



WALES

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£500m rail link to cut travel times from south Wales to Heathrow airport

A new £500m rail link to Heathrow airport, which will cut journey times by up to 30 minutes for travellers from south Wales, has been given the go ahead.

It means passengers by 2021 will no longer need to travel via London Paddington or Reading.

Welsh secretary Cheryl Gillan said it would also boost the Welsh economy.

Cardiff Council's leader Heather Joyce added it was "fabulous news" which will attract new businesses to the city.

"Gaining much quicker access for Heathrow will make us a more attractive investment opportunity for new businesses," said Ms Joyce.

"It will also give people from the city region a quick, easy, sustainable way of getting to one of the biggest airports in the world," she added.

It is part of the UK Government's long-term [plans for sustainable aviation](#) and could be operational by 2021.

Mrs Gillan said: "The Wales Office has always supported and recognised the importance of connectivity to Heathrow as a major UK air hub for Welsh business and Welsh passengers.