

# Report to the Economic Development and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2014

HS2- Phase 2



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## Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with a brief update of developments with respect to HS2 Phase 2

## Background

As members may recall a Working Group of the Committee was set up in 2013 with the purpose of assisting the Borough Council determine its position with respect to proposals that were being developed for Phase 2 of HS2. Council at its meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> November received a report from the Chairman of the Working Group and resolved

- That the Council should work with the relevant parties to ensure that the environmental impact is kept to a minimum. Wherever possible land should be restored to its original condition after the completion of construction
- That the Council should work with the relevant parties to ensure that compensation is full and fair with particular reference to those who live outside the area where compensation is automatic and those who are owners of agricultural land
- That the Council should work with Network Rail to ensure that the provision of train services to London from Stoke are as frequent as possible. Also that quality commuter services are initiated at the earliest possible opportunity
- That the Council should continue to seek opportunities to enhance the development of business and employment that may arise from the rail network

In response to the Government's Route Consultation that closed on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2014 the Borough Council submitted a joint response with Staffordshire County Council and Lichfield District Council.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2014 at a meeting attended by Leaders and Chief Executives of all Staffordshire Authorities the Leader of the City Council gave a briefing on the alternative proposal for the HS2 route which had been developed by his Council.

At its meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2014 Cabinet resolved that the HS2 Working Party meet with representatives of the City Council to receive details of the City Council's proposals and

to give full consideration to the possible implications of this alternative proposal for the Borough and to then report back to Cabinet

The Working Party met on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2014 and 24<sup>th</sup> February 2014 and a list of comments and concerns was prepared to be reported back to Cabinet, which were considered by the Economic Development & Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2014. The Committee resolved to cautiously welcome the work being carried out by Stoke on Trent City Council and continue to monitor and consult with them on a regular basis

No report has yet gone back to Cabinet on this matter.

No further contact has been received since February from the City Council regarding any further work that they may have done to develop their proposal.

With respect to the route consultation HS2 Ltd will be receiving a summary of the different issues the consultation responses contained which they will then use to look at any possible changes to the proposed route before making recommendations to the Secretary of State for Transport. They advise that to ensure that the consultation process is fair they are limited in what they can discuss until responses have been considered and decisions have been announced. A final route for phase 2 is expected to be announced by the end of 2014.

### **Questions to be Addressed**

The Committee may wish to consider whether it wishes the Working Group to undertake any further work at this stage

**Relevant Portfolio Holder(s)** Councillor John Williams (Planning & Assets) and Councillor Terry Turner (Economic Regeneration, Business and Town Centres)

### **Background Materials**

Previous resolutions of Cabinet and Council

Joint Consultation response to HS2 Phase 2 Route Consultation

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