



North Pembroke Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

June News Briefing, 2019

Ferries & Fishguard Harbour

The Ports, Past and Present project. Announced in a press release on 13th June, this new EU-backed project, part of the Ireland Wales Co-operation programme, sets out to open up Welsh and Irish Sea Ports to tourism. The press release notes that:

- 'Welsh and Irish Sea ports are set to benefit from a new €2.6 million EU-funded project to help turn them from passage points to key tourist sites – improving tourism opportunities, tourist experiences, and the livelihoods of coastal communities on both sides of the Irish Sea'.
- 'The project will develop new tourism opportunities between the port towns of Dublin, Rosslare, Holyhead, Fishguard and Pembroke Dock and their surrounding coastal communities - drawing on academic research and community partnerships'.
- 'The project aims to bring life and colour to the ports, enhancing the experience of modern travellers of all ages and interests, and encouraging people to spend more time and money in these towns. It will do this by working with tourism stakeholders and local communities to make passing tourists aware of the deep history of these places'.
- 'Specifically, the project teams will produce information in various formats, working with port authorities, transport carriers, tourism agencies, and local artists and writers to generate new tourism sites/sights/traffic, and commission creative works in the visual arts, literature and film. New audiences will be sought through digital technology including apps and social media. Irish and Welsh language material will be fully integrated throughout the project content'.

Comments from Eluned Morgan AM (Welsh Government's Minister for International Relations):

- 'Our ports make a critical contribution to our economy - providing jobs and added value to local communities. UK and Welsh business depends on ports in order to move their goods efficiently and quickly between Wales and Ireland'.
- This new project will help enhance our ports even further, by bringing their unique cultural heritage to life, allowing people to understand the rich and economic and cultural roles they've played in our past, and the vital roles they play today and in the future'.
- 'The project will be led by University College Cork alongside Aberystwyth University, University of Wales Trinity Saint David and Wexford County Council'.

Points made by Professor Claire Connolly from University College Cork:

- We at University College Cork look forward to working with Aberystwyth University, the University of Wales Trinity St David and Wexford County Council on this exciting project, which allows us to explore the connected cultures, traditions and histories of Dublin Port, Fishguard, Holyhead, Rosslare and Pembroke Dock, working to ensure that their shared heritage can become a driver of economic growth'.

The 2019 Fishguard Cruise Schedule. Between 8th May and 29th September, 35 visits will be made to Fishguard Harbour. The number of passengers carried by the ships vary between less than 100 and more than 2000 - over 13,000 visitors altogether.

Variety Voyager (72 passengers)	Nautica (824 passengers)
Corinthian (110 passengers)	Prinsendam (835 passengers)
Hebridean Sky (120 passengers)	Aidavita (1266 passengers)
Dumont D'Urville (184 passengers)	Aidaaura (1300 passengers)
Star Breeze (208 passengers)	Rotterdam (1404 passengers)
Seabourn Quest (450 passengers)	Seabourn Ovation (1600 passengers)
SS Navigator (490 passengers)	Aidabella (2500 passengers)

National Assembly – Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee

Inquiry into the future of Transport for Wales

Introduction. Transport for Wales (TfW) was established in 2015 as a wholly Welsh Government owned subsidiary company limited by guarantee. Its initial purpose was to procure and develop/operate the new Welsh rail franchise and Metro services on the valleys lines – a contract subsequently awarded to KeolisAmey in June 2018. “TfW Rail” services became operational on 14 October 2018. The Welsh Government has ambitious plans for TfW and is currently considering the additional functions the organisation may take responsibility for, and developing a business case.

Having previously scrutinised the franchise procurement process, the Committee has now carried out an inquiry into the future development of Transport for Wales. Evidence gathering included:

- A visit to Manchester to learn more about Transport for Greater Manchester.
- A written consultation was undertaken, with 27 responses received.
- Oral evidence was taken from an academic expert on public policy and governance, representatives of Welsh local government regional bodies, representatives of transport providers and passenger interests, professional organisations, trade unions, TfW and the Minister for Economy and Transport.

Recommendations and conclusions were published in May in *The Future Governance of Transport for Wales*. They are far too detailed and extensive to include in this Briefing. To obtain electronic copies of the full report visit www.assembly.wales/SeneddEIS. For other formats contact: Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee, National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay CF99 1NA. Tel: 0300 200 6565. Email: SeneddEIS@assembly.wales. Twitter: @SeneddEIS.

Finally, in the Chair’s Foreword, Russell George AM made the following significant points:

- ‘Transport is first and foremost about the needs of the user, and governance arrangements must reflect this. It is also critical that the policy functions of health, education, housing and land use planning are integrated into decision-making, in order to successfully deliver an integrated transport network’.
- ‘We are at a crossroads as the Welsh Government aims to create a “high quality, low carbon, integrated public transport system across the country”. The challenges are many. They include meeting the very different needs of both urban and rural communities, and developing a transport system that works for Wales’s unique topography, demographics and existing structures’.
- ‘A new organisation also presents opportunities for new ways of working and engaging with the public. While stakeholders told us that the initial signs are good, we want to see TfW further strengthen its engagement with transport users and have this built-in to its future governance arrangements’.

Training for Bus Drivers

Update on Customer Focus Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC) Training. Developed by the South West Wales Regional Transport Forum, training is being provided to bus drivers in three courses: 1. The School Transport CPC course which is specific for School Bus Drivers, 2. The Customer Focus CPC course which includes disability awareness and focuses on making passengers central to the driver’s role, and 3. An Emergency First Aid CPC course which provides drivers with a practical hands on course that allows them to understand their role in an emergency.

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’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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