

Record of Decisions

Notice of Motion - Great Western Trains (Mayoral Decision)

Decision Taker

Mayor on 05 February 2015

Decision

That the motion be supported.

Reason for the Decision

To respond to the motion.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on Wednesday, 18 February 2015 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

At the Council meeting held on 5 February 2015, Members received a motion, as set out below, notice of which had been given in accordance with Standing Order A14 by Councillors Doggett and Darling.

This Council notes:

- the proposals for changes to the Great Western Rail Services, with the introduction of the new Intercity Express Programme (IEP) Trains;
- Torbay is the biggest tourist destination west of Bristol;
- a quality transport infrastructure is essential for the development of better paid jobs in Torbay; and
- that passenger safety and services could be jeopardised if the new Rolling Stock is used as cover for de-staffing stations, especially train dispatch staff. Threats to skilled maintenance workers' jobs in these proposals would further impact on passenger safety and services and cause problems with regard to the Rail Industry and Regions Skills Crisis and Driver Only operation would downgrade the Train Guard's Safety Operational Role and increase risks to passengers by restricting responsibility for safe operation of the train to the driver;
- that under current proposals the new rolling stock being introduced from 2018 could have the buffet car removed, meaning that hot food and meals will only be available in First Class while other passengers will be forced to rely on a trolley-only service for long, often crowded, journeys, so more seats can be crammed onto inter-city services.

That the Mayor be recommended to instruct the Executive Director of Operations and Finance to make representations to the Government and rail Franchise Operators of the Great Western

Rail Services to protect the interests of passengers and the communities who rely on these railway services, by ensuring all contracts are set up to deliver properly funded, properly staffed and affordable Railways.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

None

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None

Published

10 February 2015

Signed: _____
Mayor of Torbay

Date: 10 February 2015