



North Pembroke Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

May News Briefing, 2021

Introduction

Recent transport milestones of significance to North Pembroke and the South West Wales region:

- Llwybr Newydd: the Wales Transport Strategy 2021, launched in March, sets out an integrated approach to transport, working across all transport modes and sectors. For full report *visit* <https://gov.wales/llwybr-newydd-wales-transport-strategy-2021>.
- First Minister Mark Drakeford's announcement on 13th May that the new Climate Change Ministry will bring together the transport, environment, energy, housing and planning portfolios. For full report *visit* <https://gov.wales/new-top-team-to-lead-wales-into-a-brighter-future>.
- The current Swansea Bay West Wales Metro Consultation presents options for improving rail services within the Swansea Bay and West Wales area. For full report *visit* <https://gov.wales/swansea-bay-and-west-wales-metro>.

Llwybr Newydd: the Wales Transport Strategy 2021

Some key points

Active travel priorities:

- To continuously develop a network of local routes for walking and cycling to connect people with the places they travel to for everyday journeys
- To put in place a policy framework that ensures that all new developments, including new school and health facilities, make provision for walking and cycling from the outset.
- To change the default speed limit from 30mph to 20mph in built-up areas to reduce traffic related injuries and fatalities and make walking and cycling safer and more attractive.
- To work with partners on behaviour-change programmes to encourage uptake of healthy and active travel.

Bus priorities:

- To extend the reach of bus services in Wales; supporting quality, affordable, regular, reliable and punctual bus services in partnership with local authorities, the commercial and third sectors.
- To work with partners to ensure that services and infrastructure are physically accessible to wheelchair users.
- To manage post-COVID-19 adaptations to bus services to reflect the changing needs of the travelling public.

Rail priorities:

- To ensure there are more rail services and passenger numbers have increased, making services more viable for all; and that new and existing rail stations are hubs for economic investment and growth.
- To ensure that digital innovations make rail travel easier, including integrated ticketing and better real-time information for passengers.
- To work with partners to ensure that services and infrastructure are physically accessible to wheelchair users.

- To support community rail partnerships as part of our wider engagement with communities and our support for the third sector.

Third sector priorities:

- To ensure that community transport provision is included in travel plans for existing and new transport, health and education services.
- To better integrate third sector services into wider transport policy, planning and provision.
- To ensure that a wider range of people can access the retail, health, education work and leisure services they need; providing services for people in rural areas where other services are infrequent.

Ports and maritime transport priorities:

- To support the contribution of our ports to the visitor economy across Wales.
- To ensure that ports and harbours increase levels of activity in Wales by supporting leisure and active travel including sailing, rowing and sporting opportunities.
- To ensure that Welsh ports act as international gateways, increasing trade and inward investment opportunities in Wales.
- To collaborate with economic development, green energy, leisure and tourism to maximise the role that ports and maritime transport can play in achieving wider objectives.

The Swansea Bay and West Wales Metro Consultation

This Welsh Government - Transport for Wales consultation presents options for improving rail services within the Swansea Bay and West Wales area and closes on 8th June. Welsh Government and Transport for Wales are working in partnership with Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire and Swansea Councils to develop proposals for the Swansea Bay and West Wales Metro.

Metro aims. The aim of the Metro approach being applied across Wales is to provide a series of regional integrated public transport systems. This would be developed using a variety of modes such as heavy rail, tram-train, light rail and bus, all of which would be accessible by walking and cycling.

Areas and improvements that have been identified for the consultation.

- Long distance services and main line infrastructure improvements
- Frequency and connectivity: West Wales
- Frequency and connectivity: Swansea Bay
- New main line stations and station improvements:

Feedback

'We would appreciate your feedback on the proposals via the questionnaire linked to the consultation. It will collect some information about you and your previous rail use, ask you to rank the importance of the different elements and provide an opportunity for a written response. Your feedback will ensure local residents views are taken into consideration as the South West Wales Metro delivery strategy is developed.

The Forum's work is supported by:

Individual Members (£5 p.a.), Family Members (£8 p.a.) & Corporate Members (£12 p.a.)

(Corporate members include town and community councils, transport operators, and groups, organisations and associations with a transport interest)

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