

Response to South Western Railway's December 2018 timetable consultation

Summary

The report sets out the response to South Western Railway's consultation on the proposed changes to train services in the December 2018 timetable. The consultation began on Friday 29th September and ends on Friday 22nd December.

The proposed changes to the train timetable have implications for services provided to stations in the Borough, specifically services between Camberley and Waterloo and services between Camberley and Guildford. The consultation document and timetables are available online at: <https://www.swrailway.com/contact-and-help/timetable-consultation>

Whilst the proposed changes will reduce journey times between Camberley and London Waterloo and from Camberley to Guildford, concerns have been raised in respect of the discontinuation of direct services between Camberley and London Waterloo, the splitting of the line between Camberley and Guildford and the short connection times between journeys on both train routes.

Portfolio: Special Projects

Date Portfolio Holder signed off report: 10/11/2017

Wards Affected

ALL

Recommendation

The Executive is advised to RESOLVE to agree the response set out in the letter at Annex 1 of this report as the Council's formal response to South Western Railway's consultation on the changes to the train services in the December 2018 timetable

1. Resource Implications

- 1.1 There are no resource implications beyond that provided for within the agreed budget for 2017/18.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 South Western Railways are consulting on a range of proposed changes to train services in the December 2018 timetable. The timetable proposals relating to Surrey Heath Borough Council concern major changes to the train services between Camberley and London Waterloo and between Camberley and Guildford.
- 2.2 Regarding proposed changes to services between Camberley and London Waterloo, officers have considered the proposals from a Surrey Heath perspective and raise the following key points:
- Objections are raised over the proposed discontinuation of all direct services between Camberley and London Waterloo. It is considered that this change could lead to commuters who currently use the three direct morning services travelling to other stations outside the Borough that will retain their direct services to London Waterloo.
 - The proposals to improve connections at Ash Vale are generally welcomed. Through changing at Ash Vale, journey times from Camberley to London Waterloo will be reduced by 10 minutes or more. However, it is emphasised

that train operators will need to ensure that there is minimum disruption to services to enable passengers to make the connection, which is limited at 5 minutes. Due to the short connection time at Ash Vale and the need to change platforms, concerns are raised for disabled passengers.

- With regard to journey times from London Waterloo to Camberley (via Ash Vale), journey times will be improved by 20 minutes under the proposed timetable, with a 6 minute wait at Ash Vale.
- Despite the proposed improvements of service between Ascot and London Waterloo, travelling from Camberley to London Waterloo via Ascot will continue to be 75 minutes duration. Passengers travelling from London Waterloo to Camberley via Ascot will have only a 3 minute transfer time at Ascot which leaves passengers very little time to change platforms.

2.3 Regarding proposed changes to services between Camberley and Guildford, officers have considered the proposals from a Surrey Heath perspective and raise the following key points:

- The proposal includes the splitting of the services into two separate lines, with a change at Aldershot. Surrey Heath Borough Council raise an objection to this proposal because it limits direct train services available to train stations within the Borough.
- The proposal to reduce the journey time from Camberley to Guildford by 12 minutes is generally welcomed. However, is emphasised that train operators will need to ensure that there is minimum disruption to services to enable passengers to make the connection, which is a limited 4 minutes.
- Surrey Heath Borough Council raise an objection to the proposed timetables for services from Guildford to Camberley; these would increase journey times by 10 minutes and increase the waiting time at Aldershot by 9 minutes.
- The proposed earlier start time and later end time to services are welcomed.

2.4 Regarding proposed changes to services between Camberley and Reading, officers have considered the proposals from a Surrey Heath perspective and raise the following key points:

- The proposal to reduce journey times between Camberley and Reading is welcomed.

3. Options

3.1 The options for the Executive to consider are:-

- (i) To **AGREE** the response on the consultation on the proposed changes to train services timetable as set out in Annex 1 of this report.
- (ii) To **AGREE** the response on the consultation on the proposed changes to train services timetable as set out in Annex 1 of this report and any additional comments which the Executive may wish to make.
- (iii) To **NOT AGREE** the response on the consultation on the proposed changes to train services timetable as set out in Annex 1 of this report.

4. Proposals

4.1 It is proposed to submit the consultation response attached at Annex 1 by the 22nd December 2017 deadline.

5. Corporate Objectives And Key Priorities

- 5.1 The proposals may affect the Council's ability to achieve the Objective for Place, with proposals having the potential to affect the Council's capacity to deliver its vision for Camberley. The proposals may also affect the Council's ability to achieve the Objective for prosperity by impacting the Council's capacity to encourage improvements to local transport.

6. Policy Framework

- 6.1 The consultation process Surrey Heath is responding to will have implications for the Borough's accessibility and therefore may impact on the Council's ability to meet Objective 5 of the Camberley Town Centre Area Action Plan and Objective 1 of the Core Strategy.

7. Other Matters

- 7.1 In relation to governance, sustainability, risk management, equalities impact, human rights, community safety, consultation, PR and Marketing there are no matters arising from this consultation by South Western Railway.

8. Consultation

- 8.1 The South Western Railway consultation runs between 29th September 2017 and 22nd December 2017

Annexes	Annex 1 - Letter to South Western Railway
Background Papers	https://www.swrailway.com/contact-and-help/timetable-consultation
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Consultations, Implications and Issues Addressed

Resources	Required	Consulted
Revenue	✓	
Capital		
Human Resources		
Asset Management		
IT		
Other Issues	Required	Consulted
Corporate Objectives & Key Priorities	✓	
Policy Framework		
Legal	✓	
Governance		
Sustainability	✓	
Risk Management		
Equalities Impact Assessment		
Community Safety		
Human Rights		
Consultation	✓	

Resources	Required	Consulted
P R & Marketing	✓	

Review Date:

Version: