

Officer Decision
Taken under the Scheme of Delegation

This decision has been taken in accordance with the county council's Scheme of Delegation to Officers, as set out in section 9 of the [Constitution](#).

Decision taken on behalf of the:	Cabinet
Officer taking the decision:	Matt Townsend, Director of Highways and Transport, 01772 534675, matt.townsend@lancashire.gov.uk
Service Area:	Highways and Transport

Key Details

Establishment of a North West Regional Business Unit for Rail	
Decision Date:	31 st January 2025
Part I or Part II:	Part I
Reason for Part II: (if applicable)	None
Divisions Affected:	All Divisions

The Decision

Background
<p>The Williams-Shapps Plan for Rail emphasises the importance of strengthening collaboration to improve outcomes for rail passengers. To support the national agenda as well as delivering on local and regional objectives, Lancashire County Council, along with neighbouring North West Local Transport Authorities, have been discussing closer partnership working to improve rail services in the region and wish to establish a North West Regional Business Unit for Rail, under the existing Rail North Partnership framework.</p> <p>On 6th July 2023 Cabinet considered and gave approval for Lancashire County Council to become a Member of the North West Regional Business Unit for Rail.</p> <p>The North West Regional Business Unit will provide advice to the Rail North Partnership and Transport for the North on rail matters within the North West including train services, fares and ticketing, infrastructure, stations, rolling stock, customer experience and sustainability.</p> <p>There are also no changes to rights, responsibilities or accountabilities of existing rail industry partners, and any rights Local Transport Authorities have under the existing Franchise Management Agreement between Local Transport Authorities, Transport for the North and Rail North Partnership.</p>



A Collaboration Agreement document has now been developed which sets out objectives, roles and responsibilities, decision making and gives details on how advice will be given and how the North West Regional Business Unit will be governed. This terms of the agreement now need to be formalised and signed off by each member Local Transport Authority.

	Yes	No
Is this a decision made under a specific delegation from Full Council, Cabinet or another committee?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If so, does this discharge the delegation in full?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did the delegation require you to consult with a Cabinet Member(s) or specific officer(s) prior to taking the decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If so, specify the names of the Cabinet Member(s)/officer(s) you have consulted with:		
Director of Law and Governance Director of Finance County Councillor Rupert Swarbrick, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport		
The Decision		
Matt Townsend, Director of Highways and Transport, in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance, Director of Finance and the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport took a decision to finalise the terms of the North West Regional Business Unit collaboration agreement.		
Were any other options considered and, if so, what were they and why were they discounted?		
Not applicable.		
Background Papers		
Cabinet Meeting held on 6 th July 2023. https://council.lancashire.gov.uk/documents/s214761/Report.pdf		

Declaration

	Yes	N/A
In taking this decision, I confirm that I have taken into consideration and kept a record of all relevant advice from the following services:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Advice has been received from LCC legal, finance and democratic services in terms of the detail of the delegated authority and officer decision			
Where appropriate, consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member(s) has been completed.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Where appropriate and where the decision impacts on a particular locality, the relevant councillor(s) for the electoral division(s) have been consulted.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Decision taken on behalf of the:	Cabinet		
Officer taking the decision:	Matt Townsend, Director of Highways and Transport		

