

Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee

Thursday, 19 July 2018

10.00 am

Oak Room, County Buildings, Stafford

NB. Members are requested to ensure that their Laptops/Tablets are fully charged before the meeting

John Tradewell
Director of Strategy, Governance and Change
11 July 2018

A G E N D A

1. **Apologies**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **Minutes of the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee held on 20 June 2018** (Pages 1 - 6)
4. **Economic Growth Capital and Development Programme and Growth Hub** (Pages 7 - 24)
Report of the Cabinet Member for Economic Growth
5. **Elective Home Education Review** (Pages 25 - 50)
Report of the Safe and Strong Communities and the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committees Joint Review Group
6. **HS2 Construction Routes and Road Safety** (Pages 51 - 88)
Report of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport
7. **Work Programme** (Pages 89 - 96)



8. Exclusion of the Public

The Chairman to move:-

“That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business which involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Schedule 12A (as amended) of the Local Government Act 1972 indicated below”.

Part Two

(All reports in this section are exempt)

9. **Exempt Minutes of the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee held on 20 June 2018** (Pages 97 - 98)
(Exemption Paragraph 3)
10. **Update on Section 53 Applications** (Pages 99 - 108)
(Exemption Paragraph 5)

Committee Membership

Ron Clarke	Ian Parry (Chairman)
Tina Clements	Kyle Robinson
Keith Flunder	David Smith
Julia Jessel (Vice-Chairman)	Simon Tagg
Bryan Jones	Bernard Williams
Rev. Preb. M. Metcalf	Candice Yeomans

Note for Members of the Press and Public

Filming of Meetings

The Open (public) section of this meeting may be filmed for live or later broadcasting or other use, and, if you are at the meeting, you may be filmed, and are deemed to have agreed to being filmed and to the use of the recording for broadcast and/or other purposes.

Recording by Press and Public

Recording (including by the use of social media) by the Press and Public is permitted from the public seating area provided it does not, in the opinion of the chairman, disrupt the meeting.

Minutes of the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee Meeting held on 20 June 2018

Present: Ian Parry (Chairman)

Attendance

Ron Clarke	David Smith
Keith Flunder	Simon Tagg
Bryan Jones	Bernard Williams
Rev. Preb. M. Metcalf	Susan Woodward

Also in attendance: Gill Heath, Mark Sutton, Philip White and Mark Winnington

Apologies: Tina Clements, Julia Jessel and Candice Yeomans

PART ONE

1. Declarations of Interest

There were none at this meeting.

2. Minutes of the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee held on 4 April 2018

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee held on 4 April 2018 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

3. Improving Attendance and Participation in our Schools and Settings

Members were informed that Staffordshire continued to have below national average absence rates in its primary, secondary and special schools. Primary and secondary schools were 0.2% lower than the national average of 4.7%, and this was the fourth consecutive year in which the County had maintained lower than the national average absence rates. Special schools had achieved 1.8% below the national average for their overall absence rates. It was acknowledged that there had been an increase in Staffordshire's absence figures, however this was within the context of a national rise in student absence figures.

It was a cause for concern that Staffordshire Pupil Referral Unit schools (PRUs) were 13.5% above the national average for overall absence, however there were some signs of improvement with a narrowing of the gap between the national and Staffordshire figures for persistent absences. The local authority was working with the PRU headteachers to explore ways to improve attendance, and an independent review had been commissioned of the entire PRU estate.

In relation to permanent exclusion from schools, unvalidated data for the current academic year was indicating a notable reduction in the year on year increase

previously experienced. This was not solely due to a reduction in permanent exclusions, but a significant increase in permanent exclusions being rescinded. This was often achieved through the work of the District Inclusion Officers who now sat within the local authority and who liaised between the school, parents and a potential alternative education provider or school, to agree a managed move or package of support which meant the child could continue in their education without the period of disruption usually caused by a permanent exclusion.

Work around children missing education continued to perform a vital task of identifying children in Staffordshire who were without education, and then ensuring that they were provided with an opportunity to receive education. In the current academic year 729 cases had been processed, with a positive outcome rate of 97.5%. This work had begun to embed itself, with high numbers of schools responding to a regular census. This reported on students who were on a reduced timetable and therefore were categorised as children missing out on education, and those that had a plan in place and were expected to return to full-time education. Work had also now begun to develop a data platform to capture this information, which would create live reports on these children, enhancing the ability to identify promptly and where necessary to challenge any cases of concern.

In relation to PRUs a member queried whether they had governing bodies, and asked what was being done to engage with them. It was confirmed that regular meetings were held between them and the local authority. Members were informed that the Alternative Provision Panel were mindful that children were going into PRUs and staying too long, when they needed to be progressed back into mainstream education as quickly as possible, and consequently greater pressure was being put on them to achieve this. A member queried whether there were performance management measures in place around this, and potential negative outcomes such as an impact on funding or the threat of closure. It was confirmed that measures had been introduced this year to hold them to account, around a graded approach and targets to discourage them from keeping children there too long and focus on short, intensive interventions. The Cabinet Member for Learning and Employability pointed out that schools had to be willing to take these children in. A member queried if schools were able to refuse, and was informed that a school could be made to take a pupil after a first permanent exclusion, but not after a second.

Members were reminded that the School Forum had agreed to reduce the funding for Education Welfare Services by £757K, delegating this sum back to individual maintained schools. This had meant that all schools/academies in Staffordshire were now responsible for providing early intervention and prevention for unauthorised absence, with the local authority now focusing on its role of providing statutory intervention when requested. A member commented that managed transfers created a confused picture around accountability. They were informed that now that schools were accountable for taking action around unauthorised absence, the local authority makes effort to hold them to account and take action if necessary.

A member suggested that, given the significantly better performance of PRUs elsewhere in the Country, it may be helpful to look into their arrangements and practices. Members were informed that it was important to change the culture around PRUs to encourage them to recognise their role as being one of a quick turn around, and that attitudes

towards more challenging children needed to be changed. The direction of travel was towards more accountability.

A member queried what activities were taking place to engage with local members and recruit them as school governors, and if any work was being done with members to encourage them to hold schools to account. The Cabinet Member for Learning and Employability informed the Committee that he wanted to see more proactive marketing in relation to member engagement. The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People agreed that local members had a significant role to play. He suggested that an annual visit should be made to each school, and asked if it would be helpful to provide a series of questions for members to use.

In relation to children missing out on education, a member questioned whether the fact that 31 school had not responded to the survey would skew the figures. Members were informed that as the local authority did not run the schools it was not able to compel schools to provide the data.

A member commented that the statistics on exclusions did not show trends in the type of establishments, and questioned whether schools were adopting more of a zero tolerance approach towards challenging children. The Committee were informed that different schools took different approaches in relation to their Behaviour Policies. It was suggested that it would be helpful for schools to have a level playing field, and agreed that more guidance could be provided to them around this issue.

RESOLVED – That the comments and feedback from the Select Committee be used to shape future developments in work around improving attendance and participation in Staffordshire schools and settings.

4. Staffordshire's Libraries Strategy

The Committee considered a summary of the outcome of the Public Consultation that took place between 8 January and 1 April 2018, which would inform the Strategy for Staffordshire Libraries offer 2018/21. The report also expanded on the proposed Strategy for Staffordshire's Libraries offer 2018/21 which was previously considered by the Committee in September 2017.

Within Staffordshire the Library Service contributed to delivering health and wellbeing, digital inclusion, literacy, life skills and social cohesion outcomes. It was essential that as a Libraries Strategy was implemented for the future that the authority continued to work with internal and external partners to ensure that the library service remained relevant and continued to be sustainable. As part of the County Council's statutory network there were currently 43 Libraries, 2 Mobile Libraries and a Travelling Library.

Members considered details of the numbers of people engaging with the Library Service, and of how library use in Staffordshire had changed between 2014/18, together with a comparison with national trends.

Members were informed that 3,666 individuals, organisations and stakeholders had shared their views as part of the consultation. Their responses had delivered meaningful insight into preference and impact and provided robust representation of

some of those individuals most affected by the proposals. A full analysis and report of the consultation had been undertaken by the Council's Customer Insight Team to ensure independence. Members considered a detailed analysis of the public consultation outcomes, around Self Service Proposals, Community Managed Library Proposals, and the Mobile and Travelling Library Service. Having analysed the results of the consultation, it was proposed that self-service was piloted at Stafford Library and Penkrige (if this library does not transfer to community management). It was not envisaged that either of these libraries would be fully self-service and the proposed number of hours that each library could be staffed would be based on an analysis of use. The pilot would be monitored over a 12 month period and then evaluated.

With regard to Community Managed, it was proposed that the four least busy County Council Managed and Delivered libraries be transferred. These libraries were identified as Cheadle, Clayton, Eccleshall and Penkrige. This was met with a high level of disagreement during the public consultation however to enable these four libraries to remain part of Staffordshire's statutory network and deliver an MTFS saving it was proposed that Cheadle, Clayton, Eccleshall and Penkrige are offered for Community Management.

In relation to the Mobile and Travelling Library Service, the public had been consulted on a set of principles which would inform the future planning of mobile routes. It was therefore proposed to apply the principles that had been consulted on to inform the review. This would mean that routes would be re-drawn, the larger Travelling Library vehicle would be withdrawn at the end of March 2019, and the service would be delivered via the two smaller mobile libraries which were more flexible and therefore able to access more isolated or rural communities from April 2019.

