

# Subject: Question and Answer Session - Elizabeth Line

**Report to: London Assembly**

**Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat**

**Date: 2 May 2019**

**This report will be considered in public**

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the background to a discussion on the announcement of a delay to the opening of the Elizabeth Line.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **That the report be noted as background to a question and answer session with guests on the Elizabeth line.**

## 3. Background

- 3.1 The Elizabeth line will be a new railway running from Reading and Heathrow in the west, through 26 miles of new tunnels under central London to Shenfield and Abbey Wood in the east. The Elizabeth line is being delivered by Crossrail Limited.
- 3.2 The central section of the line was due to open in December 2018. On 31 August 2018, however, Crossrail announced that the opening was being delayed until Autumn 2019 as a result of further testing being required on the railway's software systems and more time being required for fit-out of the tunnels.
- 3.3 On 23 April 2019, the Transport Committee published its report on Crossrail, "*Derailed: Getting Crossrail back on track*".<sup>1</sup> It made a series of recommendations to ensure that Crossrail can be completed successfully, and that other major infrastructure projects avoid similar problems.
- 3.4 On 25 April 2019, Crossrail announced a plan to complete the outstanding work and identified a six-month window for delivery with a midpoint at the end of 2020.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/london-assembly/london-assembly-publications/crossrail-delay-report>

## 4. Issues for Consideration

- 4.1 On 26 March 2019, the Mayor wrote to the Chairman of the Assembly with an offer to come before the Assembly to answer questions on the new schedule. This meeting has been arranged accordingly. The following guests are expected:
- Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London and Chair of TfL;
  - Mike Brown MVO, Commissioner, TfL;
  - Mark Wild, CEO, Crossrail Limited; and
  - Tony Meggs, Chairman, Crossrail Limited.

## 5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Assembly has the power to agree the recommendation.

## 6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications to the GLA arising from this report.

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**List of appendices to this report:** None.

<b>Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985</b>
List of Background Papers: None
Contact Officer: Daniella Davila Aquije, Scrutiny Manager
Telephone: 020 7084 2850
E-mail: <a href="mailto:daniela.davilaquije@london.gov.uk">daniela.davilaquije@london.gov.uk</a>