

ABSTRACT – Fifth Transport Practitioners Meeting, 24-25 July 2007

Presenters:	Gareth Walters	Andrew Hemmings
Position:	Senior Consultant Transport Planning	Head of Transport Policy Delivery Unit, Transport Wales
Address:	Halcrow Group Ltd Burderop Park Swindon SN4 0QD	Welsh Assembly Government Cathays Park Cardiff CF10 3NQ
Tel:	01793 816561	029 2082 6947
Email:	WaltersG@halcrow.com	Andrew.Hemmings@Wales.GSI.Gov.UK
Theme:	The Contribution of Transport to Regeneration and Growth	
Title:	The Wales Freight Strategy: a national strategy promoting an efficient and sustainable freight transport system	

Freight transport is more important to the way of life we take for granted than we realise. There are obvious functions, such as the transit of consumer goods to shops, supplies to hospitals and waste removal. Freight transport is an intrinsic part of the economy. However, freight requirements are often poorly considered in the field of transport planning, and are typically associated with negative impacts, particularly on the environment. Initiatives to consider freight in transport planning strategy have been tried, but these vary in scope and effectiveness, and often don't represent 'official' policy.

This paper discusses development of the Wales Freight Strategy, one of the first national freight policies in the UK, and introduces the philosophy and policies of the strategy.

The Transport (Wales) Act 2006 is a watershed for transport in Wales, putting a 'general transport duty' on the National Assembly for Wales to promote and encourage; "safe, integrated, sustainable, efficient and economic transport facilities and services... (including) ...those required for the transportation of freight". The Welsh Assembly Government, with the assistance of Halcrow, the Wales Transport Research Centre and the Wales Freight Group, has developed the Wales Freight Strategy, as a 'daughter' document to the Wales Transport Strategy.

Key points in the paper include:

- ? Developing the strategy – in particular taking into account how the Wales Freight Strategy has been specifically developed to fit with the outcomes and themes of the Wales Transport Strategy;
- ? The role of the Wales Freight Group of informed stakeholders;
- ? Policies and aims – some of the specific initiatives being suggested by the strategy, that address freight demand and supply, with consideration of modes operating singly and in inter/multi-modal situations, as well as the impacts of freight transport; and
- ? Taking the strategy forward – 'steps towards delivery'.

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