A member asked how young people under 16 could access self-service libraries, as they were not able to access the library unaccompanied during self-service hours. The intention was that they would be accompanied by an adult or use the library during the core staffed hours. Self-service registration was in addition to library membership and applicants would undergo an induction process which would involve signing an acceptable use policy. Where this system was operating elsewhere it had proved to be self-policing.

A member queried whether there had been engagement with local members over the proposals, given their local knowledge and expertise, and it was confirmed that this was the case, along with a number of local groups. Questions were also raised around recruiting volunteers and in particular promoting and championing lead volunteers. Members were informed that work had been done with Rotarian groups, Community Partnership Officers and Community Support Officers around volunteering, and there had been a very low drop off rate. It was encouraging that volunteers were able to benefit from learning and development opportunities. Members shared examples of successful Community Managed Libraries in their areas, and agreed that these could be used as models for the future.

The Chairman questioned whether the Cabinet Member for Communities and officers were satisfied with the quantity and quality of the responses to the consultation. The Cabinet Member confirmed that it had met expectations. The Chairman referred to an emailed letter which he had received from the Friends of Penkrige Library, which had

been critical of the consultation process, alleging that it had been poorly advertised, there had been poor engagement, poor access and it had been difficult to respond to. He felt that, despite the late receipt and volume of information supplied, it was right to raise some of the concerns around the consultation, and questioned whether there had been weaknesses in the process. The Cabinet Member responded that it had been advertised in advance and that she had met with this group, who had also had meetings with the lead Library Service officers. Members were informed that a petition was currently being circulated in respect of Kidsgrove Library. However, there had been some misunderstanding, as no changes were proposed for this library. A response had been sent to the petition organiser which hopefully would resolve any confusion.

RESOLVED – That:

- a) The consultation response to the self-service proposal be noted and the introduction of a self-service pilot with Staffordshire be endorsed;
- b) It be agreed that the evaluation and selection process to procure Community Managed Library organisations was still valid;
- c) The existing support package and service specification for Community Managed Libraries be endorsed; and
- d) The application of the principles that had been consulted on to inform the Mobile and Travelling Library Service review be endorsed.

5. Update on the Final Report and Recommendations of the Working Together to Address the Impact of HGVs/HCVs on Roads in Staffordshire - Briefing Note

The Committee received a briefing note on the action plan and implementation of the recommendations of the Working Together to Address the Impact of Heavy Goods Vehicles/HCVs on Roads in Staffordshire final report.

Members were informed that since 2016 resources had been allocated to progress further work focusing on the A515 through Staffordshire, updating the Staffordshire Freight Strategy, engaging with local communities and businesses, and lobbying Members of Parliament regarding the county's HGV concerns. Members considered these areas in more detail, and commented that they were pleased to see the recommendations were moving forward. They also commented that the issue was about the whole of the County, not just the A515.

RESOLVED – That the briefing note be received.

6. Public Rights of Way Review - Briefing Note

The Committee received a briefing note on the key outputs of the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) Review, the bulk of which had been completed in April 2018.

Members noted that Staffordshire had one of the longest PRoW networks, spanning 4,510kms. The Review commenced in August 2016 and sought to: manage the demand placed upon it from users and landowners; reduce operating costs to meet the service's MTFs commitment, £290K by 20/21; and introduce more affordable ways of making a positive difference to Staffordshire's residents, landowners and visitors. They were informed of a range of outputs which had arisen from the nine work-streams within the Review, intended to provide the best solution to deliver in the safest way within the

resources available. A member commented that this was a pragmatic way forward, but emphasised the importance of complaints being dealt with in a timely manner. Members welcomed the fact that some progress was being made, but agreed that they wished to scrutinise the issue of the backlog with section 53 applications at their next meeting in July.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the briefing note be noted and that the backlog with section 53 applications be scrutinised at the Select Committee meeting on 19 July.

7. Work Programme

The Select Committee received a copy of their Work Programme for 2018/19. No additional items were suggested for inclusion.

RESOLVED – That the Work Programme be noted.

8. Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED - That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business which involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) indicated below.

9. Midlands Connect Proposal to become a Sub-National Transport Body - Consultation

(Exemption Paragraph 3)

Chairman

Local Members' Interest
N/A

Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee – 19 July 2018

Economic Growth Capital and Development Programme and Growth Hub

Recommendations

1. That the Select Committee scrutinises the work and progress of the Staffordshire County Council Economic Growth Programme and the Growth Hub.
2. That the Select Committee comments on and considers aspects for further scrutiny.

Report of Cllr Mark Winnington, Cabinet Member for Economic Growth

Summary

What is the Select Committee being asked to do and why?

3. This paper has been prepared at the request of the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee to provide an update on the work and progress of the Staffordshire County Council Economic Growth Programme and to provide some detail in relation to the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Growth Hub.
4. The paper is accompanied by additional material which gives further detail around the progress of specific projects, the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Growth Hub, employment change over time, and the calculation of employment outcomes, and is designed as a basis against which the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee may wish to frame its scrutiny.

Report

Background

5. More and better jobs means more money in residents' pockets – the essential basis for better health, prosperity and connected communities that are able to act on locally important issues themselves.
6. **Creating the right conditions for economic growth is a key priority for Staffordshire County Council**, directly contributing to the priority population outcome for Staffordshire's people to be able to access more good jobs and the benefits of economic growth. Moreover, economic growth underpins all of our priority outcomes, helps to secure long term financial stability and is a key contributing factor in the wider determinants of health.

Macro-Economic situation

7. At the macro-economic level Staffordshire's economy continues to restructure and adapt to the challenges of the wider economic conditions of the UK as a whole and global economic circumstances.
8. Despite a strong reliance on sectors which could have been particularly vulnerable to the recent economic downturn, Staffordshire's economy has coped well, and while claimant unemployment has risen marginally over recent months (currently at 1.3% of the working age population in May 2018) rates have persistently remained well below the averages of Great Britain and the West Midlands Region (2.2% and 2.8% respectively during the same period).
9. By encouraging and creating the right conditions for economic growth, Staffordshire County Council is directly playing its part in helping to achieve the ambitions of the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (SSLEP) which is seeking to create 50,000 jobs and increase the Gross Value Added (GVA) of Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire by 50% over a 10 year period beginning in 2014.
10. At its meeting on 15th December 2017, the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee received information relating to the increased total employment between 2011 and 2016, which at the time was calculated to be an increase of around 19,000 jobs. The Committee asked for additional information in regard to this statistic which is included below in this report.
11. Since that time, more up to date employment information from the Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) has now been made available which identifies that the total employment growth in Staffordshire increased by around 30,800 jobs during the period between 2011 and 2016 (Further details of this information, including the structural breakdown of this employment is available for the information of the committee at Appendix B).
12. This represents an employment increase of around 9.9% which is above the increases seen in Stoke-on-Trent and the West Midlands Region, but marginally below the Great Britain average of 10.6%.
13. Around 21,100 (69%) of these jobs were classified as full time jobs, with 9,700 additional jobs being on a part time basis. The restructuring of the local economy towards a greater balance of private sector employment is evident through an increase of 45,900 private sector jobs in the 2011-16 period compared to a 15,000 decrease in public sector jobs during the same period.
14. Having a well-balanced and mixed economy will be important for Staffordshire in being able to address economic shocks and maintain the resilience of the local economy . The experience of the recession of the late 2000's was characterised by a significant reduction in public sector employment. Staffordshire had traditionally had a significant proportion of public sector employment, making it more vulnerable to wider economic shocks. The local economy has now

restructured to a position which should put it in a better position to deal with potential future economic shocks.

15. Staffordshire's percentage change in private sector employment (18.4%) has been greater than the West Midlands and Great Britain (16.5%) change, but has seen a much more significant percentage change in the percentage of public sector employment (-24.6%) than the averages for the West Midlands and Great Britain. Interestingly the data identified that the change in public sector employment in neighbouring Stoke-on-Trent saw a small increase during the same period.
16. Data for this period relating to the total economic output of Staffordshire (as measured by Gross Value Added (GVA)) reflects this level of growth in the economy, and increased by around 17.0% between 2011 and 2016 from £14.3 billion to £16.7 billion.
17. The related measure of Gross Value Added per Head of Population increased by around 14.6% in this period, to £19,260 in Staffordshire, however GVA per head does continue to lag behind the average of the UK as a whole, at around 72.4% of the UK average. There are a number of reasons for this, including an economy which has a proportionally lower share of high value added employment, the effects of out commuting and the lower than average workplace wages of Staffordshire compared to other parts of the country.
18. Resident based earnings in Staffordshire, are showing a general pattern of growth and the most recent 2017 data shows that the gross weekly pay of full time workers in Staffordshire is £533 compared to £553 for Great Britain as a whole. This compares favourably to that of the West Midlands Region (£517 per week) and should be considered against the fact that the Great Britain figure is partly influenced by the effects of inflated wages in London.
19. Alongside the increase in residence based earnings in Staffordshire, the area is competitive in terms of its cost of living when comparing average house prices in the County to other parts of the country. While there are variations in house prices across Staffordshire, during 2017 the average house price to residence based earnings was 6.5, compared to ratios of 6.9 across the West Midlands Region and 7.8 for Great Britain. This means more money in people's pockets and the opportunity to increase spending in Staffordshire's towns and communities.
20. The number of micro and small enterprises in Staffordshire (under 49 employees) are growing in number and make up around 96% of all businesses, however, medium and larger businesses (with 50 or more employees) account for around 55% of total employment in the County. Our approach to making sure that Staffordshire is Right for Business therefore needs to be proportionate to the business audience we are considering.
21. In 2016 Government figures identified that some 4,025 new business enterprises were formed in Staffordshire, with this figure in a similar range (between 3,600 and 3,700 between 2013 and 2015). While new business start-ups are important to the vibrancy of the local economy, the survival of these businesses is important

and encouragingly, for businesses registered in Staffordshire in 2013 62.4% had survived for three years, compared to 60.8% in Great Britain as a whole.

