

## **FASTER, STRONGER** OUR VISION FOR RAIL IN THE SOUTH WEST PENINSULA



AT 300 Intercity Express Train

July 2015

### **Developing a strategic rail plan for the South West Peninsula**

Government investment in transport in the South West is the lowest of any region in the UK. The increasing disruption and frequency of severe weather incidents has exposed this under-investment and highlighted the fragility of the Peninsula's rail links with the rest of the UK.

Yet South West Peninsula passenger numbers have increased by 109% in the last decade, twice the national average, far outstripping industry forecasts, so the case for Government to make decisive investments is compelling. Investment into our infrastructure will yield both significant economic growth, and enable far greater connectivity to national and international markets, creating opportunity and fostering ambition.

The Peninsula Rail Task Force (PRTF) was formed in early 2013 with the aim of developing a long term plan for rail in the South West Peninsula and to lobby Government for greater investment.

#### **The 3-Point Plan**

To address these issues the PRTF developed a 3-Point Plan that will create a great South West Peninsula railway through a sequenced programme of delivery over an agreed timeframe that is:

- Resilient and reliable
- Provides faster journey times, and better connectivity
- And sufficient capacity and comfort.

Earlier this year, the Government announced that the Department for Transport (DfT) will work closely with the PRTF and Network Rail (NR) on a 20 year programme for rail improvements in and to the South West Peninsula. A report will be submitted to the Secretary of State for Transport in the summer of 2016.

#### **Developing the 20 year Programme for Rail Improvement in the South West**

A dedicated Task and Finish Group comprising specialist local government officers and senior advisors from the DfT and NR has been established to lead the research and analysis work to support the Task Force's final recommendations to Government. The Task and Finish Group will consult with train operating companies and stakeholders.

#### **The timeline overleaf shows the key workstreams required to be undertaken to inform:**

- An interim report, including gap analysis and project plan. Submitted to Government later this summer, informed in part by NR's Western and Wessex Route Studies.
- A final report identifying required local and strategic improvements. Submitted to Government by June 2016 supported by a full business case. It will dovetail with initial planning for NR's Control Period 6 - the blueprint for spending on rail improvements between 2019-2024.

Mainline signalling enhancements



### **Rail and our economy**

Journey times to the South West are significantly greater than journey times for comparable distances to the North. The Peninsula is one of the most peripheral areas in the country, and so improving access and connectivity will be major factors in the regeneration of the region.

A PRTF study has established a relationship between journey time from London and productivity which demonstrates **a decrease of 6% in productivity for every additional 100 minutes travel time from London.**

Modelling of the economic benefits has demonstrated that even **a journey time improvement of 15 minutes will realise £300 million of GVA and an additional 1500 FTEs** for the South West Peninsula.

**With an improvement of 60 minutes the GVA uplift for the Peninsula would be £1.2 billion with 6,000 FTEs.**



### **For more information**

[www.peninsularailtaskforce.co.uk](http://www.peninsularailtaskforce.co.uk)  
[info@peninsularailtaskforce.co.uk](mailto:info@peninsularailtaskforce.co.uk)

### **The Task Force**

Cornwall Council, Devon County Council, Plymouth City Council, Somerset County Council, Torbay Council, the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership and Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership.

From its inception the Task Force has benefitted from the support of the South West Chamber of Commerce, the University of Plymouth and Travel Watch South West, and Members of Parliament and Peers.

The Task Force has established a Stakeholder Group that includes train operators, special interest groups and businesses to inform its work.

It will be consulting closely with Members of Parliament and other key stakeholders as the work on the final report to Government progresses.

Ticket office improvements, Paddington



# DEVELOPING A STRATEGIC RAIL PLAN FOR THE SOUTH WEST PENINSULA

