

## **Route Prospectus**

### **For the railway line between Gannow Junction and Colne and the passenger rail service between Preston - Colne**

The line between Gannow Junction and Colne is one of the routes listed in the Department for Transport Community Rail Development Strategy. This document sets out ideas for development of the service subsequent to the proposed formal designation as a Community Rail service during 2006.

The designation will also include the service from Preston to Colne throughout as a community rail service, giving more freedom to the operator and the community in running the service and the stations. The stations included in this designation are listed at the end of this prospectus.

The other services operating between Preston and York via Leeds are not included within the service designation.

The key measures of success will be

- The contribution of Community Rail Development in achieving locally set objectives such as reducing road congestion and increasing accessibility in its widest sense.
- Reducing the call on taxpayers' funds for the service;
- Establishing the effectiveness of different methods for reducing the net financial loss of Community Rail lines by increasing revenue and reducing costs where practicable.

This prospectus has been discussed and agreed with the East Lancashire Community Rail Partnership Management Group, (which presently consists of Lancashire County Council, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, Lancashire Economic Partnership, Lancashire County Developments Limited, Northern Rail and Network Rail)

Designation of the line between Gannow Junction and Colne along with the service between Preston and Colne will assist in the following tasks:

- Identification of the costs of operating the Preston - Colne service and the passenger revenue attributable to the line.
- Showing how Train Operating Company costs might be reduced on the service by changes to franchise management (including the Ticketing and Settlement Agreement arrangements), working practices and operation
- Evaluation of cost effective methods of delivering improvements to Preston - Colne services looking at all aspects of the current operation.
- Examination of options for alternative service destinations in conjunction with reviewing the Northern train plan.
- Identification of the most cost effective way of improving journey times – including changes to the stopping pattern and 'skip stop' opportunities;

- Examination of viability options to improve the type and quality of rolling stock used on the Preston to Colne service.
- Exploration of opportunities of alternative fares structures to ensure the line is allocated a fair contribution of all through rail fares and that fares are appropriate to the local market.
- Exploration of innovative ticketing and marketing schemes with the aim of making it easier to buy tickets away from staffed stations, effective collection of revenue and higher service awareness and take-up by the local population.
- Working with Local Councils to develop integrated transport initiatives to improve accessibility to the area.
- Evaluation and delivery of cost effective station improvements.
- Encouraging social enterprise initiatives at railway stations along the line;
- Exploration of ways to maximise the potential of the railway heritage and environment of the line.

It is intended to build on the work already undertaken on the route by the Community Rail Partnership, Northern and other local stakeholders in developing this service.

Stations to be included as part of the service designation only are:-

Lostock Hall, Bamber Bridge, Pleasington, Cherry Tree, Mill Hill, Blackburn, Rishton, Church and Oswaldtwistle, Accrington, Huncoat, Hapton, Rose Grove and Burnley Manchester Road.

Designation of the Line between Gannow Junction and Colne also includes the following stations:-

Burnley Barracks, Burnley Central, Brierfield, Nelson and Colne

Designation is intended to be a permanent arrangement, but it can be reviewed periodically to assess whether the designation is still appropriate.

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\* date of original prospectus; amended in January 2011 to include Burnley Manchester Road as one of the stations covered under the service designation.