

## Agenda – Plenary

---

Meeting Venue:

Y Siambr – Senedd

Meeting date:

Wednesday, 26 February 2020

Meeting time: 13.30

### 263(v3)

---

#### 1 Questions to the Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales (45 mins)

The Presiding Officer will call party spokespeople to ask questions without notice after Question 2.

[View Questions](#)

#### 2 Questions to the Counsel General and Brexit Minister (in respect of his Brexit Minister responsibilities) (45 mins)

The Presiding Officer will call party spokespeople to ask questions without notice after Question 2.

[View Questions](#)

#### 3 Topical Question 1 (10 mins)

**To ask the Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales:**

**Dawn Bowden (Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney):** Will the Minister make a statement on the announcement by KASAI that it will close its Merthyr Tydfil plant in 2021?

#### 4 90 Second Statements (5 mins)



## 5 Welsh Conservatives Debate – Roads

(60 mins)

### NDM7274 [Darren Millar \(Clwyd West\)](#)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Recognises the importance of roads as vital economic arteries which promote prosperity.
2. Acknowledges the adverse economic and environmental impact of poor road connectivity and congestion.
3. Regrets that the First Minister has taken the unilateral decision not to proceed with the M4 relief road in spite of the support offered by the UK Government.
4. Calls upon the Welsh Government to:
  - a) work with the UK Government to deliver an M4 relief road as soon as possible;
  - b) develop proposals for a major upgrade of the A55 trunk road and the dualling of the A40 to Fishguard;
  - c) engage with the UK Government to progress the delivery of a Pant/Llanymynech bypass.

**The following amendments have been tabled:**

### **Amendment 1 – [Rebecca Evans \(Gower\)](#)**

Delete all and replace with:

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Recognises the climate emergency and the cross-party consensus that exists to realising net zero emissions, including decarbonisation of the Welsh road and public transport network and achieving modal shift.
2. Acknowledges the interdependence of road and rail infrastructure and the importance of the Welsh Government's £5bn rail service, bus re-regulation and record investment in active travel in delivering a low-carbon, multi-modal transport network which will play a part in alleviating traffic congestion on roads.
3. Regrets that road traffic congestion has been exacerbated by the UK Government's £1bn underfunding of transport infrastructure in Wales and failure

to electrify the mainlines in north and south Wales, leading to increased traffic on our trunk roads.

4. Further regrets that the UK Government's decade of austerity has had a direct impact on the maintenance of the UK's road network.

5. Calls upon the UK Government to:

a) make a similar commitment to the Welsh Government to fund a comprehensive package of borderland road and transport projects to improve strategic arterial routes into Wales including the Broughton Corridor around Chester; the A5 from Shrewsbury to Wales and at Pant/Llanymynech;

b) help alleviate congestion on the road network by pledging £1bn to electrify the mainline from Crewe to Holyhead, invest in the upgrading of the Wrexham to Liverpool Lime Street line and fully electrify the South Wales mainline.

6. Notes the decision and oral statement made by the First Minister on Tuesday 4 June 2019 regarding the M4 corridor around Newport project and the significant work being undertaken by the South East Wales Transport Commission to develop sustainable and effective solutions to congestion in Newport and the wider region.

7. Welcomes the Welsh Government's commitment to reduce road traffic congestion, including an unprecedented £1bn package of improvements to road and transport infrastructure in North Wales, including major upgrades of the A55 and A483, active travel schemes and the North Wales Metro.

*[If Amendment 1 is agreed amendments 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 will be de-selected]*

#### **Amendment 2 – [Sian Gwenllian \(Arfon\)](#)**

Add as new point after point 2 and renumber accordingly:

Recognises the importance of investment in green public transport in tackling the climate emergency and in easing road congestion.

#### **Amendment 3 – [Sian Gwenllian \(Arfon\)](#)**

Delete point 3 and replace with:

Affirms the principle that the Welsh Government should be accountable to the Welsh electorate and this Senedd for road and public transport infrastructure priorities in Wales.

