



# North Pembrokehire Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

## News Briefing – June 2013

### National Assembly - Integrated Transport Inquiry

The National Assembly Enterprise and Business Committee's final report, Integrated Public Transport in Wales, including 25 recommendations, was published in May. Edwina Hart AM, the new Welsh Government Transport Minister, sent her response to the report at the end of June.

The Minister accepted recommendations on the following:

- Devolution of bus regulation & registration; the accountability of the Welsh Traffic Commissioner.
- Public transport integration; government staff skills and tools for delivery of public transport policy.
- Promotion of integrated public transport; coordination & delivery of policy at national & regional levels.
- Walking & cycling links to transport services & infrastructure; provision for bikes on buses & trains.
- Transport planning in all Welsh Government departments; access to health, education & social services.
- Improving bus services; facilitating greater cooperation & coordination of services.
- Moving towards greater regulation of the bus market in Wales.
- Bus funding & Regional Bus and Community Transport Network Strategies; service coordination, high quality information, quality standards, restrictions on the frequency of timetable changes.
- Coordinating timetables, connecting services, real time information; linking transport networks.
- Standards for public transport interchanges, facilities, infrastructure.
- Accessibility of transport services for disabled people.
- Passengers' needs re Network Rail's Long-Term Planning & the new Wales & Borders Rail Franchise.
- The new Wales & Borders Franchise; inter-modal integration, integrated information, ticketing & timetabling.
- Consistent & high quality community transport (CT) provision across all Regional Transport Consortia.
- Maximising opportunities offered by CT, particularly where there is commercial market failure.
- Inconsistencies between local authorities on whether they not only allow, but also encourage, CT operators to tender for commercial bus services.
- Regional transport structures; executive powers & capacity to plan & deliver integrated transport; Passenger Transport Executives.

Recommendations 'accepted in principle' included the following:

- Lobbying the UK Government re statutory relationship between the Welsh Government & Network Rail.
- Lobbying the UK Government re enhanced role in rail franchising process as it affects Wales.
- North Wales & south east Wales integrated transport task forces to take account of wider policy areas such as health & land use planning.
- Development of a fully integrated public transport ticketing scheme for Wales across all transport networks as a priority alongside delivery of the GoCymru e-purse.
- Rolling out the Bwcabus model to rural areas in Wales not currently connected to the main bus network.
- Greater certainty over longer-term funding to enable CT operators to plan & invest in the future.

The Minister rejected the recommendation to ensure that changes to the planning system be introduced to include a strengthened requirement for all major development schemes to (a) include adequate public transport provision & actively promote sustainable, integrated public transport or else they will be refused planning permission; & (b) consult transport planning bodies at an early stage, including those schemes funded by the Welsh Government.

## National Assembly - Active Travel (Wales) Bill

The general principles of the Active Travel (Wales) Bill were approved following the Plenary debate on the Stage 1 Committee report on 4<sup>th</sup> June. Key remarks made by John Griffiths AM, Minister for Culture and Sport, at the conclusion of the debate, in response to concerns raised by members:

- The Bill will require local authorities to consider plans for active travel routes when forming their local transport plans and policies; this will include provision for new and improved road schemes to 'factor in' active travel routes.
- To ensure high-quality provision, guidance will have the same status as design standards.
- The principle of considering those who use mobility aids as pedestrians and cyclists, and the importance of that agenda, is accepted.
- I do recognise the impact that the detail of the guidance will have on local authorities. I am therefore content for an impact assessment to be produced for the final guidance documents, and I will consider how appropriate consultation scrutiny in general is best ensured.
- In order to achieve greater clarity on those matters, I will give careful consideration to the definitions of 'continuous improvement' and 'active travel routes'.
- When designating localities, there is much broader set of criteria that apply, rather than population. In many ways, population was used as a proxy to arrive at costings. So, I hope that I am able to give some reassurance that we will very carefully consider alternative criteria for specifying locations to make sure that we enable the great majority of people in Wales to travel actively as often as possible, and to do so in a way that still ensures that we secure appropriate coverage.
- Safety is absolutely crucial to this agenda, vis-à-vis location, nature and condition of routes.
- Shared use is something that disability groups are helping us to address in the work that is going on to produce the design guidance.
- Funding is important to all of this. We have a mainstreamed approach in terms of our transport budget, which will absolutely deliver in terms of making the crucial linkages between active travel and general Government transport policy.

## Ferries

### *Tickets*

Through ticketing to Ireland via Fishguard-Rosslare was reinstated in Mid-June. Llanelli and stations west of it are in fare Zone A and adult advance single fares are as follows: Rosslare Strand/Wexford Town £36; Enniscorthy/Gorey/Arklow £41; Rathdrum/Wicklow/Dublin Connolly £48. Standby tickets (bought on the day of travel or if the advance allocation is full) are £7 dearer. Purchase at staffed railway stations and via the Arriva Trains Wales website.

### *RailFuture Passenger Survey*

RailFuture are conducting a survey of foot passenger journeys on ferry routes to/from Britain and Ireland made by passengers using public transport to travel to/from ports. The survey may be found at: [www.railfuture.org.uk/Ferry+questionnaire+2013](http://www.railfuture.org.uk/Ferry+questionnaire+2013) and can be completed for any ferry journey made between October 2012 and September 2013.

## Award for Forum Secretary

The British Empire Medal was awarded for services to transport to Hatti Woakes, Secretary, North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum, in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours List.

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The North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum is an independent voluntary group that works for the provision of an effective integrated transport system in the North Pembrokeshire area, promotes the benefits of public transport and works towards the greater use of public transport systems.

The Forum is a member of Bus Users UK Cymru, the Environmental Network for Pembrokeshire and the Pembrokeshire Rail Travellers Association.

The Forum's work is supported by:

Individual Members (£5 p.a.), Family Members (£8 p.a.) & Corporate Members (£12 p.a.)

(Corporate members include town and community councils, transport operators, and groups, organisations and associations with a transport interest)

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