



Ein cyf/Our ref: FM -/00228/20

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Deu Adam,

I am writing in response to your letter on 11 February seeking a meeting to discuss the delivery of measures agreed between the Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru as part of the Budget agreements we have reached during this Assembly term.

I know my Cabinet colleagues have kept Plaid Cymru members up to date about progress delivering the many commitments made in the Budget agreements over the past few years. In relation to the specific schemes you mentioned in your letter, please find some further information below.

Mental health perinatal care

The Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC) has been asked to establish mother and baby provision to enable mothers to access more intensive support when needed.

The Swansea Bay University Health Board area has been identified as the preferred location for this service. WHSSC is urgently exploring the interim provision of a six-bed mother and baby unit while longer-term arrangements are put in place. These interim arrangements will be located at the Tonna Hospital site and are expected to be in place by spring 2021. The Minister for Health and Social Services has approved the capital funding for this work and has also committed additional funding to develop workforce capacity and capability ahead of the unit becoming operational. The Minister has also asked WHSSC to undertake a further options appraisal to determine the appropriate model for a permanent perinatal mental health mother and baby unit.

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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.

Llandeilo bypass

The Transport Minister wrote to you on 28 January updating you about current position. The WeITAG 17 stage 2 public exhibition and consultation was originally proposed for December 2019 but was delayed to respond appropriately to feedback and objections raised by Sustrans and the Future Generations Commissioner.

The stage 2 public exhibition and consultation will take place at the earliest opportunity, as soon as public space is available. Once the review of the findings of the public consultation has been completed, draft recommendations will be put before the WeITAG review panel for endorsement before the summer recess. With agreement, a WeITAG stage 3 commission would be undertaken and a project would potentially be ready for construction in autumn 2022.

Swansea Bay and Western Valleys Metro

Funding has been allocated to Swansea City Council in 2019-20 to progress work on the South West Wales Metro on behalf of the Swansea Bay region. This has allowed the region, in collaboration with the Welsh Government, Transport for Wales and local stakeholders to develop a programme that focuses on its strategic objectives and regional connectivity requirements. We expect this work to identify and develop the region's public transport priorities, which will remit Transport for Wales to progress with the region in the next financial year. This work will include setting up governance arrangements and a programme to move the Metro project forward.

The Minister for Finance and Trefnydd provided an update to Rhun ap Iorwerth in September, in line with an ongoing undertaking between the Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru to review progress in relation to the Budget agreements. She has asked her officials to prepare a further update, which she is happy to cover in more detail at a future meeting if that would be helpful. Her office will be in touch to make the necessary arrangements for a meeting at the earliest opportunity.

I am copying this letter to the Minister for Finance and Trefnydd.

Best wishes,

Mark

MARK DRAKEFORD