Introduction –

The Great Western Route Modernization was funded by the Department of Transport and had the aim of providing faster, greener trains with a higher seating capacity for customers along the Great Western rail network. The rails extend from London to the south-west, covering part of Wales under the program as well. Figure 1 shows the different types of work that need to be done within the infrastructure.

Network Rail, a company previously private (pre-2014, announced its public status in the year of 2014) was appointed to deliver the ‘infrastructure programme’. They were in-charge of acquiring new inter city express trains, setting up the whole foundational infrastructure, funding the work and most importantly appointing a franchise to oversee and operate the newly constructed route. Since Network rail converted to a public company, they had a cap of £30.3 billion [reference].

2015 was considered a monumental year as the government had bought several projects together under the banner of the GWRM. These projects were created with the intention of modernizing the route but were never efficiently planned. They came to a quick realization that the elements of the project were taking longer and were costing more money than they had initially intended. This meant that the electrification had to be replanned and would hamper the plans made by the department.

There were many concerns about Network Rails 2014-2019 spending programme, to which the government responded with a replan. To ensure everything goes smoothly, the government decided to put two more similar projects (namely the Midland Main line and TransPennine routes) on pause.

The report aims to analyze the actions taken by the various government agencies and try to understand why the project exceeded both the timeline and the cost by a huge margin. By investigating the hiring process, aims of the project, improper fund allocation and a multitude of other factors this would contribute to understanding why the project ultimately failed with respect to the standards of Project Management.