

HS2 Task and Finish Group

25 February 2014 - 4pm

Lahnstein Room

Present: Cllr Cliff Moreton (Chair)
Cllr Dave Bishop
Cllr Paul Marks
Cllr Margaret Talbot
Cllr Mike Tebbutt

Also Present: Martin Hammond, Val Hitchman,
Simon Richardson and David Pope

1. **Appointment of Chair**

Councillor Paul Marks proposed that Councillor Cliff Moreton be elected as chair. Councillor Margaret Talbot seconded the motion – Councillor Cliff Moreton was duly elected as chair.

2. **Apologies**

None

3. **Terms of Reference**

Members were asked to note the Terms of Reference for the task and finish group.

4. **Information Documentation Review**

Members were presented with a report which outlined the aims and objectives of the task and finish group. Members were asked to consider and note the information documents included as appendices to the report.

Councillor Marks reported that he and Councillor Talbot had recently attended a conference in Milton Keynes with the Head of Network Rail, Sir David Higgins. Questions and answers relating to the borough are outlined below:

Item A1 – Appendix A (i)

Question	Answer
How would HS2 aid East-West connections, specifically relating to Northamptonshire?	HS2 would not aid East-West connections
How much had been spent on the West Coast Main Line prior to HS2?	£9 billion has been spent on the West Coast Main Line
What was the implication for investment on alternative lines and fares for normal services?	It was unclear at the present moment

Members heard that HS2 would not have a connection to Heathrow Airport, although there would be a connection to Birmingham International Airport. Euston Station would require total reconstruction in order to take the HS2 service and Birmingham New Street would require serious remodelling for the same reasons. It was noted that funding requirements for service improvements affecting Kettering had been confirmed as ring-fenced and would not be impacted by any fluctuations to the HS2 budget.

Councillor Tebbutt reported the comments from the Executive of East Midlands Councils regarding HS2 as well as Midland Main Line and the Market Harborough Enhancement and the Castle Line. These are included at Appendix A. Members asked that they be supplied with a copy of the East Midlands Councils consultation submission along with the supporting technical study, these are included at Appendix B.

Members requested provision of additional information regarding a collection of nineteen local authorities based along the proposed HS2 route who were against the scheme. These councils are known as the 51m Group. Information relating to this is included at Appendix C.

Members' primary concerns for consideration are listed below:-

- No reduction in train service levels or frequency of services in the borough as a result of HS2
- Train fares and railcards for customers in the borough
- Implications for freight transported by rail through the borough
- Line speed enhancement and electrification

5. **External Organisation/Evidence Provider Invitations**

The group were asked to agree which external organisations and evidence providers they wished to invite to the subsequent meeting of the group in order to provide information and answer member's questions.

Item A1 – Appendix A (i)

After discussion, it was **AGREED** that the following individuals and organisations should be invited to attend the next meeting:

- East Midlands Trains
- Chris Wragg from Northamptonshire County Council
- SEMLEP
- NEP
- Andrew Pritchard from East Midlands Councils

It was further considered that the Chair of LANRAC, Christopher Groome, could potentially be invited to a future meeting of the group.

Martin Hammond advised members that a list of questions would be composed prior to the next meeting to put to external attendees. Questions would be circulated to external individuals and organisations in advance of the meeting in order for them to provide the group with accurate answers.

6. Date of Next Meeting

It was **AGREED** that potential dates for future meetings should be diarised for 11th, 18th and 25th March 2014, commencing at 4pm.

External contributors would be invited to attend and members would be contacted with the definite date once attendees were confirmed.

(The meeting started at 4:05pm and ended at 5:12pm)

Signed:.....

Chair

djp