

ITEM 6 – QUESTIONS

(1) Question by Councillor Gruffydd Williams

Is the Education Department doing everything it can to ensure that all schools comply with the recommendations of the Cass Review?

Reply – Shadow Cabinet Member for Education, Councillor Paul Rowlinson

Providing appropriate national guidance to schools in Wales to support trans, non-binary and gender-questioning children and young people in education is a commitment of the Welsh Government. Since the consultation in April 2024 no guidance has been published. When it is published the Education Department will do everything that is expected of us to promote it among our schools in line with national guidance.

(2) Question by Councillor Eryl Jones-Williams

Will Cyngor Gwynedd be making strong representations to Transport for Wales and the Welsh Government over the loss of the last evening train northwards and southwards on the Cambrian Coast Railway line? There are no buses at all late at night between Machynlleth and Fairbourne or between Barmouth and Porthmadog so alternative public transport is out of the question. This decision will affect workers in the hospitality industry and local supermarket staff and goes against the Welsh Government policy of encouraging less car journeys, even though many people in this area do not have cars.

Reply – Shadow Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor Craig ab Iago

I would like to thank Cllr. Eryl Jones-Williams for the question.

As Members will recall, Cllr. Dafydd Meurig, the then Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Environment Department, provided a response to a question regarding service levels on the Cambrian Coast Railway Line to the full Cyngor Gwynedd Council meeting held on the 09 May 2024. A copy of this response is provided as **Appendix 1** for ease of reference.

Also provided is a copy of the letter the Cabinet Member sent to Transport for Wales regarding the proposed changes that were to be introduced in December 2024.

[Llythyr DM i TC Newidiadau i Amserlen Rheilffordd y Cambrian Ebrill 2024.pdf](#)

Reference is included within this to the services which Cllr Jones-Williams refers.

On a more positive note, some of the initial proposals by Transport for Wales to reduce services have been reviewed and are no longer to be introduced at this time. However, it is noted that there will be changes to the evening services during the winter timetable which is very disappointing for the reasons Cllr. Jones-Williams has cited and also referenced in the Cabinet Member's correspondence.

Cyngor Gwynedd's view on the changes has already therefore been expressed in no uncertain terms to Transport for Wales. Opportunities will continue for Members to raise these, and any other issues affecting services on the Cambrian Coast Railway Line, at the regular meetings of the Cambrian Coast Railway Line Liaison Committee which is attended by representatives from Transport for Wales.

I would like to confirm, in the strongest terms, that we will of course continue to lobby for the best possible opportunities to travel by public transport across Gwynedd which includes on the Cambrian Coast Railway Line.

APPENDIX 1

Previous question and reply:

Question at the 9th May Council Meeting - Councillor Eryl Jones-Williams

Will Cyngor Gwynedd be making strong representations to get Transport for Wales to change their minds about withdrawing four trains, two each way between Machynlleth and Pwllheli when their new Cambrian Coast Railway Line Tables are introduced in December 2024?

This will have a serious affect on locals travelling to and from work locally, and on long distance rail travel for locals and visitors.

Did the decision makers take into account that the Cambrian Coast Railway line had been closed for three months in the past three years for work to be undertaken on Barmouth Viaduct with no trains running and the replacement bus service being unreliable?

I would like to thank Cllr Eryl Jones-Williams for his timely question and Cllr. Gwynfor Owen for the notice of motion which has been raised as part of this meeting's agenda regarding this important matter.

The Leader of the Council received correspondence from James Price, the Chief Executive of Transport for Wales on 10 April 2024 regarding the changes to the timetable on the Cambrian Coast Railway Line which would be effective from December 2024.

In response I wrote to James Price on 25 April 2024 seeking confirmation of the changes and their status. I have shared this response with all Cyngor Gwynedd Members whose communities are directly served by the Cambrian Coast Railway Line and which would therefore be affected by any changes, which has also been circulated to all Councillors as part of this response.

As part of the response, I refer specifically to the impacts of the changes on the local communities and the public in general, influencing factors relating to service levels over recent years and the impact on passenger numbers. It also makes the point that such a negative change is in complete divergence with the strategic aims, aspirations and objectives set out at a local, regional, and national level.

We are looking to promote, facilitate and achieve a modal shift to mitigate the impacts of climate change, improving access in general and the quality of life and health of our residents. However, reducing the availability and attractiveness of what are already limited opportunities to travel by public transport in the areas served by this is railway is a significant step in the wrong direction, and I have made this point quite clearly to Transport for Wales.