



Executive, 8th June

Agenda Item No.

12

Title	Response to Transport Committee on HS2
For further information about this report please contact	Tony Ward, Senior Planner (Policy, Projects & Conservation)
Wards of the District directly affected	All
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?	No
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	6 th January 2011, Executive, minute no. 107
Background Papers	www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/transport-committee

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	Yes
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	No
Equality & Sustainability Impact Assessment Undertaken	No

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	09/05/11	Chris Elliott/Bill Hunt
Head of Service	09/05/11	Paul Pinkney
CMT	10/05/11	
Section 151 Officer	09/05/11	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	09/05/11	Paul Pinkney
Finance	09/05/11	Jenny Clayton
Portfolio Holder(s)	N/A	
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Final Decision?	Yes	
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Government has decided to hold a Transport Select Committee Inquiry into the strategic case for High Speed Two. Submissions were invited to be made to the Committee by 16th May 2011. This report informs the Executive of the response made by the Chief Executive using his emergency powers under G17 of the Constitution, in consultation with Group Leaders. It also seeks the views of Executive on how the Council's response to the Government's main consultation shall be approved.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Executive notes the Chief Executive has exercised the use of powers allowed for under Section 4 (4) CE (4) of the Council's Constitution in consultation with Group Leaders in submitting a response to the Transport Select Committee Inquiry into the strategic case for HS2, as set out in **Appendix A**.
- 2.2 That the Executive consider how it wishes to approve the Council's response to the High Speed Two Consultation to be submitted in July.
- 2.3 That the Executive agrees that authorisation for the use of the additional £50,000 for HS2 agreed at Council in February (making the overall allocation £100,000) be delegated to the Head of Development Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Development.

3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Executive will be aware of the current Government consultation on High Speed Two (HS2). As a consequence of the publicity and the high profile nature of reaction to this consultation, the Government's Transport Select Committee (a committee of the House of Commons that examines the expenditure, administration and policy of the Department for Transport and its associated public bodies) has decided to undertake a (separate) inquiry into the strategic case for High Speed Rail. Responses to the Transport Select Committee were required to be submitted by the 16th May 2011.
- 3.2 The issues which the Select Committee will examine, along with an indication of the questions it will pursue, are set out in **Appendix B**. It should be noted that these are all 'high level' questions based on the main arguments for or against High Speed Rail and the ability of the project to deliver the Government's transport policy objectives. The inquiry will also consider the business case/economic rationale that underpins the project. It should be noted that the Select Committee examination is not the vehicle for examining neither the precise specification of the HS2 route, nor how it would affect individual landowners, businesses and residents in the vicinity.
- 3.3 Warwick District Council has joined the 51m group (a consortium of Local Authorities between London and Birmingham on the HS2 route). The Group is called 51m because £51m is the cost to each Parliamentary

constituency in the UK of the HS2 project. Your officers have been working in close liaison with the 51m group and through this group have contracted several eminent railway economists/ engineering experts to help compile and prepare evidence for a joint submission to serve both the Government's consultation and the Transport Select Committee. The main (joint 51m) response to the questions posed by the Transport Select Committee is over 200 pages and can be made available to Members on request.

- 3.4 A joint strategy approved by the 51m group was for the individual local authorities to submit (if deemed appropriate) a supplementary response that introduced local environmental issues in the context of question 6 part 2. To this end a response was prepared that confirmed allegiance with the main 51M group response, as well as introducing local elements of concern relating to environmental matters that it was felt would further help to compromise the Governments approach. This response is detailed in **appendix A** of this report and was submitted to meet the deadline for submissions by the Chief Executive, in consultation with Group Leaders, using his emergency powers.
- 3.5 The Government's main consultation on HS2 is due to close on 29th July 2011. Officers are now working on drafting the consultation response. The Executive are asked to consider how it wishes to approve the Council's response. The options are to either deal with it at the scheduled July Executive, or hold a special Executive or Full Council to consider the response.
- 3.6 Executive are also asked to authorise the use of the additional £50,000 for the HS2 campaign be delegated to the Head of Development Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Development to enable the timely and efficient use of this allocation.

4. POLICY FRAMEWORK

4.1 Policy Framework – N/A

4.2 Fit for the Future – The proposed response to the consultation will help to protect the environment of the District in accordance with the SCS which aims to protect the built and natural environment.

5. BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK

5.1 The budgetary implications of preparing this response have been addressed in accordance with recommendation 2.4 of the Executive decision of the 6th January 2011.

6. ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S) CONSIDERED

6.1 An alternative option would be to not respond to this consultation, however, this may be to the detriment of the environment of the District. An alternative response could be submitted to the consultation, however, this may not achieve the objectives of the SCS.