



PENINSULA RAIL TASK FORCE

On Track for improvement?

Embargoed until 0001 Tuesday 13th October.

The Peninsula Rail Task Force has published interim plans for improving the South West's rail network today in its report 'On Track'.

The Task Force has been working at the request of Government with the Department of Transport and Network Rail to produce recommendations on upgrading the region's rail.

Chair Andrew Leadbetter said: "On Track sets out our vision for our rail. We want a network that is resilient, that is on a par with the rest of the country, with shorter journey times and enough capacity to meet the needs of our passengers.

"It is vital that we continue the momentum gained over the last few months – we want to show that there is a real business case for improving our network for the Government to commit to our connectivity.

"On Track shows that this is not just investment for the sake of it. We have real opportunities to change the way we do business, boosting our economy and helping our communities to take advantage of better connections across the country. There is real pay back from investment - employment to education, leisure travel to business commuting, all will benefit. The rail network is a crucial part of our transport system and it is far from acceptable at present.

"New trains will give us scope to improve our journey times but we can not take full advantage if they are running on old, vulnerable tracks. Electrification is helping many communities across the country, but it's not going to impact here.

"So, now is the time for us to identify where the gaps are in our network and what we're going to do about them. With the support of Network Rail and the Department of Transport, we want a plan of delivery that is realistic and enables real results. We cannot afford to stand by and On Track is a clear signal to show we are serious about changing the way we travel across the South West. "

The report is available to download from peninsularailtaskforce.co.uk

Ends.

Notes to Editors:

For more information, contact Kathryn Williams at Coast Communications on 07783 292652, kathryn@coastmarcoms.co.uk, main office 01579 352600.

A copy of the report is available here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/0vjypbsxtmug89y/PRTF%20Report%20Document%20Final.pdf?dl=0>

If Dropbox is unsuitable you can request a direct transfer via We Transfer by emailing info@coastmarcoms.co.uk.

Please note the report is strictly embargoed until 00:01 Tuesday 13th October 2015.