



NORTHERN POWER TOWNS

Low-Level Rail Link Announcement

Yesterday (13 January 2026) the Government announced further detail on the delivery of Northern Power Towns rail improvements, including confirmation of a **new low-level rail link at Warrington Bank Quay**. This positions Warrington as a key interchange point on the Liverpool–Manchester corridor and strengthens east–west connectivity across the North.

What's being proposed

- A **new low-level station at Warrington Bank Quay**, sitting alongside the existing high-level platforms.
- High-frequency services between **Liverpool and Manchester**, stopping at Warrington.
- Faster and more reliable journeys, including much quicker access to **Manchester Airport** and onward connections across the North.
- Better interchange between local, regional and long-distance rail services.

Why this matters

Warrington sits at the centre of the Northern Power Towns geography, between Liverpool, Greater Manchester and Cheshire. Improving rail capacity and connectivity here helps unlock benefits not just for the cities, but for the **network of towns** that depend on them for jobs, skills and services.

This announcement directly addresses long-standing issues with slow, overcrowded and unreliable east–west rail travel, which has held back growth in many northern towns.

Benefits for Northern Power Towns

- **Shorter journey times** and more frequent trains for commuters travelling between towns and nearby cities.
- Improved access to **employment, education and training opportunities**, particularly for people living outside city centres.
- Stronger links between towns, cities and key economic assets such as Manchester Airport.
- Better rail connectivity supporting **inclusive growth**, rather than concentrating investment only in major cities.

Economic impact

- The scheme is expected to support **regeneration and investment** around Warrington Bank Quay.
- Improved connectivity should help businesses in Northern Power Towns access larger labour markets and supply chains.
- Over time, the link could support **new housing, commercial development and job creation**, particularly in areas that are currently less well connected.

Things to note

- This is a **long-term infrastructure project**, with delivery likely to take place over a number of years.
- Detailed design, planning and funding decisions are still to come.
- Ensuring the scheme integrates properly with the wider Northern Power Towns rail network will be key to maximising benefits.

Conclusion

The Warrington low-level rail link is a significant step forward for the **Northern Power Towns agenda**. By improving east–west connectivity and strengthening links between towns and cities, it has the potential to support long-term economic growth, regeneration and better opportunities for communities across the North.