

## REPORT TO PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

### AGENDA ITEM 9.4 – HS2 – RESPONSE OF HS2 TO COUNCIL'S REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

#### 1. Report

1.1 On 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020, Council asked that HS2 be requested to provide two pieces of information:

- Whether there is any change in the proposed land-take of the project in Pickmere compared to previous draft proposals;
- In the light of recent changes to the scheme (e.g. at the Airport, in Crewe, and at Manchester Piccadilly), the latest business case and return on investment for the scheme.

1.2 Following several reminders, HS2 responded by email to your Clerk as follows:

*In respect of the Business Case; the latest one was published in April last year and I attach a link here. It is specific to Phase One of the scheme only but does reference economics for the scheme as a whole.*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/939905/full-business-case-hs2-phase-one.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/939905/full-business-case-hs2-phase-one.pdf)

*I appreciate your question is centred on modelling for a post-Covid society and the Business Case does not address that because of its timing. Phase 2B costs and benefits will be updated for the hybrid Bill submission but I cannot offer any revised figures at this stage.*

*Our CEO Mark Thurston did make this comment in the HS2 Corporate Plan 2020:*

*“While it is too early to draw conclusions about the long-term impacts of the pandemic, the strategic case for HS2 – more capacity on our railways, better connectivity in the Midlands and North and cutting carbon – will all remain significant issues for the UK and for which HS2 provides effective answers. In particular, the pandemic has shown us the benefits of reducing the number of cars on our roads: lower emissions, improved air quality and a better overall environment for nature. The need to invest in the regions outside London cannot be delayed either; long after the health risks have passed, we will still need infrastructure that connects the major cities of our country and provides opportunities for regeneration, jobs and growth in the Midlands and the North.”*

*In respect of land take, you should have had the Route Wide Update Community Area Maps for MA03? These show land required for construction and can be compared against the Working Draft Environmental Statement maps from 2018. The RWU maps however show new temporary land take including land needed for utility diversions as well as permanent land*

*needed for the scheme, and this needs to be taken into account in reading across the two documents. I can readily send copies of the RWU maps electronically or by post if you need them.*

1.3 The PC does have a copy of the Route Wide Update Map MA03.

**2. Recommendation**

2.1 That the report be noted and Council consider any further action.

J Steel

Clerk to the Parish Council