

Railwatch

AN INDEPENDENT VOICE FOR RAIL USERS

No 96

August 2003

£1.20



Rail city 2007

This is the enormous development which is expected to grow up around the Channel Tunnel high-speed rail link station at Stratford in east London.

It will show how powerful rail is as a factor for regeneration, just as it has been in Lille, northern France.

Major work is already under way on the line which cuts across the picture above and which is expected to open in 2007 with international stations at Ebbsfleet and St Pancras.

The River Thames is at the top of the picture with the Dome in the centre.

An agreement was signed in April between developers Chelsfield, Stanhope and London & Continental Railways and an outline planning application has been made to Newham Council. The developers promise a city centre with buildings and public space of high quality and good design.

There will be 4,500 homes, with 30% affordable housing, including starter homes, shared ownership, and homes for key workers. There will also be shops, hotels, schools, offices, playing fields and open spaces. The development is expected to generate

33,000 jobs. Pedestrians and cyclists will be favoured in the development and there will be a new ticket hall for the domestic Stratford station, north side of the tracks and nearer the international station. Both rail campaigners and local people concerned with their environment will have to ensure roads do not dominate the site and car parking is kept to a minimum.

Stratford City could be an example to the rest of the world of integrated transport planning. It must not be allowed to become another road traffic nightmare.

Picture: Chelsfield