



**Minutes and Actions**

**North Wales Regional Forum**

Attendees: Iwan Prys Jones, Jim Jones, Rhian Wyn Williams, Steph Smith, Peter Daniels, Andrew Mytton, Lowri Joyce, Gethin Jones, Nichole Sarra, Katie Powis, Ceri Taylor, Lois Park, Hugh Evans, David Clark, Ben Clifford, Andrew Gainsbury

Date 25 March 2020

Time 10:00 – 12:00

Location Microsoft Teams

Item no.	Minutes	Action
1.	<p><b>Introductions &amp; Apologies</b> - Lowri Joyce (LJ) Transport for Wales</p> <p>Introductions were made via Teams and apologies received from Stena, Avanti, Flintshire Council and Melanie Lawton.</p> <p>LJ explained that this was the first forum to be held and indeed the first one to be held via Teams. Originally the meeting was going to be hosted at Coed Pella, which Steph at Conwy had kindly agreed for us to use.</p> <p>LJ went through general housekeeping for the meeting</p>	
2.	<p><b>Purpose &amp; Remit of the Transport for Wales Regional Forum</b> - Lowri Joyce (LJ) Transport for Wales</p> <p>Lowri Joyce (LJ) explained the remit and purpose of the regional forum.</p>	<p><b>Share slides with Forum.</b></p>
3.	<p><b>December 2020 timetable</b> - David Clark (DC) Transport for Wales</p> <p>DC presented the December 2020 timetable changes as per the handout.</p> <p>Jim Jones (JJ) queried whether there were any changes for North Wales? DC confirmed there weren't any planned as yet for North Wales but there could be some going forward. West Coast are looking at changes.</p> <p>The Chester to Shrewsbury line, travelling from Bangor eastwards – are the issues being addressed in December? DC noted that TfW were looking into addressing this in May but would need to confirm actions with the wider team. LJ added that TfW were looking at various different options and had received strong feedback from stakeholders.</p> <p>Iwan Prys Jones asked about peak trains between Manchester and Chester and whether stakeholders could be party to those</p>	

	<p>discussions. DC confirmed that discussions are ongoing between TfW, Network Rail and DfT. Iwan Prys Jones added that it would be of interest, especially due to the overcrowding that takes place on those service and poor connections between North Wales and Manchester.</p> <p>JJ noted that a lot of work went into the Growth Track 360 plan and wouldn't want to lose the momentum raised through that work.</p> <p>JJ asked whether additional safety measures had been introduced with the COVID-19 risk. LJ said that there is a dedicated web page, guards are being encouraged to stay in the cab, reduced staff in public facing roles and operating a reduced timetable. Gethin Jones (GJ) added that TfW's Chief Executive is having conversations with other rail operators, Welsh Government and UK Government, being reviewed on a regular basis.</p>	<p><b>TfW to provide an update on North Wales – Manchester services</b></p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><b>Rolling Stock Update – Andrew Gainsbury (AG)</b> Transport for Wales</p> <p>AG presented an update on rolling stock as per the handout. He emphasised that a lot of the suppliers are seeing reduced workforces at the moment and could have an effect on these programmes.</p> <p>Ann Elias asked with the Class 197s, there has been some discussion around reduced seat numbers on these units in comparison to the current fleet. AG said that the seat number is comparable to a Class 158 because there is better provision for those with disabilities/PRM areas but increased services are planned, running as 5 car trains meaning that overall capacity will be increased (Manchester to South Wales services for example). On a unit by unit basis, there isn't an increase in capacity but in how they are used overall, there will be an increase. Ann Elias noted that this is a positive outcome and that it should be shared.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p><b>Rail Replacement Service – Ben Clifford (BC)</b> Transport for Wales</p> <p>BC presented an update on rail replacement as per the handout.</p> <p>Ann Elias raised a concern with the Arriva app and vehicle tracking – she noted that TfW is working on bus review and part of that is the real time information platform with Traveline Cymru. Would it seem sensible to do some linking up here to ensure we don't double purchase something? BC replied, noting that TfW subcontract their road transport, the procurement is via a third party not via TfW. We are working on it becoming a contractable obligation to deliver in order to mitigate any costs being absorbed by TfW. The focus is on our suppliers delivering this as a basic element of the service.</p>	

	Hugh Evans (HE) commented that vehicle tracking is a priority especially informing customers where buses are.	
6.	<p><b>Community Rail – Hugh Evans (HE) Transport for Wales</b></p> <p>HE presented an update on community rail as per the handout (in place of Melanie Lawton, Community Rail Manager North).</p> <p>Ann Elias noted that the Heart of Wales line were able to create their own community building and whether TfW had considered within their plans space for additional buildings to be built. Heart of Wales had bought a modular building. HE answered that Heart of Wales is slightly different as it is a development company and not hosted the same way as other community rail officers. HE said that space is being utilised in Llandudno Junction station and Swansea station for community and social activity.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Future Forum Items and AOB</b></p> <p>LJ asked whether any attendees had suggestions for future agenda items for the forum.</p> <p>HE noted that attendees within the meeting could see where we can link with their community colleagues, if they can flag them up, we can work together. Ensure it is joined up and create some bigger and better opportunities.</p> <p>Ann Elias suggested two possible agenda items – rail/bus integration and active travel.</p> <p>Jim Jones noted that the meeting had been extremely positive and the need to share the positive messages and the need to do a coordinated marketing effort. HE added that community rail partnerships are looking at a website called Wales of Rails to promote tourism.</p> <p>LJ thanked all participants and closed the meeting.</p>	<p><b>TfW to include the agenda items for future meetings</b></p>