

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| SUBJECT: | High Speed 2 – Members Information Group – Terms of Reference |
| REPORT OF: | Ralph Bagge |
| RESPONSIBLE OFFICER | Bob Smith, Chief Executive |
| REPORT AUTHOR | Ben Robinson, brobinson@chiltern.gov.uk Imran Nawaz, Imran.nawaz@chiltern.gov.uk |
| WARD/S AFFECTED | All |

Purpose of Report

This report follows the report to Cabinet dated 25th April 2017 in which Members agreed to the approach to handling Schedule 17 submission/approvals. This included the creation of a Members Information Group to allow Officers to provide regular updates on Schedule 17 submissions and provide an opportunity for Members to ask questions.

This report sets out the Terms of Reference for the HS2 Members Information Group.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Council agree the Terms of Reference for the HS2 Members Information Group as set out in this report.
2. That the relevant Cabinet Portfolio Holder nominates and appoints the permanent Members of the MIG.

2. Schedule 17 Process

The Cabinet report dated 25th April 2017 set out the options for the Council's approach in dealing with the Schedule 17 submissions. This report acknowledged that the Council's ability to object to the HS2 proposals are limited by the grounds set out in Schedule 17. It was also noted that meeting the 8 week statutory period for Schedule 17 submissions will be challenging and there will be limited time to allow for the alteration of proposals during this process. It was therefore agreed that all decisions relating to Schedule 17 submissions would be delegated to the Head of Sustainable Development and/or Interim Development Control Manager.

Notwithstanding the above, it was also acknowledged that there is an extremely high level of public interest relating to the HS2 project and that it is important to ensure Members are kept fully informed of Schedule 17 submissions and approvals. With this, Officers put forward 3 options for member engagement in the abovementioned report, of which Option 2 was selected as the preferred option by members.

Option 2 provides an opportunity for members to be updated and informed during the process and encourages the public to approach HS2 directly with any questions/complaints. As part of this preferred Option 2, it was agreed to create a Members Information Group to allow Officers to provide regular updates on Schedule 17 submissions/approvals and to provide an opportunity for Members to ask questions of officers.

In order to progress the creation of the Members Information Group, Officers have drafted the following Terms of Reference to be agreed and adopted:

| | |
|----------|---|
| 1 | The High Speed 2 Members Information Group (MIG) will comprise of 3 permanent members with a Chairman and deputy who will Chair meetings when held at their respective authorities. Those members of the wards through which the HS2 scheme runs through will also be invited to attend the meetings and will notify the Chairman of their intention to attend and speak at the meetings. |
| 2 | The purpose of the MIG is to provide regular updates on Schedule 17 submissions/approvals and to provide an opportunity for Members to ask questions of officers. The MIG will also provide an opportunity for officers to provide updates on other HS2 matters. |
| 3 | The quorum of the MIG will be 2 members. |
| 4 | The MIG does not have any decision making powers and is set up to receive details of applications received and the approach being adopted. |
| 5 | Members of the MIG will be appointed by the respective Council's relevant Cabinet Portfolio Holder each year who will advise the Democratic Services Team of their appointments and any changes thereto, including changes made to membership during the Municipal Year. |
| 6 | The MIG will meet in the absence of the press and the public, but will be open to any elected member from CDC and SBDC to attend to observe at their respective Council. Any non-MIG Members may also speak and take part in discussions with the permission of the Chairman. |
| 7 | The MIG will meet as and when required (usually every 4-6 weeks) as far as this is reasonably practical. |
| 8 | The agenda/information sheet for meetings will be made available in advance of the meeting to MIG members at each Council by email or via Democratic Services. |
| 9 | Agenda/information sheets relating to the MIG will not be made available to the press and public unless authorised by officers in consultation with the MIG. |

The determination of members of the Group will be determined at Full Council after the agreement of the Terms of Reference set out above.