

**DRAFT MINUTE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 11 OCTOBER 2018**

HS2 Mitigation

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Environment and Transport concerning HS2 Mitigation. A copy of the report, marked "Agenda Item 9" is filed with these minutes.

It was noted that as of 11th October the Government had published the Working Draft Environmental Statement for consultation on HS2 Phase 2b. The consultation would close on 21st December.

Members noted the comments that had been tabled by Local Member Mr Sheahan CC and supported his suggestion that the Director of Environment and Transport should engage with the relevant Local Members when responding to any consultation by HS2.

Arising from the discussion was as follows:

- i) The impacts on the County will not just be restricted to transport. In 2023, construction would begin and could take up to eight years. This would have implications for departments such as public health, education and social services.
- ii) Option 3 was recognised as a high cost. Experience from other councils had shown that investment was necessary to both minimise the impact and get the financial support for mitigation measures for the communities affected. In Buckinghamshire and Warwickshire, the councils had been successful in obtaining approximately £1 million per kilometre of rail to support mitigation.
- iii) Route 4, an alternative proposal through Measham, which would avoid Ashby Canal was with the Secretary of State for decision. The Working Draft Environmental Statement which is out for consultation concerns the preferred route and does not include this alternative route.
- iv) Warwickshire's team had been in place for around seven years. Over that time the focus had changed depending on the phase. The County Council would employ staff on a permanent basis.
- v) Some Members were sceptical over whether HS2 would go ahead. Officers advised that the Department for Transport and HS2 were working on the basis that the project would go ahead but if that were to change the County Council would review its current approach.

RESOLVED

- a) That the comments of the Committee be forwarded to the Cabinet for consideration at its meeting on 16 October 2018, and that
- b) That the Committee recommends, that part 2(e) be amended to read as follows:

The Director of Environment and Transport, following consultation with the Lead Member for Environment and Transport and subject to engagement with the relevant local members, be authorised to respond on behalf of the Council to HS2 requests and consultations.