

*Community Rail ...*

## HELPING THE CIVIL SERVICE DELIVER ON DIVERSITY

With roots firmly in the community, inclusion and diversity are key focus points for community rail partnerships. Small, affordable and innovative projects can improve access for people and widen the reach of the railway.

Named after the Cumbrian station where it was first developed, the **Harrington Hump** provides an affordable method of improving access to trains by raising platform heights.



Low platforms are a typical problem for rural stations, where they are only served by a handful of trains a day but are still regarded as the lifeblood of the community.

By using the 'Hump', raising the platform height can now be done for as little as a tenth of the cost of raising the entire platform – and far more quickly. This means more people can use the trains, and the increase in passenger numbers can be the catalyst for further investment in the local railway, enhancing it even more to meet the increased demand. The picture shows the original access step in the foreground, with the new 'Hump' in the background!

The **Northern Rail Community Ambassadors Scheme** was created to promote the use of local rail services with Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) and socially excluded groups on the Northern Rail network.

Working along circular lines of route between Burnley, Rochdale, Bolton and Blackburn, the Ambassadors reach out to communities to understand and then overcome barriers to local rail travel. Since early 2012, the scheme has been jointly funded by Northern and the Citizens Rail Interreg IVB project.

On a day-to-day basis, the Ambassadors are involved in a range of activities such as visiting community and faith centres, giving talks to local groups and organising group accessibility trips to show people how to use rail services. Trips are tailored to each group and where English is not the first language, they can be conducted in Urdu, Punjabi and Hindi.

