

**For publication**

**Consideration of the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum  
report on the HS2**

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Meeting: Cabinet

Date: 23 October, 2018

Cabinet portfolio: Leader

Report by: Democratic and Scrutiny Officer

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**For publication**

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**1.0 Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To present for consideration by Cabinet the report and recommendations of the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum on how the council is preparing for HS2 and ensuring that the development will maximise the benefits for the borough.
- 1.2 The report also provides the statutory written notice that must be given by the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum to Cabinet to take required action as at Section 3.4 below.

**2.0 Recommendations**

**That Cabinet consider the recommendations of the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum as set out below.**

- 2.1 That a Skills Scrutiny Project Group be established.
  - 2.1.1 That the Skills Scrutiny Project Group examine how schools are proposing to work in partnership with the National Rail College and other education providers to better equip pupils to enter the work place.
  - 2.1.2 That the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee obtain a report from the Skills Scrutiny Project Group regarding the impact of mental health issues affecting the employability of 18-24 year olds.
  - 2.1.3 That the number and impact of Local labour Agreements in maximising opportunities for growth of jobs connected with HS2 be monitored.
  - 2.1.4 That the Skills Scrutiny Project Group encourage the East Midlands Councils to lobby HS2 Ltd to include specific recommendations for the employment of Ex-Armed Forces personnel with relevant skills in their Local Labour Agreements.
- 2.2 That a report be brought to Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum before and after the Hybrid Bill has passed and the report will include detail on delivery bodies and infrastructure plans.
- 2.3 That a report be brought to Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum after the Hybrid Bill has passed to address how evolving effects on properties will be monitored and include plans for dealing the negative impacts of construction work on the Infrastructure Maintenance Depot spur, including traffic management.
- 2.4 That an annual report be brought to the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum about the progress of the cohesive approach between the Council and partners.

- 2.5 That coordinated and overarching Public Relations be put in place to minimise the negative impacts of HS2 and to ensure that residents are kept fully informed about the mitigating process taking place.
- 2.6 That the way social media and digital innovation is used to improve communications and reinforce the positive impacts of HS2 be monitored.
- 2.7 That a report be brought to the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on the plans and progress of the construction phase and remediation of the Infrastructure Maintenance Depot site to ensure scrutiny monitoring of the process.
- 2.8 That the HS2 Scrutiny Project Group support the development of a Visitor Economy Strategy.
- 2.9 That continuing Cabinet Member and Officer support for any future adhoc Scrutiny input relating to HS2 be provided.
- 2.10 That further consideration be given to the need to have new HS2 specific Scrutiny Project Groups after the Hybrid Bill and following further work up to 2022. It is considered essential that future reports on transport and highways, Local Enterprise Partnerships, housing, health and wellbeing and the Local Plan include HS2 as an integral part of all considerations.

### **3.0 Background information**

- 3.1 As part of the 2017.18 scrutiny work programme, the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum appointed a Scrutiny Project Group to identify or establish plans regarding how the council is preparing for the impact of the HS2 development and ensuring that the development will benefit the area, the residents and visitors.

- 3.2 The Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum approved the scope and the project start report for the project in June 2017. The project group was established with the aim of ensuring a joined-up cohesive approach to future changes and to contribute towards a shared vision for the opportunities that the development will bring to the borough, as well as the wider area.
- 3.3 Statutory Scrutiny Committees are required to provide written statutory notice to Cabinet requiring action in response to its scrutiny report and recommendations. These actions require Cabinet to:
- i. Consider the attached report and recommendations;
  - ii. Indicate the actions it proposes to take if any; and
  - iii. Publish its response within 2 months of the receipt of the report.

With regard to i and ii above, the Council's Constitution provides for Cabinet to consider the report at the earliest practicable opportunity.

#### **4.0 Scrutiny Project Group report**

- 4.1 The report of the Scrutiny Project Group was considered and its recommendations approved by the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum on 11 September 2018. The report is attached at Appendix 1.

#### **5.0 Risk considerations**

- 5.1 Risks relating to the review and its recommendations, as well as mitigating actions are shown below:

