



### GREENGAUGE 21

*29<sup>th</sup> October 2008*

## Welcome to the Secretary of State for Transport's statement this morning

Greengauge 21 today welcomed Secretary of State Geoff Hoon's statement announcing the creation of a new group to be chaired by Lord Adonis to look at the future of our national transport networks.

Director Jim Steer said: "This looks to be an injection of pace and leadership into the government's response to the Eddington Report of 2006 and also marks a welcome recognition of the importance of looking at new lines and the role of high-speed rail".

"We will be writing to Lord Adonis offering our full support to the Strategic Transport Networks Group", added Jim Steer.

Also today, Greengauge 21 announced the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers as its financial and funding advisers. PwC join Systra/MVA and Bircham Dyson Bell in the team to carry out a £0.75m work programme developing the next steps for high-speed rail in Britain on behalf of a widely-drawn Public Interest Group.

### Notes to Editors

1. 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 CBE, Richard Bowker CBE, Lord Faulkner and Professor Sir Peter Hall. Greengauge 21 Directors are Jim Steer and Julie Mills.
2. Greengauge 21 has underway a £0.75m High Speed Rail Development Programme to develop a network strategy for Great Britain. It will consider the potential role of high speed rail in the five corridors set out in Figure 1 below and address the key questions:
  - What kind of HSR network should be developed, which destinations should it serve, how should it be developed?
  - What would such a network cost and what benefits will it bring, including at city and regional levels?
  - What would be the carbon/energy impacts?
  - What are the financial implications for the public sector and how can private sector skills, resources and finance be best used?

3. A powerful Public Interest Group has been formed that is funding this work 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)
Railway Industry Association
South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SEStran)
Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
Sheffield City Region
Transport for London

4. The consultants appointed to deliver the work programme following a competitive tendering process are:

Principal Consultant	SYSTRA with MVA Consultancy
Consultation Adviser	Bircham Dyson Bell
Funding Adviser	PricewaterhouseCoopers

In addition, Denton Wilde Sapte is acting as legal adviser to Greengauge 21.

## Contact

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Figure 1 – Potential High Speed Rail corridors



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