

COUNCIL 17TH DECEMBER 2014

OFFICER BRIEFING NOTE

Notice of Motion – Opposition to Driver only Trains

Proposer: Cllr David Whitaker

Seconder: Cllr Robert Redfern, Cllr Margaret Pattison, Cllr Richard-Newman Thompson, Cllr Margaret Pattison, Cllr Liz Scott

This Council

A) Registers its opposition to the Northern and Transpennine Express franchise requirement for driver only trains and The Government's plans to make driver only trains mandatory.

B) Express our concern at the removal of on board conductors on The Northern and Transpennine routes as well as hundreds of essential rail jobs

C) Believes that, if implemented. The plan would result in cuts to funding, fare rises, service and timetable cuts and the loss of local rail jobs. .

D) Also believe that as a result of the loss of skilled jobs, passenger service and passenger safety will be worsened by this plan to remove guards and conductors from services and introduce Driver Only Operated Trains.

E) Notes that these proposals come on top of rail fare hikes and the pre existing understaffing of many rail stations and the closure of ticket offices, making guards and on board conductors even more essential to passenger safety.

F) Believes that safeguarding and increasing staffing levels are the most effective way of improving security and passenger safety

G) Notes that the driver is responsible for safe operation of the train and the on board conductor is responsible for the protection of the passengers.

H) Notes that currently, guards and on board conductors are fully trained in the operational safety, route knowledge, including safely securing doors, protecting the train and acting in emergencies such as driver incapacity

The City Council has no statutory responsibilities in respect of railways or rail travel.

However, this motion falls within Council Procedure Rule 16.4, as it is about a matter which affects the district, albeit along with a wider area.

Officers are unable to comment on the assumptions made in the motion. However, to the extent that the motion simply provides for the Council to express its views, there are no risks or financial or legal implications for the Council should the motion be carried.

Monitoring Officer Comments

This briefing note has been prepared by the Monitoring Officer.

Section 151 Officer Comments

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.