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Growth Hub

22. Staffordshire County Council continues to develop and sustain business support programmes which will encourage economic growth across the county. The Stoke on Trent & Staffordshire Growth Hub is the first stop shop for all businesses seeking support in growing and developing their business. It was set up by the Local Enterprise Partnership in 2014 through the City Deal and it helps by simplifying the business support landscape and finding companies the specific help they need.
23. The Stoke on Trent & Staffordshire Growth Hub is a partnership between Staffordshire County Council (Accountable Body) Stoke on Trent City Council, Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce. The Hub team are supported by their employing organisations and they work together to provide first point of contact, business analysis and recommendations for next steps to Staffordshire companies.
24. The Growth Hub consists of the Staffordshire Business Helpline, 8 qualified business advisors, and administrative and managerial staff. The Growth Hub is fully funded through government grants from Government Departments for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) each year and partner contributions, which support staff time, events and a small grants scheme. The grants are provided to companies to help with large capital item purchases and who are able to demonstrate ambitions to grow and employ additional staff. In the last two years the grant scheme has helped enable the creation of 84 jobs. BEIS, MHCLG and the LEP provide the Hub with Key Performance Indicators and targets which are reported on a quarterly, bi-annual and annual monitoring structure.
25. The Helpline and Growth Hub advisors work with businesses to ascertain what the next steps are to help them achieve their business goals. They do this through the use of a Business Diagnostic Tool completed during a 1 to 1 business meeting. The advisor will then refer them to business support organisations which manage the 90 schemes currently available in Staffordshire. The referrals range from mentoring, product development or diversification, accessing apprentices, advice on ISO certification to leadership or workforce training. Businesses are also signposted to targeted workshops and events which are relevant to their growth plans.
26. The Growth Hub assists start-up businesses by providing them with advice on how to establish their business and then referring them to one of the start-up schemes in the county. Since the Growth Hub started supporting businesses in 2014, 2050 start-up contacts have been made with the Staffordshire Business Helpline and 1587 start-up businesses have been supported by the Growth Hub Advisors who made 1681 to business support schemes referrals for them.

27. Records show that around 10% of all business that contact the Growth Hub are less than 12 months old, and 15% of contacts come from individuals who are considering starting a business, reinforcing the programme's importance in assisting business growth in Staffordshire.
28. Businesses contacting the Growth Hub tend to be focused among smaller sized businesses with more than 75% of contacts coming from "micro businesses".
29. Assistance through the Growth Hub is broken down into 3 broad "levels" of assistance, from an initial light touch assist which often involves initial signposting, through more detailed business diagnostics and workshops, to intensive business intelligence assistance which can provide up to 12 hours of targeted assistance to businesses.
30. Between 1st May 2014 and 1st May 2018 the breakdown of these different levels of assistance is:
 - a. 7655 light touch/first point of contact assists
 - b. 1953 three hour assists through business diagnostics and workshops
 - c. 46 twelve hour intensive/business intelligence assists

Between 1st May 2014 and 1st May 2018 the Growth Hub has achieved the following outputs:

- a. 6,249 businesses assisted
 - b. 804 manufacturing businesses assisted
 - c. 1,247 referrals made to mentoring programmes
 - d. 3,377 referrals made to Universities
 - e. 7,395 contacts made through the Staffordshire Business Helpline
 - f. 17,295 signposts and referrals made to business support schemes
31. User satisfaction with referrals made through the Growth Hub is very high, and 100% satisfaction rates have been received for referrals made to the Business Innovation Centre, the Princes Trust, Black Country Reinvestment Society, the Factory Scheme, the Growth Hub small business grant, the Ladder for Staffordshire, Staffordshire Business Environment network and Staffordshire Chambers.

Creating the right conditions for growth

32. In creating the right conditions for businesses to grow and thrive, and promoting a mixed and balanced economy our experience has shown that having a pipeline of good quality employment sites is very important in being able to access potential Government funding opportunities which often emerge at very short notice. Our track record of developing similar projects across Staffordshire and evidence from our inward investment service also identifies that having a good supply of 'shovel ready', serviced development sites and ready to occupy buildings is crucial in attracting high quality investment.

33. Staffordshire County Council brings these activities together in a co-ordinated way through the Economic Growth Programme which forms part of the organisation's wider transformation programme.
34. Progress, performance and escalations are reported to the County Council's Senior Leadership Team and Informal Cabinet on a monthly basis through the wider Transformation Programme. Information is also provided to Select Committees, and externally to the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership's Governance mechanisms and for subsequent reporting to Government Departments – in particular Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Economic Growth Programme Key Facts

35. The current total financial value of the Economic Growth Programme (including projects where initial work or interventions have completed) is around £404 million (of which around £66.5 million is direct investment by Staffordshire County Council). The majority of this investment will cover a period up to 2024, with a significant amount planned to be disbursed by April 2021.
36. 'Live' projects within the Economic Growth Programme currently total around £204 million and are funded from a range of sources including via the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (Growth Deal and City Deal funding), EU funding, Staffordshire County Council's capital programme, and contributions from private sector developers. (Staffordshire County Council's current investment for these 'live' projects amounts to around £14.99 million).
37. This represents funding leverage of around £13.60 worth of funding secured from for every £1 of Staffordshire County Council investment in the current 'live' projects of the Economic Growth Programme.
38. Since the Economic Growth Programme commenced in 2014, 15 employment generating projects with a total value of around £159 million have been completed to date, and their outcomes are now being tracked. Between them, these projects are anticipated to create over 19,000 jobs when they have been fully built out and developed.
39. To date around 6,650 jobs have been delivered or committed on these sites (around 35% of their anticipated total long term employment potential), reinforcing Staffordshire County Council's contribution towards meeting the SSLEP's employment creation and economic output targets.
40. In addition to job creation, the Economic Growth Programme has a strong focus on enabling the delivery of homes in Staffordshire. Some 1,700 homes have been delivered or committed as a result of interventions included within the 'live' and 'completed' projects of the programme.
41. Since the Economic Growth Programme was previously considered by the Prosperous Staffordshire Committee, there has been positive movement in relation to further speculative development under construction at the Bericote Four

Ashes Business Park, and planned at the Liberty Park site in Lichfield. Several key developer led “Section 278” highway access schemes which will lead to further improved delivery of jobs and housing have also been completed.

42. As well as through their employment outcomes, these priority sites make an important contribution to the economy, and the financial sustainability of the County Council and other organisations through business rate receipts and Council Tax contributions.
43. The completed employment sites referred to above currently generate around £9 million worth of total business rates per annum (of which 50% is currently returned back to central government). The total business rates receipts for projects which have been delivered, and those that are planned and in the pipeline for development could be in the region of more than £30 million per annum (of which 50% is currently returned back to central government).
44. Alongside employment creation through physical infrastructure, the Economic Growth Programme has a strong focus on improving skills outcomes and attainment. We have led on the development of the skills strategy through the LEP and delivered much of its commissioning and delivery on skills.
45. This includes developing and commissioning its £45m ESF programme that has already engaged over 12,000 residents improving their skills and job prospects and benefitting thousands of local employers. We have also led the LEP skills capital programme securing millions of pounds of investment through successive City and Growth Deals.
46. This has resulted in a much needed increase in skills in advanced manufacturing, engineering and construction through the development of the Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering Hub. The £13.5m Hub provides state of the art facilities and equipment over 6 sites and is planned to support over 4,500 learners adding millions to the local economy output. In addition, with LEP support we are investing a further £3million in equipment to increase STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) skills in the economy through the Skills Equipment Fund.

Potential Economic Growth Programme Outputs and Outcomes

47. The majority of the outputs and outcomes of projects currently included within the Economic Growth Programme are expected to be realised by around 2025 (however as new projects enter the programme their outputs and outcomes may extend further into the future).
48. Taking into account the projects currently included within the Economic Growth Programme the following potential outputs could be realised over the lifetime of the programme:
 - a. A further 17,000 jobs
 - b. Infrastructure improvements to help deliver 15,600 homes
 - c. 96% of premises connected to Superfast Broadband

- d. 4,500 apprentices, traineeships and FE learners supported through the Advanced Manufacturing Hub activities
 - e. 2,700 employers engaged in training through the LEP ESF programmes
 - f. 26,800 people engaged in training programmes through the LEP ESF programmes and the Locality project
49. It should be noted that employment estimates should be treated with some caution and are likely to vary depending on the end users of the sites in question. The figures quoted in this report are based on best estimates using recognised methodology, with further detail set out in the attached briefing note at Appendix C.
50. It should also be noted that in a number of recent investments the primary role for Staffordshire County Council has been to unlock longstanding employment land in the ownership of private developers through assisting in the delivery of often costly off site infrastructure. Taking a proactive role in unlocking such sites is vitally important in locations like Staffordshire as it helps to overcome the viability and delivery issues which can otherwise stagnate development, and allows the Staffordshire economy to remain competitive at the regional, national and international level.
51. This approach has been effective in creating the right conditions for private sector businesses to move on to employment sites and into business premises. Although there is some influence over the nature and type of end use (and the jobs that these can generate) through the planning system, the final employment figures generated will depend on the end users of the sites.
52. At its meeting on 15th December 2017, Members of the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee requested further information relating to the methodology used in estimating levels of job creation from proposed business park investments, and details of this are provided at Appendix C to this report.

