News Release

Friday, 22 October 2021

For immediate use

# Growth Track 360 calls on train operator Avanti West Coast to restore services between London, Chester and North Wales to pre-pandemic frequencies

Business and local authority leaders from North Wales, the Wirral and Cheshire West and Chester in the Growth Track 360 partnership are seeking assurances that Avanti West Coast will be moving as quickly as possible to restore direct services to Chester and North Wales that run throughout the day.

Direct services were lost in the collapse of demand for rail travel arising from the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite a restoration of two direct services a day between London Euston and Holyhead, there is concern at the slow pace of returning to the full service pattern and the lack of consultation by the train operator with local stakeholders on both the original cessation and the post-Covid recovery of services.

Growth Track 360 Chair and Leader of Cheshire West & Chester Council, Councillor Louise Gittins, said:

*"We are asking Avanti West Coast to outline their plans to recover the high level of intercity rail services that our region enjoyed prior to Covid 19 and set out when we can see an increase in services from two direct trains a day. We also want a commitment to consult local authorities and other stakeholders in the region on their next set of timetable plans."*

Growth Track 360 Vice Chair and Leader of Flintshire Council, Councillor Ian Roberts, said:

*"Cheshire and North Wales benefited immensely from improvements provided towards the end of the Virgin franchise with an hourly direct train from Chester to London and services running to and from North Wales two-hourly. Direct links were thus provided to the university city of Bangor, the gateway port to Ireland at Holyhead and leading tourism destination Llandudno. There was also a train from Wrexham which joined at Chester and returned at night. Restoring these trains is very important to the credibility and marketability of our region to investors and tourists."*

**- ENDS -**

## Notes for Editors:

1. Growth Track 360 is a public-private partnership established in 2016 uniting North Wales, the Wirral and Cheshire West and Chester. Its goal is improving cross-border transport connectivity with specific emphasis on rail.

2. Growth Track 360 works closely with key stakeholders, their policies and objectives including the Welsh Government, Transport for the North, Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, Mersey Dee Alliance, North Wales Economic Ambition Board, Transport for Wales, the West and Wales Transport Forum and the private sector.

## Contacts

**Councillor Louise Gittins**
Chair GT360
Leader Cheshire West and Chester Council
Telephone: 01244 972216
Email: pressoffice@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

**Councillor Ian Roberts**
Vice Chair GT360
Leader of Flintshire Council
Telephone 01352 702115
Email: karen.powell@flintshire.gov.uk

Ashley Rogers,
GT360 Business Representative
Commercial Director
North Wales Mersey Dee Business Council
Telephone: 0797 047 6599
Email: jarogers@nwmdbusinesscouncil.org

## Datganiad Newyddion

## Dydd Gwener, 22 Hydref 2021

## I'w ddefnyddio ar unwaith

# Growth Track 360 yn galw ar y gweithredwr trenau Avanti West Coast i adfer gwasanaethau rhwng Llundain, Caer a Gogledd Cymru i fod mor aml ag yr oeddynt cyn y pandemig

Mae arweinwyr busnes ac awdurdodau lleol yn y Gogledd Cymru, Cilgwri a Gorllewin Swydd Gaer a Chaer ym mhartneriaeth Growth Track 360 yn ceisio cael cadarnhad y bydd Avanti West Coast yn mynd ati cyn gynted â phosibl i adfer gwasanaethau uniongyrchol i Gaer a'r Gogledd sy'n rhedeg drwy gydol y dydd.

Collwyd gwasanaethau uniongyrchol yn y cwymp yn y galw am deithio ar y rheilffyrdd yn sgil pandemig Covid-19.  Er gwaethaf adfer dau wasanaeth uniongyrchol y dydd rhwng Euston Llundain a Chaergybi, mae pryder ynghylch yr arafwch o ran dychwelyd i'r patrwm gwasanaeth llawn a'r diffyg ymgynghori gan y gweithredwr trenau gyda rhanddeiliaid lleol ar ddiddymu gwasanaethau yn y lle cyntaf ac adfer gwasanaethau ar ôl Covid.

**Meddai'r Cynghorydd Louise Gittins, Cadeirydd Growth Track 360 ac Arweinydd Cyngor Gorllewin Swydd Gaer a Chaer:**

*"Rydym yn gofyn i Avanti West Coast amlinellu eu cynlluniau i adfer y lefel uchel o wasanaethau rheilffordd intercity rhanbarthol a oedd gan ein rhanbarth cyn Covid 19 ac egluro pryd y gallwn ddisgwyl cynnydd mewn gwasanaethau o ddau drên uniongyrchol y dydd. Rydym am gael ymrwymiad hefyd i ymgynghori ag awdurdodau lleol a rhanddeiliaid eraill yn y rhanbarth ar eu set nesaf o gynlluniau ar gyfer yr amserlen."*

**Meddai'r Cynghorydd Ian Roberts, Is-gadeirydd Growth Track 360 ac Arweinydd Cyngor Sir y Fflint:**

*"Roedd y gwelliannau a wnaed tua diwedd masnachfraint Virgin yn fuddiol tu hwnt i Swydd Gaer a'r Gogledd gyda thrên uniongyrchol bob awr o Gaer i Lundain a gwasanaethau sy'n rhedeg yn ôl ac ymlaen i'r Gogledd bob dwyawr. Drwy hynny, darparwyd cysylltiadau uniongyrchol â dinas prifysgol Bangor, y porthladd i Iwerddon yng Nghaergybi a chyrchfan twristiaeth flaenllaw Llandudno. Roedd trên o Wrecsam hefyd a oedd yn cysylltu â'r gwasanaeth yng Nghaer ac yn dychwelyd yn y nos. Mae adfer y trenau hyn yn bwysig iawn i hygrededd ein rhanbarth a'n gallu i'w farchnata i fuddsoddwyr a thwristiaid."*

**- DIWEDD -**

## Nodiadau i Olygyddion:

1. Mae Growth Track 360 yn bartneriaeth gyhoeddus-breifat a sefydlwyd yn 2016 sy'n uno Gogledd Cymru, Cilgwri a Swydd Gaer a Chaer. Ei nod yw gwella cysylltedd trafnidiaeth trawsffiniol gyda phwyslais penodol ar y rheilffyrdd.

2. Mae Growth Track 360 yn gweithio'n agos gyda rhanddeiliaid allweddol, eu polisïau a'u hamcanion gan gynnwys Llywodraeth Cymru, Transport for the North, Awdurdod Cyfun Dinas-ranbarth Lerpwl, Cynghrair Merswy Dyfrdwy, Bwrdd Uchelgais Economaidd Gogledd Cymru, Trafnidiaeth Cymru, Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gorllewin Lloegr a Chymru a'r sector preifat.

## Cysylltiadau


**Y Cynghorydd Louise Gittins**
Cadeirydd GT360
Arweinydd Cyngor Gorllewin Swydd Gaer a Chaer
Ffôn: 01244 972216
E-bost: pressoffice@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

**Y Cynghorydd Ian Roberts**
Is-gadeirydd GT360
Arweinydd Cyngor Sir y Fflint
Ffôn 01352 702115
E-bost: karen.powell@flintshire.gov.uk

**Ashley Rogers**
Cynrychiolydd Busnes GT360
Cyfarwyddwr Masnachol
Cyngor Busnes Gogledd Cymru a Merswy Dyfrdwy
Ffôn: 0797 047 6599
E-bost: jarogers@nwmdbusinesscouncil.org