

REPORT TO PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL

5th September 2017

AGENDA ITEM 9.3 – HS2 – Route Announcement and other matters

1 Background

1.1 On 17 July 2017, Government announced the route of Phase 2b of HS2. So far as the Parish is concerned, it confirmed the route change that was publicised some months ago.

1.2 In addition, an email was received from John Atkinson at HS2 referring to further information events to be held – that nearest to us is to take place at Wincham Community Centre on Saturday 9th September (12 midday – 5.00 pm).

1.3 Thirdly, our attention has been drawn to a Government information paper on the question of the creation of borrow pits, relating to the HS2 construction process.

2. Report

2.1 The text of the email referred to is as follows:

Further to yesterday's announcement by the Secretary of State for Transport, I am writing to Parish Councils along the line of the route to confirm how we intend to develop the next phase of High Speed 2 (HS2) proposed from Crewe to Manchester and the West Midlands to Leeds – known as Phase 2b. I also want to confirm that we have contacted property owners, tenants and businesses, who are directly-affected by the route.

As stated in the Secretary of State's announcement, most of the route remains as confirmed in November 2016. The main points to note for the Western Leg are:

1. *The Secretary of State has confirmed the property schemes available for Phase 2b. Discretionary schemes already available for other phases of the project are now in place for those living along the 2b route. This decision takes into account the feedback from the recent consultation. We have contacted those who are subject to this change.*

2. *He has also confirmed five of the proposals which we consulted on following the November announcement, of which three are those proposed for the Western Leg. These are:*

- *The relocation of Western Leg Rolling Stock Depot to Wimboldsley;*
- *The change of route in the Middlewich-Northwich area;*
- *The change to the approach at Manchester Piccadilly;*

I also wish to draw your attention to a new consultation. The Government, alongside Network Rail and HS2 Ltd, have been developing options for a new regional transport hub at Crewe, which could give Crewe and the surrounding region even better access to conventional and high speed services, serving even more destinations. The Government is seeking views on the options and has launched

a new consultation. More information about this, and other consultations now open, can be found on the HS2 website (see details below).

Next steps

Subject to Parliamentary approval, construction of Phase 2b is expected to start in 2023 ready for the railway to begin operations by 2033. The next stage of work will develop the design in more detail, addressing some of the issues already raised regarding specific local impacts, such as noise, whilst gathering important feedback which will help to inform how these impacts can best be mitigated.

We know that the development of the new HS2 railway can cause uncertainty for those living alongside the route. We are committed to giving everyone affected by our proposals or interested in them, the opportunity to continue talking to us as we develop the proposals.

Later this summer, we will continue an extensive series of information events, like those held over the winter of 2016/17, as plans for the route develop. These events will provide information to inform stakeholder responses to ongoing consultations, what stakeholders can expect to see as we undertake surveys to inform the design, explain the timings for engaging in the next stage of the project and provide details on what elements we will be engaging on. Once scheduled we will be in touch again to let you know more details. You can also find the latest information on the events page of our website at www.gov.uk/hs2.

Should you have any further questions please don't hesitate to contact me. I am working with Cheshire East Council to set up a presentation and discussion for affected parish council representatives and ward councillors. We will let you have details of that as soon as we have confirmed dates. In the meantime, please feel free to get in touch with me direct.

- 2.2 The information paper is separately circulated with this agenda.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 That members consider the information provided and decide on any future action to be taken in respect of the implications of the HS2 proposals.