

Uckfield Line, extra carriages

Southern Railway recently invited several local councillors to visit their Selhurst Carriage Depot, near Croydon, to see at first hand the progress of refurbishment to the long awaited extra carriages, for the Uckfield line.

All the carriages were previously operated by Scot Rail and when delivered to Selhurst Depot were found to be well below the standard required by Southern and totally unfit for service. Among the many problems found were, diesel engines with broken and missing parts, rusting fuel tanks, different size of bogie wheels, incorrect couplings between units, corroded pipes and water tanks for toilets, damaged or broken corridor connections between vehicles, dangerous electrical repairs, broken and damaged interior panels, torn and stained upholstery.

With such a list of repairs and replacement required, it is expected that the carriages will not be ready for service until July 2016.

The party met several engineers and technicians and were shown a number of the vehicles in various states of repair and refurbishment in different parts of the workshop. See attached photos.

A most interesting and informative visit.

Barry Marlowe