Crossrail has announced a new plan to complete the delivery of the Elizabeth line.

The Elizabeth line’s central section is scheduled to open during the first half of 2022.

Operations in the central section will include trains from Paddington to Abbey Wood, from Liverpool Street to Shenfield, as well as from Paddington to Heathrow.

At the earliest opportunity in 2021, Crossrail is planning to start the Trial Running phase to begin operational testing of stations, trains and tunnels.

All stations in the central section, with the exception of Bond Street, are currently ready for Trial Running.

Preparations for starting full service operations on the entire Elizabeth line will commence after the opening of the central section.

Beginning of the full service is currently not confirmed, but is expected to be aligned with the National Rail timetable change which occurs twice a year in May and December.

The Elizabeth line is projected to have a significant positive impact on local businesses in retail and food & beverage.

It is expected to increase footfall to the West End by 55% between 2016 and 2034, with an additional 91 million visits to the area.

www.crossrail.co.uk/news/articles/update-following-crossrail-board-august-2020