

Rail Programme Update

Willenhall, Darlaston & Aldridge Railway Stations



Walsall Council



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Rail Programme Update

Package 1 – Walsall to Wolverhampton Connectivity

1. Our Contractor (Kier) are fully mobilised with site offices at both locations and construction underway at both sites.
2. Willenhall - Ground remediation work completed, with installation of flooding attenuation tank and sewer diversion to follow.
3. Darlaston - Land remediation work and platform stabilisation structures completed, with car park sub-base and installation of platform foundations to follow.
4. Planning amendment to be submitted to include a Secondary Means of Escape at both sites.
5. Unauthorised unstable building adjacent to construction site in Willenhall risking project schedule – project exploring design change of platform retention to mitigate any delays.
6. Site visit held with Cllr Andrews and Anne Shaw (Executive Director of Transport for West Midlands) on the 1st October 2024
7. Project currently on track to deliver within budget of £85.27m, which was approved by the WMCA Board in November 2023 and remains on schedule to complete in Winter 2025-26.



Darlaston aerial view of progress



Willenhall aerial view of progress

Rail Programme Update

Aldridge - New Station



1. Planning for a new 1-platform station at Aldridge, providing a service to/from Walsall, funded in current capital programme, and work is ongoing.
2. Agreement at WMCA Board in July 2024 that delivery phase will now be in the post-2027 capital programme, with funding to be secured.
3. WMCA are engaging Network Rail to undertake the Option Selection and Outline Design stages, which will feed into the Outline Business Case and the future Planning Application.
4. Full suite of site investigations due to commence in early 2025.
5. Timetable study concluded: Aldridge will initially be provided with a half-hourly 2-car diesel shuttle service to Walsall where there will be cross-platform interchange available into the electric service to Birmingham. The journey time to Walsall will be around 6 minutes and 39-40 minutes to Birmingham. The diesel shuttle is designed to be a first step towards providing through electric services to Birmingham.
6. Parking study continues. Further work, taking into consideration residents, access arrangements and travel patterns, shall be considered during the next phase of planning.