Better journey times, good value and improving the economy –
Midland Main Line Upgrade & Electrification will deliver great benefits

These are the main conclusions of a report published today by East Midlands Councils and the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive,- “The Case for Upgrading and Electrifying the Midland Main Line”. The report, produced by consulting engineers Arup, makes a compelling case for electrifying and upgrading the Midland Main Line (MML). The report will be discussed today at an event in Westminster by a group of MPs, local politicians and business representatives.

Faster journey times with more and longer trains will significantly improve the economic performance of a number of important towns and cities along the route, including Nottingham, Derby, Leicester, Sheffield and Northamptonshire. The project also offers good value for money, and would help deal with population growth and support regeneration.

The scheme would be delivered by 2020.

Councillor David Parsons, Chair of East Midlands Councils said “Along with our colleagues in the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive, East Midlands Councils welcomes this report that completely justifies the investment and improvement in the Midland Main Line. Local government in the East Midlands is behind it, local businesses are behind it and I hope that Westminster and the Department for Transport will also put their weight behind this vital project.”

Simon Carr of the Sheffield City Region Local Enterprise Partnership said “Upgrading and electrifying the Midland Mainline is essential in connecting the Sheffield City Region to London and the East Midlands. It is a project long overdue – more money has been spent on improving car parks on the West Coast Main Line in the past five years than on the whole of the Midland Main Line, and it is time to redress that balance. The report we are launching today shows benefits to our local economies of over £450m as well as reducing carbon and reducing the cost of the railways. We urge ministers to commit to this critical scheme as a priority for investment. ”

The report highlights six main benefits of electrifying and upgrading the Midland Main Line:

- Improving Journey Times, Capacity and Reliability
- Providing Good Value for Money
- Generating Significant Economic Benefits, Helping to Rebalance the Economy
- Supporting Future Population Growth and Regeneration
- Reducing CO₂ Emissions
- First Step towards an Improved Strategic Network

The full report will be available on http://www.emcouncils.gov.uk/write/Case-for-Upgrading-Electrifying-Midland-Main-Line251111.pdf from November 29th

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Editors notes follow
1. The report’s six points in full:

**Improving Journey Times, Capacity and Reliability**
Upgrade and electrification of the MML could reduce journey times by 13-14 minutes between London and Sheffield. Electric trains will improve service reliability and increase train and line capacity.

**Providing Good Value for Money**
The scheme package represents very good value for money, with savings in operating costs and increased passenger revenues greatly exceeding the costs of investment over a standard 60-year appraisal period. Electrification reduces significantly the costs of rolling stock, fuel or power, and track access and maintenance costs. Over time it will lead to a lower cost railway, in line with the aims of the McNulty Review.

**Generating Significant Economic Benefits, Helping to Rebalance the Economy**
The MML connects four of the largest cities in England to London and each other. Reducing journey times between these cities will help businesses access markets, and improve the effectiveness of labour markets. In addition to the standard transport benefits stemming from the journey time savings for passengers, the proposals would generate significant wider economic impacts in terms of higher productivity of business, valued at more than £450m over the appraisal period.

**Supporting Future Population Growth and Regeneration**
The MML runs through four of the largest cities in England. There has been significant population growth in recent years in these places. The population of these cities is forecast to increase by around 265,000 people between 2010 and 2030. Improvements on the MML will help ensure new housing provision is more sustainable, and will facilitate regeneration in the areas surrounding the main stations.

**Reducing CO₂ Emissions**
The use of electric trains on the route would reduce carbon emissions by more than 40% from current levels. Longer distance electric trains between London and Sheffield/Nottingham would save over 43,300 tonnes of CO₂ per annum (11,800 tonnes of carbon). Electrification of regional services north of Sheffield will save up to 4,700 tonnes of CO₂ per annum.

**First Step towards an Improved Strategic Network**
The scheme package has been identified in the Network Rail Initial Industry Plan, which outlines its proposed investment plans between 2014 and 2019. Its implementation will provide the first step towards creating a modern, efficient inter-urban rail system for the East Midlands and Sheffield City Region. It is an essential pre-requisite to creating an integrated fast long distance rail system, which over the longer term will include High Speed 2.

If you would like to attend the launch event in London event please contact Pam Horner MBE Tel 0114 2211452 E mail pam.horner@sypte.co.uk

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