



News Release
Thursday 11 November 2021
For immediate use

**Growth Track 360 seeks meeting with UK Transport Secretary to
accelerate investment in cross-border railways linking
North Wales and North West England**

Business and local authority leaders from North Wales, the Wirral and Cheshire West and Chester in the Growth Track 360 partnership are seeking an urgent meeting with the UK Secretary of State for Transport to find ways to accelerate investment in cross-border rail links.

Growth Track 360 has made multiple submissions to the Treasury and Department for Transport as well as backing an application to the UK Levelling Up Fund by Flintshire Council but no announcement on cross-border rail investment was made in last month's Budget and Spending Review by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

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

"Growth Track 360 is making all the right arguments and presenting all the right evidence for rail investment to support green economic growth in our cross-border economic powerhouse region but we are not seeing the backing we need from the UK Government. We want to understand what more we need to do to accelerate our projects"

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

"We need the Union Connectivity Review and other impending UK Government announcements to unlock the funds and resources we need for Growth Track 360's three key projects – the Wrexham-Liverpool service, North Wales Main Line electrification and a transformed station at Chester. We want to meet constructively with the Transport Secretary and welcome him to our region to present our case."

- 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.
3. Growth Track 360 made a detailed submission to the Chancellor's autumn 2021 Budget and Spending Review Exchequer for a 3-year, £20 million development fund with which to make rapid and tangible progress on three key rail projects:
 - a. Wrexham to Liverpool Transformation: Twenty-First Century Travel in a Corridor of World Class Industries;
 - b. North Wales Coast Mainline: Developing Low Carbon Energy and Expanding Overseas and British Tourism Sustainably in an Area of Extraordinary Beauty; and
 - c. Chester Station Modernisation: A Millennial Gateway for a City of Millennia.”
4. With the support of Growth Track 360, Flintshire Council applied to the UK Levelling Up Fund in June 2021 for £30 million for investment in the Borderlands railway line between Wrexham and Liverpool via Bidston.

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 Iau 11 Tachwedd 2021

I'w ddefnyddio ar unwaith

Growth Track 360 yn gofyn am gyfarfod gydag Ysgrifennydd Trafnidiaeth y DU i gyflymu buddsoddiad mewn rheilffyrdd trawsffiniol yn cysylltu Gogledd Cymru a Gogledd-orllewin Lloegr

Mae arweinwyr busnesau ac awdurdodau lleol o Ogledd Cymru, y Wirral a Gorllewin Swydd Gaer a Chaer sy'n rhan o bartneriaeth Growth Track 360 yn gofyn am gyfarfod brys gydag Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros Drafnidiaeth y DU i ganfod ffyrdd o gyflymu buddsoddiad mewn cysylltiadau rheilffyrdd trawsffiniol.

Mae Growth Track 360 wedi gwneud sawl cais i'r Trysorlys a'r Adran Drafnidiaeth yn ogystal â chefnogi cais i Gronfa Codi'r Gwastad y DU gan Gyngor Sir y Fflint ond ni wnaeth Canghellor y Trysorlys gyhoeddiad ar fuddsoddiad mewn rheilffyrdd trawsffiniol yn yr Adolygiad o'r Gyllideb a Gwariant fis diwethaf.

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

"Mae Growth Track 360 yn gwneud yr holl ddadleuon cywir ac yn cyflwyno'r holl dystiolaeth gywir ar gyfer buddsoddiad rheilffyrdd i gefnogi twf economaidd gwyrdd yn ein rhanbarth pwerdy economaidd trawsffiniol ond dydyn ni ddim yn gweld y gefnogaeth sydd ei hangen gan Lywodraeth y DU. Rydyn ni am ddeall beth mwy sydd angen i ni ei wneud i gyflymu'n prosiectau"

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

"Rydyn ni angen i Adolygiad Cysylltedd yr Undeb a chyhoeddiadau eraill sydd i ddod gan Lywodraeth y DU ddatgloi'r arian a'r adnoddau sydd eu hangen arnom ar gyfer tri phrosiect allweddol Growth Track 360 - gwasanaeth Wrecsam - Lerpwl, trydaneiddio prif linell Gogledd Cymru a thrawsnewid yr orsaf yng Nghaer. Rydyn ni eisiau cael cyfarfod adeiladol â'r Ysgrifennydd Trafnidiaeth a'i groesawu i'n rhanbarth i ni gael cyflwyno'n hachos."

- DIWEDD -

Nodiadau i Olygyddion:

1. Partneriaeth cyhoeddus-breifafat yw Growth Track 360 a sefydlwyd yn 2016 sy'n uno Gogledd Cymru, y Wirral a Gorllewin Swydd Gaer a Chaer. Ei nod yw gwella cysylltedd trafndiaeth drawsffiniol gyda phwyslais penodol ar reilffyrdd.
2. Mae Growth Track 360 yn gweithio'n agos gyda rhanddeiliaid allweddol, eu polisïau a'u hamcanion yn cynnwys Llywodraeth Cymru, Transport for the North, Awdurdod Cyfunedig Rhanbarth Dinas Lerpwl, Cynghrair Mersi a'r Ddyfrdwy, Bwrdd Uchelgais Economaidd Gogledd Cymru, Trafnidiaeth Cymru, Fforwm Trafnidiaeth y Gorllewin a Chymru a'r sector preifat.
3. Gwnaeth Growth Track 360 gyflwyniad manwl i Adolygiad Cyllideb a Gwariant 2021 Canghellor y Trysorlys am gronfa ddatblygu £20 miliwn dros 3 blynedd er mwyn gwneud cynnydd cyflym a phendant ar dri phrosiect rheilffordd allweddol:
 - a. Trawsnewid Wrecsam i Lerpwl: Teithio yr Unfed Ganrif ar Hugain mewn Coridor o Ddiwydiannau o Safon Byd;
 - b. Prif linell Arfordir Gogledd Cymru: Datblygu Ynni Carbon Isel ac Ehangu Cynaliadwyedd Twristaidd o Brydain a Thramor mewn Ardal o Harddwch Eithriadol;
 - c. Moderneiddio Gorsaf Caer: Porth Mileniwm ar gyfer Dinas y Mileniwm.
4. Gyda chymorth Growth Track 360, cyflwynodd Cyngor Sir y Fflint gais i Gronfa Codi'r Gwastad y DU ym mis Mehefin 2021 am £30 miliwn i fuddsoddi yn llinell reilffordd y Gororau rhwng Wrecsam a Lerpwl trwy Bidston.

Cysylltiadau

Y Cyngorydd Louise Gittins

Cadeirydd GT360

Arweinydd Cyngor Gorllewin Swydd Gaer a Chaer

Ffôn: 01244 972216

E-bost: pressoffice@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Y Cyngorydd Ian Roberts

Is-gadeirydd Growth Track 360

Arweinydd Cyngor Sir y Fflint

Ffôn: 01352 702115

E-bost: karen.powell@flintshire.gov.uk

Ashley Rogers

Cynrychiolydd Busnes Growth Track 360

Cyfarwyddwr Masnachol,

Cyngor Busnes Gogledd Cymru a Mersi a'r Ddyfrdwy

Ffôn: 0797 047 6599

E-bost: jarogers@nwmdbusinesscouncil.org