



# Rail North

## What is Rail North?

Rail North Limited brings together local transport authorities across the North of England into one cohesive and proactive body. Rail North works in partnership with the Department for Transport to manage the two rail franchises, TransPennine Express and Northern Rail. Based in the North, it represents the regional and local economic transport and strategic objectives of the rail network, working closely with Transport for the North (TfN).

Rail North was formed in 2014 and has established a strong joint Management Team and Partnership Board to oversee the franchises, marking the start of increased local investment and greater local control. Working with its partners, Rail North has secured and managed two transformational and investment-led franchises and worked with Network Rail and the emergent Sub-national Transport Body, TfN, to ensure collaboration on future planning and investment for the North.

## Integration

When TfN becomes a Sub-national Transport Body, Rail North will merge with the organisation and continue to manage the rail franchises and drive investment in the North. This provides a unique opportunity to join up planning for 'track and train' so that train service solutions can be developed and implemented alongside infrastructure development.



## Rail North's vision and objectives

Closely aligned with TfN's ambitions, Rail North's vision is:

*"To create a world class railway for the whole of the North, recognised by passengers and businesses as serving their needs, that supports economic growth and is both more effective and more efficient."*

Rail North aims to provide an improved train service through enhanced infrastructure and radically improved rolling stock and to support a wide programme of transformational change, including delivery of the Great North Rail Project, the TransPennine Route Upgrade and smart ticketing throughout the North.

As detailed in their business plan, throughout 2017-2018 Rail North will:

- Continue to work with TfN to make the case for rail investment in the North of England and to shape the Strategic Transport Plan;
- Influence the Office of Rail and Road's Periodic Review for the benefit of the North of England;
- Shape the next industry funding period;
- Work with TfN to jointly lead the North of England Route Study;
- Develop proposals and a business case for the next phase of devolution, localised ten year plans owned by partners and an approach to possible re-openings of closed railway lines;
- Ensure franchise commitments are delivered and improvement initiatives are developed beyond contract requirements including improved performance;
- Establish a Rail North Change Programme and pro-actively manage it; and
- Develop rail data and evidence to support strategy and programme including research around customer experience.

Rail North has developed the first ever Long Term Rail Strategy for the North of England which sets out a 20-year plan to develop the whole of the rail network across the North of England. This is currently being refreshed and, alongside TfN's Initial Integrated Rail Report and Single Integrated Rail Plan, which will form part of TfN's first Strategic Transport Plan.



General enquiries  
0161 244 0888

Write to  
Transport for the North  
2nd Floor  
4 Piccadilly Place  
Manchester  
M1 3BN

Website  
[transportforthenorth.com](http://transportforthenorth.com)

Connect

