

# EAST LANCASHIRE COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### 1. Aims

- 1.1 To develop the Preston to Colne line as a showpiece regional railway with 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 focussing on social enterprise and sustainable development along a rail corridor.
- 1.3 To develop links with adjacent Community Rail Partnerships especially the Clitheroe Line Community Rail Partnership.

### 2. Objectives

#### 2.1 Improved Rail Services and Facilities

- 2.1.1 Improved station facilities.
  - 2.1.2 Improved information for users and visitors.
  - 2.1.3 Improved train connections at Blackburn, Preston and Manchester.
  - 2.1.4 Improved bus links.
  - 2.1.5 Better park and ride facilities.
  - 2.1.6 Improved quality of rolling stock.
  - 2.1.7 Improved service frequencies.
  - 2.1.8 Improved journey times
  - 2.1.9 Examination of direct links to Manchester Piccadilly and Manchester Airport.
  - 2.1.10 New station facilities where appropriate.
  - 2.1.11 Develop stations as gateways to the local community.
  - 2.1.12 Improve walking routes between stations and their hinterland.
- 2.2 Before projects are progressed they will need to be assessed through the development of an appropriate Business Case or Market Assessment and where funds are likely to be available for implementation.

#### 2.3 Sustainable Development

- 2.3.1 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:
  - 2.3.2 Links with the housing market renewal.
  - 2.3.3 Links with environmental projects.
  - 2.3.4 Encouraging community enterprise along the line.
  - 2.3.5 Links with tourism initiatives.

#### 2.4 Community Involvement

- 2.4.1 To encourage community participation, particularly at stations.

- 2.4.2 To support and encourage the work of line user groups.
- 2.4.3 To establish 'station friends wherever possible.
- 2.4.4 To encourage community art initiatives at stations and on the train.
- 2.4.5 To develop links with local schools and colleges.
- 2.4.6 To encourage local railway staff involvement in the CRP.
- 2.4.7 To involve local and regional organisations in informing the work of the partnership through the development of a stakeholder reference group (this will be undertaken jointly with the Clitheroe Line CRP).

## **2.5 Landscape and Heritage**

- 2.5.1 To develop the railway as a means of accessing the natural landscape, country parks and other recreational facilities.
- 2.5.2 To maintain and improve the railway heritage on the line and strengthen links with other heritage attractions and the natural landscape.

## **2.6 Line Identity**

- 2.6.1 Develop a strong identity (name, logo etc) either for the Preston to Colne line or for the East Lancashire rail network that is featured on publicity, at stations and on trains.

## **2.7 Communication**

- 2.7.1 To develop a website jointly with the other Lancashire CRP's and with a members only section.

## **3. Partnership Area**

- 3.1 The partnership will cover the East Lancashire railway line between Preston and Colne. The communities of Preston, Blackburn, Accrington, Burnley, Nelson and Colne form the core area.
- 3.2 The partnership will also take in Burnley Manchester Road on the Lancashire to Yorkshire service.
- 3.3 The East Lancashire Community Rail Partnership will work closely with the Clitheroe Line Development Group and other Community Rail Partnerships that may from time to time be formed.

## **4. Management of the Community Rail Partnership**

### **4.1 Management Group**

- 4.1.1 This group will be composed of the following people to be nominated by the named body:
  - 2 representative from Lancashire County Council
  - 2 representative from Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
  - 2 representatives from Northern Rail
  - 1 representative from Network Rail
  - 1 representative from Pendle Borough Council
  - Other representatives may be invited to join the group
- 4.1.2 The Partnership Project Officer will form an ex officio member of the group.

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

#### **4.1.4 Remit**

- To set and guide the strategic framework for the development of the Preston to Colne 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 in partnership with the railway industry.
- 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.
- To agree an annual Marketing Plan (in conjunction with the Clitheroe Line CRP).
- 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 4 members of the Group present of which 1 must be from Northern Rail.
- 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. Funding**

5.1 Members of the East Lancashire Community Rail Partnership will identify on an annual basis the funding required to deliver the Action Plan.

*Revised by the Management Group at the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2009*