

National Development Framework for Wales Consultation

Title of Evidence

Electrification of Railways in Wales

Provision of maintenance depots for associated rolling stock

Railfuture advocates a progressive electrification of the Railways of Wales with initial consideration being given to the main line from Cardiff to Swansea and all of the South East Wales branch lines from Ebbw Vale Town to Maesteg including the Vale of Glamorgan line i.e. the complete area of the proposed Metro. Railfuture also proposes a new network of light rail as described in the Development Plan.

Railfuture proposes an upgrade of the Maintenance Depots for rail passenger stock in Wales including new electric rolling stock and diesel multiple units . This requires main depots in North Wales possibly Mold Junction replacing Chester and in South Wales at Cardiff with supportive depots at Holyhead, Machynlleth and Carmarthen.

The key issue is the need for improved rail services and rolling stock in Wales to replace the older unsuitable stock at present in use. The provision of electrification and the use of new electric stock has a number of advantages in line with the seven goals of the Future Generations Act.

The advantages of electrification are outlined in the attached documents. It is globally responsible as the will be reduced emissions and reduced noise . An attractive modern rail transport system will improve the prosperity of Wales and ability for the population to reach employment, educational and medical facilities and provide for recreational and cultural opportunities. Modern rolling stock will be more reliable and resilient and provide an improved transport system for all. It will provide for a healthier Wales with reduced emissions and also a reduction in car use if there is an improved transport system .Electrification and modern rolling stock will provide improved links in Wales and provide for a more equal and cohesive society. It will increase mobility but will have the advantage of being able to sustain communities.

The proposal is of National Significance as the proposals cover the whole of the Welsh rail transport system. In fact there is the international context of the Euro Routes to Ireland via Pembroke Dock, Fishguard Harbour and Holyhead. It should embrace a large percentage of the Welsh population and if adequate bus links are added this could achieve many of the integrated transport ambitions of Welsh Government.

Railfuture hopes you can include the proposal in the National Development Framework

Railfuture Cymru /Wales agrees that the evidence can be made public provided reference is made to the attached documents.

Two Railfuture publications attached in support of the evidence:

[Development Plan for the Railways of Wales](#) third edition, incorporating the earlier paper:
[A Progressive electrification of the Railways of Wales](#)

Evidence submitted on behalf of Railfuture Wales by Rowland Pittard, Secretary Railfuture Cymru 07/03/17.