

PROPOSED CRL NARRATIVE: SCHEDULE – 28 AUGUST 2018

The Elizabeth line's central section between Paddington and Abbey Wood will open in autumn 2019 instead of December 2018.

The Elizabeth line is one of the most complex and challenging infrastructure projects ever undertaken in the UK and brings together multiple contracts, new rolling stock and three different signalling systems.

We have been working hard to maintain the programme but further integrated testing time is required to introduce the next phase of the railway – the central section between Paddington and Abbey Wood – in a way that can be guaranteed to be safe and reliable.

The original programme for testing has been compressed by a delayed start and more time being needed by contractors to complete fit-out activity in the tunnels and delays in the railway systems software.

Testing has started but further time is required to complete the full range of integrated tests required to ensure a safe and reliable railway.

The railway will open through the central section once full testing of the train and signalling system has been successfully completed and a sufficient level of system operational reliability has been achieved.

The new Elizabeth line trains are already operating between Shenfield and Liverpool Street (mainline station) and between Paddington (mainline station) and Hayes & Harlington, in readiness for the full opening. The trains are also being tested in the Heathrow tunnels.

Construction activity is drawing to a close with the completion of the remaining mechanical, electrical and communications systems along with the architectural fit-out in the new central section stations and will complete this year.

When the central section of the Elizabeth line opens in autumn 2019, the railway will operate as three services as planned:

- Paddington (Elizabeth line station) to Abbey Wood via central London
- Paddington (mainline station) to Heathrow (Terminals 2, 3 and 4)
- Liverpool Street (mainline station) to Shenfield

The focus remains on opening the full Elizabeth line, from Reading and Heathrow in the west to Shenfield and Abbey Wood in the east soon as possible after the central section opens.