

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**5<sup>TH</sup> February 2014**

**HS2 Phase 2**

Submitted by: Executive Director, Regeneration and Development

Portfolio: Primarily Economic Regeneration, Business and Town Centres (High Speed Rail)  
and;  
Planning and Assets (Strategic Transport)

Ward(s) Affected: All

**Purpose of the Report**

**To advise Cabinet of a letter sent by the Leader of the Council to the Leader of Stoke-on-Trent City Council concerning the City Council's response the Government's High Speed 2 Route Alignment (Phase 2).**

**Recommendation**

- a) That the actions taken be noted.**
- b) That the HS2 Working Party be asked to 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 Council.**

**Reasons**

**To bring Cabinet up to date with the decision taken by the Leader of the Council, in consultation with the Leaders of both opposition parties, to submit a letter of in-principle support to the City Council, and to agree the next step.**

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 At its Council meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2014 the City Council agreed to support the principle of promoting a Central HS2 Hub station in Stoke-on-Trent which would incorporate the upgrading of the West Coast Main Line (WMCL) from Stoke-on-Trent to Manchester.
- 1.2 At a meeting attended by Leaders and Chief Executives of all Staffordshire Local Authorities held on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2014, 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 the conclusion of the presentation he asked that each Council present submit a letter of support in principle that could be included within the submission that was to be made by the City

Council by 5pm on the 31<sup>st</sup> January – the deadline for comments on the government consultation.

- 1.3 The Leader, having briefed the leaders of both opposition groups, submitted the letter attached at Appendix 1 to this report indicating that there are a number of details of the proposal which the Borough Council would wish to consider at greater length, however, on the basis that the proposal by the City Council would give significant economic benefit to North Staffordshire, the proposal is certainly something that the Borough Council would wish to support in principle.
- 1.4 This Council's Economic Development and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee established an HS2 Working Group that submitted its recommendations to a meeting of the Full Council on the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2013. As indicated in the attached letter it would be appropriate to ask the Working Group to reassemble and to meet with representatives of the City Council to consider in greater depth the possible implications of this alternative proposal for the Borough and to then report back to Council.
- 1.5 For completeness and in accordance with the Council resolutions made on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2013, members are advised that officers took the necessary steps, in consultation with the Chair of the Economic Development and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to submit a joint representation to Government as set out in the document referred to at Appendix 2.

## **2. Legal and Statutory implications**

- 2.1 There are none at this stage – HS2 Phase 2 being not yet at the Hybrid Bill Stage.

## **3. Equality Impact Assessment**

- 3.1 There are no such considerations arising directly from the matters addressed in this report.

## **4. Financial and Resource Implications**

- 4.1 At this stage it is matter of seeking further information from the City Council so there are no such considerations directly although their proposals for HS2 would have a substantial economic impact upon the Borough.

## **5. Major Risks**

- 5.1 There are none at this stage.

## **6. Previous decisions/reports**

- 6.1 Reports to Cabinet July 2011 and July 2012

## **7. Background Papers**

- 7.1 Report to Stoke on Trent City Council at its meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

## **8. Appendices**

Classification: NULBC **PROTECT** Organisational

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Copy of letter from Council Leader to the City Council dated – January 2014.
- 8.2 Appendix 2 – Copy of joint response to HS2 Ltd from Staffordshire County Council, Lichfield District Council and Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council (available in the Members' Room or via e-mail on request).

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