

Route Prospectus

For the community rail service Nottingham - Grantham - Skegness

The line between Grantham and Skegness was initially selected as a Community Rail Development pilot project. The pilot projects were chosen to demonstrate how the Community Rail Development approach can increase revenue, manage down costs and encourage greater community involvement in the local railway.

Whilst there has been progress on implementing elements of Strategy, there have been issues with designating the *line* due to the quantity of freight and the current standard of the infrastructure.

The Strategy has now been expanded to allow the designation of *services* as well as lines and it is now proposed to designate the service from Nottingham to Skegness as a community rail service giving more freedom to the operator and the community in running the service and the stations. In the longer term, it is possible that parts of the line may also be designated - but it is not proposed to take this forward in the immediate future.

The keys measures of success of the national pilots will be

- establishing the contribution of Community Rail in achieving locally set objectives
- establishing the costs for the line and services;
- establishing the effectiveness of different methods for reducing the net financial loss of Community Rail lines by increasing revenue and reducing costs where practicable.

A remit for this pilot project has been agreed by the Client Group.

This remit forms the basis for this Route Prospectus. It is expected that the Route Prospectus will be a flexible document that will evolve (in format and substance) as the pilot project develops.

The Client Group referred to currently consists of Association of Community Rail Partnerships (ACoRP), Boston Borough Council, Central Trains, East Lindsey District Council, Lincolnshire County Council, Network Rail, North Kesteven District Council, South Kesteven District Council, Department for Transport (Rail).

Designation of the service between Nottingham and Skegness is needed to progress these aspects of the remit:

- Establish the real profit and loss costs of current operation of the Grantham - Skegness Line (and the costs of the service west of Grantham).
- Show how Train Operating Company costs might be reduced on the line by, for example, changes to arrangements for the management of the franchise.
- Demonstrate how to increase patronage through:
 - the raising of awareness and improvement of perception of the line by the operation of one or more Community Rail Partnerships.

- changes to timetables and fares (this is likely to focus on key medium to long distance markets including those through better East Coast Main Line connections via Grantham)
- integration with the *InterConnect* model developed by Lincolnshire CC, using bus and train.
- innovative ways of meeting high summer peak demand.
- better signage and access to stations and integration into the communities they serve.
- Station improvements to non-main line stations on the route¹.
- Demonstrate how joint working of infrastructure owner, train operating company and local community might reduce infrastructure costs.
- Demonstrate how properties on the line can be used most effectively to support the ongoing operation of the line and the community. This will include positive development of station sites where appropriate.
- Improve operational performance to encourage greater passenger use – especially by passengers connecting at Grantham.
- Improve ancillary revenue arising from stations and non travel sales

The initial emphasis within the Pilot will be on assessment of opportunities for patronage growth and potential cost savings with changes to timetables and fares being introduced after this assessment.

The pilot project is expected to last 5 years. Designation is intended to last indefinitely but will be reviewed every 5 years or before that date if required by stakeholders. This review process may lead to de-designation if appropriate.

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¹ The stations falling into this category are Ancaster, Aslockton, Bingham, Boston, Bottesford, Elton & Orston, Havenhouse, Heckington, Hubberts Bridge, Netherfield, Radcliffe, Rauceby, Skegness, Sleaford, Swineshead, Thorpe Culvert, Wainfleet.