

Important News!

Transformation of the Welsh Transport Network Continues - despite Covid 19 challenges

On Thursday 22nd October, Transport for Wales (TfW), Keolis and Amey announced that they have taken the first steps in redefining the partnership initiated in 2018 that will secure the ongoing transformation of the Wales and Borders rail network.

TfW, Keolis and Amey announced that they have reached an agreement which will lead to the implementation of a new financing and operational model, the details of which will be finalised in the coming months. This agreement is welcomed by the Welsh Government and TfW, who now have a sustainable way forward for delivering their ambitious objectives for rail, despite the effects of Covid-19, and by Keolis and Amey, who will continue to contribute their internationally-renowned expertise in delivering the transformation for the benefit of passengers in Wales.

Under the new agreement, the operation of day-to-day rail services will become the responsibility of a new publicly owned subsidiary of TfW. The agreement also ensures that key projects aiming to transform the passenger experience, including the delivery of brand-new rolling stock and the South Wales Metro, will continue to benefit from the support of KeolisAmey. In addition, AmeyKeolis Infrastructure will continue to deliver the exciting transformation of the Core Valley Lines and maintenance of the CVL infrastructure.

KeolisAmey will also partner with TfW in improving the customer experience significantly through integrated ticketing and on demand transport systems.

James Price, Chief Executive at TfW said: *“I’m pleased with this agreement, which will allow Transport for Wales to continue to deliver the transformation of the Wales and Borders rail network over what’s an incredibly difficult period for the industry, with a huge reduction in passenger journeys and revenue. KeolisAmey have made a significant contribution to transport in Wales over the past two years and I’ve welcomed their collaborative approach to securing this agreement, which has allowed us to achieve a positive way forward for the Wales and Borders contract. We will continue to benefit from the international industry expertise of both Keolis and Amey while giving TfW and Welsh Government more control to deliver our key transport objectives, as we look to sustain the good progress of the rail network and ensure it plays a vital role in helping Wales to be well-placed in a post pandemic environment.”*

Kevin Thomas, Chief Executive of KeolisAmey Wales, Operator and Development Partner of TfW said: *“Our partnership with TfW will always have the passengers and the communities we serve at its heart - finding the right solutions to improve services across Wales and the border areas.*

“In light of Covid-19, we recognise the need for Welsh Government to have a sustainable way forward for delivering its ambitious objectives for rail and we are pleased to have agreed and put in place robust principles as we work on the details of a new agreement.

The New Agreement

- A subsidiary of TfW will be established with operational responsibility for the safe and reliable delivery of rail services for the people and communities of Wales and the Borders. This subsidiary, while wholly owned and managed by TfW, will operate under its own licence and approvals, regulated by the independent Office for Rail and Road in its role as regulator for the UK rail industry. It is expected this subsidiary will take over responsibility for rail operations from Keolis Amey Operations in February 2021 following a managed transition process.

- KeolisAmey remains committed to working with TfW to deliver the Welsh Government's ambitious vision for rail in Wales. KeolisAmey will be working collaboratively with TfW on rolling stock delivery, specification and introduction as well as drawing on Keolis' international expertise in areas such as integrated ticketing, on demand transport systems, cross modal design and delivery and the ongoing integration of light and heavy rail.
- AmeyKeolis Infrastructure ("AKI") is a special purpose joint venture which was formed to deliver the transformation of the Core Valley Lines and infrastructure management and maintenance of the Core Valley Lines. The leading partner in this joint venture is Amey. AKI will continue to deliver versatile asset management services, integrated transport planning and engineering solutions designed for the current and future needs of local communities as well as deliver the infrastructure requirements for the transformation of the Valley Lines network.