



TRAVEL PLAN FOR 2016 TO 2020



Dated 14th October 2016

Cllr Trevor Roberts Chair

Cllr Mike Williams Vice Chair

Rhydian Mason

Robert Robinson FRICS FLCM Secretary





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1. Introduction

1.1 Document

This document sets out details of the Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Committee (more information within its constitution) and sets out the aims and objectives of the Committee over the next 4 years from 2016 to 2020.

1.2 Plan

The plan was approved following consultation will form the policy, aims and objectives of the Committee.

2. The Committee

2.1 Membership

The membership of the Committee shall be as set out at appendix B.

2.2 Meetings

The main meeting of the members of the group shall be held 4 times a year of which two shall be a joint with the Cambrian Line Conference.

2.3 Secretariat & Financial

The secretariat and financial management shall be provided by Welshpool Town Council.

2.4 Executive

The day to day running of the affairs of the Committee shall be carried out by Welshpool Town Council with an executive formed to action instructions from the Committee. The executive shall comprise the Chair, Vice Chair, Cambrian Rail Partnership and Secretary.

3. Funding of the Committee & its work

3.1 Funding

The funding of the Committee shall be by the following:

- i) Grant aid from the three County Councils.
- ii) Grant aid from the Welsh Government for specific purposes.



4. Recent history

4.1 Infrastructure & signals

In July 2013 the Executive met with the Minister to discuss possible timetable improvements for the line. This cumulated in a major survey being undertaken funded by Welsh Government. The results were impressive and lead to an implementation group being set up to bring forward the new services.

4.2 Work with Welsh Government

The Committee has worked with Welsh Government not only in the introduction of the new services but also with surveys to provide information for the Minister. This is to continue with surveys being carried out in the summer months.

4.2 Improved rail services

The improved rail services have provided the following:

- i) An hourly service for most of the day along the Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth Line.
- ii) A full two hourly service on the Coast Line.
- iii) Improvements to stations to support the new services.

5. Purpose of the plan

The purpose of the plan is to give direction to the Committee with an agreed plan and set of policies.

This in turn will inform the Principle Authorities and Rail Companies the aims and objectives for the line and which will aid working together to achieve such aims.



6. Survey and monitoring of the service

6.1 Summer Surveys

The Committee is to work with Welsh Government in the completion of independent surveys – such surveys to be funded by Welsh Government and are to be carried out in the summer months.

6.2 Recording of surveys

The Committee will record such surveys on a template with all years able to be seen next to each other.

6.3 Monitoring

The information gained from the summer surveys are to be used to aid the monitoring of this document.

6.4 Consultation methods

The method used for consultation shall be as set out at appendix C.

7. Franchise

7.1 Response to consultation

The Committee responded to the Franchise 2018 consultation, a copy of the response is available on the web site of the Committee at www.shrewsburyaberystwythrail.org.uk

7.2 Inclusion in plan

The submission comments are to be read alongside this plan as informative with the plan supporting the following:

CCTV on all stations on both the main and coast lines.

Interchange between trains and buses wherever possible at all stations.



8. Consultation

8.1 Evidence for the plan

Evidence for the plan and the individual items within it is gained from surveys and from members knowledge and comments at the Committee's meetings.

8.2 Method of consultation

The plan is to be subject to consultation as follows:

- i) Draft approved by the members present.
- ii) Each individual Council represented will be asked to comment.
- iii) The document will be available on line and can be used by Communities to consult residents and others giving a chance to put forward their views.
- iv) The Welsh Government and County Councils will be asked to comment.

The results of the consultation shall be included as evidence for the plan and form part of the plan.

8.3 Consideration of the results

The consultation results were reported to the Committee and considered before approval of the plan.

8.4 Results

The results of consultations are to be posted on the Committee's Web Site.



9. Infrastructure Policy

9.1 General

The Policy of the Committee with regard to infrastructure is set out here.

9.2 Shrewsbury

The Committee supports and will actively aid the completion of the following:

- i) Redevelopment of Shrewsbury Station to provide better facilities.
- ii) Better access to platform 3.
- iii) Signalling that will allow platform 3 to be accessed from both directions.

9.3 Welshpool

The Committee supports and will actively aid the completion of the following:

- i) Improved disabled access to the platforms.
- ii) Rail ticket sales on the platform and at the Tourist Information Centre.
- iii) Town Bus Service provision at the station with improved signage.
- iv) Provision of a second shelter on the platforms.

9.4 Newtown

The Committee supports and will actively aid the completion of the following:

- i) Improved disabled access to the down platform (towards Aberystwyth)
- ii) Improved car parking when the opportunity arrives.

9.5 Caersws

The Committee supports and will actively aid the completion of the following:

- i) Improved car parking facilities.

9.6 Machynlleth

The Committee supports and will actively aid the completion of the following:

- i) Completion of works to the footbridge and lift provision.
- ii) Improved car parking and bus arrangements.
- iii) Re-opening of the footpath from the road to the up platform (towards Shrewsbury)
- iv) Better shelter provision on the up platform (towards Shrewsbury)



9.7 Dovey Junction

The Committee supports and will support any further improvements as follows:

- i) Improved shelters on the platform.
- ii) Improved train information signage.
- iii) Any improvement to access.

9.8 Borth

The Committee supports and will actively aid the completion of the following:

- i) Improved car parking when the opportunity arrives.

