

# Member Briefing

Number: 1304

**Title:** Rail service update

**Summary:** Many train service improvements have been put in place during May 2019. Train services in the Warrington area will be affected by engineering works in the latter part of July and early August 2019.

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## Background

Changes to the National Rail timetable were put in place on Sunday 19 May 2019, including many significant improvements and new services for west Cheshire.

As part of a major programme of works on the West Coast Main Line (WCML) between London Euston station and Glasgow and Edinburgh, there will be significant disruption to rail services for 16 days in July and August.

## What is happening

Council staff from Place Strategy work closely with a number of rail partners, including Transport for the North, the Department for Transport and the Welsh Government, to improve the region's rail services. Timetable changes and major improvements from 19 May include the following.

- Winsford, Hartford and Acton Bridge stations will benefit from new direct services to London Euston and Birmingham Airport. Acton Bridge will have a Sunday service to Liverpool and Birmingham.
- A new hourly service between Chester and Liverpool Lime Street, as well as peak time extensions serving Wrexham General station. Trains will also call at Helsby, Frodsham, Runcorn and Liverpool South Parkway using the 'Halton Curve'.
- A new hourly service between Chester and Leeds, calling at Manchester Victoria station and Bradford.
- One new return journey between Ellesmere Port and Manchester Victoria station, calling at Stanlow and Thornton and Ince and Elton stations.

You can view full details on the [National Rail website](#).

Major engineering work will temporarily disrupt rail services in the Warrington area, including some of the improvements mentioned above.

Network Rail will be closing the WCML in the Warrington area for vital engineering work to upgrade track, cabling, overhead lines and signalling from Saturday 20 July 2019 to Sunday 4 August 2019. The work will be at the junction where the WCML (the full line is between London Euston, Glasgow and Edinburgh) and the line for Chester, Helsby, Frodsham to Warrington and Manchester services combine.

There will be some train service cancellations, and bus replacement services will affect Chester, Ellesmere Port, Stanlow and Thornton, Ince and Elton, Helsby and Frodsham. Full details are on the [Network Rail website](#).

Passengers are asked to check before they travel and allow more time for their journeys as services will be busier than usual.

Network Rail and the train service operators will provide details for passengers. This briefing is to make members aware of the disruption to rail services, and sign post them to more details so they can keep residents up-to-date.

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**Responsible Committee, Cabinet Member:** Councillor Samantha Dixon and Councillor Louise Gittins

**Date:** 24 May 2019