

# RAIL

July saw new rail stations at Kirkstall and Apperley Bridge moving a step closer when Leeds City Council gave planning consent for Commercial Estates Group (CEG) to redevelop the 56-acre former Kirkstall Forge site in Leeds. CEG has committed £4m to the creation of a new railway station at the development. Building a station at Apperley Bridge, together with that at Kirkstall, will enable Metro to reduce overall costs and timescales.

Metro's planned rail station at Horsforth Woodside Quarry also progressed in January 2008, when Leeds City Council's West Plans Panel agreed a package of public transport improvements to facilitate its development on the busy Harrogate rail line and adjacent to Leeds outer ring road.

In August, Metro welcomed news that the Department for Transport has earmarked between 60 and 90 new rail carriages for West Yorkshire, to be introduced from 2009, but warned that this number was not enough to meet future demand. Research by Metro has shown that around 135 additional

carriages are required in the Leeds city region just to cater for the general growth. Further discussions are taking place with the Department for Transport.

Metro's work with partners Yorkshire Forward and Northern Rail to introduce six additional train units for West Yorkshire services in December 2006, won it the Outstanding Teamwork Award at the National Rail Awards Ceremony in September 2007.

After gaining match funding from the Department for Transport's Access for All Small Schemes initiative, Metro created a new entrance to Ilkley rail station from the town's Railway Road. The new entrance, which includes new lighting and CCTV coverage, provides access to the station's platform 2 from the footbridge on Railway Road for people approaching from the north and east of the town. Before it was created, these people were only able to enter and leave the station from the south side, either through the former station building or the bus station.