Conclusion

53. Staffordshire County Council's ambitious Economic Growth Programme is continuing to play a crucial role in Staffordshire's ongoing economic improvement. Claimant unemployment rates continue to be persistently below the averages for the West Midlands and Great Britain. This success story is likely to continue as Staffordshire County Council works in partnership to deliver priority projects with the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership and other key local stakeholders.
54. The key priority for the future will be to encourage further growth in higher value added sectors, meeting the County Council's ambitions for creating 'better jobs' while ensuring that there is a mixed and balanced economy in Staffordshire. All of this needs to be combined with a competitive and broad skills profile among local communities, able to support this growth, giving everyone the best opportunities to fulfil their economic potential.

Link to Strategic Plan – the Economic Growth Programme directly supports the Strategic Plan priority outcome for Staffordshire's people to 'access more good jobs

and the benefits of economic growth'. It also indirectly supports the priority outcomes for people to 'feel healthier and more independent', and 'safer, happier and more supported'.

Link to Other Overview and Scrutiny Activity – the Economic Growth Programme pulls together priority economic projects from across Staffordshire County Council.

The Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee's work plan includes topics within the programme including Skills and Employability matters, the EU funding programme and the County Council's approach to housing.

Community Impact – This report provides an update on economic growth in Staffordshire and is not proposing a change to any County Council policy or service. As such a full assessment of community impact is not relevant. However, the overall benefits of the Economic Growth Programme including increased employment and skills among the local population, and their wider contributions to quality of life are deemed to represent overall positive impact to the local community.

Appendix A – Table of Selected Key Projects – **please note that this table does not contain all projects** at this point in time due to the confidential/commercial nature of certain projects. As such the totals in this table do not sum exactly to the figures outlined above in this report.

Appendix B – Detailed tables, employment data for Staffordshire County and comparison areas 2011 – 2016 (Source - Business Register and Employment Survey, NOMIS).

Appendix C – Briefing note, methodology for estimating and recording employment data on employment sites.

Contact Officer

Jonathan Vining, Economic Growth Programme Manager
Tel – 01785 277353
E mail – jonathan.vining@staffordshire.gov.uk

Appendix A - Economic Growth Programme - Table of Selected Key Projects

Live Projects			Total Project Value (£M)	SCC Funding Share (£m)	Potential Jobs	Delivered & Committed Jobs	Planned Houses	Delivered & Committed Houses	Planned businesses assisted	Actual businesses assisted	Planned Skills Outcomes	Delivered & Committed Skills Outcomes (Note 1)
Construction/In Progress	Scheme	Short Description										
	A50 Project A	New grade separated junction to A50	43.18		3490		1800					
	Keele Smart Innovation Hub	Business School and Innovation Centre	17.47	2.37	240							
	SME Expansion Support	Range of schemes to support business growth	2.09		TBC							
	Stafford Western Access Route	New road to promote growth and improve traffic in Stafford	62.86	11.63			2200	25				
	Lichfield Southern Bypass	Final link (phase 3) of Lichfield Southern By Pass	17.35	0.19	TBC							
	Tixall Road Stafford N & S (S 278)	Access to housing site	1.41				634	634				
	Local Sustainable Transport Package	Local Interventions promoting sustainable transport	11.75									
	Local Sustainable Transport Package	Local Interventions promoting sustainable transport	0.46									
	Skills Capital Equipment Fund	Improved skills facilities focused on engineering and manufacturing	3.52		TBC							
Feasibility	Chatterley Valley	Pump priming of strategic development site	0.15	0.08	TBC							
	ROF Featherstone	Proposed access to strategic development site	12.50		2,000							
	i54 Western Extension	Proposed extension to i54 employment site	1.16	0.16	2,000							
Pipeline	MOD / Stafford North Housing	Access improvements to strategic housing site	0.01				3,100					
	Rugeley Power Station	Potential role in regeneration of former power station	TBC		TBC							
	IC7 Keele	Potential innovation centre development	TBC		TBC		N/A					
	A50 Project B	Further grade separated junction to A50	1.02		Note 2		Note 2					
	Branston Interchange	Potential further improvements to A38 Branston Interchange	TBC		TBC		TBC					
	Stafford Gateway	Mixed use scheme capitalising on improved transport links	TBC		TBC		TBC					
ESIF Projects	Low Carbon Business Evolution	Programme to assist business in reducing carbon footprint	1.15	0.14	TBC				115	52		
	SSLEP Growth Hub	Coordinated business advice and information service	2.99	0.20	115	103			200	70		
	Staffordsheer Excellence	Bespoke support for SME tourism businesses	0.84	0.19	15	5			139	90		
		Rural grant scheme for underused premises and to create workspace	5.28	0.03	58				35	5		
		Rural Enterprise Programme	A nationally significant, world-class Smart Energy Network Demonstrator at Keele University for research, development and application.	19.12		440				243		
TOTAL - SELECTED LIVE PROJECTS			204.30	14.99	8358	108	7734	659	732	217	0	0

Page 17

Completed Projects			Total Project Value (£M)	SCC Funding Share (£m)	Potential Jobs	Delivered & Committed Jobs	Planned Houses	Delivered & Committed Houses	Planned businesses assisted	Actual businesses assisted	Planned Skills Outcomes	Delivered & Committed Skills Outcomes (Note 1)
Scheme	Short Description											
i54 South Staffordshire	SCC developed business park and associated infrastructure	57.78	18.70	3963	3043							
Redhill Business Park	SCC developed business park and associated infrastructure	10.71	10.71	2500	1410							
Kingswood Lakeside	SCC developed business park and associated infrastructure	7.68	7.68	1500	1233							
Beacon Business Park	Access improvement to longstanding business park	2.51		2140	112							
Bericote Four Ashes Phase 1	Access improvement to longstanding business park	2.09	0.18	Note 3	Note 3							
Bericote Four Ashes Phase 2	New junction to A449 to serve employment site	3.81		1080	800							
Liberty Park, Lichfield	Access improvement to longstanding business park	6.00		1100								
Meaford Business Park	Access improvement to longstanding business park	6.05	0.05	2,200								
IC5 Keele	High quality innovation centre workspace	6.80	6.80	120	38							
Branston Locks	New access to housing and employment site	6.44		3844		2500	70					
Contract 1	Contract 1 of Superfast Broadband Programme	27.73		92								
Contract 2 (a)	Contract 2a of Superfast Broadband Programme	2.52		94								
Tamworth Golf Course (S 278)	Access to housing site	0.81				1100	472					
Streethay (S 278)	Access to housing site	1.49				550						
Anker Valley (S 278)	Access to housing site	0.67				535	535					
Rugeley A51 (S 278)	Access to housing site	1.02				TBC						
AME Hubs Phase 1	Improved skills facilities focused on engineering and manufacturing	2.90									1671	1583
South Staffordshire AME Hub	Improved skills facilities focused on engineering and manufacturing	5.45		445							872	110
JCB Academy AME Hub	Improved skills facilities focused on engineering and manufacturing	1.48		5							220	69
Stafford College AME Hub	Improved skills facilities focused on engineering and manufacturing	3.38		10	12						340	320
HWRC Uttoxeter	Replacement Household Waste Recycling Centre	1.96	1.96									
TOTAL - COMPLETED PROJECTS			159.3	46.1	19093	6653	4685	1077	0	0	3103	2082

Notes

- Note 1 Skills Outcomes relate to number of people with enhanced skills as a result of interventions - note that the target date for recording outcomes in September 2018
- Note 2 Note that housing and employment outcomes associated with A50 Project B and A50 Project A are for the A50 Growth Corridor as a whole
- Note 3 Please note that employment outcomes associated with Bericote Four Ashes site are attributed to the Phase 2 project

Appendix B - Public / Private / Full-time / Part-time Employees

ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 24 January 2018]

Source: Business Register & Employment Survey

Total Employees

Area	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Change 2011-16	% Change 2011-16
Staffordshire	310,700	314,000	314,800	329,400	342,200	341,500	30,800	9.9%
Stoke-on-Trent	105,900	109,300	109,400	109,100	112,500	114,900	9,000	8.5%
West Midlands Region	2,301,500	2,322,900	2,339,900	2,404,000	2,464,500	2,510,900	209,400	9.1%
England	23,073,200	23,256,000	23,560,800	24,285,800	25,044,500	25,529,800	2,456,600	10.6%

