

Ten 2M Tests for High Speed Rail

These tests address the Government's key transport objectives of economic benefit, environment, safety, accessibility and integration. They provide a simple check list for any High Speed Rail proposal.

By publishing the tests, the 2M Group hopes to promote a debate on the fundamental question: What do we want High Speed Rail for?

1. The big-city test

How many major cities (300,000 plus) does the core route serve?

2. The city centre hub test

How many city centre hubs does the core route serve?

3. The short haul flights test

How many domestic and near-Europe flights could be replaced?

4. The cost test

How much does the core route cost?

5. The value for money test

How many communities are connected for minimised length of new construction?

6. The environmental impact test

How many communities/areas of countryside would be adversely affected by new construction?

7. The Heathrow test

How many regional communities would gain effective links to Heathrow?

8. The network test

How many existing main line corridors would be enhanced through reduced congestion and increased journey opportunities?

9. The regional impact test

How would the route improve links between Northern communities to east and west of the Pennines?

10. The European test

How many communities could be connected to the European high-speed network?