

# Rail Service Update

Regeneration & Development Panel 11 December 2018

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Borough Council of  
King's Lynn &  
West Norfolk



# Rail Service Update

## Current Issues

- 8 car train project
- Recent service issues

## Future Plans/Priorities

- Ely Area improvements
- Redoubling of the single track
- Wisbech - March rail reopening

## Next Steps/Common Aim



## Scope of works (NR Enhancement Plan Sept. 18)

This project will develop a scheme that allows for 8-car operation at all stations on the Kings Lynn Branch Line, which includes investigation of:

- Infrastructure capable of 8 – car operations at Waterbeach, Littleport and Watlington via: SDO, Platform Extension or Platform Relocation;
- Closure of 1 Barrow Crossing and provision of alternative access at Littleport;
- Options for additional siding facilities for 2 x 4-car units at Kings Lynn
- Delivery programme
- Traction power modelling

## 8 Car Train Project



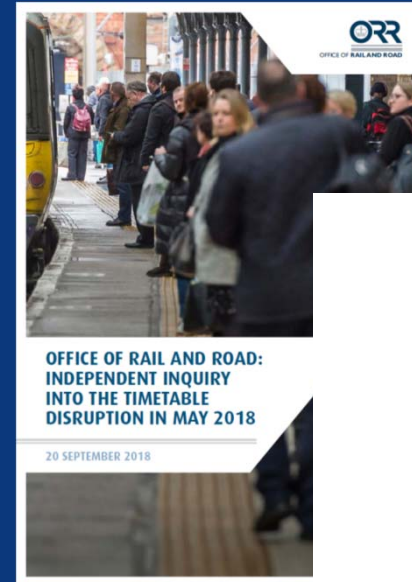
## 8 Car Train Project

- Detailed design contract let 16 Nov. 2018 (GRIP5)
- Access arrangements with TOCs agreed provisionally (Dec. 2019 – Apr. 2020)
- Develop detailed designs; final cost/business case
- Final Investment Decision due Feb 2019
- Start/delivery dates to be confirmed

