

Turning Point for the Railway: Our Conference in Leeds

Thursday 30 March 2023

For members, the rail industry
and anyone interested in the
railway



What is a railway for? How can the railway meet the needs of its customers and get more of them?

'What do we want the railways to look like in the future?' The railway needs to understand and influence what politicians want from it, including how to structure it to make it much more effective. This must be achieved when money is tight, industrial relations are 'challenging', performance is regularly awful and current services & fares often don't meet customer needs.

Where should the focus of campaigners for a bigger, better, railway be? What can justify money being spent? – either on day-to-day support or on investment – and how can best use be made of the money already being spent?

The railway can be a highly effective contributor to decarbonisation, to levelling up and as part of many wider initiatives – but only if it is successful in attracting passengers and freight to use the railway. The post Covid railway can no longer rely on commuters who "have" to travel to work each day – who can replace them?

Our conference provides an opportunity to pause and reflect on this – By being an in-person event there will be plenty of opportunity to meet and network with others who are interested in the rail industry. This will allow us to better focus our energies on ideas that can influence those with money and policy making powers.

Session details are overleaf – we cover:

- The value of new railway lines and stations
- Making trains more family friendly
- Railfuture on "Is the Railway working for Passengers?"
- Engaging young people in the railway
- Railfuture on making better use of the railway for freight
- Making the railway more accessible and inclusive for all

We have speakers from Community Rail, Family Friendly Trains, the GBR Transition Team and the University of Leeds – and, of course, Railfuture.

Our conference is priced to appeal to all at £50 and including lunch and refreshments and has been timed to allow a day trip from large parts of the country (our venue is under 15 minutes' walk from Leeds station). We're still going to offer remote viewing, even though the RMT have now suspended strike action for the 30th (in part because cheap fares may well not be available).

To book, please visit www.railfuture.org.uk/conferences/

#rfconference

Turning Point for the Railway:



Our speakers*

What is a railway for? And how can the railway meet the needs of its customers – and get more of them?



- Nick Flynn and Abby Taylor, [Family Friendly Trains](#) talking about: Their campaign to make trains more family friendly
- [Stewart Palmer](#), Vice President and Director, [Railfuture](#) talking about: Railfuture's view on whether the railway is working for passengers
 - Stewart was previously Managing Director of South West Trains
- [Karen Bennett](#), Education and Youth Engagement Advisor, [Community Rail Network](#) talking about: How young people can be engaged in the railways
- [Phil Smart](#), Assistant Policy Manager, [Rail Freight Group](#) talking about: Rail's role in the future movement of freight
 - Phil is also Councillor at Ipswich Borough Council with a strong knowledge of transport matters
- [Dr Manuel Ojeda Cabral](#), Senior Research Fellow in Transport Economics and Appraisal, [University of Leeds](#) talking about: The value of new railway lines and stations
- [Alison Smith](#), Head of Accessibility and Inclusion, [Great British Railways Transition Team \(GBRTT\)](#) talking about: Keynote Listener and update on GBRTT
- Conference Chair: Brian Barnsley, Deputy Chief Executive of Community Rail Network and Head of Support and Development, [Community Rail Network](#)

Speakers subject to change.

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* And you! – An interactive session and the chance to network.