

*promoting quality public transport.....*

## **NEWS RELEASE - IMMEDIATE**

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2011

### **Plans for a High Speed Railway to the North West welcomed**

TravelWatch NorthWest (TWNW) has today responded to the Department for Transport's consultation on High Speed Rail.

We see the main argument for HS2 as primarily being an increase in capacity to meet growth beyond the capacity of the existing system, but it will also bring economic benefits to the north. However, it is vitally important that concentration on the HS2 project does not deprive the existing route network of investment or continuing development.

We have always advocated that any HSR proposals are seen as logical parts of a much longer term strategy for the provision of a network of new lines to connect the various nations and regions of the UK with London and each other. Therefore we have some concerns that the current proposals do not indicate how a high speed network would be extended to serve other parts of northern England (beyond Manchester and Leeds), Scotland or other regions of the UK.

**ENDS**

#### **Notes:**

TravelWatch NorthWest is an independent organisation representing users of all forms of public transport in North West England.

A copy of the response and updated position paper on High Speed Rail is attached

***Further information – contact Chris Dale on 07948 551809***