

## NEWS RELEASE

### **New Look for Merseyrail Fleet Coming Soon**

**14 January 2014:** A new look for the Merseyrail fleet will be unveiled in the next few weeks.

The re-liveried trains are part of an £8.5 million investment that will see essential work carried out on the stock to keep it in good working order, as well as improvements on the inside.

Angel Trains are contributing £5.5m as part of their lease agreement with Merseytravel and a further £3m is being provided by Merseyrail.

The current fleet is approaching 40 years old and was last re-liveried ten years ago. The aim is to ensure that the standards customers have come to expect are maintained until a wholesale fleet modernisation by the end of the decade.

The wrap designs will offer a fresher, brighter image and work will be undertaken to treat corrosion. Internal enhancements will be made in the coming months.

Said Cllr John Salter, Merseytravel's lead member for rail:

"Merseyrail is one of the best performing networks in the country and for that to continue we need to invest in the network and stock in the short, medium and long term.

"It is about keeping standards high for regular passengers and the thousands of visitors we welcome to the city region, particularly this year, with its packed programme of events."

Added Maarten Spaargaren, managing director at Merseyrail:

"We know that the presentation of our trains, both on the outside and inside, is very important to our customers, which is why we are keen to ensure that the overall impression is modern, fresh and appealing. We hope that the new look will encourage more people to give Merseyrail a try and start using our trains to get around the city region."

**Ends**

#### **Notes to Editors:**

- *Merseyrail carries ca 110,000 passengers per weekday*
- *Merseyrail scores for reliability and punctuality averaged over 95 per cent during the last 12 months*
- *We operate one of the most intensively used networks in the UK with more than 800 trains per weekday*
- *Merseyrail is a 50-50 joint venture between Serco and Abellio*
- *Merseytravel is the combined Passenger Transport Authority and Executive for Merseyside*
- *Network Rail is the owner and operator of most of the rail infrastructure in the UK*
- *For further information, contact Alice Owen on tel 0151 955 2131.*