Full-time Employees

Area	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Change 2011-16	% Change 2011-16
Staffordshire	208,200	207,000	212,800	224,600	231,600	229,400	21,200	10.2%
Stoke-on-Trent	72,400	75,000	73,700	76,000	77,800	77,100	4,700	6.5%
West Midlands Region	1,557,100	1,560,600	1,586,800	1,651,900	1,706,800	1,705,900	148,800	9.6%
England	15,611,800	15,684,700	15,995,700	16,650,300	17,267,100	17,376,700	1,764,900	11.3%

Part-time Employees

Area	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Change 2011-16	% Change 2011-16
Staffordshire	102,500	106,900	102,100	104,900	110,500	112,200	9,700	9.5%
Stoke-on-Trent	33,500	34,300	35,700	33,100	34,700	37,800	4,300	12.8%
West Midlands Region	744,400	762,400	753,100	752,100	757,700	805,000	60,600	8.1%
England	7,461,400	7,571,300	7,565,100	7,635,600	7,777,300	8,153,000	691,600	9.3%

Public Sector Employees

Area	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Change 2011-16	% Change 2011-16
Staffordshire	61,100	57,000	52,400	49,900	48,900	46,000	-15,100	-24.7%
Stoke-on-Trent	26,900	26,500	26,700	24,500	25,800	27,000	100	0.4%
West Midlands Region	520,200	486,800	487,400	457,800	454,300	453,400	-66,800	-12.8%
England	4,877,900	4,608,400	4,531,900	4,332,300	4,324,600	4,339,500	-538,400	-11.0%

Private Sector

Area	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Change 2011-16	% Change 2011-16
Staffordshire	249,600	257,000	262,500	279,600	293,300	295,500	45,900	18.4%
Stoke-on-Trent	79,000	82,800	82,700	84,600	86,700	87,900	8,900	11.3%
West Midlands Region	1,781,300	1,836,200	1,852,500	1,946,200	2,010,200	2,057,500	276,200	15.5%
England	18,195,300	18,647,600	19,028,900	19,953,500	20,719,800	21,190,200	2,994,900	16.5%

Note - totals may not sum due to rounding

Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee – 19th July 2018

Economic Growth Capital and Development Programme

Appendix C - Briefing Note – Estimating and Calculating Employment from development sites

Background

1. At the meeting of the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee on 15th December, a discussion took place around the methodology used to estimate and calculate employment outcomes on development sites.
2. It was subsequently agreed to bring a more detailed response to the attention of the Select Committee, and this briefing note provides that detail for the information of the Committee.

Estimating the employment outcomes from new employment land and premises

3. Estimating the likely employment outcomes of employment sites and premises, which by their very nature are designed to attract businesses to them, usually without an end user in mind can be challenging. However, over recent years, Staffordshire County Council has used a recognised methodology which is consistent with other public and private sector organisations.

A - Identifying Floor Space

4. The starting point for any such calculations will be the proposed floor space of the development (if it is known), or the gross developable area of an employment site, where an indicative level of floor space is yet to be determined.
5. In the latter case, it is possible to calculate an anticipated level of floor space from the total gross developable area by using a “plot ratio” factor (which is the amount of space available for physical buildings after access roads, parking, landscaping and other elements have been discounted. For the majority of modern business parks attracting manufacturing and distribution type end uses, the plot ratio is usually around 0.4 – or 40% of the gross plot area. For office type developments, the plot ratio may be around 0.6 or 60% of the gross plot area, as buildings are often over more than a single storey.
6. Using a 0.4 plot ratio factor would mean that for a 1.0 hectare (10,000m²) site, we could expect to see a building of approximately 4,000m² – the equivalent of 40% of the total size of the plot area.

B - Translating Floor Space into an employment estimate

7. The next part of any calculation will be to translate the floor space into an employment estimate, and for this purpose we use floor space density estimates produced by the Homes and Communities Agency (now Homes England). A link to this information can be found from this reference ¹.
8. This density estimate guide provides the floor space requirements for differing types of developments. For example, 1 job in a manufacturing type use is likely to require floor space of around 36m², whereas 1 job in a distribution type use requires a greater amount of floor space – at around 80m² per job. Office type developments tend to vary, but are usually around 15m² per job.
9. Sometimes a planning permission will state a maximum amount of floor space within a particular use which can then be applied to the above densities to provide an estimated employment figure for a site.
10. Developers and landowners will often promote their sites with flexibility around the planning permission for uses that would be allowed on the site. In these cases, a best estimate of the split of the predicted end uses on the site is used, and subsequently applied to the density factors highlighted above to provide an employment estimate for a site.
11. It is therefore possible to calculate the projected employment from a development site using the predicted floor space by use type, and the employment density as set out above. For example a small business park is predicted to be able to accommodate up to 4,000m² of employment development of which 2,000m² is expected to be in manufacturing uses and 2,000m² is expected to be in distribution and warehousing uses.
12. The employment calculations in this case would therefore be:
 - a. Manufacturing Use - 2,000m² – at 36m² per job - $(2,000 \div 36) = 55$ jobs
 - b. Distribution Use - 2,000m² at 80m² per job - $(2,000 \div 80) = 25$ jobs
 - c. Total employment - 25 + 55 jobs = 80 jobs
13. As highlighted above, these calculations rely on predicting likely development outcomes of a business park and should therefore be recognised as a guide, however they are useful, and recognised approaches to estimating employment outcomes.

Tracking Actual Employment

14. There are a number of different approaches to tracking the actual employment from a site, which have their own advantages and disadvantages.

¹ Homes and Communities Agency – Employment Density Guide, 3rd Edition, 2015
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/484133/employment_density_guide_3rd_edition.pdf

15. In many recent cases, such as through our recent developments at i54 South Staffordshire and Redhill Business Park, Staffordshire County Council has a good working relationship with the companies that are locating on to the employment land developed. It is therefore relatively straight forward to be able to contact these companies and extract up to date and accurate records of employment on site. This is often provided in the form of anonymised Human Resources records information.
16. Another approach has been to track the detailed planning applications from end users who look to locate on to employment sites. In many cases, end users will provide their expected employment from the site within economic statements accompanying planning applications, or as part of the submitted planning application forms. Whilst this is not as accurate an approach as gaining information directly from the companies themselves, it provides a useful and time efficient approach to tracking employment outcomes. This approach is also not so useful in the cases where buildings are being developed out on a speculative basis.
17. Where company generated information or planning application information is not available, further approaches can include the use of a direct survey of businesses on a site, tracking local media for news around a company moving to new premises or recruiting staff, or potentially using a central government dataset. While central government data sets are generally robust, they can be prone to data coding errors and are often subject to time delays – usually around 18 months to 2 years.
18. In practice, for the purposes of reporting information relating to the Economic Growth Programme a combination of these approaches is adopted, which provides as full a picture of the associated employment outcomes as possible, and to allow for the performance monitoring of the success of sites.

Contact Officer

Jonathan Vining, Economic Growth Programme Manager
Tel – 01785 277353
E mail – jonathan.vining@staffordshire.gov.uk

Local Members' Interest
N/A

Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee - 19 July 2018

Review of Elective Home Education Final Report

Recommendation of the Review Group

1. That the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee considers the final report of the Review Group on Elective Home Education, with a view to supporting the recommendations and agreeing its submission to the Cabinet Members for Children and Young People and Learning and Employability for their endorsement and information.

Report of Julie Roberts, Scrutiny and Support Officer

Summary

Reason for Recommendation

1. The investigation by the Review Group (which was conflated with members of both the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee and the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee) into the issue of elective home education is now complete and the Review Group has produced a final report and recommendations. The Select Committee is asked to consider the report and determine whether it endorses the recommendations. the Committee is also asked to agree its submission to the Cabinet for information.

Report

Background

2. The Corporate Parenting Panel (CPP) made a referral to both the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee and the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee in respect of their concerns over the potential vulnerability of Elective Home Education (EHE) pupils in Staffordshire. Following this referral, the Chairman and Vice Chairman of both Select Committees gave consideration to whether there was value in considering this issue again after elements of EHE had been considered as part of the Children Missing Out On Education Working Group in 2014. As a result of the significant increase in EHE numbers, changes to many of the reasons for pupils becoming EHE and changes to the EHE Policy they felt a review would be beneficial.

Summary

3. The Review Group held an inquiry session where it met with a range of Staffordshire parents who had elected to home educate their children, as well as head teachers and officers, to help establish the level of EHE in Staffordshire and the reasons for becoming EHE, specifically why the number of those becoming EHE has risen so significantly.

4. The most significant rise in EHE numbers is around poor school attendance and avoiding prosecution/exclusion. The Review Group has concerns over the reasons behind this rise, which was mirrored nationally, and hopes that this report promulgates their concerns whilst suggesting ways to ameliorate them.

Next Steps

5. Subject to the endorsement of the Committee, the final report, together with any accompanying submission that the Committee may wish to make, will be submitted to Cabinet for its information and endorsement.

Link to the Strategic Plan

6. Ensuring that Staffordshire's children and young people can get the best start in life and receive a good education so that they can make a positive contribution to their communities is a priority for the County Council.

