

Ken Skates AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport



Ein cyf/Our ref KS/02466/18

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

David Eggleton
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24 September 2018

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 13 August attaching the Cardiff Civic Society's analysis of the South Wales Metro. I have passed this to my officials for their consideration.

Wales needs a transport network that promotes our ambition for an efficient, effective, sustainable and inclusive transport network. We are delivering the South Wales Metro in tandem with the development of the new Wales and Borders rail services contract which will transform the way we provide and plan for integrated public transport across Wales. Whilst the initial focus is on delivering this significant transformation, we are working closely with local authorities, City Region and the Valleys Taskforce to develop plans for future extensions. Transport for Wales (TfW) Rail Services will work to ensure the sustainability of the new Metro, and will be considering innovative ideas as part of their plans for future extendibility.

£738 million will be invested to transform the valley lines to Treherbert, Aberdare, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhymney and Coryton, electrifying 172 km of track and upgrading infrastructure to enable improved journey times and increased service frequency. Smart electrification is central to our plans for the South Wales Metro and a number of permanently earthed sections will enable us to avoid expensive and disruptive reconstruction of existing infrastructure. Lines where electrification will not be extended will benefit from new faster trains that will be more environmentally friendly and will reduce journey times.

Ours is a long term investment programme, with service improvements starting from the December 2018 timetable change and the latest changes introduced in 2024. TfW Rail Services will continue to consider all available opportunities to enhance the Metro rail network.

*Yours ever,
Ken*

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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.