

Council for Economic Renewal

Great Western Mainline Electrification Programme

Introduction

1. At the 28 January 2013 meeting of the Council for Economic Renewal the planned electrification of the mainline between London and Swansea was raised. Specifically, the importance of ensuring connectivity with Swansea and that electrification should start at both Swansea and London concurrently.
2. This paper updates members of the current position concerning the programme to electrify the Great Western Mainline (GWML) to Swansea.

Update

3. The electrification programme, due to the phasing of the works, will result in new electric trains operating from Bristol to London seven months before they operate from South Wales to London.
4. The new "Intercity Express" electric trains (known as "IEP") will be introduced on services to Bristol in May 2017, Cardiff in December 2017 and Swansea in May 2018. This is how the project has been determined following successive decisions to electrify the line to Cardiff and then to Swansea. The timescales also align with the decision to electrify the Valley Lines Rail Network.
5. The precise timetabling of the introduction of "IEP" trains has not been confirmed and will be a matter for the specification of the next Great Western franchise due to commence in July 2016. This franchise is let by the Department of Transport.
6. The UK Government have signed a multi-billion contract with Agility Trains to build the new IEP trains. The programme for the introduction of the new trains is confirmed and ensures that the UK Government is committed to full electrification of the GWML to Swansea. There will be a maintenance facility to service the new trains in Swansea.