



**Councillor B Chapple OBE**  
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Councillor Steven Broadbent  
Cabinet Member for Transport  
Buckinghamshire Council  
The Gateway  
Gatehouse Road  
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Dear Councillor Steven Broadbent,

### **TECC & HS2 Ltd: Roundtable Letter**

Thank you for attending the Transport, Environment & Climate Change Select Committee meeting on 30 March 2023 to introduce your report and update Members on the Council's concerns that the HS2 project is having on Buckinghamshire and its residents. At the meeting a number of issues were raised with the representatives of HS2 Ltd, and a summary of these key issues is outlined below.

#### **Pothole Fund**

Whilst appreciating that this is a quick access fund to be drawn down upon, Members note the discrepancy between the figures quoted (£93,000 by Buckinghamshire Council and £98,000 by HS2) and suggest the amount be clarified as soon as possible. In addition, Members feel that the pothole fund is totally inadequate especially given that the Council itself has had to allocate more resource to address potholes across the Highways asset. Moreover, the Committee heard that the value was assigned around two years ago and therefore does not reflect the increased cost of repairs due to inflation and higher cost of materials.

#### **Preventative Highways Maintenance**

The Committee welcomes the pilot planned on preventative highways maintenance and would encourage its acceleration as swiftly as possible. This would mitigate road safety concerns and closures caused by HS2 damage as was experienced on Station Road, Quainton.

#### **Collaboration**

The Council requires more forthcoming communication from HS2 regarding its forward plans and supplementary information on planning applications. In addition, more advanced notice on road closures would allow the Council to put mitigation plans in place sooner.

#### **HGVs and Driver Behaviour**

There has been a noticeable increase in HS2-based traffic across the county and there were a number of examples provided at the meeting which contravened HS2's Code of Conduct for its drivers and contractors. We feel there may be a disconnect between the corporate messages being cascaded by HS2's Senior Leadership Team and the reality 'at ground level' on the Highway and around compounds.

**Communication**

Whilst acknowledging the existing level of comms activity by HS2, there are still areas that can be improved. Members highlighted outdated information on HS2's website (e.g. Calvert IMD) and supported HS2 plans to expand their communication of road closures to neighbouring wards and parishes.

**Ecology**

Ongoing tree maintenance is of fundamental importance, and we support all action to ensure planted trees reach maturity. We also encourage HS2 to minimise felling by moving trees for re-planting wherever possible.

I would like to reiterate my thanks to you, your Deputy Cabinet Member, Councillor Peter Martin, and your officers for continuing to represent the best interests of Buckinghamshire residents and businesses by holding HS2 Ltd to account.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Bill Chapple OBE  
Chairman of Transport, Environment & Climate Change Select Committee  
Buckinghamshire Council