



GREENGAUGE 21

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Planning for High Speed Rail

Today, Greengauge 21 is launching an independent report on planning for high-speed rail. It identifies the measures that might be needed alongside the core investment to ensure that the most desirable and most sustainable pattern of development ensues. It addresses the key question of whether improved accessibility between Britain's cities will help re-balance growth pressures or simply reinforce the dominant position of London.

The report, by independent expert Alan Wenban-Smith, analyses the complementary planning policies that would influence the regional economic impact of high-speed rail. He consulted widely with senior players in formulating his assessment. He concludes that we lack, as a nation, the necessary governance, delivery and appraisal mechanisms to put in place the complementary measures that would help ensure that high-speed rail has the most beneficial impact on regional economies.

The report argues that a more integrated approach to public investment plans should form part of a package of complementary measures, and warns that this will only be effective in attracting and shaping private investment within the framework of a new national perspective on the desirable pattern of regional development.

Notes:

This report was commissioned by Greengauge 21 to assist the High Speed Rail Development Programme being completed in September 2009. This £0.75m programme of work to develop a HSR strategy for Britain is being funded by a powerful Public Interest Group, comprising:

Advantage West Midlands (leading for EEDA, EMDA, SEEDA and SWRDA)
Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC)
BAA
Birmingham City Council
Channel Tunnel Initiative (<i>associate members</i>)
City of London Corporation
The City of Edinburgh Council
Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive

Network Rail
Newcastle City Council
North East Assembly
The Northern Way (the partnership of the three northern RDAs)
Passenger Transport Executive Group (covers all six PTEs)
Rail Freight Group
Railway Industry Association
South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SEStran)
Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
Sheffield City Region
Transport for London

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