

promoting quality public transport.....

5th May 2007

NEWS RELEASE – IMMEDIATE

***PUBLICATION OF NETWORK RAIL'S ROUTE UTILISATION
STRATEGY FOR THE NORTH WEST BROADLY WELCOMED
BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT WATCHDOG***

TravelWatch NORTHWEST broadly welcomes the findings of the North West Route Utilisation Strategy published by Network Rail and the acknowledgment that capacity on the railway needs to increase to cope with an expected growth in passenger demand.

We are especially pleased that the document shows a need for about fifty new vehicles to cope with this demand and also the fact that three stations earmarked for closure (Ardwick, Denton and Reddish South) have had the immediate threat lifted.

However the Strategy in itself does not guarantee that the medium and long-term improvements recommended by Network Rail will receive proper funding. Failure to do so will lead to more overcrowding of trains and stations as more passengers want to travel. This will considerably hinder the desired modal shift to the railways.

We would urge all parties concerned to ensure that adequate funds are made available to the railway industry to allow the long overdue enhancements to take place

Notes for Editors

1. TravelWatch NorthWest is an independent body representing users of all forms of public transport in NW England.
2. For further information contact Chris Dale on 01625 428379 or John Moorhouse on 07989 515175