Monday, 11 August 2014

Extra Fishguard to Carmarthen trains given the go-ahead

Transport Minister, Edwina Hart, has given the go-ahead to continue with the additional rail services between Fishguard and Carmarthen following a review of the three-year experimental service introduced in 2011.

Feedback from the local community, passengers and business on the extra five return services has been positive and research shows these additional services have brought economic and social benefits.

The Minister has now agreed to extend the service until the end of the current franchise in 2018.

“The extra services between Fishguard and Carmarthen have been very popular with passengers, helped improve access to services and provided a boost for tourism and other local businesses,” she said.

“The results of surveys with passengers, the local community and businesses point to a need for these extra services. These services have made it easier for people to access hospital services, have improved tourism to Pembrokeshire and have helped reduce reliance on cars.”

All stations in Pembrokeshire served by the services have experienced increased usage, with passenger numbers to Fishguard, Goodwick and Fishguard Harbour stations doubling since the introduction of the additional trains in 2011.

More than 60 per cent of passengers surveyed said they would not have been able to make their intended journey without the additional services. Businesses reported that the extra trains helped attract visitors to the area which saw increased usage of the coastal path and ferries to and from Ireland.

Cllr Rob Lewis, Cabinet Member for Highways and Construction said “The announcement by the Minister that the additional rail services to Fishguard are to continue is much welcomed and provides a much needed boost to the County. The additional services have resulted in significant increases in the number of people travelling to the area providing many benefits to the local economy, environment and social inclusion.”

Stephen Hale Chair of the North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum said: “The North Pembrokeshire Transport forum is truly delighted that the enhanced train service to Fishguard and Goodwick is to continue. We are grateful to have been given the opportunity to demonstrate the positive benefits to the local economy and community that the additional trains have provided over the past three years.

We are pleased that the enhanced train service will continue to reduce the isolation felt by rural north Pembrokeshire and will work with our partners to ensure these services assist in strengthening the local economy, in particular the important tourist industry.”

Jeremy Martineau Honorary Secretary of the Chamber of Trade and Tourism said: ”This is great news and a sensible decision as we work hard at the regeneration of the area. Being able to travel by train is a boon to local residents, adds a significant opportunity to holiday

makers and connects us to the rest of Wales in an environmentally responsible way. We have been pleased to help with the research which has advised the Minister to take the right decision for our entire community.“

Golau gwyrdd i drenau ychwanegol rhwng Abergwaun a Chaerfyrddin

Yn sgil adolygiad o'r gwasanaeth arbrofol a gyflwynwyd am gyfnod o dair blynedd yn 2011, mae Edwina Hart, y Gweinidog Trafnidiaeth, wedi cadarnhau y bydd y gwasanaethau trên ychwanegol rhwng Abergwaun a Chaerfyrddin yn parhau.

Cafwyd ymateb cadarnhaol oddi wrth y gymuned leol, oddi wrth deithwyr a busnesau i'r pum gwasanaeth dwyffordd ychwanegol, ac mae'r ymchwil yn dangos bod y gwasanaethau ychwanegol hyn wedi dod â manteision economaidd a chymdeithasol.

Mae'r Gweinidog wedi cytuno bellach i estyn y gwasanaeth tan i'r fasnachfraint bresennol ddod i ben yn 2018.

“Mae'r gwasanaethau ychwanegol rhwng Abergwaun a Chaerfyrddin wedi profi'n boblogaidd iawn gyda theithwyr, maen nhw wedi helpu pobl i fanteisio ar wasanaethau ac wedi rhoi hwb i dwristiaeth a busnesau lleol eraill,” meddai.

“Mae arolygon a gynhaliwyd ymhlith teithwyr, y gymuned leol a busnesau yn dangos bod angen y gwasanaethau ychwanegol hyn. Maen nhw wedi'i gwneud yn haws i bobl fanteisio ar wasanaethau mewn ysbytai, wedi gwella twristiaeth yn Sir Benfro ac wedi helpu i leihau dibyniaeth ar geir.”

Mae pob un o'r gorsafoedd yn Sir Benfro sy'n cael eu gwasanaethu gan y trenau hyn wedi gweld cynnydd yn nifer y bobl sy'n eu defnyddio, ac mae nifer y teithwyr i Abergwaun, Wdig a Phorthladd Abergwaun wedi dyblu ers i'r trenau ychwanegol gael eu cyflwyno yn 2011.

Dywedodd dros 60 y cant o'r teithwyr a gynhwyswyd yn yr arolwg na fyddai wedi bod yn bosibl iddyn nhw fynd ar y daith yr oeddent yn bwriadu mynd arni heb y gwasanaethau ychwanegol hyn. Yn ôl busnesau, roedd y trenau ychwanegol wedi helpu i ddenu ymwelwyr i'r ardal, ac wedi arwain at gynnydd yn y niferoedd a oedd yn defnyddio llwybr yr arfordir a'r llongau fferi i Iwerddon ac yn ôl.

Dywedodd y Cynghorydd Rob Lewis, yr Aelod Cabinet dros Briffyrdd ac Adeiladu: “Mae cyhoeddiad y Gweinidog am barhad y gwasanaethau rheilffordd i Abergwaun yn un i'w groesawu'n fawr ac yn hwb y mae dirfawr ei angen ar y Sir. Gwelwyd cynnydd sylweddol yn nifer y bobl sy'n teithio i'r ardal o ganlyniad i'r gwasanaethau ychwanegol hyn, ac mae hynny wedi bod o fudd mawr i'r economi leol, i'r amgylchedd, ac i gynhwysiant cymdeithasol.”

Yn ôl Stephen Hale, Cadeirydd Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Sir Benfro: “Mae Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Sir Benfro yn wirioneddol falch bod y gwasanaethau trên ychwanegol i Abergwaun ac Wdig yn mynd i barhau. Rydyn ni'n ddiolchgar am y cyfle a gawson ni i ddangos bod y trenau ychwanegol wedi bod o fudd mawr i'r economi a'r gymuned leol dros y tair blynedd diwethaf.

Rydyn ni'n hynod falch y bydd y gwasanaethau ychwanegol hyn yn parhau i leihau'r ymdeimlad o fod wedi'u hynysu sydd i'w weld ymhlith pobl yn ardaloedd gwledig Gogledd

Sir Benfro. Byddwn ni'n gweithio gyda'n partneriaid i sicrhau bod y gwasanaethau hyn yn helpu i gryfhau'r economi leol, yn enwedig y diwydiant twristiaeth, sydd mor bwysig inni."

Dywedodd Jeremy Martineau, Ysgrifennydd Mygedol y Siambr Fasnach a Thwristiaeth: "Mae hyn yn newyddion gwych ac yn benderfyniad doeth gan ein bod yn gweithio'n ddygn i adfywio'r ardal. Mae'r gallu i deithio ar y trên o fudd i drigolion lleol, yn gyfle pwysig i ymwelwyr ac mae'n ein cysylltu â gweddill Cymru mewn ffordd ecogyfeillgar. Roedd hi'n bleser cael helpu gyda'r ymchwil sydd wedi galluogi'r Gweinidog i wneud y penderfyniad iawn ar gyfer ein cymuned gyfan."