

Notice of Motion Great Western Rail Services and the Introduction of New IEP Trains

This Council notes:

- the proposals for changes to the Great Western Rail Services, with the introduction of the new Intercity Express Programme (IEP) Trains;
- Torbay is the biggest tourist destination west of Bristol;
- a quality transport infrastructure is essential for the development of better paid jobs in Torbay; and
- that passenger safety and services could be jeopardised if the new Rolling Stock is used as cover for de-staffing stations, especially train dispatch staff. Threats to skilled maintenance workers' jobs in these proposals would further impact on passenger safety and services and cause problems with regard to the Rail Industry and Regions Skills Crisis and Driver Only operation would downgrade the Train Guard's Safety Operational Role and increase risks to passengers by restricting responsibility for safe operation of the train to the driver;
- that under current proposals the new rolling stock being introduced from 2018 could have the buffet car removed, meaning that hot food and meals will only be available in First Class while other passengers will be forced to rely on a trolley-only service for long, often crowded, journeys, so more seats can be crammed onto inter-city services.

That the Mayor be recommended to instruct the Executive Director of Operations and Finance to make representations to the Government and rail Franchise Operators of the Great Western Rail Services to protect the interests of passengers and the communities who rely on these railway services, by ensuring all contracts are set up to deliver properly funded, properly staffed and affordable Railways.

Proposed by Councillor Doggett

Seconded by Councillor Darling