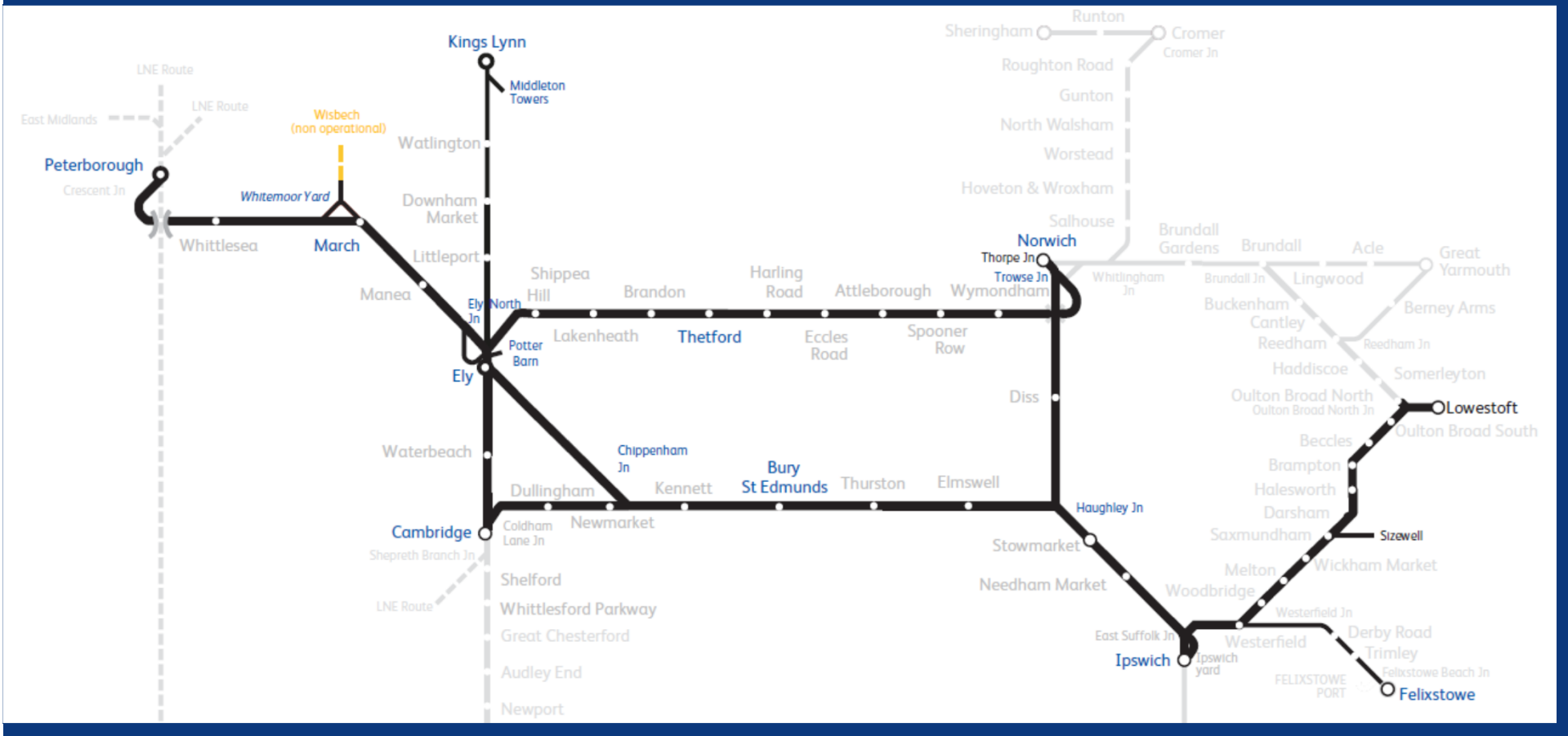


## Service Issues

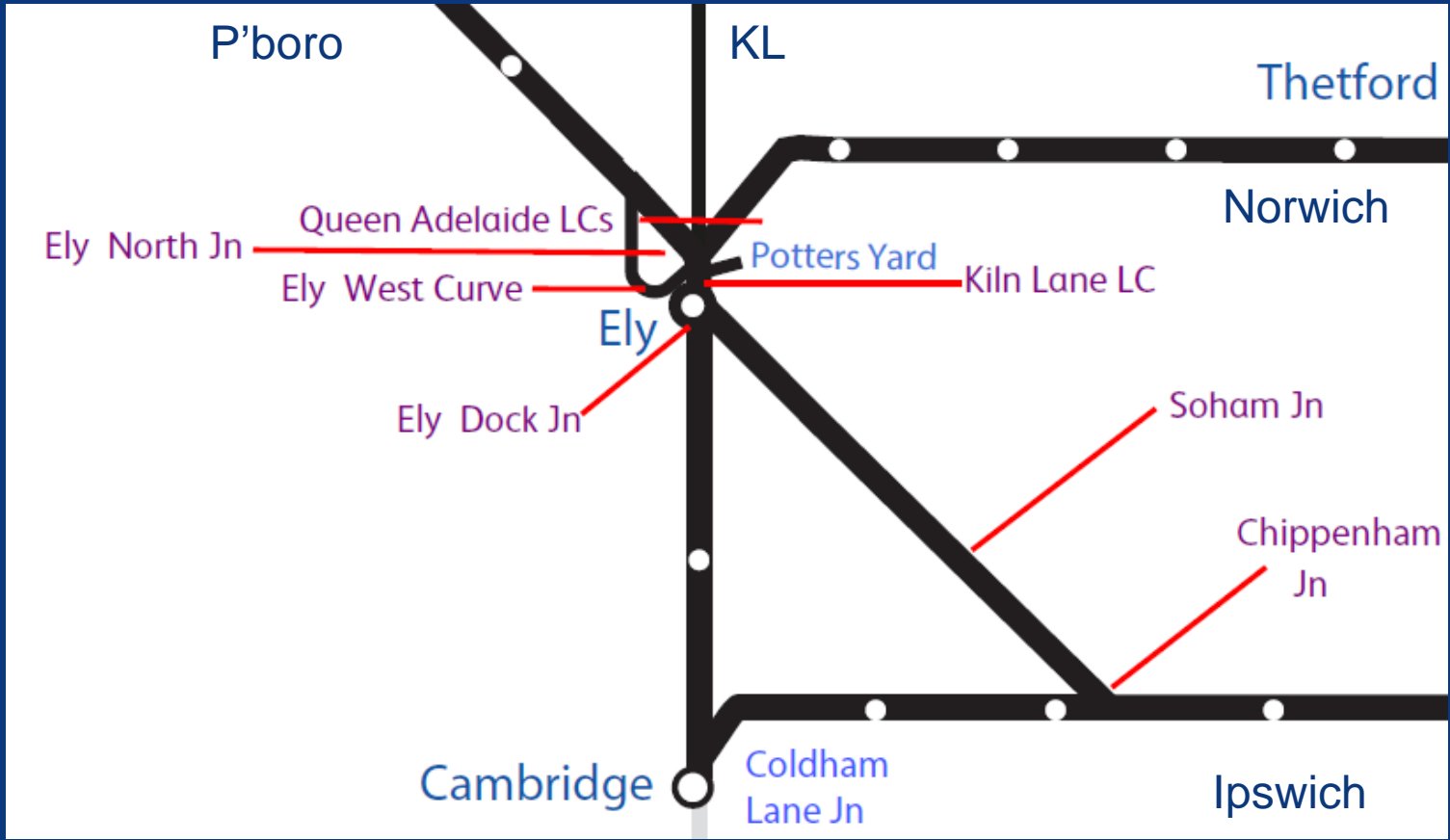
- Timetable change 20 May lengthened journey times on basis of a more reliable service being created
- July to November 194 trains cancelled on the GN route (July 73; Aug. 58; Sept. 11; Oct. 36; Nov. 16) - despite recent improvement, shows how reliability as well as journey times have deteriorated.
- ORR Timetable Inquiry launched 13 June 2018
- Interim report Sept. 2018/Final due Dec. 2018
- DfT sanctions 4 Dec. '18
- Transport Cte. Report 4 Dec. '18
- Williams Review of Rail Industry



