

SENRUG PRESS RELEASE 8th OCTOBER 2016

SENRUG WELCOMES YET MORE INTER-CITY TRAINS TO MORPETH

SENRUG – The group that campaigns for better rail services in South East Northumberland – has welcomed the announcement from the Department for Transport that more CrossCountry trains will be calling at Morpeth.

A spokesman for CrossCountry said the company would increase the number of trains that stop at Morpeth each weekday from three each way to five, from December 2017. However, it has not yet been decided which trains will make the additional calls.

SENRUG has been lobbying for more long distance trains at Morpeth for some years. In October 2015 the group responded to a DfT consultation on CrossCountry services. A meeting was then held with DfT in December at the Mayor's Parlour in Morpeth with the Mayor in attendance. The DfT responded positively to SENRUG's business case, and SENRUG Chair Dennis Fancett commented that Morpeth is the only station across the whole of England and Scotland to be singled out by DfT as getting more services under the new CrossCountry contract.

“We are delighted our arguments have been listened to. It makes belonging to a voluntary campaign group such as ours worthwhile” said Dennis. “Morpeth will be getting a significant boost in its train services over the next 5 years and will soon be a major regional station with a frequent range of services to various destinations across the north and further afield. These additional CrossCountry services form a significant part of the extra services being delivered and we are very much looking forward to welcoming their introduction”

SENRUG are urging those who support its campaigns to improve local rail services to join their group. “The more people we speak for, the louder our voice is heard” said Dennis. Details are available at www.senrug.co.uk.

Ends (285 Words)

Notes for Editors

SENUG – The South East Northumberland Rail User Group - is a voluntary pro rail campaign group: contact Dennis Fancett Chair, tel 01670 825500 or 07810 353651, e: chair@senrug.co.uk
www.senrug.co.uk

DfT's announcement is here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/better-journeys-for-passengers-on-the-cross-country-network> (press office numbers at the bottom of the article)

CrossCountry's announcement is here: <https://www.crosscountrytrains.co.uk/about-us/press/crosscountry-welcomes-direct-award>. CrossCountry press office 0121 200 6115

Attached photo caption (please credit **Trevor Watson** if using the photo): "Waiting for a CrossCountry train at Morpeth" (21st Dec 2014)

