

**Winner of CILT award for best practice in passenger transport (2013)**

***promoting quality public transport.....***

## **NEWS RELEASE - Imminent – 20<sup>th</sup> August 2015**

### **THREAT TO REMOVE ELECTRIC TRAINS FROM THE MANCHESTER AREA.**

TravelWatch NorthWest is aghast at the recent news that the 3 car Class 323 electric trains currently used on the busy commuter routes between Manchester and Crewe, Macclesfield and Hadfield are not to be offered to the companies bidding for the Northern rail franchise which is due to come into operation next year.

Labelling the move as “crazy and scandalous”, Chris Dale, Chairman of TravelWatch NorthWest said, “This is another kick in the teeth for passengers of the undervalued local rail services in the North West. To add insult to injury there appear to be no obvious replacement trains as suitable as the 323s.”

“TransPennine is also having to see trains taken elsewhere with no suitable replacement and it all adds up to a shambolic way of managing the railway’s vital rolling stock resources”, added Mr Dale. “We need a proper strategy for rail rolling stock but the current hand to mouth system precludes it”.

TravelWatch NorthWest urges all the parties to have a thorough rethink of the matter. **ENDS**

#### **Notes –**

1. TravelWatch NorthWest is an independent Community Interest Company representing all public transport users in NW England.
2. For further information contact Chris Dale – 07948 551809