#### **Amendment 4 – [Sian Gwenllian \(Arfon\)](#)**

Add as new point after point 3 and renumber accordingly:

Rejects any attempt by the UK Government to determine the road and public transport infrastructure and spending priorities of this Senedd on its behalf.

#### **Amendment 5 – [Sian Gwenllian \(Arfon\)](#)**

Add as new point after point 3 and renumber accordingly:

Regrets the failure of both the Conservative UK Government and Labour Welsh Government to deliver a Wales-wide package of infrastructure investment in the road and public transport network.

#### **Amendment 6 – [Sian Gwenllian \(Arfon\)](#)**

In point 4, delete sub-point (a) and replace with:

'ensure the rapid development of a long-term vision for a green and sustainable integrated Welsh road and public transport network, which includes giving priority to addressing the congestion issues around Newport;'

#### **Amendment 7 – [Sian Gwenllian \(Arfon\)](#)**

Add as new sub-point at end of point 4:

'improve transport links between north and south Wales.'

## **6 Plaid Cymru Debate – Decarbonisation**

(30 mins)

### **NDM7277 [Sian Gwenllian \(Arfon\)](#)**

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Notes the need to reduce our carbon footprint and notes the potential of hydrogen as one form to help us decarbonise.
2. Welcomes the establishment of the Wales Hydrogen Trade Association.
3. Notes that Wales, with its vast natural resources, has the opportunity to join the pioneers in moving hydrogen forward rapidly for environmental, health and economic benefits.

4. Acknowledges the study already underway to use Anglesey as a pilot area for hydrogen schemes, as well as schemes underway in several other areas of Wales.
5. Calls on the Welsh Government to produce a Welsh hydrogen strategy.

**The following amendments have been tabled:**

**Amendment 1 – [Darren Millar \(Clwyd West\)](#)**

Add as new point after point 1 and renumber accordingly:

Notes the UK Government's investment into the hydrogen power sector, including a recent investment of £28 million into low-carbon hydrogen production projects across the UK as part of the Hydrogen Supply Programme.

**Amendment 2 – [Darren Millar \(Clwyd West\)](#)**

Add as new point at end of motion:

Calls on the Welsh Government to invest in zero-emission transport infrastructure, such as hydrogen-powered public transport that has been introduced elsewhere in the UK, as part of a wider strategy to tackle air pollution and carbon emissions.

**Amendment 3 – [Darren Millar \(Clwyd West\)](#)**

Add as new point at end of motion:

Further calls on the Welsh Government to engage constructively with the UK Government to develop Wales's hydrogen power sector, and to work with universities and businesses within the sector to ensure that Wales is at the forefront of this emerging technology.

## **7 Plaid Cymru Debate – Adverse Weather and Storm Damage**

(30 mins)

**NDM7278 [Sian Gwenllian \(Arfon\)](#)**

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Notes the damage and devastation caused to communities across Wales as a result of Storm Ciara and Storm Dennis.

2. Pays tribute to the heroic efforts of public service workers and community volunteers in responding to the effects of adverse weather and storm damage in recent weeks.

3. Recognises that climate change will make adverse weather occurrences, including instances of serious flooding, more likely in future.

4. Calls on the Welsh Government to:

a) initiate a full independent inquiry into the causes of recent flooding, in addition to conducting a review of the sufficiency of its overall adverse weather prevention plans;

b) ensure that additional support is made available to those experiencing psychological trauma as a result of the recent devastation, especially children;

c) ensure that the hardship fund for those individuals affected by adverse weather and storm damage ensures parity for businesses and homeowners, especially those without insurance;

d) clarify the status of grant support available for land reclamation;

e) explore the possibility of introducing a low cost social insurance scheme with the aim of ensuring affordable property insurance cover everywhere in Wales;

f) request a comprehensive assessment from the National Infrastructure Commission for Wales of the measures that would be required to reduce the annual risk of flooding in Wales to 1 per cent, 0.5 per cent and 0.1 per cent and to increase expenditure to this end.

**The following amendments have been tabled:**

**Amendment 1 – [Darren Millar \(Clwyd West\)](#)**

In point 2, after ‘efforts of’ insert ‘the emergency services, agency staff,’.

