

# COMMISSION ON TRANSPORT IN THE NORTH

A POLICY COMMISSION FROM THE  
CONSERVATIVE PARTY





---

# CONTENTS

- Page 3**    **Introduction**  
William Hague MP, Chairman of the Northern Board
- Page 4**    **Make-Up of the Commission**  
Peter Mileham  
Bill Bowker  
Chris Emmett  
David Monaghan
- Page 6**    **How to Get in Touch**  
Contact details for the Commission
- Page 7**    **Transport Commission : Q&A**

---

# INTRODUCTION



**Rt Hon William Hague MP**  
**Chairman of the Northern Board**

We all need to get around – whether it’s the daily commute to work, or school, the haulage firm who need to move products from depot to depot or the tourist visiting our great tourist attractions in the North

That is why making sure the infrastructure of the region is right is vital to our economic future. We are going through tough times. But to come out of the other end in as strong a state as possible, the North needs good transport links. The problem is that infrastructure improvements often have a long lead time which is why the past eleven years have created a tragic tailback of missed opportunities.

There is a productivity gap of fifty billion pounds between what the North would produce if its GDP per capita was at the national average. Why should this be the case? It is not because of a lack of will or a lack of skills amongst people in the North. It is because of inadequacies in infrastructure.

It is therefore not surprising that our bus and rail networks creak under the strain of those wanting to use them. Our great cities like Liverpool, Manchester, Bradford, Leeds, Sheffield, Hull and Newcastle deserve the strongest possible transport links. Yet anyone who has ever tried to move anywhere on our major motorways at rush hour or who has tried to get a seat on a peak time train knows that we do not have the strongest possible transport links. Far from it.

We have to be honest – there is no bottomless pot of money for building every new road, railway, port or airport that every community might want. But we have already committed to major investment in transport in the North with our plans for a high-speed railway line between London, Manchester and Leeds.

The proposal for the new line, fully-costed with a realistic timetable, is ready under a future Conservative Government. It would free up space on existing lines and carriages and not just improve high-speed links between Leeds, Manchester and London but improve existing links between our other towns and cities.

By contrast Labour has only offered the possibility of a high speed rail line that does not even reach the North. So we are snubbed yet again. And it was not just on high-speed rail. Proposals to widen parts of the M62 and M1 were this month dropped in favour of cheaper hard-shoulder running. Add in the saga of failed promises to improve trans-Pennine routes, duelling the A1 and many more and you have eleven years of failure and a region not benefiting from having so many North of England MPs in high positions.

That is why we are today launching our Commission on Transport in the North. Over the coming months, the team, chaired by businessman Peter Mileham, will be travelling across North of England to hear what the priorities of a Conservative Government should be. Their report will be submitted to the Shadow Cabinet and inform the priorities of a future Conservative Government.

Every day I, and Conservatives across the North, hear people’s concerns about the transport system they have to contend with. My message is that this Commission gives them a real opportunity to inform policy by telling us what they want to see. As I have already said, we can’t do everything, which is why we need to have priorities and make sure that those schemes which do proceed are those which will deliver the greatest improvement on the daily lives of people in the North.

The Conservative Party is determined to make the North’s transport network stronger because we know a stronger infrastructure makes for a stronger North.

---

# THE MAKE-UP OF THE COMMISSION

## Chairman - Peter Mileham

Yorkshire-born Peter Mileham is aged 63.

His early career was in the construction industry, joining the Shepherd Building Group of York in 1964. His main responsibilities at that time were in the field of speculative housing development. In the early 1970's Peter was promoted and transferred to Manchester where he was Senior Surveyor on a number of significant contracts in the North West.

Being naturally inclined towards the promotional side of business, Peter joined Liquid Plastics Ltd of Preston, manufacturers of specialist coatings for the construction industry, as a Sales Executive in 1973, rapidly gaining promotion to Scottish Sales Manager and then Deputy National Sales Manager. In 1979 the expansion of the business demanded the formation of a Marketing Department, which he founded, joining the Board of Directors as Marketing Director in 1982. This position was held until 2003 over which time turnover had increased from roughly £300,000 to over £40m today, with markets in 150 countries around the world. Over the past ten years, Peter has played a major role in establishing branches in Belgium and the USA and setting up two additional manufacturing businesses in the UK which now collectively operate as the Iotech Group.

In addition to his directorships of Liquid Plastics Ltd, Peter was the Local Chairman (Preston & North West) of the Yorkshire Bank and a member of SABRE, a body devoted to supporting Britain's Army Reservists and Employers.

Strongly interested in business development and encouraging small businesses to succeed, Peter joined the Chamber of Commerce movement in 1990 and served as Director and President of North and West Lancs Chamber of Commerce, Vice Chairman of North West Chambers, Director of British Chambers of Commerce and Chairman of the British Venezuelan Chamber of Commerce.

He became President of the British Chambers of Commerce in 2006 and held the position until the summer of 2008.

Peter was born in Scarborough, where he was educated at local schools. He went on to further education at York & Hull Technical Colleges qualifying as a Member of the Chartered Institute of Building. Peter is a keen supporter of the Arts and is married with two daughters.

