

# Policy committee meeting 19.12.17

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## Secretariat memorandum

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### Christmas engineering works

#### 1 Purpose of report

- 1.1. To provide members with an understanding of the scope of rail engineering works to be carried out of the Christmas 2017 period and associated risks.

#### 2 Recommendation

- 2.1. That members consider the implications for passengers if disruption should occur due to failure to complete works or for adverse weather.

#### 3 The scope of the engineering works

- 3.1. Christmas 2017 will once again bring a large number of engineering works to the UK rail network, many of which will affect journeys in and out of London terminals. The complete set of works has been summarised in the appendix attached to this report.
- 3.2. There are significant changes for passengers who are **travelling to airports**. These are highlighted in blue in the appendix. Key issues are as follows:
  - There will be no trains to Heathrow between 24 and 27 December 2017. The Piccadilly line is an alternative route.
  - Gatwick Airport will have no service on 26 December 2017; instead there will be a rail replacement bus service. There will be limited service over the rest of the Christmas period.
  - Luton Airport Parkway will have a reduced service from 23-24 December 2017, and there are disruptions to the rest of the Thameslink services due to work through the 'core' central section over the Christmas period.
  - The DLR service that passes through London City Airport will be busier than usual due to the closure of Southeastern routes from Woolwich Arsenal to central London .
  - There will be a reduced service to Stansted Airport with an early finish on 24 December and a bus service until 13:00 on 1 January.

### 3.3. **Great Western Railway (GWR):**

- Paddington station will be completely closed between 24 and 27 December 2017. On 24 and 27 December 2017, some long distance services will be diverted into Marylebone, and there will be fewer trains running than normal.
- Journeys via Marylebone will take longer and passengers will have to change at Reading if they wish to continue to Waterloo.
- Local services will terminate at Slough where there will be various options for continuing travel.
- From 28 to 31 December 2017 there will be two-tracks instead of four-tracks in operation between Paddington and Slough. For passengers, this will mean reduced numbers of long distance and local services.
- There will be a Bank Holiday service running on 1 January 2018 and a new timetable with electric trains running to Didcot Parkway will come into service on 2 January 2018

### 3.4. **Thameslink/Southeastern:**

- London Bridge station will be closed for final part of the ongoing Thameslink works.
- Other central London stations will be closed between 23 December 2017 and 1 January 2018. These include: City Thameslink, Farringdon, Charing Cross, Waterloo East, Canon Street and at points Blackfriars.
- Between 27 and 29 December 2017 Southeastern have warned that Victoria Station is likely to be very busy, with an amended timetable running.
- The diversions to train services are following a similar pattern to previous closures, and there is lots of information on the Thameslink programme website and at stations about when and where services are running.

### 3.5. **TfL Rail and Greater Anglia:**

- The line between Liverpool Street and Ingatestone/ Billericay is closed from 23 to 26 December 2017 for overhead line works associated with the Crossrail project. Rail replacement buses will replace trains between Ingatestone/Billericay and Newbury Park, where passengers can pick up the Central line.

### 3.6. **Transport for London:**

- There are closures on sections of the London Overground with some rail replacement buses provided.
- Between 24 and 30 December 2017 the Circle line between Edgware Road to Aldgate via Victoria will not be open.
- The District line will be closed west of Earl's Court with no service to Ealing Broadway, Richmond, Wimbledon or Edgware Road.

- There will be some rail replacement buses in place.

## **4 Risks for Passengers**

- 4.1. The works being carried out on the Thameslink and TfL and Greater Anglia routes are a repeat of previous arrangements. The timetables and engineering work that has been carried out is very similar to previous years, meaning that they are lower risk. However, the work being carried out on the Western Route is of a much higher risk due to the high number of variables and scale of the work taking place between Paddington and Slough, and on other parts of the Western route beyond the London TravelWatch area
- 4.2. For the Great Western Route these risks are being monitored through the Christmas Possession Steering Group which London TravelWatch has been attending. A substantial list of contingency plans has been created to try and counter most of the risks below. The key areas are:
- Complexity of engineering works; both electrification and working towards Crossrail implementation
  - A number of different works spread over multiple different sites.
  - The new timetable being introduced by GWR on the Western Route on 2 January 2018 including the full local electric service to Didcot Parkway.
  - Introduction of new fleets of trains for both local and long distance services simultaneously.

## **5 London TravelWatch's priorities**

- 5.1. The scale and implications of these works on the numbers of passengers travelling in and around London is considerable. This therefore meets London TravelWatch's prioritisation criteria.

## **6 Equalities and inclusion implications**

- 6.1. Disruption to services affects disabled passengers, potentially disproportionately depending on step free access. Where an existing step free route is not available, there is a requirement for provision of a suitable alternative. Staff at railheads will have information for sufficient alternative travel arrangements to allow passengers with disabilities to complete their journeys.

## **7 Financial implications**

- 7.1. No specific financial implications for London TravelWatch arise from this report.

## **8 Legal powers and financial implications**

- 8.1. Section 248 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 requires London TravelWatch (as the London Transport Users Committee) to consider, and where it appears to it to

be desirable, to make recommendations with respect to any service or facility provided by or for (or in the case of hackney carriages and private hire vehicles, licensed by) Transport for London, other than a matter relating to the transportation of freight, if it has been the subject of representations made by or on behalf of users of that service or facility. Section 252B of the same Act places a similar duty on the Committee in respect of users or potential users of railway services provided wholly or partly within the “London railway area” as defined under the provisions of the Railways Act 1993.