Implications

7. The equalities and legal; resource and value for money; and risk implications are set out in the attached report.

Contact Officer

Name: Julie Roberts
Job Title: Scrutiny and Support Officer
Telephone No.: 01785 276136
e-mail: julie.roberts@staffordshire.gov.uk

Appendices/Background Papers

Appendix A - Final Report of the Working Group

Joint Review
by the
Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee
and the
Safe & Strong Communities Select Committee

on
Elective Home Education
(EHE)

Final Report
May 2018



Contents

	Page Number
Chairman's Foreword	1
Conclusions and Recommendations	2
Setting the Scene	5
Scope of the Work / Terms of Reference	6
Membership	6
Methods of Investigation	6
Findings	7
Community Impact	16
Acknowledgements	17
List of Appendices / Background Papers	17
Glossary	21



Chairman's Foreword

This review was undertaken following a referral from the Corporate Parenting Panel and an awareness of the significant increase in the number of children becoming home educated.

During our investigations we have become conscious of the incredible breadth of styles of home education as well as the differences in the reasons for becoming home educated and for children being taken out of mainstream schooling. We have been impressed by the commitment and dedication shown by the home educators we met and by the head teachers, advisors and officers who have contributed to this review.

One of the most significant concerns we identified is around the notable increase in the numbers becoming home educated as a result of poor school attendance and/or to avoid prosecution. This report sets out our methods of investigation, findings, conclusions and recommendations to mitigate the concerns identified.

I would like to pay tribute to all who have given their time to share their views and experiences with the Review Group and to the Officers who have supported us with this work. We have benefitted from their expertise and I am grateful for their involvement.



**Mr. Paul Snape,
Inquiry Chairman**

1. Conclusions and Recommendations

We have been impressed by the level of commitment and dedication shown by the home educators we met. The difference in their approaches to delivering this education is extraordinary, and whilst we may find some of the more radical approaches quite alien to us, their passion for home education is remarkable. The incredible amount of time, resource and funding all the parents we met committed to home educating their children and the successes they shared with us were estimable. In fact, having met these parents we have the greatest admiration for the work they undertake and are reassured by their complete commitment to ensuring the effective education of their children.

However, the numbers choosing to home educate for lifestyle/cultural/philosophical reasons, like the home educators we met, has reduced over the last three years (1.9%). At the same time the number home educating to avoid risk of prosecution as a result of poor attendance has increased significantly, seeing a 27.4% rise over the last five years. There has also been a rise in the number home educating resulting from near exclusion (1.2% increase) and from emotional or behavioural difficulties (1.6%).

Ofsted's National Director (Social Care) has indicated that for too many children and families home education is not a positive option and leads to children not receiving an effective education. And for some children, it increases the risk of harm. She went on to say that whilst Ofsted want to support the rights of those parents who enable their children to thrive through home education they also recognise that the cohort of children being educated at home is changing. The Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) survey suggests that at a national level increasingly some parents allege that EHE is 'suggested' to them as an 'option' to avoid attendance fines or further exclusions. These parents invariably say they do not know what EHE entails.

Whilst we know the majority of Staffordshire schools act for the best interests of their pupils, we have heard anecdotally of parents being coerced into "choosing" to home educate to avoid prosecution and/or exclusion. We have also seen Staffordshire case studies which evidence instances where coercion has been used, and in one instance where it has been successfully challenged to re-instate the pupil. In their work with families who off-roll their children to home educate, the EHE Officer and the County Manager, Targeted Services, both shared instances where coercion had been used. In fact, they were increasingly frustrated that vulnerable families were coerced into removing their children from the school roll without understanding the implications for them or their children. This academic year 39 children have been taken out of Year 11 to be home educated. This equates to 13% of all those de-registered from school roll to be home educated this academic year. There seems no logic to removing your child just before their GCSE examinations and our concerns are that schools may be encouraging this in an effort to avoid adverse league table results.

Ofsted school inspections now focus strongly on children who are not being educated in school. This includes: reasons for exclusions; action taken by the school when children are missing education; pupils taken off roll; and the quality of

education that pupils receive in alternative provision. We feel Ofsted have a key role to play in identifying children who have been coerced into home education and particularly that there needs to be a mechanism by which they take account of the number of de-registered pupils and the reasons for this. If a school has a disproportionately high number de-registered for elective home education Ofsted should be looking more closely into the reasons for this. We therefore **RECOMMEND** that the Cabinet Member supports representation being made to Ofsted with regard to the mechanism in place to take account of the reasons for de-registration and, where there is a disproportionately high number de-registering for EHE, consider more closely the reasons behind this.

Unregistered schools remain a concern, and whilst we are not aware of any unregistered schools in Staffordshire at present, we are aware that there is a need to remain vigilant to the possibility. The LA does not routinely look for unregistered schools, however they do undertake checks to establish where children are reported to be educated when they move schools. Where indications are that this education is being provided in an un-registered setting, the LA informs the appropriate regulatory bodies. We feel strongly that everyone has a role to play in this, with a responsibility to report any concerns of possible unregistered schools so that these can be appropriately checked.

We are aware of the immense work undertaken by both schools and the Gypsy/Roma/Traveler (GRT) Advisory teachers in supporting the education of children from the GRT community. We acknowledge the challenges schools face in accommodating children and young people from a community that is transient and the effects this can have on their Progress 8 figures. We would like to commend their work and the commitment they show to supporting their education. We are aware of the concerns the GRT community have around their children being included in sex education, and that proposed Government changes are expected to result in the de-registration of their children earlier than the current trend. We feel sex education is extremely important to ensure pupils are taught the knowledge and life skills they will need to stay safe and develop healthy and supportive relationships, particularly dealing with the challenges of growing up in an online world. We note that it will be mandatory for schools to teach sex education, however it is likely that parents will retain the right to withdraw their child from these lessons at secondary school. In primary schools, however, parents will not have the right to withdraw their children from relationships education. Whilst supporting the importance of relationships education we find it somewhat illogical that parents will now be unable to withdraw their children from these lessons in primary schools, but they are able to take their children out of the mainstream education system altogether.

We also wish to applaud both the EHE Officer and the County Manager, Targeted Services, for their dedicated work under difficult circumstances. The significant increase in EHE numbers combined with the decrease in EHE Officer numbers creates a strain on the work undertaken and the type of services they are able to offer. Despite this, proactive work has been undertaken to develop good relationships with the EHE community, gaining support from EHE providers in redrafting the EHE parental handbook and in providing staff training. Alongside this is the development of an annual event to celebrate the achievements of the EHE community. We applaud this initiative and the opportunity it presents to highlight and

celebrate successful EHE. We therefore **RECOMMEND** the Cabinet Member consider how this event can be supported and facilitated.

When it is done well we feel that EHE fits well with the Council's people helping people approach. However we feel greater resource is needed to ensure that, as a minimum, parents are offered help and support if they feel they need it. We therefore **RECOMMEND** the Cabinet Member consider how staffing can be increased in recognition of the significant increase in the numbers of EHE and the consequent implications to work load and resources.

In the report of the 2014 Select Committee Working Group on Children Missing Out on Education, Members had supported the Badman report which recommended the establishment of a compulsory national registration scheme, administered locally, for all children of statutory school age who are, or become, electively home educated. Registration of home educated children is currently part of the Private Members Bill in the House of Lords. The reasons for registration being proposed include the fact that there is no clear information on children educated at home. Better information would enable issues such as schools putting pressure on parents to home educate, or parents using home education to circumvent admissions arrangements to be better understood.

The Local Government Association "Home Education Briefing" (January 2018) to the House of Lords raised the need for additional powers suggesting there should be a "duty on parents to register home-schooled children with their local authority" to help Council's monitor their education. Whilst we are aware that the idea of a registration scheme is not supported by most of the EHE community in Staffordshire we feel strongly that such a scheme would help clarify the numbers of EHE and identify those that have found themselves home educating without necessarily understanding the implications this has for them or their children. It would also help address the worrying levels of alleged coercion that have a detrimental impact not only on those families involved but also potentially a consequential reputational impact on the more traditional EHE community. We feel registration is in everyone's best interests and hope that those who are passionate about EHE from a philosophical/life choice point of view will support this through their desire to protect the integrity of EHE. We therefore **RECOMMEND** supporting the introduction of a registration scheme for all children of statutory school age who are, or become, electively home educated and ask the Cabinet Member to make representations and lobby in support of the current Private Members Bill introduced by Lord Soley on Home Education.

Should a registration scheme be brought in we are aware that there will be significant resource implications for the LA and wish to ensure that Central Government are aware of the resource implications such a scheme will create and will provide appropriate levels of funding to enable effective delivery, including the consequential staffing resource required to "follow-up" concerns where appropriate education is not being provided.

2. Setting the Scene

The Corporate Parenting Panel (CPP) made a referral to both the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee and the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee in respect of their concerns over the potential vulnerability of Elective Home Education (EHE) pupils in Staffordshire.

A Working Group of the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee had previously considered the issue of EHE as part of their wider review on Children Missing Out on Education (CMOOE) in 2014. This working group had been established following concerns raised by Ofsted on the number of children missing out on education across the country.

The Working Group identified concerns about the number of children who may be resident in Staffordshire but of whom the Council is unaware. There is no requirement on a parent to register their child with the local authority. However, under Section 436A of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 a local authority must make arrangements to enable them to establish (so far as they are able to do so) the identities of children in their area who are of compulsory school age but: a) are not registered pupils at a school, and b) are not receiving suitable education otherwise than at a school.

Should parents elect to educate their child at home, or indeed to educate them through the private school system, the local authority could easily be unaware of that child's existence within the County, yet they are still legally responsible for ensuring all children resident within their borders are receiving a satisfactory education. They also have a duty to identify children not receiving an appropriate education and to address this. This presented a dichotomy for the local authority, on the one hand they respect the right of parents to choose how their child is educated whilst on the other they need to ensure all children are safe and receiving appropriate education provision and be able to evidence this.

