



# North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

## August News Briefing, 2022

### Post Pandemic North Pembrokeshire Transport Update

#### 1. Introduction

The North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum (NPTF), an independent voluntary group, works for the provision of effective integrated transport to, from and within North Pembrokeshire, promotes the benefits of public transport and works towards the greater use of public transport services.

NPTF supports strategic objectives that:

- Provide for greater integration and interchange between different modes of transport.
- Put in place public transport services that meet the needs of individuals and communities.
- Promote social inclusion by means of an affordable, accessible public transport system that works to remove access and mobility barriers for all public transport users.
- Encourage more sustainable modes of transport and reduce the need for travel by car.

#### 2. Current public transport provision to, from and within North Pembrokeshire

##### Ferry services.

- International transport between Fishguard and Rosslare. Operated by Stena Line: Twice a day, 7 times per week. ([www.stenaline.co.uk/routes/fishguard-rosslare](http://www.stenaline.co.uk/routes/fishguard-rosslare)).

##### Bus services.

- Bus services to, from and within the North Pembrokeshire region, as well as the Puffin, Strumble and Poppit Rocket coastal shuttle buses. Operated by Richards Bros. ([www.richardsbros.co.uk/Timetables](http://www.richardsbros.co.uk/Timetables)) and ([www.richardsbros.co.uk/Bus-Service-Updates](http://www.richardsbros.co.uk/Bus-Service-Updates)).

##### Community transport services.

- Pembrokeshire Association of Community Transport Associations (PACTO) operate services that help people and groups 'who don't have access to their own transport and who don't have or can't use conventional public transport services'. Service categories include: Cars, Dial a Ride, Minibus, Scooters, Bus Buddies, Hospital Transport and Take me Too! ([www.pacto.org.uk](http://www.pacto.org.uk)).
- Fflecsi Pembrokeshire. A new service in Northwest Pembrokeshire, designed to help people get out and about by bus. ([www.fflecsi.wales/locations/pembrokeshire](http://www.fflecsi.wales/locations/pembrokeshire)).

### Walking and cycling.

- Pembrokeshire Coast Path. National Trail: 15 walks.  
([www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/coast-path/planning-your-walk](http://www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/coast-path/planning-your-walk)).
- Pembrokeshire County Council. 1. Walking Pembrokeshire: 20 walks.  
([www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/walking-pembrokeshire](http://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/walking-pembrokeshire)). 2. Cycle Pembrokeshire: 26 trails.  
([www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/cycle-pembrokeshire](http://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/cycle-pembrokeshire)).
- Komoot, Cycling in Pembrokeshire. Top cycling routes  
([www.komoot.com/guide/50658](http://www.komoot.com/guide/50658))

### Rail Services.

- Transport for Wales. Limited train services to Fishguard and Goodwick and Fishguard Harbour rail stations: 4 times a day, Monday – Saturday, arriving circa 09:51, 12:30, 19:02 and 21:59, and 3 times a day, on Sundays, arriving circa 12:25, 14:01 and 21:59.
- International connections with Ireland are provided by the mid-day and evening Fishguard-Rosslare boat-trains. (<https://tfw.wales>).
- **N.B.** Along with other gaps in service provision Monday - Saturday (in the early morning and between mid day and evening and even more limited on Sundays), the final (evening) trains terminate in Carmarthen around 23:00, with extremely long waits for ongoing connections.

## **3. Noteworthy Government Visions, Priorities & Projects (with relevance to the improvement of Fishguard rail services)**

### **3.1 Llwybr Newydd - The Wales Transport Strategy 2021. Relevant Points**

#### Vision.

- An accessible, sustainable and efficient transport system includes 'a transport system that gets people where they want to go and when they want to go there'.

#### Our Priorities. (From Priority 2)

- 'Improve the reliability, safety, and frequency of public transport services'.
- 'Extend the geographical reach of public transport into every community, especially in rural areas'.
- 'Make it easier to switch between...public transport, active travel and community transport so people can be more confident about leaving the car behind'.

([https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-03/llwybr-newydd-wales-transport-strategy-2021-full-strategy\\_0.pdf](https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-03/llwybr-newydd-wales-transport-strategy-2021-full-strategy_0.pdf))

### **3.2. The Swansea Bay and West Wales Metro Project, 2021**

#### Welsh Government Consultation on the project. (16 March–8 June 2021).

- 28 options for improving rail services within Swansea Bay and the West Wales area.

- Option 11 proposed to reconfigure Swansea Bay to Fishguard Harbour services, with two trains per day with a total frequency of trains every 2 hours.
- The option was successful and included in the ongoing process.

(<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2021-03/consultation-document-swansea-bay-and-west-wales-metro.pdf>)

Welsh Government Appraisal (WelTAG) of the Project. (Capita report. October 2021)

- The WelTAG Stage 1 work initially considered five areas of intervention. Option 11 was considered under Strategic services to West Wales and Swansea. Subsequently it was looked at under WelTAG Stage 2.

Relevant objectives in Stage 2

- Increase service frequencies across South West Wales to improve suitability for daily commuting.
- Improve regional transport accessibility...through widening the spatial reach of the rail network and services.
- Provide a viable public transport alternative to the congested M4/A48 corridor.
- Reduce the environmental impact of transport, especially carbon emission and air quality.

Option Development

- Option 11 will provide additional services on the Fishguard Harbour Branch Line, to provide a 2-hourly interval service from Carmarthen, increasing from a 7 trains per day service in 2019 (our emphasis). This will require two additional return services per day. An option from Swansea was also assessed but was not operationally viable due to turnaround time at Swansea.

#### **4. Transport for Wales, 2022. Developing the Swansea Bay & West Wales Metro**

Significant points: (<https://tfw.wales/projects/metro/swansea-bay-metro>)

- More frequent rail services across the network.
- 'We're continuing to focus on the recovery of our rail timetable to pre-Covid levels. Services will increase to 100% by May 2022. (**N.B.** This has not been achieved in the Fishguard timetable). We hope to exceed the pre-Covid service levels in December 2022'.
- Emerging priorities to 2029: Fishguard Rail Frequency Enhancements.

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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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