

A 3-Point Plan for a great South West Peninsula railway

The South West Peninsula has a bigger economy than Merseyside, Leeds, Sheffield, South Wales or Greater Bristol, yet investment in our vital transport networks has not kept pace.

Government investment in transport is the lowest of any region in the UK. The increasing frequency of severe weather disruption 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 rocketed by 109% in the last decade, twice the national average, outstripping industry forecasts so the need for Government to make big, decisive investments is compelling. Investment into our infrastructure will not only yield significant economic growth, but crucially it will enable far greater connectivity to national and international markets, creating opportunity and fostering ambition.

That's why the Peninsula Rail Task Force is calling on the Government to back our 3-point plan for a great South West Peninsula railway, one that will be:

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

1) A resilient and reliable railway

SOLUTION: An additional inland route West of Exeter, a long term solution for Bridgwater including a barrage for the River Parrett, and increased capacity including more passing loops on the Exeter to Waterloo line (Exeter- Yeovil-Castle Cary) would provide greater resilience and reliability.

2) Faster journey times and better connectivity

SOLUTION: Upgrading signalling, improving line speeds and more modern diesel trains with greater acceleration and automatic doors will cut journey times, and more trains to London from Exeter creating faster journey times further west with better calling patterns. Research indicates electrification could boost the Peninsula economy by an extra £73 million a year.

3) Sufficient capacity and quality

SOLUTION: Cascade Thames Valley's existing rolling stock to provide sufficient trains for our local services once electrification is complete in 2016, with more trains on overcrowded routes.

For more detail about our solutions please see the accompanying proposed programme of improvements. You can also find more information at : www.resiliencesw.co.uk or by contacting..... WHO < number>

The Peninsula Rail Task Force is a rail improvement campaign group comprising Cornwall Council, Cornwall and Scillies LEP, Devon County Council, Heart of the South West LEP, Plymouth City Council, Somerset County Council and Torbay Council.