**Amendment 2 – [Rebecca Evans \(Gower\)](#)**

Delete point 4 and replace with:

Calls on the Welsh Government to:

a) ensure that the investigations being carried out into the cause of flooding are published and subject to scrutiny from affected communities, the Senedd and independent authorities, including the Flood and Coastal Erosion Committee;

- b) make additional financial and practical support available to individuals and businesses affected by the flooding;
- c) make additional funding available for local authorities to conduct emergency repairs of flood defences and other critical infrastructure;
- d) publish new planning policy and flood maps this year to take a stronger stance on development in the flood plain and reflect the growing risks from climate change;
- e) publish a new Flood Risk Assessment for Wales alongside a new Flood and Coastal Strategy this year and use this to prioritise flood defence schemes that protect the communities at highest risk of flooding from all sources – coastal, river and surface water;
- f) increase financial and practical support to local authorities to accelerate the development of new flood defence schemes.

*[If Amendment 2 is agreed amendment 3 will be de-selected]*

**Amendment 3 – [Darren Millar \(Clwyd West\)](#)**

In point 4, insert as new sub-point after sub-point (c) and renumber accordingly:  
'establish a rates relief scheme to help businesses recover following a flooding event;'

**Amendment 4 – [Darren Millar \(Clwyd West\)](#)**

Add as new point at end of motion:

Further calls on the Welsh Government to work with stakeholders to ensure that local communities and businesses are provided with continuing support beyond the initial clean-up operation to help them recover in the long-term, and to understand the actions required to mitigate future flooding events.

**Amendment 5 – [Darren Millar \(Clwyd West\)](#)**

Add as new point at end of motion:

Further calls on the Welsh Government to update planning guidelines by establishing 'Blue Belts' in areas of flood risk, such as natural flood plains, to prevent inappropriate development and to reduce the risk of damage to homes and businesses.

## 8 Brexit Party Debate – Devolution

(60 mins)

### NDM7276 [Caroline Jones \(South Wales West\)](#)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

Regrets the failure of Welsh devolution to date.

**The following amendments have been tabled:**

#### **Amendment 1 – [Neil McEvoy \(South Wales Central\)](#)**

Delete all and replace with:

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Regrets that Welsh devolution has been hindered to date by the failure to devolve further powers.

2. Calls for Welsh devolution to be strengthened by:

a) the devolution of air passenger duty; and

b) the full legislative devolution of the justice system and the maintenance of independent Welsh institutions of justice.

*[If Amendment 1 is agreed amendments 2, 3 and 4 will be de-selected]*

#### **Amendment 2 – [Rebecca Evans \(Gower\)](#)**

Delete all and replace with:

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

Welcomes the collective contributions that have been made by political parties on all sides and by wider civic society to making devolution the settled will of the Welsh people.

*[If Amendment 2 is agreed amendments 3 and 4 will be de-selected]*

#### **Amendment 3 – [Sian Gwenllian \(Arfon\)](#)**

Delete all and replace with:

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:



1. Regrets the dismal record of the Labour Welsh Government that has been in power continuously since the inception of devolution.
2. Believes that successive Westminster UK Governments – under both Labour and the Conservatives – have presided over intergenerational poverty and underinvestment in Wales.
3. Believes that decisions about Wales’s future should be made by those who live and work here.
4. Believes that having the economic and fiscal levers of an independent country is the key to Wales’s future prosperity.
5. Agrees that the power to call a future referendum on independence should lie with the elected representatives of the people of Wales free from any veto by Westminster.

*[If Amendment 3 is agreed amendment 4 will be de-selected]*

**Amendment 4 – [Darren Millar \(Clwyd West\)](#)**

Delete 'Welsh devolution' and replace with 'successive Welsh Governments'.

**Amendment 5 – [Neil Hamilton \(Mid and West Wales\)](#)**

Add as new point at end of motion:

Believes that the National Assembly for Wales should be abolished.

**Amendment 6 – [Neil Hamilton \(Mid and West Wales\)](#)**

Add as new point at end of motion:

Believes that practical alternatives to devolution, in the absence of a National Assembly for Wales, include democratising the NHS and giving greater powers to parent-governors to determine schools's education policy.

