

LCC Response to Adlington Rail Service Questions Raised at the Three Tier Liaison on 16.7.14

What is LCC's involvement in the renewal of the rail franchise covering the area? What is LCC's role?

The County Council is directly involved in Rail North. Rail North is a consortium representing all the local transport authorities in the North of England and which has submitted proposals to the Secretary of State for Transport for the devolution of rail services that are currently operated by the Northern and Trans-Pennine Express franchises. In November 2013, the Secretary of State for Transport and leaders of the Rail North authorities agreed on an initial partnership structure to take forward devolved decision making on rail services in the North.

The County Council is represented by the Cabinet member for Highways and Transport on the Rail North Leaders' Sub-Forum and at officer level on the Rail North Steering and Management Groups.

At present, the specification for each of the new franchises is being developed collaboratively by the Department for Transport and Rail North. In addition, there is a consultation on-going at the moment and which closes on 18th August 2014 and is open to all to respond. The County Council will be responding formally to this consultation.

What specifically are LCC doing to put pressure on Rail providers to provide extra services in the area following electrification?

The franchise specification is due to be finalised by the end of October 2014 and is due to be issued to the franchise bidders on the 19th December 2014 and it is against this that bids will be formulated. At present the funding envelope for the new franchises has not been settled by the Treasury. The County Council is not specifically pushing for the funding of extra services on the Chorley route as it seems highly unlikely that they will be affordable in the present financial climate. The County Council is looking to ensure that the overall service levels in Lancashire remain broadly the same as at present.

Please contact Chris Anslow (chris.anslow@lancashire.gov.uk) to discuss further.