9.9 Aberystwyth

The Committee supports and will actively aid the completion of the following:

- i) Extension of the canopy to cover a further length of platform to allow for 4 car units.
- ii) Refreshment facilities on the platform.

9.10 Further stations

To support the re-opening of intermediate stations (subject to such actions not impeding the full hourly train service with its connections):

9.11 Flooding and sea defences

To support any infrastructure works to protect the line from the effects of the sea and in particular flooding.

To support any remedial actions that are taken to reduce the risk of flooding on the main line.

9.12 Permanent Way

To monitor and consider any aspects which may affect the provision of rail infrastructure with particular regard to Network Rail.



10. Rail Services

10.1 General

The Policy of the Committee with regard to train services is set out here.

10.2 Timetable

The improved timetable is welcome but needs to be improved as follows:

- a) Full hourly service on the main line from Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth all through the day.
- b) Full 7 day a week timetable including bank holidays.
- c) All trains along the coast line stopping (or stopping at request stops when hailed) for all stations.

10.3 On board catering

On board locally produced catering to be continued and extended to all trains.

10.4 Ticketing

To gain a more understandable ticketing system for rail services including 'Bus Plus' ticketing.

10.5 Information

To support improvements to the information boards, displays on platforms and other printed material for the public. Information should be bi-lingual.

10.6 Train stock

To support the introduction of new rolling stock and the upgrading of the existing stock.

10.7 Cross Border services

To support the retention of all cross border trains to major cities and towns including the London services from Shrewsbury.

10.8 Cross border rail services

To support the retention of services from Mid Wales to Birmingham International and to other main centres.



10.9 Rolling Stock

To support any initiative to create better and replacement rolling stock to meet the overcrowding issues.

11. Buses

11.1 General

The Policy of the Committee with regard to buses is set out here.

11.2 Buses linking with trains

To support any initiative which provides timetabled buses which link in with train times.

To aid this support is given:

- a) to the provision of the Welshpool Town Bus Service calling at the railway station.
- b) Buses linking with trains at stations whenever possible.

11.3 Signage

To improve signage at stations giving information on buses and where they serve.

11.4 Local buses

To support the retention of rural bus services where there is no other form of public transport available.

11.5 Local bus linking main stations

Support for the provision of buses along the rail line towns stopping at the villages as well as the main line stations linked to train times.



12. Policy Proposals

12.1 General

The Policies contained in the document are to be implemented and may not be changed without the approval of a full meeting of the members.

12.2 Policies

The Policy of the Committee is set out in 9, 10 and 11 above.

12.3 Action Plan

The Action Plan for implementation shall include:

- i) Completion of surveys in the summer for Welsh Government.
- ii) Bringing forward proposals as set out in this document to a timetable agreed with the Full Committee.

12.4 Method of implementation

The implementation methods shall include:

- a) Working with Welsh Government and Principle Authorities.
- b) Working with the Principal Authorities and Rail Companies.
- c) Survey work.
- d) Direct action on projects.



13. Review and monitoring

13.1 Review dates

The plan shall be reviewed at the March meeting held each year of the Committee.

13.2 Monitoring

The monitoring of progress shall be presented in chart form for easy reference.

13.3 Reporting

The report containing the review shall be published and a copy made available to the Minister, Principal Authorities and Rail Companies after it has been approved by the Committee.

This plan was approved on.....

Signed..... Cllr Trevor Roberts Chair

Signed.....Cllr Michael Williams Vice Chair

Signed.....Robert Robinson Secretariat

Dated.....

Map of the Shrewsbury/Aberystwyth Line





APPENDIX B

Committee Membership

The following shall be members of the Committee:

Representatives from the following County Councils:

- Ceredigion County Council
- Powys County Council
- Shropshire County Council
- Gwynedd County Council

Representatives from the following Town & Community Councils:

- Shrewsbury Town Council
- Welshpool Town Council
- Newtown Town Council
- Caersws Community Council
- Machynlleth Town Council
- Borth Community Council
- Aberystwyth Town Council

Representatives from the following interest groups:

- Coast Line Conference
- S.A.R.P.A.
- Rail Focus
- Carno Action Group
- West Coast 250
- Rail Future
- Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway
- Tallylyn Railway
- Vale of Rheidol Steam Railway

Representatives from the following:

- Arriva Trains Wales
- Network Rail
- Cambrian Rail Partnership
- British Transport Police

Representatives from Government as follows:

- MP's for Ceredigion, Meirionnydd/Gwynedd and Montgomeryshire.
- AM's for Mid and West Wales areas.
- Local AM for Montgomeryshire and Ceredigion
- Ministers and representatives of Welsh Government.
- Members of the European Parliament (while still in the E.U.)

The Chair and Vice Chair shall be elected from the members and shall be elected Councillors.



APPENDIX C

CONSULTATION METHODS

The following consultation methods are to be used:

Surveys for rail services (on board trains)

The survey forms for those on board shall be done by issuing and collecting on the train within a few minutes of issue before collection using volunteers or staff in pairs.

Surveys for major projects

The following survey methods shall be used to consult on Major Projects including this plan:

Booklets

Provision of booklets/flyers with information in paper form for use either via delivery to homes or central points.

Web Site

Information to be published on the Committees web site and where needed with a specific site using survey monkey.

Social Media

Information to be published in all social media including face-book, twitter and My Welshpool/My Newtown.

Local Press

Information to be published in all local press.

Drop in days

To provide drop in days in central places in areas affected by any proposals. These to be hosted by the local representatives with support from the Secretariat.