

UNLEASHING THE POTENTIAL OF RAIL

AN ENABLER OF ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

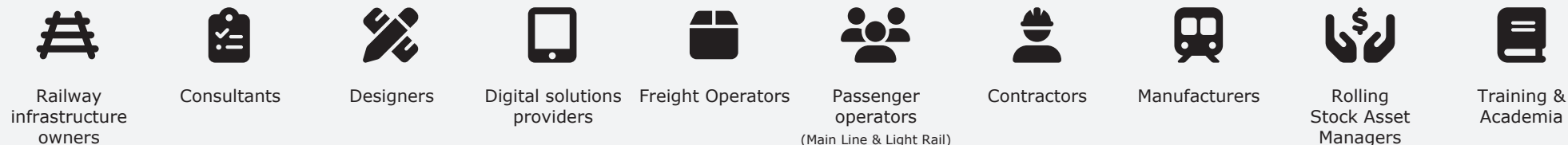
Rail Forum 

Context

Who we represent and support



Approaching **400** rail organisations



What we do



Work closely with and represent all our members; engaging with nations and regions, as well as devolved authorities, to support the resilience and growth of the UK rail supply chain



Connect and inform members through dedicated events and focus groups, as well as regular communications that also showcase member capabilities



Deliver focused activities that support key priorities such as export, safety, innovation, manufacturing and future talent

Today's Railway

Supports economic growth, employment & skills

- Brings together employees and jobs, students and academia, goods and markets, as well as families and friends
- Contributes over £42.9bn¹ annually to the UK

Connects people & places across Britain

- Links people and communities; connects goods to markets
- Drives high levels of investment and employment

Helps to deliver Net Zero targets

- One rail freight service can remove up to 129 HGV movements. A diesel-hauled rail freight service reduces carbon emissions by 76% per tonne compared to road.²
- On average across the top 100 business travel routes, taking the train produces 9x less carbon than going by diesel or petrol car.³

¹Oxford Economics (2021) The economic contribution of UK rail

² Rail Partners (2023) Freight Expectations: How rail freight can support Britain's economy and environment

³ Rail Delivery Group (2024) Rail travel is almost nine times greener than by car on the Top 100 business routes new figures show

Britain's railway has considerable potential to deliver better and more efficiently. A small number of key policy changes will facilitate this:



1. Development and implementation of a vision for the railway that is underpinned by a long-term investment strategy:

- Supporting decarbonisation by extending electrification, trialling and purchasing low emission rolling stock for commuter routes, and extending vehicle life where appropriate
- Delivering both rail freight and passenger revenue growth; facilitating end-to-end journeys across light rail and very light rail
- Providing confidence to the rail supply chain and wider industry to invest in new ideas, skills, plant and machinery
- Reducing emissions, improving air quality and contributing to net zero transport targets, getting people out of cars

2. Commitment to a suite of integrated national and local plans that support local and devolved authorities to establish urban and intermodal priorities whilst maintaining a whole network perspective:

- Delivering on local priorities and driving economic growth
- Supporting intermodal transport connectivity and enhancing the public transport user experience

3. Rapidly progressing key elements of the rail reform agenda, in particular establishment of Great British Railways:



- Nurturing new and improved public/private sector partnerships
- Driving greater efficiencies through simplification and collaboration

4. Implementation of digital technologies:

- Facilitating better decision making to enhance customer experience
- Improving safety and accessibility across the rail network
- More effective use of data to drive up reliability and drive down costs

5. Procurement strategies, facilitated by the new Procurement Act, that provide fairer opportunities for SMEs, outcome focused results and greater social value:

- Removal of unnecessary costs and barriers
- Ensuring best value for the taxpayer
- Aiding sustained growth for our SMEs and enabling them to compete on the world stage
- Driving supply chain resilience and reducing reliance on higher carbon emitting economies



Putting rail at the heart of a wider economic plan for growth and taking action now to ensure that the railway delivers better for customers will drive benefits for the taxpayer and the people of the UK. We would be delighted to discuss how the railway and its supply chain can help deliver your transport and wider policy objectives.

Please contact us via
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