



Greengauge 21 welcomes new statement on HS2 as the first stage of a national network

"The Secretary of State for Transport has clearly led from the front, ensuring the HS2 alignment is adjusted to meet concerns of the local communities affected", said Jim Steer, Director of Greengauge 21.

"We are particularly delighted to see that he has decided that from the outset there will be a direct operational link between the new line and the existing high-speed route from St Pancras to the Channel Tunnel, and also that provision will be made when the routes to Leeds and Manchester are added to connect in Heathrow with a direct link. These features may involve only relatively short sections of route, but they are essential if HS2 is to form the first stage of a truly national network", he added.

Greengauge 21 notes that the anti-HS2 campaign claims that 'the business case for HS2 doesn't stack up'. It has therefore reviewed one of the published critiques and today is releasing **HS2 – why the critics are wrong** – providing a firm rebuttal of the arguments made.

"The business case for HS2 is strong, and better than for the alternatives that have been examined over the last ten years in various studies. High-speed rail is the sustainable way to ensure that congestion across the national transport system doesn't impede economic recovery", said Jim Steer.

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Notes to Editors

1. Greengauge 21 was established in 2006, to initiate the debate on high-speed rail in Britain.
2. For more information or to set up an interview with Greengauge 21, please contact:

Jim Steer on 07785 242506 (jim.steer@sdgworld.net) or

Julie Mills on 07956 405003 (julie.mills@greengauge21.net)
3. The Greengauge 21 HSR Public Interest Group was established in Spring 2008, to develop the case for a network of high speed lines, resulting in the definitive report *Fast Forward: A High Speed Rail Strategy for Britain*, published in September 2009.
4. The HSR Public Interest Group membership comprises:
 - Advantage West Midlands
 - Association of North East Councils
 - ATOC
 - Birmingham City Council
 - City of London Corporation
 - East of England Development Agency
 - East Midlands Development Agency
 - Glasgow-Edinburgh Collaboration Initiative
 - Great Western Partnership
 - Network Rail
 - Newcastle City Council
 - Northern Way (the partnership led by the three northern RDAs)
 - Nottingham City/ Nottinghamshire County Councils
 - PTE Group
 - Railway Industry Association
 - SEStran
 - Sheffield City Region
 - Transport for London
5. Greengauge 21's report, *HS2 – why the critics are wrong*, is available on the Greengauge 21 website (www.greengauge21.net) .