



# North Pembroke Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

## News Briefing – December 2009

### Buses – Update on the SWITCH School Transport Project

SWITCH's December Newsletter reported that the Project's official launch would take place on 8<sup>th</sup> December at the new Ffos Las Racecourse in Trimsaran, Carmarthenshire. The All Wales Home to School Transport Risk Assessment Guidance has been passed by the Minister and will be sent to each local authority. Operators will begin to use them from January. Data from incident report forms has been used to produce incident statistics that are being used to identify common trends and allow joint solutions to be implemented. A total of 8 secondary schools have participated in the pupil-training programme. Training also took place with year 6 pupils at a Pembrokeshire Crucial Crew event in October. CCTV has been fitted into 79 school buses across the region. It is already proving to be a useful tool, with a number of incidents being resolved as the result of evidence provided in CCTV footage.

### Learner and Community Transport

The National Assembly is consulting on a Legislative Competence Order relating to learner transport and concessionary travel (Consultation – Legislation Committee 3 – *The National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Transport) Order 2010*). The proposed Order would confer further legislative competence on the National Assembly for Wales with regard to: (1) improving safety for learners on the journey to and from school or the place where they receive education or training (for persons receiving nursery, primary, secondary or further education or training) and (2) concessionary travel (free travel on local bus services for the disabled, their companions, and those aged over 60. A rail pilot scheme is also in operation, providing free travel for eligible pass holders, on the Borderlands and Conwy Valley Lines until the end of September 2010, and on the Heart of Wales and Cambrian Coast Lines until 26 March 2010).

The LCO would enable the National Assembly to consider legislating in relation to the safety of the vehicles used. This could, for instance, enable the National Assembly to legislate to require local authorities only to use vehicles for learner transport which conform to the highest safety standards and/or have certain characteristics (e.g. single deck vehicles, fitted with seatbelts and CCTV).

To safeguard the long-term sustainability of the concessionary travel scheme, the Welsh Assembly Government is seeking competence for the National Assembly over concessionary travel. This would enable the National Assembly to consider legislating to exercise more rigorous control over the scheme. For example, the National Assembly could legislate, to allow the Assembly Government to directly negotiate reimbursement of operating costs with the operators and/or administer the scheme directly.

The legislative competence of the National Assembly over concessionary rail travel would be limited to Welsh services provided under a franchise agreement to which the Welsh Ministers are a party - meaning local and regional services currently provided under the Arriva Trains Wales franchise, but excluding services which operate under that franchise entirely in England. This would also exclude the services provided in Wales by First Great Western, Virgin and Cross-Country.

An electronic version of the proposed Order and its accompanying Explanatory Memorandum can be found at: <http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-legislation/bus-legislative-competence-orders/bus-legislation-lco-2009-tr-2.htm>. Guidance relating to Orders and the legislative process can be found at: <http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-legislation/bus-legislationguidance.htm>.

Respondents are invited to submit evidence to the Committee to help inform its work. It would be helpful if submissions could address the following:

1. Views on the general principle that legislative competence in the areas identified in Matter 10.2 be conferred on the National Assembly.

2. Views on the terms of the proposed Order. For example, are they too narrowly or too broadly drawn?
3. Additional comments relating to the proposed Order.
4. Would the amendments to general exceptions to Matters, referred to on page 2 of the proposed Order and relating to field 10, have implications for the effectiveness of any future proposed Measures brought forward under Matter 10.2? If so, please explain why.

If they wish, respondents may restrict their comments to the areas of the Order that are relevant to them. The closing date for submissions is Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> January.

Electronic copies of submissions should be sent to [legislationoffice@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:legislationoffice@wales.gsi.gov.uk), entitling the e-mail *Consultation Transport LCO*. Alternatively please send submissions in hard copy to Ruth Hatton, Deputy Committee Clerk, Legislation Office, National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay CF99 1NA.

- Responses should be as succinct as possible, using the title applied above.
- The National Assembly normally makes responses to public consultation available for public scrutiny and they may also be seen and discussed at Committee meetings. Respondents should specify at the end of their submissions if they do not want their responses or names published.
- Please indicate whether responding on behalf of an organisation or as an individual.
- Respondents should also indicate whether or not they would be prepared to give oral evidence to the Committee.

For further information contact the Clerk, Fay Bowen (tel: 029 2089 8041) or Ruth Hatton, the Deputy Clerk (tel: 029 2089 8019).

## **Trains – All Points West Update**

Current activities centre on recruiting community and activity groups to partner the Community Rail Partnership with the new ‘enhanced’ station adoption scheme. They also have significant activity planned for the new year with Greenways in Pembrokeshire. As one of the 6 Community Rail Partnerships across Wales, they have produced new joint marketing material. The new Scenic Wales by Train and Traws Cambria was launched at an ACoRP (Association of Community Rail Partnerships) event in Cardiff and will be distributed widely across Wales and through promotional events. If you have any questions or suggestions about All Points West, please email Alex Owen, Community Rail Officer, on [Alexandra.owen@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:Alexandra.owen@swansea.gov.uk).

## **Transport Consortia**

The SWWITCH December Newsletter carries a report that the Welsh Assembly Government is undertaking a review of the four transport consortia in Wales, following the development of the Regional Transport Plans and moving on to the delivery stage from April 2010 onwards. The Assembly wants to be certain that the right structures, roles and responsibilities are established to ensure that transport improvements will be delivered. The review will also be looking at the Assembly’s financial commitment to the consortia. Once further confirmed information is available SWWITCH will produce a briefing note that will be circulated to newsletter recipients to keep them informed of the scale and impact of the proposed changes.

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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)

For further information, contact the Secretary, 2 Hill Terrace, Fishguard SA65 9LU  
 Tel: (01348) 874217. E-mail: [info@nptf.co.uk](mailto:info@nptf.co.uk).