## **9 Topical Question 2**

(10 mins)

**To ask the Minister for Health and Social Services**

**Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central):** In light of the recent escalation of the coronavirus across Europe, will the Minister provide an update on the latest public health advice for people in Wales?

## 10 Voting Time

## 11 Short Debate

(30 mins)

**NDM7275 [David J. Rowlands \(South Wales East\)](#)**

The economy after Brexit.

The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at 13.30, Tuesday, 3 March 2020

# Agenda Item 1

## Oral Assembly Questions tabled on 19/02/2020 for answer on 26/02/2020

The Presiding Officer will call party spokespeople to ask questions without notice after Question 2.

### Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales

**Angela Burns** *Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire*

1 OAQ55126

(e)

What is the Welsh Government doing to improve public transport connectivity in west Wales?

**Janet Finch-Saunders** *Aberconwy*

2 OAQ55118

(e)

Will the Minister make a statement on the impact of recent road and railway closures in the Conwy Valley?

**Rhun ap Iorwerth** *Ynys Môn*

3 OAQ55113

(w)

What discussions has the Minister had with the UK Government regarding the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency's decision to close the driving test centre in Caernarfon?

**Bethan Sayed** *South Wales West*

4 OAQ55129

(e)

What discussions has the Minister had with the relevant authorities regarding increasing train capacity on the south Wales main line?

**Caroline Jones** *South Wales West*

5 OAQ55127

(e)

What steps is the Welsh Government taking to diversify the economy of South Wales West?

**Michelle Brown** *North Wales*

6 OAQ55128

(e)

What plans does the Welsh Government have to stimulate the economy in North Wales?

**Huw Irranca-Davies** *Ogmore*

7 OAQ55112

(e)

How does the Welsh Government intend to increase economic prosperity across Wales?

**Gareth Bennett** *South Wales Central*

8 OAQ55125

(e)

Will the Minister make a statement on the future of bus services in South Wales Central?

**Suzy Davies** *South Wales West*

9 OAQ55120

(e)

Will the Minister outline how the Welsh Government's tourism strategy will boost the economy of South Wales West?

**David Rees** *Aberavon*

10 OAQ55132

(e)

Will the Minister outline the Welsh Government's priorities for economic development in Aberavon for the remainder of this Assembly?

**Nick Ramsay** *Monmouth*

11 OAQ55115

(e)

Will the Minister make a statement on the resilience of transport infrastructure in Wales?

**Russell George** *Montgomeryshire*

12 OAQ55110

(e)

Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Government's transport priorities in mid Wales?

## Counsel General and Brexit Minister

**Mike Hedges** *Swansea East*

1 OAQ55108

(e)

Will the Counsel General provide an update on any forthcoming legislative consent memorandum expected as a result of the UK's withdrawal from the EU?

**Mick Antoniw** *Pontypridd*

2 OAQ55116

(e)

What recent assessment has the Counsel General made of the impact on trade and customs arrangements in Wales following the UK's withdrawal from the EU?

**Michelle Brown** *North Wales*

3 OAQ55133

(e)

What assessment has the Welsh Government made of the EU's negotiating position during the current trade deal talks?

**Rhianon Passmore** *Islwyn*

4 OAQ55135

(e)

What assistance is the Welsh Government offering local authorities to support the implementation of the UK Government's EU Settlement Scheme?

**Neil Hamilton** *Mid and West Wales*

5 OAQ55131

(e)

What discussions has the Welsh Government had with the UK Government on future immigration policy post-Brexit?

**Huw Irranca-Davies** *Ogmore*

6 OAQ55111

(e)

What recent discussions has the Counsel General had with the UK Government regarding immigration policy following the UK's withdrawal from the EU?

**Mark Isherwood** *North Wales*

7 OAQ55122

(e)

What opportunities has the Welsh Government identified for Wales as a result of the UK's withdrawal from the EU?

**Joyce Watson** *Mid and West Wales*

8 OAQ55136

(e)

Will the Counsel General provide an update on the latest discussions the Welsh Government has had with the UK Government on the UK's departure from the EU?