



### GREENGAUGE 21

## High Speed Rail Development Programme Launched Today

At today's Railway Forum event at the Millennium Point in Birmingham, Greengauge 21 Director Jim Steer announced the launch of a £0.75m development programme on high speed rail. The programme will be funded by a consortium of interests who are creating a *Public Interest Group* to oversee the work.

The programme is designed to:

- identify a national strategy and examine high-speed rail in 5 identified corridors
- identify the technical standards that should apply to further high-speed rail in Britain
- investigate funding options
- consult widely on the conclusions reached by earlier studies and on the outcome of this programme.

Recent work for Birmingham City Council has established the potential scale of productivity benefits, which to the West Midlands region alone are estimated at £2.24 billion. Other regions in England, Wales and Scotland can expect to see similarly large benefits. The work programme will examine and develop schemes for 5 corridors:

- Corridor 1: London – Birmingham – Manchester
- Corridor 2: London – Cambridge – Northeast
- Corridor 3: London – Bristol/Cardiff
- Corridor 4: Trans-Pennine
- Corridor 5: Anglo-Scottish

Jim Steer, Director Greengauge 21 said:

*“This programme is designed to answer the questions that Ministers and others raise about high-speed rail. We start from a perspective that this is all about achieving sustainable growth for the economy of Britain as a whole, rather than just a narrow concern about rail capacity, important though that issue will no doubt continue to be”.*

## Notes to Editors

1. The Railway Forum Event is being held at ThinkTank, Millenium Point, Curzon Street, Birmingham B4 7XG from 9.30am till 2pm. Jim Steer will be speaking at 11.40am.
2. Greengauge 21 is a company limited by guarantee established to promote the case for high-speed rail and foster debate. It has an Advisory Panel comprising: Chris Green (Chair), Richard Brown, Richard Bowker CBE, Lord Faulkner and Sir Peter Hall. Greengauge 21 Directors are Jim Steer and Julie Mills.
3. The Public Interest Group which will oversee the work programme will consist of regional, city and other public bodies from across Britain together with rail industry bodies.
4. Diagrammatic representation of the five corridors under consideration:



## Contact

For more information or to arrange an interview please contact  
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