

WATFORD MET



Closure of “Watford Met” Station

The closure of the existing Watford Metropolitan line terminus station (known locally as ‘Watford Met’) has always been part of the Croxley Rail Link proposals.

Has there been work done on the future of the station?



As part of the Croxley Rail Link’s ongoing development an ‘options appraisal’ was carried out to see if there was any scope for running a ‘split service’ to both the Watford Met and to Watford Junction. The appraisal found that a split service would result in there being more losers than winners amongst those who currently use the Metropolitan line and those who are likely to do so in future. This was because the frequency of the trains to both stations would suffer and all users would end up with a poorer service overall.

It was concluded that continuing to serve both stations would present poor value for money owing to the high cost and reduced revenue of keeping Watford Met open - the latter resulting from many people choosing to use the new station at Ascot Road because it is more convenient. Furthermore, it would result in the majority of Metropolitan line customers on the more heavily used Watford Junction line having to wait longer for trains.

The project was always aware that the proposal to close Watford Met would impact on the current users of the station and people’s view of the Croxley Rail Link scheme overall. This is why an assessment of the impact on local users of closing Watford Met, including a survey of those people who do currently use the service, has been undertaken.

Findings from the users of Watford Met survey

- 83% access the station by walking, 14% by car, 2% by cycle and 1% by bus
- 53% of the trips made at the station were for work or commuting, 20% for Leisure and entertainment, 18% for shopping and personal business, 9% educational
- 20% of those travelling on a weekday are under the age of 16

Analysis of the impact of closing Watford Met

- Half of current Watford Met users will have a quicker journey using the new and existing stations on the Croxley Rail Link
- Some users journeys will increase. The walk between Watford Met and the proposed station at Ascot Road is 1.2km. On average this would take about 15 minutes to walk. However, if there was a split service on offer, the typical waiting time between trains at Watford Met would double. Currently, work is being done to see if there are any improvements that could be made to the walking route

Closure process for Watford Met

There will need to be a separate legal process in order for London Underground to close Watford Met and the current line for passenger services. This will provide a further opportunity for local people to comment