

# Railwatch

AN INDEPENDENT VOICE FOR RAIL USERS

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## £20m worth of empty seats

Look at all those empty seats! Transport chiefs got together in Leeds Town Hall in December to illustrate how passengers on the MetroTrain network are benefiting from almost 1,700 additional seats on peak-time train services.

Thanks to a £20million partnership between Metro, Yorkshire Forward and train operator Northern, six extra trains are serving Leeds, York, Harrogate, Halifax, Bradford, Huddersfield, Knottingley, Selby and Sheffield.

Heidi Mottram, Northern Rail's managing director, said: "Customer demand is growing for our services, with passenger journeys up to over 75 million, a 19 per cent increase since the start our franchise."

With Heidi in the picture are Tom Riordan of Yorkshire Forward, Simon Coulthard of Network Rail, Councillor Stanley King and Councillor Ryk Downes of Metro and Malcolm Brown of Northern Rail.

Picture: Andy Paraskos – West Yorkshire PTE