Draft Terms of Reference for Policy Board Review of Rail Strategy for Northumberland, July 2013

- To determine Northumberland County Council’s strategy for rail services in the light of:
  - The current level, and use made, of rail services in Northumberland, together with how they are operated, owned and managed, both locally and nationally.
  - Current and forthcoming developments, decisions and timescales regarding rail franchising and devolution and possible new and improved services and potential funding of these.
  - The emerging northern rail strategy
  - The recommendations of the north east independent economic review and the emerging priorities of the combined authority for the north east LEP area.
  - Infrastructure priorities such as improvements to the Ashington, Blyth and Tyne line
  - The potential contribution of the current and possible future rail network to the County’s social and economic wellbeing and to NCC’s goals and priorities
  - Available funds and other resources

1. To include in the strategy

- An analysis of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) of the rail network in Northumberland
- NCC’s aspirations for new and improved rail services and facilities and determination of priorities for allocation of investment and other resources
- Key decisions and timescales for NCC regarding new and improved rail services and the way the rail network is governed
- The financial and other resource implications for Northumberland County Council of different levels of involvement and investment in the county’s rail network
- Recommendations for the future role of Northumberland County Council regarding rail services

2. Timescales

- Agree Final Terms of Reference – September 2013
• Commission Review and allocate resources – October 2013
• Produce draft Review findings – December 2013
• Agree final Review report at Policy Board– February 2014