



The Railway Forum

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Press Release

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For immediate use

RAILWAY FORUM WELCOMES CONSERVATIVE RAIL PLANS

The Railway Forum has warmly welcomed the Conservative plans for the rail industry as outlined by Chris Grayling today.

Paul Martin, the Forum's Director General said: " We have been very impressed with way in which the Shadow Transport team has engaged with the rail industry in formulating its rail strategy. The Conservative commitment to tackle overcrowding and plan to meet future capacity needs is precisely what the industry needs if it is to provide a quality service to passengers over the next ten years. That investment is also essential if the UK economy is to continue to grow and prosper."

He continued: "The Forum particularly welcomes the Conservative strong support for a full feasibility study of a dedicated high speed rail line. We see such a line as being vital, both to free-up capacity on existing lines and to help spread economic growth beyond the south East into the Midland, North and Scotland.

The current Government will have the opportunity to spell out its plans for the railways with the publication in the summer of its long term rail strategy, together with the High Level Output Statement and Statement of Funds Available. The challenge then is for the Government to demonstrate its commitment to the future of what is the fastest growing railway in Europe.

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Note to Editors:

The Railway Forum is an industry wide body sponsored by the majority of the train operating companies as well as Network Rail, all three major rolling stock leasing companies, the Passenger Transport Executives, Transport for London, most of the infrastructure companies and many manufacturing and other businesses serving the UK rail industry. In all we have over 50 members. Our key role is to act as a think tank, information exchange and point of contact for those committed to and interested in our industry. For more details visit www.railwayforum.com

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