

EVIDENCE

The business case has been undertaken with support from a number of stakeholders including Network Rail, East Coast and Northern Rail, the current train operators on the line, together with business representatives.

Evidence from the local authorities, including Rail Strategies, Local Transport and Land Use Plans and higher-level objectives for the rail network has informed the study and with planned housing and business developments, the case is compelling. Electrification of the line, modern, clean trains and a fast and frequent service pays for itself with £400m of benefits for the area, leaving a legacy of lower running costs now and into the future.

WHAT NEXT?

The scheme, which has the backing of local MPs will be presented to Government in October 2013, with a plea to prioritise this line for investment now. Funding the modernisation will ensure that rail will offer an attractive alternative to the car for years to come and with lower operating costs actually saves money.

For further information see
www.wymetro.com/Harrogate

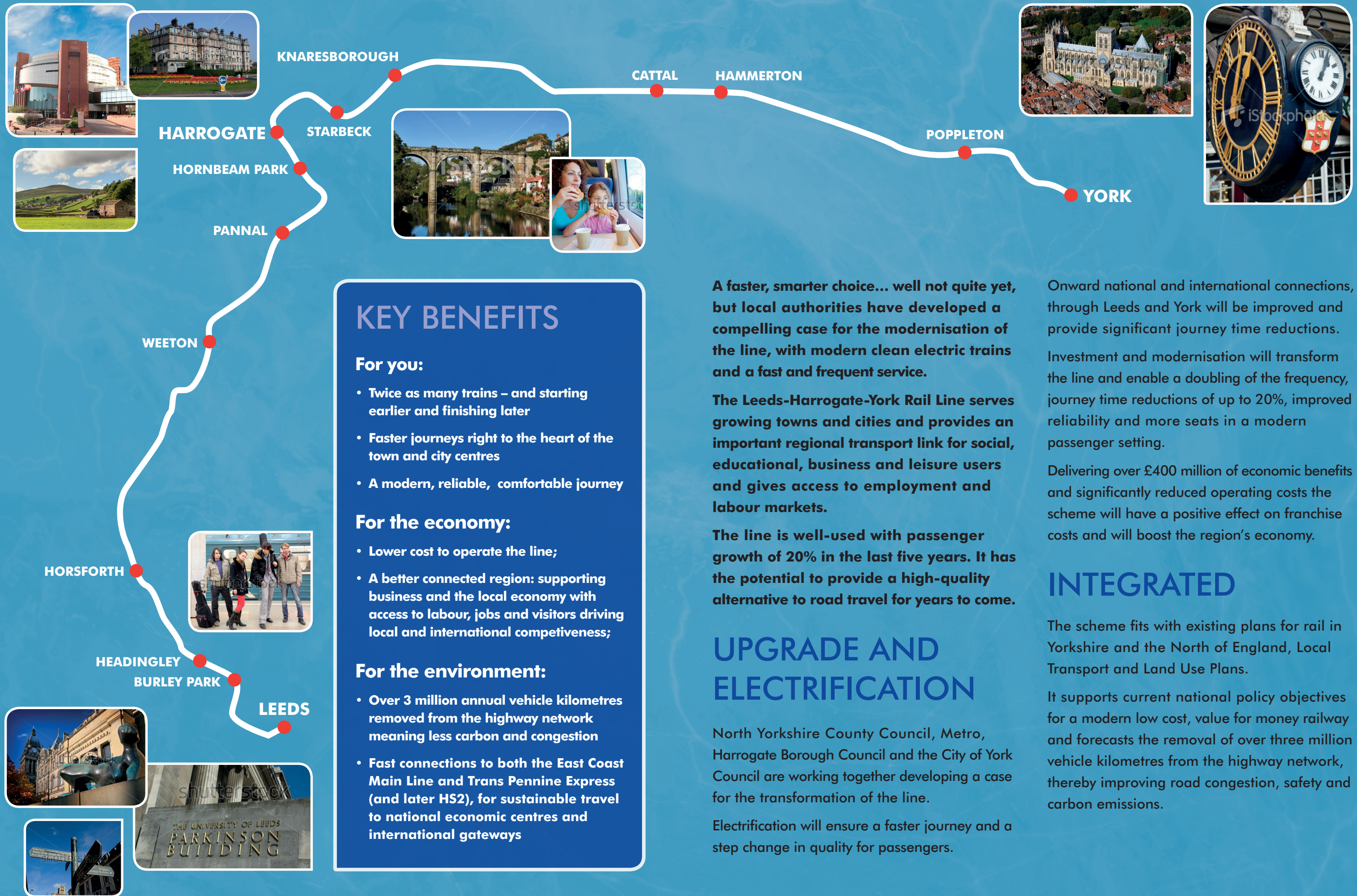


October 2013



THE LEEDS – HARROGATE – YORK RAILWAY: a faster, smarter choice





KEY BENEFITS

For you:

- Twice as many trains – and starting earlier and finishing later
- Faster journeys right to the heart of the town and city centres
- A modern, reliable, comfortable journey

For the economy:

- Lower cost to operate the line;
- A better connected region: supporting business and the local economy with access to labour, jobs and visitors driving local and international competitiveness;

For the environment:

- Over 3 million annual vehicle kilometres removed from the highway network meaning less carbon and congestion
- Fast connections to both the East Coast Main Line and Trans Pennine Express (and later HS2), for sustainable travel to national economic centres and international gateways

A faster, smarter choice... well not quite yet, but local authorities have developed a compelling case for the modernisation of the line, with modern clean electric trains and a fast and frequent service.

The Leeds-Harrogate-York Rail Line serves growing towns and cities and provides an important regional transport link for social, educational, business and leisure users and gives access to employment and labour markets.

The line is well-used with passenger growth of 20% in the last five years. It has the potential to provide a high-quality alternative to road travel for years to come.

UPGRADE AND ELECTRIFICATION

North Yorkshire County Council, Metro, Harrogate Borough Council and the City of York Council are working together developing a case for the transformation of the line.

Electrification will ensure a faster journey and a step change in quality for passengers.

Onward national and international connections, through Leeds and York will be improved and provide significant journey time reductions.

Investment and modernisation will transform the line and enable a doubling of the frequency, journey time reductions of up to 20%, improved reliability and more seats in a modern passenger setting.

Delivering over £400 million of economic benefits and significantly reduced operating costs the scheme will have a positive effect on franchise costs and will boost the region's economy.

INTEGRATED

The scheme fits with existing plans for rail in Yorkshire and the North of England, Local Transport and Land Use Plans.

It supports current national policy objectives for a modern low cost, value for money railway and forecasts the removal of over three million vehicle kilometres from the highway network, thereby improving road congestion, safety and carbon emissions.