

Statement

For immediate release



19th May 2010

David Russ, Managing Director of South Wales Chamber, said: “The debate about high speed rail has progressed rapidly, yet almost all proposals so far have failed to include Wales.

“High speed rail to Cardiff has the potential to reduce journey times from London to the Welsh capital dramatically. In 1977, the journey from Cardiff to London by Intercity 125 took one hour and 45 minutes while in 1990 the trip between Bristol Temple Meads and London took one hour and 24 minutes (this journey time also existed in the late 1970’s). Over 30 years later, the same journeys made by the same locomotives take around 20 minutes longer.

“High speed rail offers significant advantages over conventional rail. Larger trains travelling on high speed lines provide up to 50% higher seating capacity than on a conventional inter-city train, and quicker journey times will allow increased frequencies while increasing the throughput of passengers.

“Transport links to the rest of the UK and to Continental Europe are crucial to the economic prosperity of the area - the economic benefit would be a staggering £2.2 billion, which Wales would benefit greatly from given the current economic climate.”

Ends

Notes for editors

For more press information please contact Laurian Corner at South Wales Chamber on 01633 242715 or laurian.corner@southwaleschamber.co.uk