

NOTICE OF MOTION	Date of Council Meeting: 14/01/26
	Mover: Councillor Cusworth
	Seconder: Councillor Monk
	Title of Motion: Restoring Rail and Tram Train Services for Swinton, Rotherham, and Doncaster - Ensuring Reliable Public Transport for Our Communities

Summary/Background:

This Council notes:

- That train timetables serving Swinton Interchange and Rotherham Central to Doncaster and return were halved during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- That despite the lifting of restrictions, these timetables have not been fully restored, leaving communities with fewer, less reliable services.
- That this reduction disproportionately impacts residents who rely on rail for work, education, and leisure, undermining efforts to promote sustainable travel and economic growth.

Impact on Tram Train Services - Prior to the pandemic, Swinton enjoyed three trains per hour, complemented by three tram trains at Rotherham Central, providing a service approximately every ten minutes into Sheffield. Currently, the timetable has been significantly reduced, with just one train from Leeds, one from Doncaster, and two tram trains. This results in a fragmented and inconvenient timetable, making public transport less attractive and reliable for residents.

That this Council believes:

- That Rotherham should not be facing reductions in its public transport provision, and that reliable heavy and light rail services are the minimum that our residents deserve.
- That accessible, dependable public transport is a cornerstone of social and economic inclusion.
- That restoring full services is essential to support local communities, reduce car dependency, and meet climate commitments.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

1. Call on train operating companies and the Department for Transport to urgently reinstate pre-pandemic service levels between Swinton Interchange, Rotherham Central, and Doncaster, including both heavy rail and tram train services.

2. Work with regional partners, including the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, to press for investment in rail and tram train services that meet the needs of residents and reflect the importance of frequent, reliable public transport.