

FULL COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 19 JULY 2017

**Written question from Philippe Wines of Newport to Councillor Ian Ward,
Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport**

In order for the new bridge to be fully functional, it needs to be 1) frequent and 2) reliable. Currently it is doing only three return crossings an hour on average (random sample of 30 crossings at most favourable tides, averaging 20 minutes return), so it is much worse than the old bridge, and fewer people will use it. It also is unreliable and will continue to be at low tide with river traffic and fast tides with crossings. Will this bridge ever be as good as the old one on all accounts, particularly including those listed in the LEP's document?

Response

I thank you for your questions and issues that you raise. As you know, there is a significant amount of interest in this matter at the present time and we are actively working through the requests and complaints that have been received. Our main focus however, it to ensure that floating bridge No6 will provide a regular and reliable service for the future. A commitment has been given to address the issues and opinions highlighted to us regarding the perceived problems with design and delivery of the new boat as well as a review of the way in which the floating bridge was procured. The findings of which will be published as soon as it is feasible to do so. However, it is perhaps important to set out that the commissioning process is on-going and the Council will not take ownership of the floating bridge until such time as the operational issues have been resolved.

In the meantime and to ensure that there is a means to keep members and residents informed of latest developments and information, we will continue to update the FAQ section on the council's website.