

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET – 19 SEPTEMBER 2017

Title of report	RESPONSE TO HS2 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT CONSULTATION
Key Decision	a) Financial No b) Community Yes
Contacts	<p>Councillor Trevor Pendleton 01509 569746 trevor.pendleton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Chief Executive 01530 454500 bev.smith@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Head of Planning and Regeneration 01530 454782 jim.newton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p>
Purpose of report	To review the position concerning HS2 Phase 2b, specifically responding to the consultation about the Environmental Impact Assessment Scope and Methodology, and the DfT consultation about the East Midlands Trains Franchise. To consider suggested responses to each, which appear at Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 respectively.
Reason for Decision	To provide officers with authority to respond to the technical consultations concerning the HS2 Phase 2b Environmental Impact Assessment Scope and Methodology (Appendix 1) and the East Midlands Trains Franchise Consultation (Appendix 2).
Council Priorities	Business and Jobs Homes and Communities
<p>Implications:</p> <p>Financial/Staff</p> <p>Link to relevant CAT</p> <p>Risk Management</p> <p>Equalities Impact Screening</p>	<p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>None undertaken. HS2 has to undertake its own Equalities Impact Assessment.</p>

Human Rights	No implications
Transformational Government	N/A
Comments of Head of Paid Service	Report is satisfactory
Comments of Section 151 Officer	Report is satisfactory
Comments of Monitoring Officer	Report is satisfactory
Consultees	None
Background papers	HS2 Phase 2b Environmental Impact Assessment Scope and Methodology Consultation HS2 Phase 2b Equality Impact Assessment Scope and Methodology Consultation East Midlands Rail Franchise Public Consultation Report to Council concerning HS2 dated 23 February 2017
Recommendations	<p>IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT CABINET:</p> <p>1) ENDORSES THE SUGGESTED RESPONSE TO THE HS2 PHASE 2B ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY CONSULTATION AT APPENDIX 1; AND</p> <p>2) ENDORSES THE SUGGESTED RESPONSE TO THE EAST MIDLANDS RAIL FRANCHISE CONSULTATION AT APPENDIX 2</p>

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Government has published a number of rail-related consultation documents, which relate to HS2. The suggested responses to the consultations at **Appendix 1** (HS2 Phase 2b Environmental Impact Assessment Scope and Methodology Consultation) and **Appendix 2** (East Midlands Rail Franchise Consultation) have been prepared by the expert consultants, SLC Rail, which has been engaged by the Council to provide it with advice about HS2. At this stage, the consultation is about how HS2 will assess the environmental and equalities impacts of the railway, and not those impacts themselves.

Once HS2 has considered all of the consultation responses it receives, it will then finalise the scope and then assess the impacts.

- 1.2 The EIA consultation sets out the assumptions used, as well as the factors that the railway will be assessed against. It is important that this is robust and comprehensive, because omissions may skew the findings when the assessment is undertaken. The Council and other consultees are asked for our input into the scope and methodology, to ensure such robustness and comprehensiveness. The suggested response to this appears at **Appendix 1**. The deadline for responses to be made is 29 September.
- 1.3 The consultation concerning the East Midlands Rail Franchise is linked to the HS2 railway, not least because the proposed electrification of the Midland Mainline has been paused. The suggested response at **Appendix 2** sets out the importance of services to East Midlands Parkway, and also argues for the preservation of the 60-minute Leicester-London service and no adverse effects to conventional rail services after the arrival of HS2. The deadline for responses to be made is 11th October.

2.0 ENGAGEMENT UNDERTAKEN WITH AFFECTED RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES

- 2.1 We have had some useful meetings with HS2 Ltd and these are scheduled to continue on a regular basis; they are keen to maintain contact with stakeholders and we will ensure that we use this opportunity to get the best possible value for the District.
- 2.2 HS2 announced its confirmed route during July and has reverted to a variant of the 2013 route. This has been published on its [website](#) and detailed maps are now available. Whilst the final alignment will be seen as an improvement for many of those who expressed a strong view about the November 2016 route, it remains the case that there are a considerable number of residents and businesses, particularly in the area west of Measham who are now affected, some of whom had previously felt relief that the November 2016 route alignment no longer affected them directly. HS2 has stated that it has contacted everyone who:
 - Is no longer in the Safeguarding Area and will not be directly affected by the course of the railway; or
 - Is now in the new Safeguarding Area following the route amendment
- 2.3 HS2 is offering 1:1 meetings for all those directly affected, and it is important that residents and businesses are encouraged to take up this offer so that they are fully aware of how they will be affected and how the compensation scheme will work.

3.0 RECENT PROGRESS

- 3.1 It is worth noting that although the route has been published, there is still some possibility of minor changes to it within the envelope of land that has been identified. Major construction contracts have also been awarded, but there will be no “shovels in the ground” until after the Hybrid Bill has passed through all of its stages in Parliament. However, there are now some extensive preparatory works to be carried out during the rest of 2017 and into 2018.