# Ely Area Improvements – wider context

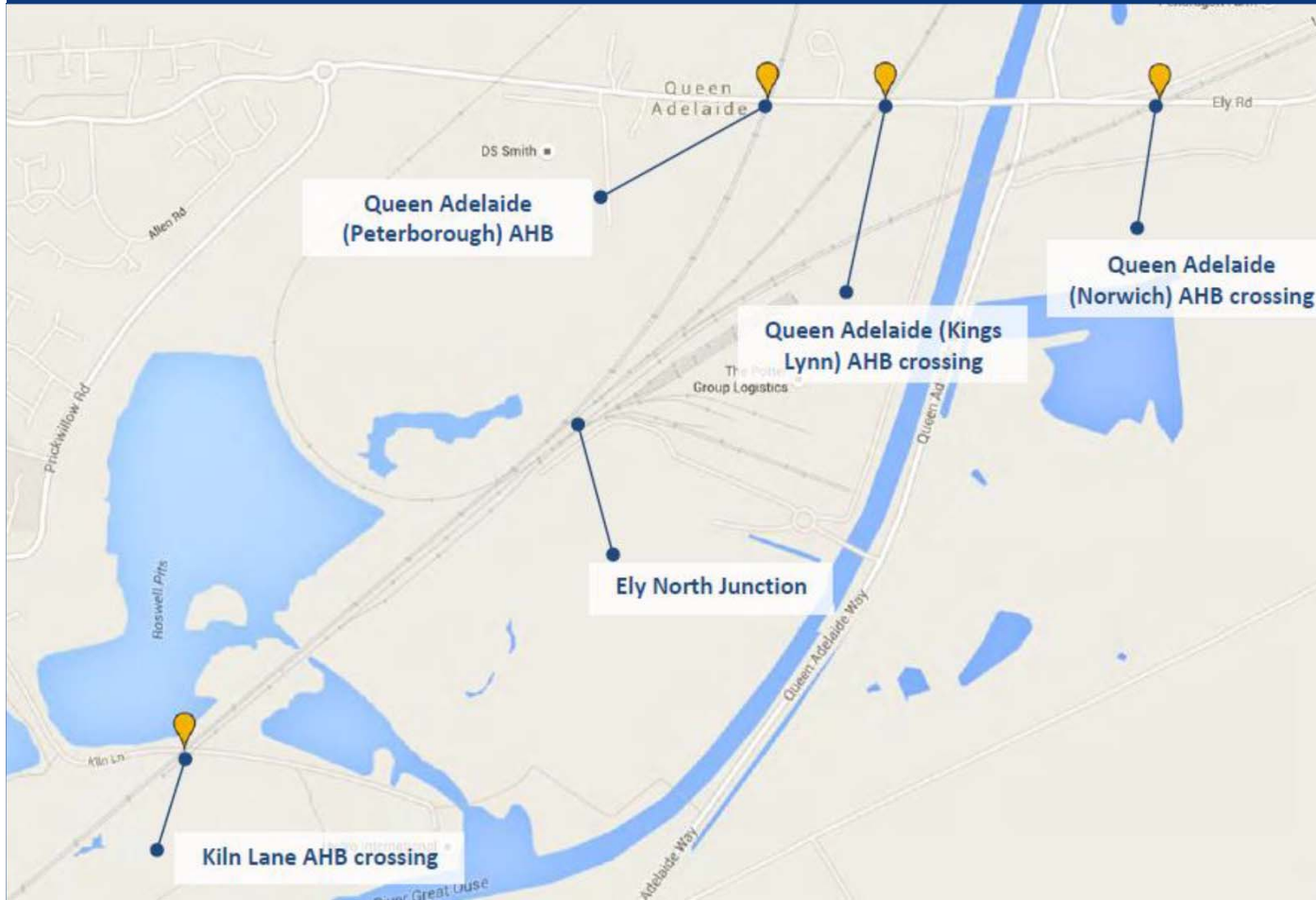


# Ely Area Improvements – close up





# Ely Area Improvements – Ely N & Level Crossings





# Ely Area Improvements – Ely N & Queen Adelaide

## Studies:

- QA Traffic Study – QA Level Crossings – complete – Cambs CC – no LC closures – comprehensive road &/or rail soln.
- QA Road Study - Options development work – WSP commissioned by CCC – results due Jan. 2019 - SOBC
- Rail Study (Ely Area Capacity Enhancements Programme) by WSP — funded by LEPs/SFN - OBC by Spring 2019
- CP6 2019-2024 for build
- Enables ½ hourly services KL-KX Franchise commitment + much more for others
- Linking work needed to get 2 studies to same point



## Track Redoubling

- Need identified through timetable consultations/ECML response
- Ely Area improvements won't remove all of our constraints
- Minimum two-track railway KL-KX to accom. 12 car trains as long term goal
- SOBC needed
- Outcome based – may be other solutions



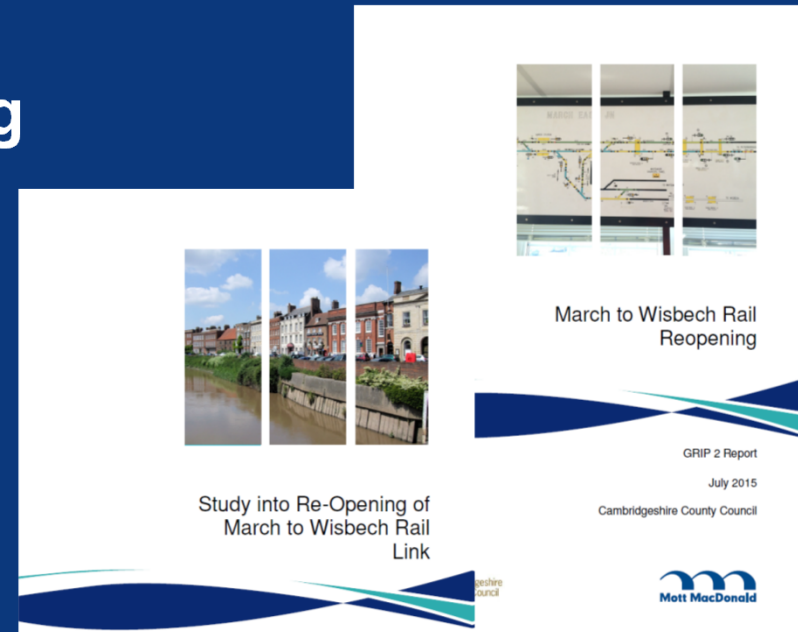
# Wisbech – March Rail Re-opening

- CA approved funding for business case production 28 Nov. 2018 (GRIP3b)
- 9 month study £1.5m
- Agreed Tenderer appointment
- 2 tph Wisbech – March
- Consider alternative to heavy rail
- Link to Wisbech Garden Town proposal
- Station location

Figure 3.26: A47 Wisbech Bypass (AOCL) crossing



Source: Mott MacDonald 2015



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## Next Steps

- Keep pressure on for 8 Car Trains
- Complete Ely Area improvements study/Road study Ph. 2/linking work – monitor through Ely Area Task Force
- Fund next stage of works
- Lobby for implementation as soon as possible in CP6
- Make case for further capacity improvements – track redoubling/other measures



# Suggested Common Aim

We call on government and the rail industry to:

- 1 maintain/improve service reliability;
- 2 deliver promise of longer trains;
- 3 restore December 2017 journey times\*;
- 4 deliver 'half hourly' frequency promise/contractual requirement;
- 5 further shorten journey times when new technology/equipment allows\*.

*\* allowing for extra stops at Cambridge N &, eventually Cambridge S (& noting that the rail industry has consistently said that a timetabling allowance has already been made for a Cambridge S stop).*

We further call on government and the rail industry to adopt a minimum two-track railway between King's Lynn and King's Cross, equipped to accommodate 12-car trains, as a clear long-term strategic aim and ensure that short-term plans are fully assessed to ensure they do not conflict with this ultimate goal.



Thank you  
Any Questions?

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