

The Railfuture Severnside response to the Metro West Consultation on reopening the Portishead line was submitted via a Metro West electronic questionnaire on 31 July 2015. Our main comments were:

### Portishead station

It would be interesting to know what platform length is contemplated. Given the success of rail reopenings elsewhere, with passenger numbers proving to be far higher than the official forecasts, it is important to safeguard sufficient land at the station site to allow for longer trains and additional track at the terminus.

We understand that the ticket office will be staffed in the morning. We would like to see space provided for retail units to give a human presence on the station premises in the afternoon and early evening.

### Pill station

As this station will not be staffed, passenger information displays need to be more than just printed timetable sheets. Any electronic displays need to be of the type showing the calling points of the next few trains and any reported lateness. This type of screen is used at Ashchurch for Tewkesbury station, Gloucestershire.

The design of platform shelters needs to be both attractive and sturdy. Severnside Community Rail Partnership should be invited to involve local people in caring for the station when it has opened.

### Metro West Phase 1 train services

Half-hourly services at Bedminster and Parson Street should not be achieved by making Cardiff-Taunton services even slower than at present. Highbridge and Bridgwater need faster trains to Bristol and beyond. All the Weston-Bristol Parkway stopping trains should call at Bedminster and Parson Street, as should some of the Portishead services.

### Double tracking and bridge widening at Pill

Railfuture supports the proposed relocation of the junction with the Portbury Dock line to just east of Pill station. This will minimise conflict between passenger and freight trains.

### Double tracking between Bower Ashton and Ashton Gate level crossing

Whatever works are carried out in the Ashton Gate area, a site needs to be safeguarded for an Ashton Gate station to be opened as soon as practicable after the Portishead line reopens.