



HM Government

NE North East
Combined
Authority

22 January 2026

North East

1. As Secretary of State for Transport Chancellor of the Exchequer, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government, and Mayor of the North East respectively, we have confirmed our shared ambition to unlock the untapped growth potential across the North.
2. We will in particular work jointly together to develop the growth plan for the North East which will be complementary to work on the Northern Growth Corridor across the Pennines.
3. NPR will see a turn up and go railway on the growth corridor with regular services onward to Newcastle, via Darlington and Durham. In the decision made on route choices funded within the NPR programme, we will jointly aim to maximise the economic benefits to the North East.
4. We will consider further infrastructure enhancements to improve connectivity and service frequencies on the East Coast Mainline, and the proposed reopening of the Leamside line, to enhance even further NPR benefits to the North East.
5. The first phase of reopening the Leamside line from Tyneside to Washington is already agreed to be led by the North East Mayor using funding from devolved Transport for City Regions fund (TCR). We will work with the North East on the business case for the remainder of the proposed Leamside reopening, including considering better connectivity for Sunderland, and subsequent delivery (subject to that business case) as part of ensuring NPR services reach Newcastle and as part of enhancing NPR benefits to the North East, in the same timeframe as the first phase of NPR. We will ensure that if HMG agrees the business case and it demonstrates good value for money that resources are made available (e.g. through RNEP or future rounds of TCRs) for its delivery.
6. We will jointly agree governance for the post-announcement period, through which we will collaborate on the growth package for the North East

**Rt Hon Heidi Alexander MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
TRANSPORT**

**Kim McGuinness
MAYOR OF THE NORTH EAST**

**Rt Hon Steve Reed OBE MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HOUSING,
COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENT**

**Rt Hon Rachel Reeves MP
CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER**