

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET – TUESDAY, 11 DECEMBER 2018**

Title of report	<b>RESPONSE OF NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL TO THE CONSULTATION IN RESPECT OF THE HS2 PHASE 2B WORKING DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT</b>
Key Decision	a) Financial No b) Community Yes
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Purpose of report	This report seeks Cabinet approval for arrangements to respond to the current and future consultation by HS2 Limited on the proposed route.
Reason for decision	Consultation on the working draft environmental statement and equality impact assessment report from HS2 Limited provides the Council with an opportunity to seek to further mitigate the effects of the proposals and to maximise the benefits to the district.
Council priorities	Homes and Communities Businesses and jobs Green Footprints
Implications:	
Financial/Staff	None
Link to relevant CAT	None
Risk Management	None
Equalities Impact Screening	HS2 Limited's working draft of their equality impacts assessment report is a part of the consultation documents.

Human Rights	None
Transformational Government	None
Comments of Deputy Head of Paid Service	Report is satisfactory
Comments of Section 151 Officer	Report is satisfactory
Comments of Monitoring Officer	Report is satisfactory
Consultees	The Council is encouraging all stakeholders to respond direct to HS2 Limited in writing. Any comments made to the Council will be taken into consideration during the formation of the Council's response to the consultation.
Background papers	<a href="#">HS2 Phase 2b Draft Environmental Impact Assessment</a> <a href="#">HS2 Phase 2b Draft Equality Impact Assessment</a>
Recommendations	<p><b>IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT CABINET:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. NOTE THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS PRODUCED BY HS2 LIMITED IN RESPECT OF THE PROPOSED HS2 ROUTE AND THE DEADLINE OF 21 DECEMBER 2018 FOR THE RESPONSE</b></li> <li><b>2. NOTE THE COMMENTS MADE BY THE POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2018</b></li> <li><b>3. DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF PLACE IN CONSULTATION WITH THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR BUSINESS TO APPROVE THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE CURRENT AND FUTURE CONSULTATION ON HS2 PROPOSALS</b></li> </ol>

## 1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 HS2 Ltd have released a large amount of details and drawings showing the proposed HS2 route through North West Leicestershire near to the A42 and its temporary and permanent implications. These implications are very varied in type, as shown below, and size. They include areas of responsibility both for the Council and for Leicestershire County Council (LCC) and will also impact on many partners, residents and businesses. An initial assessment of the impacts of the proposals compiled by a consultant from SLC Rail (instructed by the Council) is attached (Appendix 1).

Categories of impacts:

- Demolition of homes
- Demolition of businesses, substations, masts etc.
- Road disruption
- Footpath disruption/diversion
- Agriculture, forestry and soil
- Air quality
- Community facilities
- Ecology and biodiversity
- Health
- Community cohesion (impacts of temporary workers, severance of transport routes, conflicting priorities)
- Socio-economic effects
- Listed buildings and gardens
- Archaeology
- Landscape and visual effects
- Land quality (including mining and landfill)
- Sound, noise and vibration
- Water pollution
- Flood risk

1.2 HS2 Ltd commenced consultation on 11 October and this closes on 21 December. The current drawings are considered by HS2 Ltd to be a working draft and consultation at this stage is not a legal requirement. Further refinement is therefore expected taking into account comments received, followed by formal consultation as part of the Hybrid Bill being submitted to Parliament in 2020 with the aim of obtaining Royal Assent in 2023. Work would commence soon after with the line from Birmingham to Leeds becoming operational in 2033. Work in the district is likely to last around 5 years. The Council will therefore be able to influence HS2 Ltd.'s proposals up to 2023 but once the Hybrid Bill is approved then HS2 Ltd can implement it without any further approvals unless additional work is needed.

1.3. There are also opportunities for benefits from the proposals:

- Transport – the HS2 station at Toton is planned by the East Midlands HS2 Strategic Board to become a transport hub for the sub-region and this provides opportunities for improved links to the airport and potentially much of North West Leicestershire,
- Depots – subject to planning and land owners' agreement, temporary depots constructed by HS2 could be developed afterwards for other purposes.
- Temporary housing – houses bought by HS2 to provide compensation to the owners could be used as temporary accommodation.
- Skills – construction of HS2 requires a skilled workforce and HS2 Ltd have committed to substantial training.
- Supply chain – such a large project provides substantial commercial opportunities especially construction and engineering in this case.

## **2.0 CONSULTATION**

- 2.1. Currently the consultant from SLC Rail provides support to the Chief Executive, other officers and to Parish Councils, and attends, where requested, Town and Parish Council meetings. Most Parish Councils are now engaged in the consultation and there have recently been two public consultation sessions arranged by HS2 Ltd in Measham and Kegworth.
- 2.2 An internal group comprising of officers from many services is coordinating with LCC's Planning and Infrastructure Manager and the consultant from SLC Rail to compile the Council's response to the consultation. It is proposed that authority should be delegated to the Strategic Director of Place in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Business to approve the finalised response to this consultation.
- 2.3 Joint working with LCC to provide a coordinated approach is therefore expected to result in benefits both in terms of efficiency and effectiveness. Experience of councils along the first phase of HS2 shows that it is possible to achieve substantial additional mitigation by engaging with HS2 Limited throughout the process and liaison meetings are being held for this purpose.
- 2.4 The East Midlands HS2 Strategic Board has also set up a mitigation board where the Council is represented in order to input into the response from the partnership. Being represented as well as on the Strategic Board itself enables the Council to seek the maximum benefits from HS2.
- 2.5 A Council motion was approved in November 2017 which agreed that the Council would review its support for HS2 so a further report will be submitted to Council in February 2019.
- 2.6 A report was submitted to PDG on 19 September and resulted in the comments attached from members (Appendix 2). It should be noted that these comments were made before the current consultation documents were made available by HS2 Ltd. The comments are not affected by the relatively small changes made by HS2 Ltd to their proposals and the comments will be submitted in the report to Council in February. It should also be noted that the Secretary of State is currently considering whether or not to ask HS2 Ltd to look further at the proposal by Measham Land for an alternative route near Measham - this is not part of the current consultation.