

NORTH & MID WALES ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS



NORTH WALES TRANSPORT LIAISON COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of a meeting of the North Wales Coast Transport Committee held
on **Friday 4th October 2024 at 10.30am by Zoom**

Present were

Cllr Ian Hodge	Chair
Cllr Norma Davies	Vice Chair
Gail Jones	Transport for Wales
Nick Smith	Avanti Rail
Cllr Michael Davies	Beaumaris Town Council
David Evans	
Cllr Patrick Hesson	Mostyn Community Council
Cllr Michael Pearce	Llandudno Town Council
Robert Saxby	
Cllr Andrew Wood	Abergele Town Council

Apologies for absence

Cllr Ian Lifford
Cllr Peter Morgan
Cllr Joan Butterfield
Cllr Trevor Roberts
Cllr Bernise McLoughlin

1. Welcome from the Chair

The meeting received a welcome from the Chair.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The meeting considered and approved the minutes of the last North Wales Coast Transport meeting.

NORTH & MID WALES ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS



3.Actions from the last meeting

The meeting considered an update on the actions taken since the last meeting as set out overleaf.

4.Transport for Wales

Transport for Wales was present at the meeting but due to IT issues information was passed via the Chat Room or the Secretary from a meeting held earlier in the week.

The items of note (North Coast) were:

i)Prestatyn

The station at Prestatyn still has two issues which are of concern:

- a) Passengers not being able to access trains in busy times with security guards stopping people boarding is not acceptable.

The issue is around the train stock needing to be increased. The security is there for safety when trains are excessively full.

The issue is to be raised again with TFW and at a higher level as it is not acceptable.

- b) Toilets not being located either on the station or close to the station is still an issue – particularly due to the town being a holiday destination.

There is no room for toilets on the platform. The toilet provision on platforms is not statutory and there are toilets on the train.

Not a satisfactory situation but the same applies to many stations on the network.

ii)Station audit meeting

The TLG meeting in Cardiff will address many of the issues raised in the station audit prepared by the Association.

iii)Performance details

The meeting was informed by TFW that reliability had improved greatly and that 93% of services now arrive within 3 minutes of timetable. (it was noted that on the morning of the meeting out of 44 trains leaving

TFW has accepted that this figure of 93% was misleading.

NORTH & MID WALES ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS



iv) Number of 2 car units being in service

The number of 2 car units is still an issue with the Cardiff service in particular overcrowded.

v) Services Shrewsbury via Chester to Holyhead

The services from Birmingham to the North Coast and from Cardiff to the North Coast/Manchester Piccadilly are to always be 3 or 4 car units – this was a statement by TFW at high level. Awaiting confirmation in writing.

vi) Request stops (trial at Tygroes and Llanfair PG)

The trial of push button request stop units at two stations on Anglesey has been completed. There will be further trials on the Heart of Wales line. The report on the trial is not likely to be available until next year.

vii) Travel champions

The introduction of travel champions (staff on platforms) has been welcomed and reports from members is that this is working well in almost all cases. These are staff on the platform to help passengers with their journeys and also to aid situations due to short trains and delays etc.

ix) Deganwy crossing

A brief update on the Deganwy crossing was provided to the meeting. However, more information awaited.

x) Meeting in Cardiff (TFW)

The TLG meeting is being held in Cardiff and TFW is to let the Secretary know how many members may attend. Date to be confirmed.

xi) Progress on matters raised

The meeting was a little concerned that there were items on the agenda which are coming up each time with little progress apparent. A report back on actions is to be given to members by the Secretary in 14 days. (ie at the Quarterly Association meeting in Towyn on 18th October).

NORTH & MID WALES ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS



xii) Timetables December 2024 and May 2024

The meeting noted the timetables issued for December 2024 and May 2025 along with other changes in the future.

5. Avanti Rail

The meeting received a pictorial presentation from Nick Smith of Avanti Trains. The main items covered were:

a. New trains

The new trains have arrived (electric to Chester and diesel along the coast). The voyager trains will all be out of service by December 2024.

b. Timetables driver training

There have been some issues with timetables due to drivers being out for training on the new units. This has now been completed which should lead to a better service.

c. Euston and 60 miles out

There are issues with the first 60 miles out of Euston with the infrastructure and signalling. There are joint meetings taking place to resolve any issues.

d. Delays

Delays in services are recorded as follows:

87% of trains arrive within 15 minutes of due time.

57% of trains arrive within 3 minutes of due time. 2/3 of the delays are due to Network Rail issues and not the operator.

e. Seating on new units compared with the old

The new class 805 units now in service (5 car sets) compare with the voyagers as follows:

Voyager 256 seats (230 standard and 26 first class)

Class 805 299 seats (274 standard and 25 first class)

There is more space for luggage on the new trains.

f. Timetable December 2024

The timetable for December 2024 was noted with 9 trains through to Euston each day.

NORTH & MID WALES ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS



The hourly service to Chester is to be strengthened with 2 trains Chester to London per hour. This will be phased in over time.

g.Naming of trains

The meeting suggested naming the new trains. Consideration to this may well be taken forward.

h.Survey work

The Association survey work in 2025 will include Avanti services.

i.Other information Further information can be gained from the presentation slides issued separately.

The meeting thanked Nick Smith for his presentation.

The slides from the Avanti Rail presentation are to be circulated following the meeting.

6.Meeting with Welsh Government and Transport for Wales

A meeting with the CEO of TFW along with Welsh Government was held on 20th August 2024 with a list of actions agreed – see attached minutes of that meeting. A response was promised (their date) to be issued to all items listed by 30th September. As at 4th October there has been no response. This is to be chased up on Monday 7th October. The results will be circulated to all members.

7.Survey work in 2025

The survey dates and format to be considered at the next meeting in March 2025 for implementation in July/August and later in the year (off peak).

NORTH & MID WALES ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS



8. Dates of future meetings

The meeting noted the dates for meetings of both the North Coast, Cambrian and Joint Transport Committees as follows:

Joint Cambrian and North Coast Transport	Cambrian Lines	North Coast Lines
Friday 10 th January 2024		
Friday 4 th July 2025	Friday 14 th March 2025	Friday 7 th March 2025

PS Cllr Bob Murray has stepped down from the Committee, thank you Bob for your interest and support. Bob wishes me to pass on his best wishes to all on the group.

8. Actions from the meeting

The following actions are to be taken forward:

Ref	Action	By
1	Minutes to be prepared, sent out in draft and then published on the web site at www.northwalesassociation.org.uk	Robert
2	TFW to report back to the secretary on all items listed in minute no 4.	Gail
3	Slides from the Avanti presentation to be circulated.	Robert/Nick
4	Date for TLG meeting in Cardiff to be clarified.	Robert/Gail
5	Update from meeting with TFW and Welsh Government to be issued within 14 days (at the Association Quarterly Meeting on 18 th October).	Robert