

Winner of CILT award for best practice in passenger transport (2013)

promoting quality public transport.....

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Electrification of the Wigan – Bolton railway line welcomed.

TravelWatch NorthWest (TWNW), the independent Community Interest Company representing users of all forms of public transport in North West England, welcomes the recent announcement promising rail electrification between Wigan and Bolton.

TWNW is an avid advocate of electrification but whilst good news if it is simply going to be ‘what it says on the tin’ the scheme will not achieve its full potential.

Two other things need to be included in the project – firstly, the inclusion of platforms at Lostock Station on the Wigan lines, and secondly (or at least in the not too distant future) the electrification of the lines from Salford Crescent to Hindley via Atherton. If that second route is not electrified, passengers for Hindley, Ince, Wigan & beyond, will target the electric trains, being faster and quieter. That in turn will exacerbate the overcrowding that has existed for years on the Salford-Bolton corridor, and will make the Atherton route very much the poor relation.

Finally, £78 million seems a lot compared with the estimate for the 10 mile Windermere line in 2015 at £20 million! We hope for an announcement of more electrification schemes in the near future.

ENDS

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