The Graham Badman report on elective home education in England recommended the establishment of a compulsory national registration scheme, administered locally, for all children of statutory school age who are, or become, electively home educated. The CMOOE Working Group had sympathy with this recommendation. As a result, the Chairman of the Working Group, Mr Martyn Tittley, wrote on their behalf to the Children's Commissioner, the Minister for Children and Families, the Secretary of State for Education and various members of her team, explaining their concerns around the need for a national registration scheme to ensure authorities were aware of the children living within their area and were able to monitor their education and welfare. Unfortunately the replies received, whilst in the most part sympathetic to the issues highlighted, did not help in addressing the concerns raised.

Following the CPP referral the Chairman and Vice Chairman of both the Prosperous Staffordshire and the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committees gave consideration to whether there was value in considering this issue again. As a result of the significant increase in EHE numbers, changes to many of the reasons for pupils becoming EHE and changes to the EHE Policy they felt a review would be beneficial.

3. Scope of the Work / Terms of Reference

The Review Group sought to identify:

- the level of EHE in Staffordshire;
- the reasons for becoming EHE and specifically why the number of those becoming EHE has risen so significantly;
- the infrastructure around managing EHE;
- the recent changes to the EHE Policy, why these changes were made and the implications they will have on the service; and
- whether there are any safeguarding issues and address the concerns raised by the CPP.

4. Membership

The following Select Committee members participated in this Review Group:

Mrs Ann Beech (Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee)
Mrs Julia Jessel (Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee)
Mr Bryan Jones (Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee)
Rev Preb Michael Metcalf (Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee)
Mr Kyle Robinson (Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee)
Mr Paul Snape (Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee)

5. Methods of Investigation

The Review Group met initially on 12 January 2018 to: establish the level of EHE in Staffordshire; the range of reasons for EHE; the changes to EHE policy; the infrastructure around monitoring EHE; and, the role Ofsted play in respect of schools and EHE.

The Review Group met again on 31 January to prepare for the inquiry. They then held the Inquiry Session on 21 March 2018 with the following representatives attending to share their expertise and experiences:

- parent representatives who choose to educate their children at home
- Jenny Dodd, EHE Officer and representative on the Association of EHE Professionals (AEHEP)
- Mr. Haywood, Headteacher, St Andrew's C of E Primary School, Weston
- Mrs Hedar, Headteacher, Longford Primary Schools, Cannock
- Caroline Escott, Gypsy, Roma, Traveller (GRT) Advisor
- Tim Moss, County Commissioner for School Quality Assurance and Intervention

During our investigation we also met with the following officers:

- Karl Hobson, County Manager, Targeted Services

The Review Group then met on 18 May to consider their findings.

6. Findings

EHE in Staffordshire

As part of our inquiry we wanted to understand the reasons parents elect to home educate, how they undertake this, and learn from their experiences of EHE in Staffordshire. The breadth of EHE approaches is remarkable and so we met with parents who represented very different models of EHE. We are very grateful to those parents for sharing so openly with us and for giving up so much of their time to explain their rationale and share their experiences. All those we met left us with a sense of the enormous challenge they had undertaken, the remarkable commitment they had shown, the great sense of responsibility they felt in ensuring their children received an appropriate education and their dedication to the concept of home education.

The broad spectrum of methods and philosophies to EHE of those parents we met ranged from “home schooling” to “radical schooling” or “whole life unschooling”. In the main home schooling recreates school at home, with a structured day, breadth of curriculum covered and levels of progression. The more radical approach is much less structured and supports and facilitates learning led by the child, learning through real life experiences.

The reasons these parents chose to home educate had both similarities and differences. In all cases at least one of their children had attended school and dissatisfaction with this schooling had triggered their move towards home education.

Reasons for choosing EHE included:

- concern that their child was left to “coast” and overlooked;
- ensuring the right level of understanding to any learning;
- more opportunities for learning outdoors, educational visits etc;
- no corners cut to fit in with school targets;
- no bullying;
- less distractions;
- less likely to succumb to peer pressure leading to inappropriate behaviour;
- the ability to provide 1 to 1 tuition when home educating;
- greater flexibility;
- no wasted time/teacher training days
- greater number of subjects taught, including music and languages;
- can take exams if they wish to but are not forced to;
- they are our children and therefore we have the greater personal interest in their learning;
- a lifestyle choice, enabling the family to be at the centre of all they do;
- provide a stable rock-like platform for their children whilst giving them the flexibility needed to meet their needs;
- support the development of emotional maturity;

- the parent should always be the primary educator of their children, and home education is an extension of this;
- lack of imaginative play in mainstream schooling;
- lack of real life experiences and relatable context within mainstream school learning.

A variety of very good resources were readily available on line. Whilst it often took a great deal of time to source the most appropriate resources and to plan lessons for the more traditional home schooling, these parents were committed to finding appropriate resources and taking the time to plan lessons to support effective learning.

A range of approaches also existed amongst these parents towards the type of qualification their children took. The American High School Diploma was taken in one instance. Other parents considered their children returning to school and/or college to take GCSEs or vocational qualifications as appropriate. Other parents who followed the more radical approach had children who were “divers” in that they studied one subject in depth to the exclusions of others. This gave an opportunity for them to develop expertise in that subject area and examples were shared of success achieved through this method.

All parents were aware that their children could re-join mainstream schooling at any point and three of the parents we met had one or more children who now attended a school setting. This return to a traditional school setting was for some as a result of the child’s wish to go to school, in other cases it was to enable access to examinations/qualifications and in all cases it was felt to be the right thing for the child at that particular time.

None of the parents we spoke to felt that their children had been disadvantaged socially by being home educated. All parents ensured their children were part of wider social groups through involvement in a variety of clubs and/or activities. In fact, parents mostly felt that they were more sociable rather than less so, being more able to confidently socialise outside their peer group. They also felt that in general their children had a lower tolerance for unpleasantness whereas the school environment sometimes made children immune to, or accepting of, unacceptable behaviours.

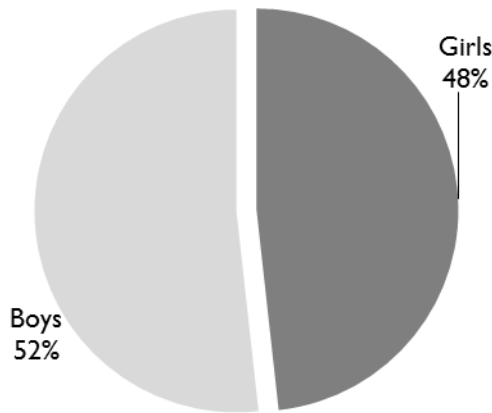
Size and scope of EHE in Staffordshire

The number of EHE in Staffordshire has risen significantly, from 258 in 2006 to 887 in 2016/17. In 2014, when the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee undertook their review of CMOOE there were 490 EHE. The number of EHE in Staffordshire has more than doubled in the last 5 years, with an increase of 15% between 2015/16 and 2016/17.

The number of Staffordshire children that are EHE represents 0.8% of the total school population. Whilst this is a small number it is an increase on the previous year and is now at the highest level since recordings began in 2005.

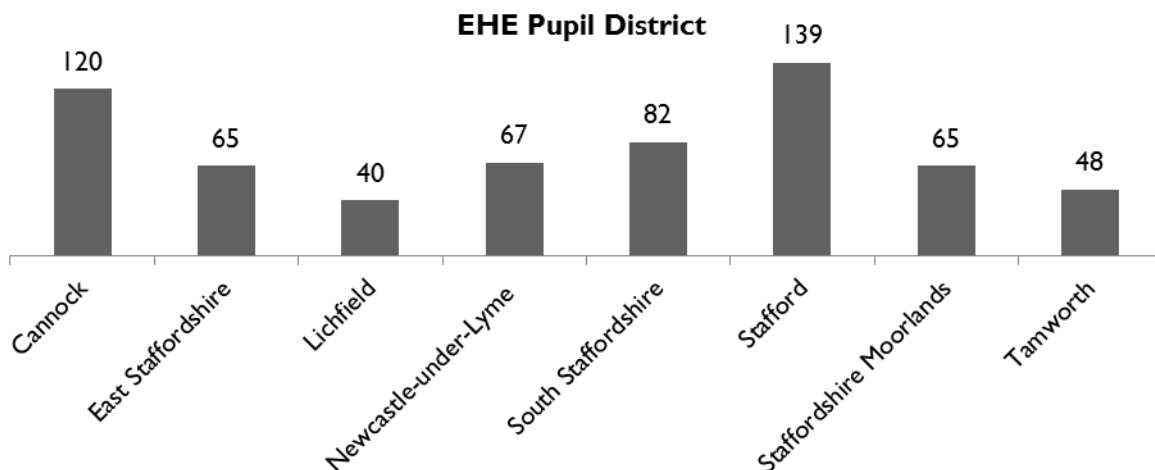
Split by gender

2016-2017



Since 2014, the number of boys in the EHE cohort is greater than the number of girls. Proportionally, there is a 3.5% difference between the numbers of boys and girls, this represents a small increase on 2015/16; however, the gap between the number of boys and girls has increased by just over 1.0% since 2013/14 (2.4%).

