

Chancellor urged to fund Gospel Oak to Barking line electrification in Budget

14 MARCH 2013

The London Assembly's Transport Committee has this week written to George Osborne, Chancellor of the Exchequer, to urge him to fund the proposed electrification of the Gospel Oak to Barking railway line in next week's Budget^[1].

Electrification of the line would bring significant improvements for both freight and passenger traffic, including reduced overcrowding for passengers, improved connectivity with the rest of London's rail network, environmental benefits and the ability to run longer trains on the line.

Network Rail stated at a recent Transport Committee's meeting (7 March) that full funding must be made available in 2013 to complete the electrification programme before Crossrail opens.

After Crossrail starts running services in 2018, the funding needed to enable electric trains to run on the Gospel Oak to Barking line will accelerate due to access issues^[2].

Transport for London (TfL) has offered to contribute £25 million towards the £90 million estimated cost of the scheme^[3]. The electrification programme also has the support of the Mayor, Transport for London (TfL), the rail industry and passenger groups^[4].

Caroline Pidgeon AM, Chair of the Transport Committee, said:

"It is a major disappointment that funding for the electrification of the Gospel Oak-Barking line, which was expected to be announced last year, has so far failed to materialise. There is a strong business case for electrification on a line where passenger demand already far outstrips capacity.

We hope the Government will listen seriously to our calls for a serious package of funding – incorporating TfL's £25 million contribution – and confirm this in next week's Budget announcement."

Notes to editors:

1. Letter from Transport Committee Chair, Caroline Pidgeon to George Osborne, Chancellor of the Exchequer on electrification of the Gospel Oak to Barking railway line (see attached).
2. [Transport Committee, 7 March](#).
3. Question to Transport Minister, Simon Burns, on Gospel Oak-Barking Railway Line, 20 December 2012, [Hansard](#):

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent (a) information, (b) advice and (c) reports he has received on the case for electrification of the Barking to Gospel Oak section of the North London Line; and if he will make a statement. [134793]

Mr Simon Burns: Although there is no new funding available, the Department is working with Transport for London and Network Rail to review the case for electrification. A detailed breakdown of the £90 million cost of electrification has been provided by Network Rail. Transport for London has provided its business case for using longer electric passenger trains and has offered £25 million towards the cost of electrification.

4. Mayor [Boris Johnson's](#) response to a question on Gospel Oak to Barking line ([Mayor's Question Time, 30 January 2013](#)).
5. Information on the [London Assembly's Transport Committee](#).
6. Caroline Pidgeon AM, Chair of the [Transport Committee](#), is available for interview. Contact details below.
7. As well as investigating issues that matter to Londoners, the London Assembly acts as a check and a balance on the Mayor.

For more details, please contact Sheena Craig in the Assembly Media Office on 020 7983 4603/4283.

For out of hours media enquiries please call 020 7983 4000 and ask for the Assembly duty press officer.

Non-media enquiries should be directed to the Public Liaison Unit, Greater London Authority, on 020 7983 4100.

Attachment

Size

Attachment

Size

[Letter to Chancellor -
electrification of Gospel Oak to
Barking line](#)

77.97 KB