Description of the Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigating Action	Impact	Likelihood
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<p>The borough could lose out on important investment if a joined up approach is not taken. The report recommends that to achieve cohesive working, further reporting to scrutiny is required along with a joined up public relations approach which could add additional resourcing pressure.</p>	H	M	<p>Ensure representatives from Chesterfield Borough Council continue to attend HS2 strategic meetings to input into strategy development and maintain relationships with stakeholders. Continue engagement with partners such as Destination Chesterfield, National College of High Speed Rail, Chesterfield College and the Northern Gateway and Waterside project boards to ensure development opportunities in Chesterfield enhance the attraction of the borough to secure the development of the maintenance and construction hub, and confirm Chesterfield as a regular stop on the HS2 line.</p> <p>Scrutiny involves all councillors and senior officers in its annual work programming sessions, this allows an open discussion to take place on how scrutiny could receive updates on the cohesive approach. In the scheduling of programme items, scrutiny takes into account the work pressures of officers and is also able to invite external partners to provide information which will reduce the pressure on council officers.</p> <p>In terms of the public relations approach, the scrutiny project group has sought to emphasize the need for partnership working therefore resourcing pressures can be mitigated by working with other stakeholders, such as Destination Chesterfield, to help support a communications approach.</p>	L	L
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<p>Residents could miss out on employment opportunities, additional housing and improved transport links if the benefits are not maximised. The report recommends that future reports to scrutiny on these topics include consideration of HS2 to ensure that scrutiny is informed of the progress or any issues regarding these areas which could add additional resourcing pressure.</p>	H	M	<p>Representatives of Chesterfield Borough Council continue to work with stakeholders and partners to attain funding bids as well as to form and deliver strategic plans which would maximise the benefits for the borough relating to but not limited to employment opportunities, additional housing and improved transport links.</p> <p>Scrutiny involves all councillors and senior officers in its annual work programming sessions. In the scheduling of programme items, scrutiny takes into account the work pressures of officers and is also able to invite external partners to provide information which will reduce the pressure on council officers.</p>		
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## 6.0 Considerations

- 6.1 A preliminary equality impact assessment (EIA) has been carried out to understand any positive or negative impacts of implementing the recommendations. No negative impacts were identified and it is expected that the review will have a positive impact due to an increase in employment and skills opportunities, trains with improved accessibility and a wider offer of housing locations and types. More details can be found in the EIA attached at Appendix 2.
- 6.2 Officers from across the council have been consulted on the proposals and the recommendations have been aligned where possible to plans or strategies that are in their development stages.

- 6.3 The group has also been mindful to propose recommendations that support the council's current work on HS2 and promote partnership working and scrutiny involvement to mitigate further pressure on existing resources.

## **7.0 Recommendations**

**That Cabinet consider the recommendations of the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum as set out below.**

- 7.1 That a Skills Scrutiny Project Group be established.
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- 7.1.2 That the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee obtain a report from the Skills Scrutiny Project Group regarding the impact of mental health issues affecting the employability of 18-24 year olds.
- 7.1.3 That the number and impact of Local labour Agreements in maximising opportunities for growth of jobs connected with HS2 be monitored.
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- 7.2 That a report be brought to Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum before and after the Hybrid Bill has passed and the report will include detail on delivery bodies and infrastructure plans.

- 7.3 That a report be brought to Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum after the Hybrid Bill has passed to address how evolving effects on properties will be monitored and include plans for dealing with the negative impacts of construction work on the Infrastructure Maintenance Depot spur, including traffic management.
- 7.4 That an annual report be brought to the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum about the progress of the cohesive approach between the Council and partners.
- 7.5 That coordinated and overarching Public Relations be put in place to minimise the negative impacts of HS2 and to ensure that residents are kept fully informed about the mitigation process taking place.
- 7.6 That the way social media and digital innovation is used to improve communications and reinforce the positive impacts of HS2 be monitored.
- 7.7 That a report be brought to the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on the plans and progress of the construction phase and remediation of the Infrastructure Maintenance Depot site to ensure scrutiny monitoring of the process.
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- 7.9 That continuing Cabinet Member and Officer support for any future adhoc Scrutiny input relating to HS2 be provided.
- 7.10 That further consideration be given to the need to have new HS2 specific Scrutiny Project Groups after the Hybrid Bill and following further work up to 2022. It is considered essential that future reports on transport and highways, Local Enterprise



Partnerships, housing, health and wellbeing and the Local Plan include HS2 as an integral part of all considerations.

## 8.0 Reasons for recommendations

- 8.1 To ensure a joined up approach is taken by the Council to ensure that the benefits of HS2 are maximised.
- 8.2 To contribute towards the delivery of the Council Plan objectives under the priorities “to make Chesterfield a thriving borough” and “to improve the quality of life for local people”.

### Decision information

<b>Key decision number</b>	Non-key 93
<b>Wards affected</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>Links to Council Plan priorities</b>	To make Chesterfield a thriving borough and to improve the quality of life for local people.

### Document information

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<b>Background documents</b>	
These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when the report was prepared.	
<i>This must be made available to the public for up to 4 years.</i>	
<b>Appendices to the report</b>	
Appendix 1	Scrutiny Project Report on the Town Centre
Appendix 2	Preliminary EIA