

SYPTE welcomes High Speed Rail announcement

South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYPTE) welcomes the Department for Transport's (DfT) announcement for the new High Speed Rail (HSR) network to serve the Sheffield City Region.

DfT confirmed that a station will be built just off the M1 motorway (junction 34), near Meadowhall, as part of the second phase of HSR. Services to the Sheffield City Region (SCR) are due to commence in 2033, but the hard work begins now to make sure that everything is up and ready.

The first and second phases connect the SCR to London, Birmingham and the West Midlands, the East Midlands, and Leeds. Sheffield City Region covers South Yorkshire and parts of north Derbyshire and north Nottinghamshire, including Worksop, Chesterfield and Retford.

The city region's high speed station will bring significant benefits to the region's economy. Research carried out on behalf of SYPTE and Metro (West Yorkshire PTE) showed that High Speed Rail services in Yorkshire would generate an estimated £2.3 billion of local economic benefits on top of the predicted £60 billion of national transport benefits.

By linking the Leeds City Region, the Sheffield City Region and the East Midlands, HSR would connect an area of 6.7 million people and 3 million jobs.

Journeys from Sheffield to London will also be reduced from 2hrs 7mins to 1hr 15mins.

Whilst quicker journey times will bring the capital and the Midlands nearer, opening up new markets and business and job opportunities, the capacity on existing rail lines that HSR will free up is also hugely important to accommodate the growing rail demand in the Sheffield City Region.

Although it will be some time before HSR services begin operations to Sheffield City Region, the benefits could be felt well before then as businesses grow and relocate to station locations along the route.

The M1 location is expected to give a huge boost to the surrounding area, as well as across wider South Yorkshire.

Cllr Mick Jameson, Chair of South Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority said: “This announcement is the result of a lot of hard work by people across the Sheffield City Region and beyond and is hugely important for our future economic competitiveness.

“The M1 location is already served by bus, Supertram and local rail services. It will help to spread the benefits of HSR throughout the region, using the transport links which have ready access to much of South Yorkshire. It will offer much improved connections to London and the other cities in the Midlands and North. It will also open up many new possibilities for new services to places not currently served when capacity is freed up on the existing network.”

For more information visit syltp.org.uk/hs2

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NOTES TO EDITORS

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Alternatively, more information is available via:

- The Department for Transport (DfT): gov.uk/dft
- The dedicated High Speed Rail public enquiries line: **020 7944 4908**
- HS2 Ltd: hs2.org.uk

HS2 Ltd is a company wholly owned by DfT, established to develop plans for a new high speed rail network.

HIGH SPEED RAIL

High Speed Rail (HSR) will revolutionise travel from Sheffield City Region (SCR) to London and the surrounding areas, reducing journey times, providing new links and creating new capacity to accommodate growth in rail demand.

SYPTE supports the decision for HSR to serve the SCR, and the economic benefits it will bring. How HSR will transform SCR:

- By 2033 the SCR will be served by HSR

- The introduction of HSR services will improve the SCR economy by making the region more attractive for inward investment
- HSR will significantly reduce rail journey times to London and other core cities, including Birmingham and Leeds
- As passengers transfer to HSR, it will free up capacity on the existing rail network, reducing overcrowding and allowing the creation of new journey opportunities, catering for expected future growth
- Even with HSR, continuing passenger and rail freight growth up to 2033 will require further investment in the existing network
- In addition, these enhancements will ensure full integration of the classic network with HSR and ensure the benefits are spread to locations not directly served by HSR, such as Doncaster and Chesterfield
- Widespread electrification of the railway network will create carbon savings, reduce costs and improve reliability.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN SOUTH YORKSHIRE

- SYPTE has a unique role in planning for South Yorkshire's future transport network by identifying, developing and delivering key strategic priorities at a sub-regional and national level.
- SYPTE secures funding for South Yorkshire's key transport priorities to enable investment where the need is identified.
- SYPTE addresses customer requirements to deliver successful, efficient and value for money solutions.
- SYPTE has strong working relationships with local, sub-regional and national partners, delivering innovative and pioneering projects that test the boundaries and deliver results.
- SYPTE listens to customers to understand and respond to their needs.

SYPTE implements the decisions of South Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority (SYITA), which is made up of 12 elected councillors from Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield.

SYITA and SYPTE are members of the Travel South Yorkshire partnership. The aim of the partnership is to bring public transport together, encourage more people to use it, make it easier to understand and deliver new, innovative public transport products and services. All the transport operators in the county are also members of the Travel South Yorkshire partnership. For more information visit travelsouthyorkshire.com

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