

In The News | 8th December 2022 | Latest Rail News

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InTheNews: The latest rail news on Thursday, 8th December 2022

A resolution to the ongoing rail dispute is “further away” after late intervention by the government in talks aimed at resolving the row over pay, jobs and conditions, a union has claimed.

The article on the ITV website says the Rail, Maritime and Transport union (RMT) said it has heard from rail companies that there will be no revised offer from them, after being “instructed” by the government instead to “take on” planned strikes next week.

Steve Montgomery, chair of the Rail Delivery Group, said: “Regrettably, the RMT leadership’s refusal to put our proposed eight per cent pay offer to its membership means we are unable to reach a resolution at this stage, although we remain open to talks.”

Last night train drivers at 12 rail companies voted overwhelmingly to continue strike action in a long-running row over pay. The Aslef union said “huge” turnouts showed how angry its members are.

Britain’s secretary of state for transport, Mr Mark Harper, has told a meeting of the Transport Select Committee that he is currently reviewing the process necessary to establish Great British Railways (GBR) as a new governing body for the country’s railway.

An article on the International Rail Journal says Harper’s comments add to the uncertainty of if and when the legislation necessary to establish GBR will be heard in parliament.

Harper’s predecessor, Ms Anne-Marie Trevelyan, told the committee on October 18 that no new Transport Bill would be heard during the current session of parliament, which is expected to conclude in May 2023, meaning that GBR was unlikely to be in place by early 2024.

Cheshire East Council will be asked to endorse a proposal which would enable the authority to have greater control over the approval of construction details associated with the High Speed Rail scheme.

An article on Insider Media Limited says on 1 December, the corporate policy committee of the council considered a report which sought to consult the committee prior to a decision being made by full council on whether the authority should become a Qualifying Authority for the construction of phase 2b of the High Speed Rail 2 (HS2).

Phase 2b of HS2 is proposed between Crewe and Manchester.

The proposed approach would enable the council to have greater control over the approval of construction details associated with the scheme.

Plans to transform Bristol Parkway Station have been approved at South Gloucestershire Council's meeting of Cabinet this week.

A new vision for the site looks to create a modern station that acts as a gateway to the region but is also better connected with the neighbouring communities of Stoke Gifford, Harry Stoke and Bradley Stoke.

The vision, presented in a strategic masterplan, will aim to improve walking, wheeling (wheelchairs and mobility scooters) and cycling routes to and from the station, improve connections to local bus services, make better use of the land available, as well as provide new retail and leisure facilities, and community spaces.

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Photo credit: South Gloucestershire Council