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Chesterton station secures ministerial backing

Posted 22/02/12

Construction of a new railway station at Chesterton in Cambridge is to go ahead after transport minister Theresa Villiers approved plans for the scheme.

The station, now expected to be called Cambridge Science Park, will be built on the Chesterton sidings site to the north of Cambridge.

Cambridgeshire County Council and its partners have been developing the plans for the station on the basis that the station could be paid for from rail ticket revenues. To allow early delivery, initial capital funding for the station will be provided by the council and then recouped from train operating companies over a number of years.

A letter received this week by council leader Nick Clarke from Theresa Villiers confirms that so long as the station continues to have a positive business case and generates sufficient revenue to repay its cost then it will be included in the next rail franchises that operate trains on the London, Cambridge, Ely and King's Lynn line.

Council bosses are now preparing to release funds to allow building work to start in early 2014 so that the station can be open by the end of 2015. Detailed proposals will be put to the council's cabinet on 6 March.



CAMBRIDGE BENEFITS

- Will kick start significant journey to
- Improved Cambridge area

The station will have three platforms and will be served by at least four hourly southbound trains (to Cambridge and London King's Cross/Liverpool Street) and three hourly northbound trains (to Ely, King's Lynn and Norwich). The Cambridgeshire guided busway will be extended into the site from Milton Road, providing an interchange for frequent onward services to St Ives and Huntingdon, and for local bus services.

Cllr Nick Clarke said: "I am delighted with the progress that has been made and the positive view that has been taken by Theresa Villiers. I am now putting the funding in place to deliver the station, and while there is still a lot to do, we are committed to do all we can to make it happen."

The minister has confirmed that, subject to the final agreement of a number of technical points, the station will be served by the new rail franchises for Thameslink and Greater Anglia services. The cost of the station will be repaid 1

Public consultation on the scheme will begin later this year with further consultation through the planning work has indicated that the proposed service level at Cambridge Science Park station can be provided with Waterbeach station. It is likely that Birmingham New Street-Stansted Airport trains will also serve the new

Development of the current proposals has been led by the county council but with strong support from Cambridgeshire District Council, Network Rail, the Department for Transport and from local MPs - in particular Julian Hupp

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