



Report to the Environment, Transport and Locality Services Select Committee

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| Title: | High Speed 2 Update |
| Committee date: | 24th July 2013 |
| Author: | Marcus Rogers |
| Electoral divisions affected: | All |

Purpose of Agenda Item – For Information

At the request of the Chairman, this is a report to provide the Committee with an information update on High Speed 2.

Background

High Speed 2 is a major challenge to Buckinghamshire's environment, communities and residents. If built, it will do significant and irreversible damage to the Green Belt, the nationally designated Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and much of Aylesbury Vale. It is planned to bisect Buckinghamshire for approximately 60 km (about a third of the total route between London and Birmingham). Trains are planned to be 400 m long and will carry 1100 passengers. Initially in 2026, 11 trains will run every hour in each direction rising to 18 trains per hour after 2032. The design speed of the line is 400 kph (250 mph).

Were the business case robust, had all alternatives been examined and found inadequate and had the project formed part of a clear integrated Transport Strategy, the County Council might have grudgingly accepted the project but this is not the case. It is very poor value for taxpayers' money and far better alternatives exist. The County Council has therefore maintained its principled opposition to the scheme, and is working and sharing resources with 18 other local authorities in an alliance known as 51m.



Legal action

51m and others, including the HS2 Action Alliance (HS2AA), brought claims against HS2 in a Judicial Review which was heard in the High Court by Justice Ouseley during December 2012.

The judgment, which was handed down on 15 March, rejected 9 of the 10 grounds of the claim. The judge did uphold the claim that the Government's consultation on compensation was unfair because of lack of information so the Government will consult again on this. 51m and HS2AA further appealed on 6 grounds and the appeal hearings began on 10 June, with a final ruling anticipated by the end of July 2013.

Development of Bucks Blueprint

Throughout the development of the project the Council has always stated that should the project go ahead it is critical to secure the best possible outcome for Buckinghamshire residents. The Council has therefore sought to work with HS2 Ltd to secure the very best mitigation, and has worked in partnership with a wide range of environmental and countryside organisations to propose and describe what is believed to be the expected acceptable standard of mitigation required for the scheme.

This is set out in the Buckinghamshire Mitigation Blueprint for HS2, which covers more than just immediate screening. It involves specifying landscape value, heritage sites, roads, rights of way, noise standards, tree planting schemes, new local green infrastructure, new tunnelling, viaducts and much more, including the endowments necessary to maintain the mitigation into the future.

Draft Environmental Statement (ES) Consultation

The Draft Environmental Statement (ES) consultation was launched on 16 May and ran for 8 weeks until 11 July. All five Buckinghamshire Councils sent a combined response. Three events were held across the county to help people with their responses and provide them with information. These were well received. A letter was sent to the Secretary of State to register disappointment with the consultation process, where some libraries received late or incorrect material, wrong newspaper adverts were posted for road shows, very late notice of road shows was given and some individuals had to call several times before receiving material. There was a significant amount of material but no real information to challenge, no baseline and too many assumptions. There will be a further opportunity to submit comments on the formal ES when the Hybrid Bill is deposited in November / December 2013.

Construction is a major issue for residents and the ES will also include an overall set of construction standards in the Code of Construction Practice (CoCP). After the Hybrid Bill is



deposited, local issues will be addressed in Local Environment Management Plans (LEMPs).

Spending Review

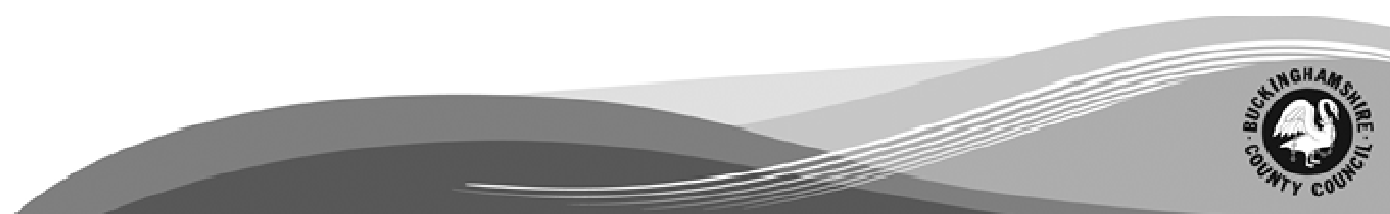
The 'official' price tag for HS2 has recently grown by about a third (£10 billion) to £42.6 billion. These costs are 2011 prices and exclude rolling stock (estimated at £7.5 billion). At 2013 prices, the total is around £53 billion, and if the business case was recalibrated it would barely come up with a benefit cost ratio of 1:1.

Next Steps

Over the past 12 months, HS2 Ltd has been engaging with communities through 8 community forum areas in Buckinghamshire. These had been meeting every two months but HS2 Ltd has now suspended these until late summer.

At some point there will be a further consultation on compensation (date unknown) which is likely to cover phase 1 (London-Birmingham) and phase 2 (Birmingham to Leeds and Manchester).

