

SOUTH FYLDE LINE COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Aims

- 1.1 To develop the Blackpool South to Preston line as a showpiece regional railway with well used trains, a high level of community involvement, attractive station facilities, good co-ordination with other forms of transport and a service that meets the needs of local people and visitors and in so doing provides value for money for passengers and taxpayers.
- 1.2 To develop the line as a national demonstration project that focuses on the development of gateway stations to areas of tourism and natural beauty.
- 1.3 To develop links with adjacent Community Rail Partnerships especially the East Lancashire Community Rail Partnership.
- 1.4 To improve the financial viability of the service to ensure a secure future for the line.

2. Objectives

2.1 To attract more passengers to the service in order to:

- 2.1.1 Improve access to work, education, shops, countryside and tourist attractions.
- 2.1.2 To enable the line to play a more effective part in contributing to the local transport network through relieving congestion especially into the urban centres of Preston and Blackpool and providing a more sustainable way to access the coast and countryside.
- 2.1.3 To improve the long-term viability of the service by reducing the support required per passenger.
- 2.1.4 To improve the service in order to justify enhancements to the type of trains used on the line and the frequency of the service.

3. Implementation

3.1 To provide improved rail services and facilities through the following short, medium and long term aims:

Short term

- 3.1.1 Improved station facilities.
- 3.1.2 Improved information for users and visitors.
- 3.1.3 Improved information about bus links to/from the key interchanges at Preston, Lytham, St. Annes, Squires Gate and Blackpool South.

Medium term

- 3.1.4 Improved journey times
- 3.1.5 Improved park and ride facilities.
- 3.1.6 Develop stations as gateways to the local community.
- 3.1.7 Improve walking routes between stations and their hinterland.

Long term

3.1.8 Improved access to Blackpool International Airport and improved integration with the Blackpool and Fleetwood Tramway.

3.1.9 Improved train connections at Preston.

3.1.10 Improved quality of rolling stock.

3.1.11 Improved service frequencies.

3.1.12 New station facilities where appropriate.

3.2 All projects will be assessed through the development of an appropriate Business Case or Market Assessment and where funds are likely to be available for implementation.

3.3 Sustainable Development

3.3.1 To develop links with regeneration and tourism agencies in the corridor to ensure that the railway is at the heart of sustainable development strategies. This may include:

3.3.2 Links with the housing market renewal.

3.3.3 Links with environmental and regeneration projects especially the Blackpool Master Plan and Preston Vision.

3.3.4 Encouraging community enterprise along the line.

3.3.5 Links with tourism initiatives.

3.4 Community Involvement

3.4.1 To encourage community participation, particularly at stations.

3.4.2 To support and encourage the work of rail user groups.

3.4.3 To establish and support 'station partnerships' wherever possible.

3.4.4 To encourage community art initiatives at stations and on the train.

3.4.5 To develop links with local schools and colleges.

3.4.6 To encourage local railway staff involvement in the CRP.

3.5 Landscape

3.5.1 To develop the railway as a means of accessing the natural landscape, country parks and other recreational facilities.

4 Partnership Area

4.1 The partnership will cover the railway line between Blackpool South and Preston. The communities of Preston, Kirkham & Wesham, Lytham, St. Annes and Blackpool will form the core area.

5 Management of the Community Rail Partnership

5.1 Management Group

5.1.1 This group will be composed of the following people to be nominated by the named body:

- 2 representatives from Lancashire County Council
- 2 representatives from Blackpool Borough Council
- 2 representatives from Fylde Borough Council
- 2 representatives from Northern Rail
- 1 representative from Network Rail
- 1 representative from ReBlackpool
- 1 representative from Blackpool Football Club
- 1 representative from Blackpool International Airport
- 1 representative from Blackpool Pleasure Beach
- 1 representative from Blackpool Transport
- 2 representative from Blackpool and Fylde Rail Users Group
- Other representatives may be asked to join the group

5.1.2 The Lancashire Community Rail Development Officer will form an ex officio member of the group.

5.1.3 A representative from ACoRP may attend as an ex officio member of the group.

5.2 Remit

- In partnership with the wider railway industry set and guide the strategic framework for the development of the Blackpool South to Preston railway line.
- To set the agenda for the line's development in terms of building business cases for rail service developments and enhancements; interchange developments; station developments and infrastructure improvements.
- To develop a 5 to 10 year strategy for the line and agree an annual Action Plan.
- To take on and manage appropriate staff to undertake the agreed Action Plan targets.
- To monitor and review the Action Plan during the year.
- Handle all media relations relevant to the line.
- To meet at least every 2 months or more frequently if the volume of business requires. A meeting of the Management Group will be quorate if there are 5 members of the Group present of which 1 must be the Community Rail Development Officer.
- The Management Group will appoint a Chairman and Secretary and other officers as required. All officers to be appointed on an annual basis with an AGM to be held between May and June each year.
- The Management Group may establish sub groups to bring forward projects for implementation. Any sub groups that are established will be issue focused and will use the specialist knowledge of the individuals within the particular sub group. Sub groups will work within the terms of reference of the Community Rail.

5.3 Stakeholder Groups

5.3.1 Stakeholder meetings will take place at least twice a year.

5.3.2 The membership of the stakeholder group will include:

- All members in 5.1.1
- Representation from each district council
- Representation from the NWDA
- Representation from each Local Strategic Partnership
- Representation from each town centre partnerships
- Representation from local schools and colleges
- Representation from environmental groups such as BTCV and Groundwork
- Representation from local parish and town councils
- Representation from local railway staff
- Representation from Business groups
- Representation from the National Trust, English Heritage and other local heritage groups
- Representation from BAFRUA
- Representation from the relevant Chambers of Commerce
- Representation from Tourism and Industry
- Representation from the Lancashire Association of Parish and Town Councils

5.3.3 Remit

5.3.3.1 The remit for the stakeholder groups will be as follows:

- To receive and comment on reports from the Management Group.
- To review the Action Plan and provide input into its future development.
- To assist in looking for new sources of funding to either develop specific projects or to fund the post of Partnership Officer.
- To provide a forum for the discussion of ideas for the development of the South Fylde rail network.
- To implement projects that have been agreed by the Management Group.

6. Funding

6.1 Members of the South Fylde Line Community Rail Partnership will identify on an annual basis the funding required to deliver the Action Plan.