points as I see them at this time. To progress this matter further we are arranging for a brief to be prepared that will form the basis of a tender for the preparation of the WebTAG/WelTAG Stage 2. In doing so we will seek the comments and contributions of our partner authorities, bodies and organisations to ensure the brief and subsequent stage 2 study fulfills the needs of these bodies both sides of the channel. It is accepted that this pre-empts the funding being in place (and the letter of invitation to bid to prepare Stage 2 will need to reflect this), but this is an essential part of the process and without it we will continue to speculate upon the accuracy of the estimate and hence the extent of funding required.