

# Delivering the East Coast 2025 Timetable

Hosted by CIRO North East Area Council, 19th May 2026

By Ed Knapton

The North East area council welcomed John Grainger, Joint Head of Performance for LNER and Network Rail East Coast, to George Stephenson House in York to deliver a presentation on how the industry collaboratively delivered the December 2025 East Coast Timetable change, specifically focusing on how they mitigated risks to performance.

John explained the background behind the planning and implementation of the December 2025 timetable change on the East Coast Main Line. With the disruption caused by the May 2018 changes still fresh in the industry's memory, John talked through all the modelling and execution of detailed plans that ensured that the changes made in December '25 would not see the industry back in the headlines for the wrong reasons, demonstrating its capability to deliver large-scale change on the back of significant investment from the Treasury.



The timetable itself, which increases the total number of services per hour and seats available to customers, is dependent on trains only being stopped at stations for a maximum of 90 seconds. This ambitious dwell-time target required the whole system to work collectively to ensure the timetable was deliverable. Communication was at the forefront of everything, ensuring LNER's frontline teams, Network Rail colleagues and customers were all educated on the importance of disciplined platform management. It was also encouraging to see the depth of the collaboration between LNER and Network Rail in the run-up to December, which further made the roll-out of the new timetable the success it has been.

Following on from the presentation, there was an opportunity for a Q&A, with several questions being asked.

On behalf of the CIRO North East area, we would like to offer our appreciation to John for taking the time out of his evening to spend time with us.

*POD Sections: 2,3,6,10*