

HS2 Task and Finish Group

1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 – 4.00pm

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

Also Present: Martin Hammond  
Val Hitchman  
David Pope

1. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor Cliff Moreton. Councillor Paul Marks took the chair in his absence.

2. **Minutes**

The minutes for the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

3. **Finalisation of the Draft HS2 Report for Research and Development Committee**

Members were presented with additional comments received from Chris Wragg of Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) as well as details of Network Rail's announcement to invest £38 billion in the rail network over the next five years. This investment would result in electrification of Midland Mainline (MML) north to Sheffield and commencement of an East-West Rail project connecting Oxford and Milton Keynes via Bletchley.

The group noted that Network Rail's announcement regarding electrification northwards completed one of the objectives set by the group at the previous meeting. However, there was no mention of a MML connection to HS2 at Toton. The group agreed that this issue should continue to be examined and lobbied for.

Members considered that the comments submitted by Chris Wragg were entirely factual and should therefore be accommodated within the final report. Members heard that any additional external comments received would be fed into the final report presented to the Research and Development Committee.

**Item A1 – Appendix A (iv)**

Members agreed that the final report should state clearly that the group had not been tasked with addressing whether High Speed Two was a good use of public monies. It was noted that clarification of this issue could be included in the opening comments of the final report, alongside the Terms of Reference for the group.

Members considered that the objectives decided upon at the previous meeting of the Task and Finish Group be explicitly detailed in the recommendations of the final report. Those objectives are listed below.

- Midland Mainline having a connection to HS2 at Toton;
- Alignment of the aims of Local Enterprise Partnerships and Northamptonshire County Council towards achieving a common goal;
- Assurances that East Midlands Trains receive the best and most appropriate rolling stock
- Enhanced services and increased frequency of train services from Kettering both north and south and at most times of the day.

The group congratulated officers on producing a comprehensive report in such a short period of time.

A final draft report would be circulated to the group's members ahead of the publication of the Research and Development Committee agenda, which would incorporate any further comments from external contributors.

**4. Research and Development Committee – 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2014**

Members noted that the final report would be presented to the Research and Development Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2014. Members of the Task and Finish Group who did not sit on the Research and Development Committee would be invited to attend the meeting.

*(The meeting started at 4:00pm and ended at 4.32pm)*

Signed:.....

Chair