He became Deputy Lieutenant of Lancashire in 2004 and, in this capacity, is a member of the Duchy of Lancaster Benevolent Fund Committee.

---

## THE MAKE-UP OF THE COMMISSION

### Bill Bowker

Bill is the Managing Director of Bowker Group.

With major bases in Hull and Preston, Bill is familiar with just how important transport links are across the Pennines, across the whole North of England and, specifically, to the haulage industry.

Bill Bowker's family launched the firm in 1919 and it grew rapidly to become one of the UK's premier transport specialists with a reputation for the highest levels of service and an innovative approach to industry's transportation needs.

More recently, Bowker Vehicle Contracts was established to provide specialist contract hire and vehicle management services to clients throughout the UK.

### Chris Emmett

Chris grew up in Liverpool and was educated at Manchester University.

She has built up an impressive business career that has required getting a grip on big organisations and making things happen.

This has included acting as buyer for the Marks and Spencer store expansion plan, managing £450 million of procurement for the Channel Tunnel project; acting as a strategic advisor on major commercial and public sector projects across the US and UK; running a small family holiday business; and a range of public service work including a role as Non-Executive Director of University Hospitals in Leicester.

### David Monaghan

David is from Northumberland and has worked in the public transport industry for over 30 years.

From 1986 to 1996 was the Chairman and Managing Director of a bus group with 850 buses, 2000 staff and an annual turnover in 1994 of £60 million.

The company, sold in 1994, is now part of the Arriva Group.

David is a Chartered Accountant by profession but has been on the management side of business from 1969 until retirement in 1994.

---

# HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

The aim of the Commission is that everyone gets a chance to have their say on what their transport priorities are.

Meetings will be held throughout Yorkshire and the Humber, North West and North East in the coming months before a report is submitted to the Shadow Transport Secretary, Theresa Villiers MP.

The Commission can be contacted in the following ways:



## E-mail

**haveyoursay@transportinthenorth.com**



## Text

**07761 249 337**



## Write to

**Transport in the North**

**The Conservative Party, Cumberland House  
Greenside Lane, Bradford BD8 9TF**



## Go online

**www.transportinthenorth.com**

---

# TRANSPORT COMMISSION: Q&A

## What is the aim of the Commission?

To accumulate and body of evidence to inform the long-term transport priorities of a future Conservative Government in the North of England.

## Why is it needed?

Labour has failed to deliver on transport in the North of England in their 11 years in Government. We want to make sure a Conservative Government knows, from day one, what the transport priorities are having listened to the views of residents, businesses and everyone else across the North West, North East and Yorkshire.

## What is the timetable?

It would be anticipated that the Commission on Transport in the North would provide initial findings at Party Conference in Manchester in October 2009.

## Why were the Commission members chosen?

Under the chairmanship of Peter Mileham DL, former President of the British Chambers of Commerce and Director of Liquid Plastics Limited. He is a distinguished businessman who in his role as President of the BCC has had many meetings and discussions with business groups and businesses.

Appointments reflect, as a far as practical, regional weighting between North East, North West, Yorkshire & the Humber and transport sector: roads, rail, sea, air and public transport.

## Will the findings be binding on a new Conservative Government?

The Commission on Transport in the North is an integrated part of the Conservative Party Policy Review process.

The policy groups are part of a process of policy development leading, ultimately, to the publication of the Conservative Party's manifesto when the next general election is called.

The policy groups are tasked to submit a menu of options for collective consideration by the Shadow Cabinet. Their recommendations do not constitute Conservative Party policy or commitments.

It is up to the Shadow Cabinet to decide which proposals to explore further and develop, and which to discard.

---

## TRANSPORT COMMISSION: Q&A

### How will evidence be collected?

It is envisaged that the Commission will gather its evidence in two ways - inviting representations and fact finding visits:

*Representations*—It is recognised that the time and resource constraints facing the Commission will not permit extensive original research. The Commission will instead invite organisations and individuals to make written representations to the Commission.

*Field visits*—It would be anticipated that the Commission would undertake a number of high profile visits to gather evidence and give local people the opportunity to express their opinions. Clearly major population centres would be visited such as: Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Bradford, Sheffield and Newcastle and this could be extended as time and opportunity permits. The Commission would also undertake thematic visits to explore particular transport issues such as rural transport, use of inland waterways and environmental considerations.

The Commission would seek to evaluate evidence received by challenging underlying assumptions and testing against guiding principles of Conservative transport policy:

- Improve the competitiveness of the Northern economy
- Increase social mobility
- Reduce congestion and pollution
- Protect the environment
- Reflect local priorities
- Encourage innovation
- Deliver value for money
- Increase reliability of public transport services

### How do people make their views known?

They can get in touch by e-mail, text message or by post. Details are provided in the launch document or on the website [www.transportinthenorth.com](http://www.transportinthenorth.com)



Promoted by Alan Mabbutt on behalf of the Conservative Party, both at 30 Millbank, London, SW1P 4DP