

## Liverpool City Region railway upgrade plan 2016-19



**Between now and 2019, £340m is being invested in the Liverpool City Region to deliver a bigger, better and more reliable railway for passengers.**

### Background

This investment, funded by Network Rail and the Liverpool City Region (supported by the Local Growth Fund and Merseytravel), will provide passengers with faster, more frequent and reliable train services by 2019. Of the £340m being invested, Network Rail is contributing £229m and the Liverpool City Region is providing £111m with £31m being obtained through Growth Deal Funding.

### Why is this investment required?

With passenger figures expected to double during peak periods by 2043, the Liverpool City Region railway upgrade plan is essential to provide more capacity, relieve overcrowding and respond to the tremendous growth in passenger demand experienced along the Merseyside railway network. These works also support city region aspirations to increase economic growth creating a world class location to live, work, visit and invest and for this we require world class facilities and services.

### What are the benefits for passengers?

#### **The Liverpool City Region Railway Upgrade Plan will deliver for passengers:**

- **A bigger and better railway network with longer and faster trains**
- **More reliable railway infrastructure**
- **Better facilities for passengers, especially at stations**
- **Increased capacity/additional services**

### What will this mean in practice?





## 2. Merseyrail underground upgrade

The final phase of improvements to the Merseyrail underground network will take place between January and June 2017. Aimed at maintaining the long-term safety and reliability of rail services, the work will involve the renewal of track on the Liverpool loop, parts of the Wirral and the Mersey riverbed. It will be done in one go and will mean that no further major renewals will be required to this stretch of railway for decades to come.

The work will cause significant disruption to passengers travelling between Wirral and Liverpool over a six-month period. Together with Merseyrail and Merseytravel, we will ensure that Wirral line passengers can continue to travel into Liverpool city centre, using alternative transport, such as replacement buses and Mersey Ferry services.

### 3 January 2017 – 18 June 2017

#### **Phase 1**

From Tuesday 3 January 2017 till Sunday 12 February 2017, there will be no Wirral line trains beyond Birkenhead Central and Birkenhead North towards Liverpool.

#### **Phase 2**

From Monday 13 February 2017 till Monday 29 May 2017, Wirral line trains will run as far as James Street on weekdays. At the weekends, trains will run only as far as Birkenhead North and Birkenhead Central, as in phase 1. However, on bank holidays weekends, and the Saturday of the Grand National, they will run to James Street.

#### **Phase 3**

From Tuesday 30 May 2017 till Sunday 18 June 2017, there will again be no Wirral line trains beyond Birkenhead Central and Birkenhead North towards Liverpool.

Alternative travel arrangements for this six-month period are currently being developed and will be available in autumn 2016.

## 3. Huyton to Roby fourth track upgrade

To enable faster services between Liverpool and towns and cities in the north, an additional track will be installed between Huyton and Roby stations. This will allow faster no stop intercity services to overtake local stopping services along this route. This work will complement the station and improvements already undertaken at Huyton in 2014.

## 4. New Liverpool to Chester service – the re-opening of the Halton Curve



It is proposed that a new service between Liverpool and Chester, serving Liverpool Lime Street, Liverpool South Parkway (Liverpool John Lennon Airport), Runcorn, Frodsham and Helsby will be created through the re-signalling and upgrading of an existing single direction track on the Halton Curve. The existing line, which currently only runs one-way passenger services in the summer, will be upgraded to provide a two-way hourly service with the potential for connections to North Wales in the future. The scheme is supported by Growth Deal Funding and Merseytravel.

## **5. Weaver to Wavertree re-signalling**

Re-signalling work on 16 miles of track between Edge Hill Station in the north and Winsford in the south, will get underway this summer. Signal boxes will be removed, with control moving to the new state-of-the-art Manchester Rail Operating Centre (part of Network Rail's wider modernisation programme) helping to deliver a more reliable railway and restore rail services much quicker whenever there is failure to the network.

## **6. Newton-le-Willows station**

Newton-le-Willows station will be transformed, with a new bus interchange, extended car park facilities and upgraded booking hall on the south side of the station. Passengers will benefit from improved access to facilities thanks to new lifts, subway and stairwells. Passengers using this station will benefit from the electrification programme that has already been completed along this route, where capacity has been increased and journey times have been shortened between Liverpool and Manchester. The scheme is supported by Growth Deal Funding and Merseytravel.

## **7. Maghull North (new station)**

A new station is to be created between Maghull and Town Green Stations on the Liverpool Central to Ormskirk branch of the Merseyrail network. This is to support increasing demand, following extensive new housing and employment developments in the area. The new Maghull North station will include a new ticket office, 'park and ride' facilities, lifts and a footbridge to platforms. The scheme is supported by Growth Deal Funding and Merseytravel.

## **8. New trains for the Merseyrail network**

New trains will be brought into service on the Merseyrail network in the early 2020s, subject to formal approval by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority later this year. The project, led by Merseytravel, will replace some of the oldest operational stock in the country. Network Rail is delivering the infrastructure works including upgrading the power infrastructure and making improvements to 68 stations across the network to allow them to accommodate the new trains. It is expected that a preferred bidder will be identified towards the end of 2016 and it will be at this point that city region leaders, through the Combined Authority, will be asked to commit to the project going ahead.

New trains by the early 2020s are considered the best option in meeting growing demand on the network and in supporting the city region's economic ambitions, while also presenting the best value for the public purse. It follows the development of a detailed



business case over many months which looked at all options from refurbished stock to new stock now or in the future.

## **9. Ditton Intermodal Connection**

This scheme comprises the provision of a rail connection to a proposed Intermodal Freight Terminal within the Mersey Multi-Modal Gateway (3MG), located off sidings at Ditton on the West Coast Main Line route between Crewe and Liverpool. 3MG is an element of the Liverpool City Region Superport programme that aims to realise the economic benefits associated with an anticipated increase in the volume of rail freight traffic running to/from the North West over the next 10 - 20 years. The scheme is funded by Halton Borough Council has been backed by Central Government and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS).

Ends