

Why do we need the railway?

Car ownership in South East Northumberland is set to increase. This will worsen road congestion, impacting on journey times and the commercial viability of buses across South East Northumberland.

A lot of people **commute** from Northumberland into Tyne and Wear. Road congestion is already an issue and alternative modes of transport need to be provided to ensure people can access employment in a sustainable way. Links into Tyne and Wear, particularly Newcastle, are vital for the **economic prosperity** of Northumberland.

Public transport options do not meet the needs of all residents. A lack of available services, long journey times and high public transport costs mean that public transport is not a viable option for many people.

Air quality is a major concern. Collectively, there is a need to reduce harmful vehicle emissions.

