



People have strong views for and against the plans

BUSINESSES

Electrification will counter any HS2 impact

Businesses in the region are bullish about HS2.

Wellingborough Chamber of Trade president James Wilson said: "The HS2 rail link will bring London closer to the Midlands but as the nearest station to us is outside the county, we're unlikely to see a real benefit.

"However, what we are excited about is the electrification of the Midland Mainline, which will make the journeys

between London and Wellingborough quicker and more efficient.

"The ability to get to the capital in less than an hour at present is already an economic advantage, this journey time is likely to reduce and it will increase Wellingborough's attractiveness as a business location."

Simon Toseland, director of commercial property agents Prop-Search, which

has offices in Wellingborough and Northampton, agreed and said: "The success or failure of the HS2 project is unlikely to directly impact Wellingborough, as it is already destined to reap the undoubted benefits of the electrification of the existing line to St Pancras International Station."

Lord John Gorell, of Gorell Barnes chartered surveyors of Great Addington, said: "While it is important that we make

sure the north benefits from the south's prosperity, HS2 seems an unquantifiable solution. From north Northants' perspective, we must have our mainline rail upgraded to give access to London from home door to office door within the hour. That way we will get a large civil service department to relocate here.

"Work is ongoing in that respect and we hope to attract such an employer here."