

Member Briefing

Number: 1152

Title: West & Wales Strategic Rail Prospectus

Summary: The purpose of this briefing is to update members on the West & Wales Strategic Rail Prospectus and its parliamentary launch on 26 February 2018.

Background

The West & Wales Strategic Rail Prospectus has been developed in wide collaboration with partners from Cheshire East, Warrington, LEP, North Wales with input from Department for Transport, Welsh Government, Transport for the North (TfN), Mersey Travel, Transport for Greater Manchester and Network Rail. This is an unprecedented collaboration working together to articulate a single vision for rail improvements for our area.

The West & Wales prospectus helps embed all the principles and projects from Growth Track 360 in a wider strategic proposition at a geographical scale of national interest and ensures there is coordination between Growth Track 360, Constellation Partnership and Warrington New City, it is also consistent with the LEP Transport Strategy.

The West & Wales prospectus was presented at the Devolution Commission within CWaC where it was discussed by members and a representative from Transport for the North.

West & Wales Strategic Rail Prospectus

The prospectus focuses on improvements to four key hubs: Chester, Crewe, Warrington and Manchester Airport, and for rail service improvements between these core hubs. This will unlock intra-regional connectivity and enable CWaC to benefit from the arrival of HS2 at Crewe.

The vision sets out a range of improvements across the entire CWaC geography including for example: Chester station capacity improvements, more trains to Ellesmere Port, the re-opening to passengers of the Middlewich branch with potential new stations, better links through mid-Cheshire to the Airport, faster services to Manchester, improved car parking at Frodsham, Helsby and Winsford. This is a long-term vision and sets out comprehensively how rail could help unlock economic growth.

- growthtrack360.com/home/westandwalesrailprospectus

Parliamentary launch - 26 February 2018

The prospectus was launched in Parliament with high profile speakers at the event supporting the vision: Chris Grayling - Secretary of State for Transport, Ken Skates - Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure & Economy from Welsh Government, Stuart Andrew - Welsh Office Under-Secretary, Tim Woods - Director of Rail TfN, Christine Gaskell - Chair LEP, David Jones MP and Cllr Sam Dixon. The event was very positive with recognition and

support of the aspirations for West & Wales at Transport for the North and UK and Welsh government levels.

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