



North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

July News Briefing, 2022

Senedd Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee Examination of Bus and Rail Services

Public Evidence Session, 13th July

The committee's final evidence session into bus and rail transport in Wales heard from local government representatives: Dr Chris Llewelyn, Chief Executive of the Welsh Local Government Association, Dr Tim Peppin, Director of Regeneration and Sustainable Development with the Welsh Local Government Association, and Roger Waters, Chair of the Cardiff Capital Region Transport Authority officer group, and also Director of front-line services in Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.

Points of interest

1. Assessment of current public transport service levels.

- Public transport is in a recovery stage...What we do now over the coming years is going to be critical in terms of helping that recovery.
- Make sure to address some of the long-term challenges that the buses have been facing.
- But also the new challenges that have come in as a result of the pandemic, with increased numbers of people working from home.
- In publicising the benefits of public transport, the product has got to come up to expectations.

2. Strategic Development Planning.

Developing the strategic development plans and the regional transport plans:

- With regard to integrating these plans, make sure they work closely together...The System Development Plans probably won't be ready until the second iteration of the Regional Transport Plans.
- Make sure that the transport plans align with those in the Strategic Development Plans.
- There is a need to know how the Corporate Joint Committees will support and enhance public transport services through the Regional Transport Plans, in terms of integration and increased investment in bus infrastructure.

Planning bus services:

- Local knowledge at regional level is really important and will allow pooling of resources.
- Local authorities are responsible for school transport, which also integrates with public transport.

Visit <https://business.senedd.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=741&MIId=12890&Ver=4> for the full transcript.

TfW Update: Developing the Swansea Bay and West Wales Metro

Points of interest

1. Building The Swansea Bay And West Wales Metro includes:

- Faster rail journeys to Swansea, Carmarthen and Milford Haven; improving line speeds and looking at different route options.
- Working with local Government and public transport operators to improve the speed and reliability of bus journeys; improving passenger waiting facilities, bus lanes, and intelligent traffic signals to help reduce journey times.
- Trialing the use of hydrogen buses in Swansea Bay and Pembrokeshire; reducing environmental impact with a more sustainable approach to public transport.

2. Improving connectivity

This includes:

- Timetable integration - bus and rail timetables will work together so that you can rely on the bus to get you to the railway station on time for your onward travel.
- Active travel – railway and bus stations will cater for pedestrian and cycle travel so that you can benefit from safe onward travel routes and good facilities at stations.
- Ticket integration – tickets for public transport will be less complex, with the ultimate aim of creating one single platform for tickets, which will include multiple journeys on one ticket, incorporating bus and rail travel, and guarantee you the best possible fare option at the time of your travel.

3. Progress update

- We're continuing to focus on the recovery of our rail timetable to pre-Covid levels. Services will increase to 100% by May 2022. We hope to exceed the pre-Covid service levels in December 2022.
- We're also beginning work with local Government and public transport operators to understand what role hydrogen fuel cell vehicles could play in improving public transport vehicles and we're making good progress with electric buses. The Aberystwyth to Carmarthen TrawsCymru T1 bus route will soon begin to use electric-powered buses.

4. Future developments

- Emerging priorities to 2029 includes 'Rail frequency enhancements to Fishguard'.
- Future aspirations include looking to electrify the rail network in order to decarbonise and improve the environmental impact of our trains in South West Wales.

Visit <https://tfw.wales/projects/metro/future-developments/west-wales> for the full report.

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