

## **SENRUG Press Release: 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

### **SENRUG Welcomes Rail North Director to Northumberland.**

SENRUG, the group that campaigns for better rail services in South East Northumberland, is welcoming David Hoggarth, Director of the newly established authority Rail North, as the speaker at its next public meeting, which will be on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January at 19.30 in Morpeth Town Hall.

Rail North is taking charge of managing the delivery of rail services in Northern England, a responsibility now devolved from the Department For Transport in. Two new franchises commence in April 2016: Arriva will run the local Northern service and will introduce a Sunday and evening service at Cramlington and Morpeth from December 2017, whilst the new TransPennine Express franchise won by First Group will introduce hourly stops at Morpeth on the new Edinburgh – Leeds – Liverpool route 2 years later.

Commenting on the meeting, SENRUG Chair Dennis Fancett said: “Rail North will have a pivotal role in delivering rail enhancements in the north of the country. Visiting South East Northumberland so early in the life of the new authority is a welcome signal that Rail North will not overlook the extremities of its geographic region, and it is most encouraging that Mr Hoggarth is taking the time to come and speak to us. It also reflects on the positive reputation SENRUG has established as a campaign group”

“The new few years will see the delivery of a number of our key campaign objectives” continued Dennis. “However, there is still a lot more on the table not yet agreed. Most notable is the re-introduction of passenger services on the Ashington Blyth & Tyne line. This is now being progressed by Northumberland County Council but support from Rail North will be vital. Other campaigns include enhancing service frequencies at Cramlington and building a new transport interchange there, as well as having our local Newcastle to Morpeth trains extended initially to Pegswood and Widdrington, and eventually all the way to Berwick.”

The meeting will feature a talk from Mr Hoggarth followed by a time for questions and answers. All are welcome and refreshments will be available. More information is at [www.senrug.co.uk](http://www.senrug.co.uk)

**Ends (344 words)**

**Notes For Editors**

SENUG is The South East Northumberland Rail User Group, a pro-rail campaign group that campaigns for better rail services for existing and potential passengers in South East Northumberland.

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