The next milestone will then be the deposit of the Phase 1 Hybrid Bill at the end of 2013, as per the Queen's speech on 8 May, with a view to achieving Royal Assent by 2015. Detailed design work will follow and construction is planned to begin during 2017.



Environment, Transport and Locality Select Committee Draft Work Programme 2013-2014

| Committee | Date | Topic | Description and Purpose | Attendees |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Environment, Transport and Locality Services | 24 July 2013 | TfB – Ringway Jacobs Contract | For members to receive an update from the October 2012 progress report received by the OSCC and to receive a briefing on the Ringway Jacobs contract in order to examine contract management, contract extensions, quality of works, and performance (KPI's). | Sean Rooney Karen Agbabiaka Jon Collett Steven Walford |
| | 24 July 2013 | Committee Item proposal – problem debt | For members to consider an committee item proposal to examine the extent of and solutions to problem debt in Buckinghamshire. | N/A – written Scoping document |
| | 24 July 2013 | Committee Item Proposal – Bus Usage and Public Transport in Bucks | For members to consider an information paper on bus services and transport connections and networks in Bucks including future pressures (in particularly bus usage and road and rail development & networks). Member to consider a committee item proposal to examine bus usage and transport options in Bucks. | N/A – written proposal. |

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| Committee | Date | Topic | Description and Purpose | Attendees |
|-----------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | 24 July 2013 | Environment – overview and current policy developments. | <p>For members to receive and briefing for information on the environment portfolio and for members to receive a briefing on the changes to the council’s policies on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Household waste and recycling sites and to have the opportunity to consider the options and be involved in the development of the future policy. • Members will also be briefed on the council’s policy and enforcement activity on fly tipping, as an area that may generate concern or questions with changes to waste and recycling site policies. • Green Spaces and Country Parks • Future proofing services – climate change and impacts on services such as roads. | <p>Gill Harding</p> <p>Gurbaksh Badhan</p> <p>Steven Walford</p> <p>Gill Harding</p> <p>David Sutherland</p> |
| | 24 th July 2013 | High Speed 2 | For Members to receive a written update on HS2 following Judicial review in June. | Written update from Marcus Rogers |

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|-----------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| | 25 September 2013 | The role of local authority trading standards in influencing national responses, issues and policy. | <p>For members to receive a briefing on the role trading standards plays in influencing national responses, issues and policy, using recent national incidents as examples, including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the recent national food scandal and the work of trading standards, the local impact and response. Updates from national reviews/inquiries e.g. Food Standards Agency and issues arising. – food law enforcement service plan. • Fireplace incidents. Links with community safety and community champion scheme (door step crime and financial scams). | Phil Dart Amanda Poole |
| | 25 September 2013 | <i>Crime / ASB topic</i> | For members to examine potential implications of proposed changes to Anti-Social Behaviour law and the steps that are proposed to ensure the Crime and Disorder Partnerships are prepared for the changes. | Martha Edwards (tbc) and/or written report |
| | 25 September 2013 | <p>Problem debt – progress update and /or</p> <p>Bus usage- Public Transport</p> | <p>For members to receive and update on the evidence gathered and findings of the committee item into problem debt in Buckinghamshire.</p> <p>And/or an update/oral briefing on bus usage, future challenges and alternative transport options.</p> | N/A Andrew Clarke |

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|-----------|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | 25 September 2013 | Economic Development and Bucks Business First. | For members to receive an information paper on relationship between Bucks County Council and Bucks Business First, and the respective roles in promoting economic development within Buckinghamshire. | Written paper for information. |
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| | | Localism Strategy | For Members to examine the draft Localism Strategy and work of Community Link Officers) and to provide comment. Opportunity to Members to examine progress on agreed recommendations of the LAF scrutiny review. | Phil Dart/Rebecca Carley |
| | | Flooding | For Members to receive a briefing on the Flooding Strategy and flood resilience in Buckinghamshire. | |
| | | Aviation and Airports Review | For Members to examine options towards the Aviation and Airports Review by the Airports Commission (impact on Bucks) | |
| | | Crime and disorder partnership arrangements and annual review | For Members to examine partnership arrangements in tackling crime and disorder in Bucks in particular duplication, CSPs and any proposed changes to partnership arrangements | Susie Yapp |
| | | Fly-tipping and litter | For Members to examine fly-tipping and litter policies, including encouraging uptake to take refuse to recycling centres (work with Districts) | |

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|-----------|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| | | Energy sourcing and creation | For Members to receive a briefing on energy sourcing (fracking) in Bucks and options for renewable energy creation | |
| | | Town centre regeneration | For Member to examine any proposals / options for town centre regeneration in Bucks working with District councils | |
| | | Burglary (distraction) / Cross-border crime (impacts on vulnerable communities) | Inquiry to examine cross-border crime and burglary and options to work with partners and neighbours in particular to tackle crime on vulnerable communities | |