



North Pembrokehire Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

News Briefing – August 2015

Fishguard and Goodwick Rail Station Improvements Approved

The planning application for improvements to the station (detailed in the July News Briefing) was approved by Pembrokeshire County Council on 14th August, with the standard condition that the development must commence within 5 years and that the development is in accordance with the submitted plans.

National Assembly Enterprise & Business Committee Bus and Community Transport Inquiry

The Committee is carrying out an inquiry into bus and community transport services in Wales. The Committee would like to receive views on:

- The current condition of the bus and community transport sector in Wales, including the reasons for the recent decline in both registered bus services and bus passenger numbers.
- The social, environmental and economic impact of the recent decline in bus services and passenger numbers.
- The potential benefits or otherwise of devolution of bus registration powers, proposed in the UK Government's Command Paper: www.gov.uk/government/publications/powers-for-a-purpose-towards-a-lasting-devolution-settlement-for-wales.
- And whether further powers to regulate the bus industry are desirable.
- The steps which should be taken to ensure bus and community transport services meet the needs of Wales.

The Committee would welcome views on the questions listed on a form that can be downloaded from <http://senedd.assembly.wales/mgConsultationDisplay.aspx?ID=188> and welcomes responses from both individuals and organisations. Submissions should arrive by Wednesday 21 October 2015.

Welsh Government National Transport Finance Plan

The National Transport Finance Plan 2015 was published last month on 16th July. The plan sets out the investment for transport and services that the Welsh Government (WG) is responsible for; and, in more detail, sets out how the WG proposes to deliver the outcomes set out in the Wales Transport Strategy from 2015 and beyond.

The Welsh transport system includes roads, freight, active travel (walking and cycling), rail infrastructure and services, bus and community transport, ports, air transport and the Blue Badge scheme. The National Transport Finance Plan details the delivery and timescales for schemes between April 2015 and March 2020 and in the medium term (beyond 2020), as well as identifying sources of funding. The indicative likely spending profile over the Plan period will be regularly reviewed and updated as scheme development progresses and delivery profiles become clearer.

The plan is not a policy document nor does it seek to prioritise schemes to be taken forward. It brings together projects already being delivered. Some of these are already under construction. Others are already under development, but are not yet being built.

Projects/schemes of particular interest from the Forum's perspective include:

Accessibility and integration:

- Provide funding to support necessary services.
- Explore opportunities to introduce more affordable fares for unemployed people and people on low incomes.
- Continue to provide a concessionary fares scheme for older people, disabled people and seriously injured service personnel and veterans.
- Deliver Young Persons' Discounted Bus Travel Scheme 16-18 year olds. Work with public transport operators to deliver integrated ticketing.

- Continue to develop integrated multimodal multi operator ticketing All Wales Entitlement Card.
- Working with local authorities and Network Rail, identify a network of multimodal transport interchanges, park and ride and park and share hubs and develop a programme to implement.
- Make grant funding available to local authorities for transport, including schemes that will help to improve access to employment sites, road safety schemes and schemes that will deliver the WG's wider priorities.
- Work with Local Health Board, Ambulance Services Trust, Community Health Councils, local government, the business industry and the Community Transport Associations to deliver action plans setting out measures for improving access to health care.

Bus and community transport:

- Develop options for targeted funding for bus and community transport services focused on rural services, access to health facilities and employment sites.
- Produce All Wales Bus Quality Standard for bus and community transport services in partnership with local authorities, operators and users.
- Standard will include components such as:
 - Availability of accessible bi-lingual information.
 - A fares policy that is easy to understand.
 - Customer care/satisfaction.
 - Access for disabled people.
 - Personal safety at passenger waiting facilities and vehicles.

Ports:

- Develop a memorandum of understanding with the ports sector in Wales, setting out how the WG and ports sector will work together.

Trains:

- Manage the current franchise.
- Introduction of new services on the Cambrian Main Line and the Heart of Wales Line.
- Engage with rail industry partners, stakeholders, passengers to help develop and promote rail services.
- Prepare for the next franchise to be in a position to let the franchise.
- Establish the policy framework within which the franchise will be let.
- Identify appropriate service frequencies and identify any additional services that should be included.
- Investigate opportunities to modernise rail rolling stock; Contribute to Network Rail's Long Term Planning Process and the development of an ambitious Welsh Route Study.

Walking and cycling:

- Deliver the actions set out in the Active Travel Action Plan.
- Directing funding for walking and cycling to the delivery of schemes that contribute to active travel.

Information about the schemes is provided in the Plan's Annexes, and all Plan documents can be downloaded from <http://gov.wales/topics/transport/planning-strategies/ntp/?lang=en>.

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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. Website: www.nptf.co.uk.