



**NEWS RELEASE**

**8 December 2011**

## **BETTER RAIL SERVICE BETWEEN ORMSKIRK AND PRESTON**

From Monday 12 December Northern Rail is introducing a new timetable between Ormskirk and Preston that will offer passengers a more regular service and later evening trains.

The partners who have worked hard to bring this together, Northern Rail and the West of Lancashire Community Rail Partnership gathered at Burscough Wharf this week to launch the leaflet that will inform passengers of these benefits.

The leaflet shows fares from January 2012, as well as connection information and places of interest that can all be visited by train, such as Burscough Wharf, St George's shopping centre and St Mary's Wharf in Rufford.

The leaflet has been part funded by Community Rail Development Fund which is administered by Network Rail, the Department for Transport and ACoRP (Association of Community Rail Partnerships) and is the first grant received by the CRP following its formal designation as a Community Rail line and service.

Iain Aldred, Marketing Manager for Northern Rail comments: "We are now running the last trains between Ormskirk and Preston thirty minutes later than they have been. This gives leisure visitors a chance to enjoy as much of the day as possible in both those locations. The leaflet shows both locals and visitors to the region how much there is to see and do on this line of route and how they can get there by train."

Richard Watts, Partnership Secretary for the CRP, added:"The Community Rail Partnership is delighted to have taken part in this promotion which is the first bespoke timetable leaflet for the line in many years. The leaflet is being delivered in the local communities by volunteers from the station friends groups and OPSTA and it is hoped many more people will use the improved service and take advantage of some of the fare offers."

- Ends -

### **Notes to editors**

For further information contact the Northern Rail press office on 01904 568652 or 01904 568670.

Northern Rail is the biggest train operator in Britain, providing 2,500 local and regional train services every day across the north of England, serving a population of nearly 15m. We are now carrying 88 million passengers a year, 38% more than when we started our franchise in December 2004.

Northern Rail is operated in joint venture by Serco and Abellio. This joint venture combines Serco's world-class service credentials and Abellio's unrivalled transport industry expertise. Serco has run the highly successful Docklands Light Railway since 1997 while Abellio delivers bus and rail services to over 650,000 passengers in the UK, Germany and the Czech Republic every day. In addition to Northern Rail, Serco and Abellio have the 25-year concession for Merseyrail, which provides urban train services in Merseyside.

### Recent Northern honours

Transport Operator of the Year (RAIL) – National Transport Awards 2011  
Sustainable Business of the Year – Environment and Energy Awards 2011  
Transport Storage and Distribution Industry Winner – RoSPA Occupational Health and Safety Awards 2011  
Train Operator of the Year 2010 – Rail Business Awards