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InTheNews: The latest rail news on Thursday, 5th May 2022

The opening date for the Elizabeth line has been confirmed.

The news, announced yesterday, features in many of the newspapers including on insider media limited, which says the much-delayed Crossrail project will launch on the 24th May.

It will initially operate as three separate railways, with services from Reading, Heathrow and Shenfield connecting with the central tunnels from autumn this year.

Sticking with the announcement and an article in the i newspaper says Transport Secretary Grant Shapps has reported London's Labour mayor Sadiq Khan to the Electoral Commission, accusing him of breaching purdah rules by announcing the opening date one day before local elections in the city.

A spokesperson for the mayor told the paper that "the Department for Transport were made aware well in advance" that Transport for London were planning to announce the opening date and had raised no objections.

Plans that would see Cheadle to be served by its own railway station for the first time in nearly 60 years continue to steam ahead with the submission of a full planning application.

An article in the Manchester Evening News says the scheme has been in the pipeline since 2020, when the Stockport suburb was invited to bid for up to £25 million from the government's £3.6 billion 'Towns Fund' – a key plank of ministers' 'levelling up' agenda.

Network Rail has completed a range of essential upgrades to the railway between London Euston, the Midlands and North West this Early May Bank Holiday.

Combined with recent work at Easter, a total of £41.1 million has been invested in the North West and Central region to improve passenger and freight services for the future.

Both weekends saw the complete closure of London Euston station for major track upgrades at Watford and Wembley.

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A mural has been unveiled at Lowestoft rail station to commemorate 175 years since the arrival of the railway in the town.

The mural has been installed by the Wherry Lines Community Rail Partnership and the Lowestoft Central Project, who in recent years have worked with Greater Anglia to substantially rejuvenate and restore the station.

Among the initiatives includes the creation of an exhibition space inside the former parcels office and the opening of a new Tourist Information Office at Lowestoft station.

[Click here for more details.](#)

Photo credit: Transport for London