



Ein cyf / Our ref: KS/497/21

Darren Millar MS

Darren.Millar@senedd.wales

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Dear Darren,

Further to your exchange with the Trefnydd during Business on the 09 February, I wanted to update you on plans for the Metro.

The vision for a sustainable, reliable, efficient and integrated transport system across North Wales and the North East Wales Metro was published in March 2017.

Since publication of the vision we have worked with our partners including local authorities and Transport for Wales to develop the vision further and deliver some quick wins. Our initial focus in 2018-19 and 2019-20 has been on providing sustainable access to Deeside, including funding for:

- Construction of active travel paths to all business on Deeside Industrial Park linking to the wider active travel network
- New low emission buses for the Deeside Shuttle service
- Construction of a Park and Ride site at Deeside Industrial Park
- Development of bus priority measures on the B5129 through Shotton

In this financial year we have been able to extend the reach of our funding allocations. and £13m has been awarded to local authorities in North Wales for Metro schemes. The schemes supported include:

- The purchase of electric buses and provision of charging facilities for a new TrawsCymru T22 service between Caernarfon – Porthmadog – Blaenau Ffestiniog and a new T19 TrawsCymru Connect bus service between Blaenau Ffestiniog and Llandudno
- Conwy Valley Integrated Responsive Transport pilot
- Bus priority and bus infrastructure on B5129 in Flintshire
- Infrastructure improvements on Mold – Wrexham bus corridor
- Park and Share / Ride sites at Gaerwen on Anglesey and Parc Bryn Cegin at Bangor
- Early development work on Hydrogen hubs in Holyhead and Deeside
- Active travel measures in Caernarfon and Buckley
- Llandudno congestion improvement

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Ken.Skates@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Ken.Skates@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.


- Old Colwyn coastal defence and active travel scheme

During 2020-21 Transport for Wales has continued its development work on the North Wales Metro. This includes:

- WeITAG studies of options to improve journey times and frequencies on the North Wales Coast and Borderlands rail lines
- Development of schemes for a new Deeside Parkway station and an integrated Shotton station
- WeITAG study and early feasibility work for a new station at Broughton
- Study to explore potential alternative solutions to heavy rail extensions that would provide more economical solutions to improving connectivity particularly in the context of the more challenging topography of north-west and west Wales
- Preparation of station travel plans in consultation with local authorities for Bangor, Llandudno, Flint, Prestatyn & Holyhead stations to create effective active travel solutions to access the rail network & enhance 'last mile' connectivity
- A review of the North Wales bus network to identify improvement options and an implementation plan
- Support to the Snowdonia National Park in taking forward its parking and transport strategy which aims to provide sustainable access to the National Park and protect communities and the environment. This includes support with public consultation, public transport study, active travel planning & pre-booking system at Pen-y-Pass
- Wrexham Transforming Towns - Pilot project collaborating with Wrexham CBC to identify key active travel routes and links to Wrexham central core and key sites to support the town centre.
- North Wales wide baseline and feasibility study to establish potential for new Park & Ride, Park & Share sites
- North Wales ticketing integration research to establish a programme of quick wins in Pay as You Go and multi-operator ticketing.

We will continue with this development work and move to the construction phase as soon as is practicably possible.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Skates', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ken Skates AS/MS

Gweinidog yr Economi, Trafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru
Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales