



Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ92941

Andrew R.T. Davies

AndrewRT.Davies@senedd.wales

9 July 2024

Dear Andrew,

I am writing in response to your written questions reference WQ92941, 'Are the planned Swansea Bay Metro and North Wales Metro projects going ahead as planned, or does the Welsh Government plan to move away from developing Metros?'

Our Metro programmes continue to evolve, and describe a range of transport interventions at different stages of development and construction, but we remain absolutely committed to delivering integrated transport networks across all regions of Wales.

In North Wales the Metro programme is focussed on improving connectivity in the Mersey Dee region, including improvements to the road network, developing plans to transform the Borderlands railway line, a fully integrated bus network delivered through franchising, and improvements at Chester railway station to unlock rail capacity. I will provide an update to Senedd members on this programme later in the year.

In Swansea Bay and West Wales proposals being considered include seven new railway stations in Swansea Bay and a large-scale pathfinder trial of hydrogen fuel cell buses. We are also considering investment in the Traws Cymru T1 bus service to introduce combined bus/rail ticketing and convert the fleet and depot to battery electric operation and investment to increase Active Travel development capacity and capability in West Wales.

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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.

The metro development and construction programmes are fundamental to the South West and North Wales Regional Transport Plans, which are currently being developed by the Corporate Joint Committees in each region.

Yours sincerely,

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

Ken Skates AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Drafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru
Cabinet Secretary for North Wales and Transport