

# ACHIEVING RAIL DECARBONISATION 2023

20 SEPTEMBER 2023 | LONDON

Ahead of the [Achieving Rail Decarbonisation 2023](#) (taking place 20 September October, London), **Richard Mann, Rail Strategy Lead at Midlands Connect**, shares his views on some of the challenges and areas for collaboration to drive forward decarbonisation.



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## WHAT ARE THE CURRENT BIGGEST CHALLENGES TO DELIVERING DECARBONISATION OF THE RAIL NETWORK?

The biggest challenge to delivering decarbonisation of the rail network is letting go of electrification. Electrification is the right solution on busy main lines, but battery trains are much cheaper and can be delivered much more quickly elsewhere.

## WHAT CAN THE RAIL SECTOR DO TO DRIVE COLLABORATION ACROSS THE INDUSTRY TO DELIVER DECARBONISATION?

The rail sector needs to work together to understand how to apply battery technology to local services. There will need to be changes to operating practices and management of new risks, and this can only happen if people collaborate to deliver on the new opportunities.

## WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS FOR DECARBONISATION WHERE ELECTRIFICATION WON'T BE DELIVERED?

Battery is the stand out best option, with much less capital cost, and only slightly higher operating costs. We need a mix of pure-battery, recharging at terminus, and battery-electric on shorter routes that are partially-electrified.

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