

REPORT TO PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL

1st February 2022

AGENDA ITEM 9.6 HS2B – DEPOSIT OF BILL

1. REPORT

1.1 The Secretary of State for Transport on 24 January 2022 deposited in Parliament the Hybrid Bill for the construction of HS2B – from Crewe to Manchester. The various Bill and plan documents have been supplied to the Council. These plans contain some amendments resulting from the previous consultation processes, but do not meet Council's detailed objections in full, and obviously do not respond to Council's overriding objection to the project as a whole.

1.2 From a very brief reading of the leaflet accompanying the documents, it would appear that:

- If the Council wishes to object to the principle of the scheme as a whole, it has to lobby our MP before the Second reading debate on the Bill (which will apparently be Spring/Summer 2022);
- If the Council wants to object to details of the scheme, then it can 'petition' Parliament, from the day after the Second Reading; in the petition the Council summarises its detailed objections; the objections then go before a Select Committee and then it is understood that representative(s) of the Council can appear before the Select Committee if it wishes to further explain its views.
- There is a separate "Consultation" on the Environmental Statement accompanying the Bill, which sets out the environmental impact of the scheme in detail. There is a shorter deadline for submission of those representations.
- If the Council wishes it could appoint someone - anyone - planner, solicitor, presumably Counsel, or a professional parliamentary agent - to assist with its representations.

1.3 Cllrs Flannery and Shore and your Clerk are due to join an online briefing session on the Bill on the morning of 1st February and will report back orally at your Council meeting with further details of the Bill process.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the report be noted.

Jack Steel
Clerk to the Parish Council