

*promoting quality public transport.....*

## **NEWS RELEASE - IMMEDIATE**

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

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

TravelWatch NorthWest (TWNW) broadly welcomes the plans recently announced to extend the High Speed Rail network to the North West. .

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.

It is also vitally important though that -

- Good interchange is provided between High Speed Trains and **modern** local trains to enable passengers to start and finish their rail journeys as conveniently and comfortably as possible.
- Service levels on the existing West Coast Main Line are kept at a good frequency between centres of population not served by HSR in order to maintain connectivity.
- Fares are priced reasonably.

**ENDS**

#### **Notes:**

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

***Further information – contact John Moorhouse on 07807 768124***