

21st February 2000

RPP Funding for Sheffield Hull

Sheffield - Hull Route To Get Fast Service

Northern Spirit's Sheffield - Hull route will get a new fast service in September 2000 thanks to special funding awarded by Mike Grant, Chief Executive of the SSRA today.

The £2.2 million award will secure an hourly fast service between Sheffield and Hull for three years. The new fast services will remove local stops, while local stations will be served by replacement new stopping services. The award was made under the Government's Rail Passenger Partnership Fund (RPP) will secure a number of service improvements. Apart from faster journey times between Sheffield, Doncaster, Goole and Hull it will also increase the number of connections offered with other services at Sheffield and Doncaster. There will be better links to Bridlington and Scarborough as well as connections to a through service to London at Doncaster.

Welcoming the news, Mike Grant said:

"The new fast service between Sheffield and Hull will provide a quicker, more convenient journey for passengers - with the aim of encouraging more people out of their cars and on to the trains.

"I expect to be able to announce a further group of successful RPP schemes in the near future and welcome further bids from local authorities, train operating companies and Passenger Transport Executives."

Roy Wicks, Director General of South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive said:

"Improving links with the regional and national network is a high priority for South Yorkshire. This successful RPP bid will improve both local and Trans-Pennine services and is a welcome development."

The RPP aims to encourage rail initiatives at a local level such as enhanced services, integrated transport schemes and park and ride facilities.

Notes to editors

1. The Rail Passenger Partnership scheme was announced in the Government's 1999 Integrated Transport White Paper and is an important building block in the SSRA's preparation of a strategic plan for Britain's railways.

2. Totalling £105 million, it provides RPP and Infrastructure Investment Fund support for three years from 1999/2000 - 2001/2002. Approximately £20 million is expected to be allocated by the SSRA in year one.
3. The first two schemes to be awarded funding were on the Anglia Railways and Wales and West franchises, which were announced on 8 December 1999.
4. The bidding process for RPP was announced by the SSRA in May 1999.

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