



## **Rail Forum Midlands: Supporting the Green Recovery in all the Devolved Nations and City Regions**

### **RFM members serve elected leaders across England, Scotland and Wales**

Rail Forum Midlands (RFM) represents 250 rail related businesses spanning the entire supply chain. These include infrastructure and rolling stock asset owners, manufacturers, consultancies, contractors and train operators. Having expanded from the historic railway engineering centre of Derby over the past 25 years, RFM members now range from large global corporations through to micro niche service providers with many based widely across the country and all eager to serve the nations and regions of the UK. Over 75% of our members are SMEs.

The Forum provides a range of services to our members ensuring they engage with the sector's issues and opportunities, encouraging them to develop new products and services to meet clients' needs as well as driving growth and productivity in the context of ever greater devolved decision making on rail and tram investments.

### **As the country recovers from the pandemic, what is our railway for?**

Britain's railway is central to sustainable economic recovery because it is able to move people and goods with high efficiency that supports improved productivity and growth.

**In economic terms:** the railway connects employees to centres of employment in the cities and towns whose recovery from lockdown will be vital in driving growth; businesses to their customers, enabling the return of face to face engagement and the restoration of the hospitality industry; leisure travellers to destinations for the UK holidays that will bring prosperity back to our tourism industry; and it underpins resilient supply chains through the efficient movement of freight.

**In environmental terms:** the railway is a low carbon transport mode; it helps remove unnecessary traffic from urban centres and across arterial routes. As a sustainable mover of both people and goods it directly contributes to improved air quality in towns and cities.

**From a societal perspective:** the railway connects families, friends and communities; it is an agent of regeneration and urban renewal and contributes to social cohesion by providing access to employment, education, goods and services.

### **How can RFM do even more to support Devolved Nations and City Regions?**

Political leaders may differ in their terminology but all are seeking to see their nations and regions secure the strongest and greenest possible recovery from the pandemic. Rail has a key role to play in supporting these aspirations.

RFM can facilitate engagement between your devolved administration and our members who have the skills and expertise to support the cost-effective planning and delivery of enhancements to the existing rail network as well as the construction of new lines. Members also have the capabilities to bring innovative solutions to improve passenger journeys and to design, build and finance the trains and trams of tomorrow.