Within the EHE cohort 626 pupils have their addresses and previous school data recorded. The district of Stafford makes up the highest proportion of EHE pupils with 22.2% (2,220 pupils per 10,000), second is Cannock with 19.2% (1,920 pupils per 10,000) and third is South Staffordshire with 13.1% (1,310 pupils per 10,000).



The majority of EHE pupils have previously been attending a Staffordshire school, with 257 Staffordshire schools attended prior to individuals choosing EHE.

Of the current EHE cohort that we are aware of, 13.6% (85 pupils) have never attended school, 3.8% (24 pupils) previously attended schools outside of Staffordshire and 2.1% (13 pupils) were previously EHE outside of Staffordshire (Coventry, Derbyshire, Hungary, Shropshire, Solihull and Wolverhampton).

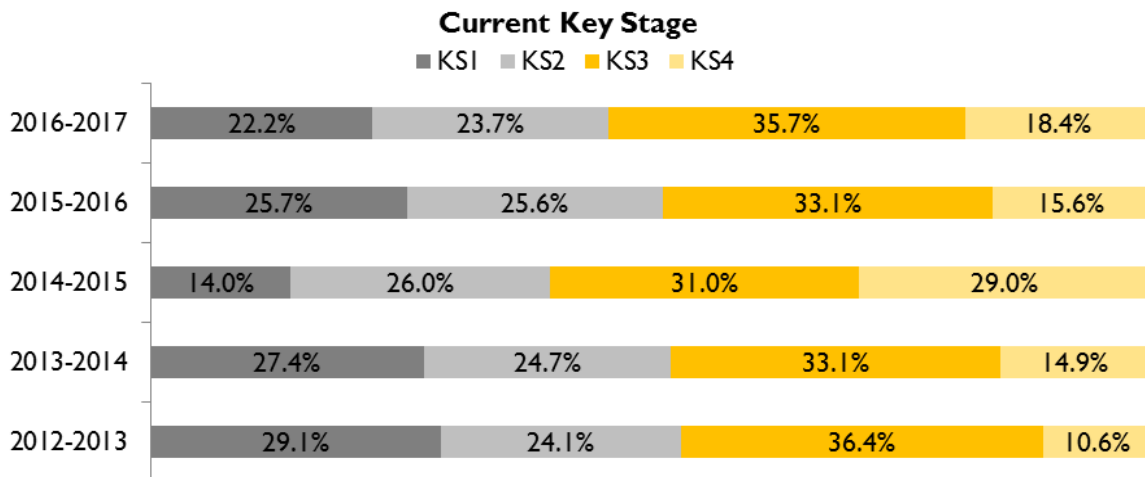
In 2017, 349 Staffordshire pupils came out of school and became electively home educated, an increase of 9 on the previous year. Of those who came out of school 173 (49.6%) were girls and 176 (50.4%) were boys.

During the year a total of 247 stopped being open to the service –

- 144 children reached the end of statutory education (46 of these children were de-registered in Year 11 in the autumn or spring of 2016/17)
- 86 children returned to school (40 girls, 46 boys)
- 14 families moved out of Staffordshire
- 2 attended EOTAS (Education other than at School)
- 1 child started attending a Pupil Referral Unit

A total of 12 referrals were made to the Children Missing Education team. This is due to the local authority not knowing the destination of the children, so in line with policy the children had to be referred so that this could be addressed.

Over the last 5 years there has been an increasing trend for children in Key Stage (KS) 3 and 4 age groups to become EHE. At the end of 2016/17 this represented 54% of the cohort. In 2016/17 there was an increase of 5.4% in the numbers of KS3 and 4 EHE from the previous year. There has also been an increase in the number of pupils first becoming EHE from both the KS3 and the KS4 age groups.



There are a number of reasons for a child to be electively home educated. The highest percentage reason is 'Risk of prosecution' as a result of poor attendance which has increased by 8.7% over the last 3 years. Other reasons of note in 2017 were 'Dissatisfaction with the school environment' (1.2% increase), 'Near exclusion' (1.2% increase) and 'Emotional and behavioural difficulties' (1.6% increase).

Both 'Lifestyle/ Cultural/ Philosophical' (1.9% reduction) and 'Religious beliefs' (2.5% reduction) represent the largest reductions from 2015/16 and these represent a long-term trend over the last 3 years.

Reasons cited for EHE

Reason	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	3 yr. Trend
Attendance/Prosecution	0.3%	10.2%	19.0%	24.1%	27.7%	↗
Lifestyle/Cultural/Philosophical	33.2%	28.4%	30.0%	14.9%	13.0%	↘
Awaiting Information	27.5%	30.0%	16.5%	15.3%	12.5%	↘
Dissatisfaction with School Environment	13.5%	9.2%	9.2%	8.8%	10.0%	↗
Bullying	6.3%	7.3%	8.2%	6.2%	6.4%	↘
Medical - Child	4.5%	3.5%	5.5%	5.6%	4.8%	●
Near Exclusion	0.8%	0.2%	1.1%	2.2%	3.4%	↗
Problems SEN Provision	2.4%	2.9%	2.7%	2.7%	3.0%	↗
Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties	0.3%	0.2%	0.0%	0.9%	2.5%	↗
School Refuser/Phobic	1.9%	1.2%	1.0%	0.8%	0.7%	●
Not Preferred School	0.8%	1.0%	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%	●
Particular Talent	1.6%	1.4%	2.0%	0.5%	0.5%	↘
Racism/Homophobia	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	●
Religious Beliefs	6.6%	4.3%	3.3%	3.6%	0.1%	↘
Medical - Parent	0.3%	0.2%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	●
Other	2.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	●

The number of EHE children as a result of bullying has seen a 2.0% decrease since 2015 but remains similar to the 2016 figure.

The National Picture

EHE has been an issue under discussion at a national level since the Badman report in 2009, which failed to bring about legislative change due in no small part to the 2010 General Election.

However, EHE remains under discussion:

- following the 2014 “Trojan Horse” allegations, DfE and Ofsted created a joint team to target suspected unregistered schools. This team highlighted the complexity of the relationship between unregistered schools, education out of school settings and home education;
- in November 2017 the Children’s Commissioner published “Falling through the Gaps in Education” which highlighted the fact that little is known about home education provision and unregistered and alternative provision because this provision is not registered, inspected or regulated;
- in 2016/17 the Association of Directors of Children’s Services (ADCS) undertook an EHE survey to provide an overview of the make-up and characteristics of EHE learners, to understand how LAs across the country are supporting them and gauge how resources are being deployed in this area;

- in 2018 DfE published draft guidance for LAs and parents and a call for evidence on EHE containing specific proposals (responses required by July 2018). The school system minister Lord Agnew has indicated that the DfE will strengthen the guidance for local authorities and parents on home education so that it will "help parents understand their responsibilities in delivering home education and make sure local authorities are clear on the action they can take";
- a private member's Bill introduced by Lord Soley on Home Education (Duty of Local Authorities) 2017-19 is currently being considered in the House of Lords. The Bill seeks to "Make provision for local authorities to monitor the educational, physical and emotional development of children receiving elective home education; and for connected purposes".

EHE Policy, Procedures and Resource in Staffordshire

The Staffordshire EHE Policies and Procedure document has been updated in 2018. It includes reference to the fact that Staffordshire County Council has sought to strengthen its relationship with Elective Home Educators to ensure that Staffordshire is a safe and supportive place in which to home educate your child. It sets out clearly the responsibilities of both the parents and the LA with regard to home educated young people, indicates how these procedures and practices will be reviewed and explains the process for deregistering from mainstream school.

An information booklet for parents has also been re-written with support from home educators themselves. This has been invaluable and their support in both the tone of and depth of information included is greatly appreciated. The booklet clearly explains the process to enable home education and the responsibilities of EHE.

These same Home Educators have also led training courses on EHE to LA staff, helping to broaden their understanding of EHE.

Currently there is one EHE Officer in Staffordshire. She is supported by one administrative officer. This provision has reduced from three full time EHE Officers and one administrative assistant in 2012/13, covering a cohort of just over 300 EHE children and young people. The one EHE Officer now covers a cohort of more than 887, with this figure rising each year. It is not possible for this one officer to offer the same service as that in 2012/13 when there was a greater level of resource and many less within the cohort. It becomes increasingly more challenging to visit and support the growing number of families who educate their children at home, with a move towards visiting when requested to do so by families or when concerns arise, which reduces the ability to work proactively and is far from ideal.

When compared with the resource level of other service areas, those allocated to EHE are poor. As an example, the Virtual School, which supports around 1000 children and young people, has approximately 10 members of staff. Whilst we understand that those children in the looked after system are not there out of choice and we applaud the vital work of the Virtual School in improving outcomes for these children, the difference in resource allocation between the two services is marked. It is also worth noting that Entrust felt unable to deliver the increased demands of the EHE service with the staffing resource allocated, with the EHE officer returning to the LA in April 2017.

GRT

Lifestyle/cultural reasons for becoming EHE were cited in 13% of EHE cases in 2017. Of the 13%, 88% were from the Gypsy Roma Traveller community. During our inquiry we met with head teachers from primary schools with a high GRT community and also heard from one of the GRT Advisors. Significant work was undertaken to build relationships with the GRT community and support their children through education. In the most part the two schools we heard from managed to keep their GRT pupils to the end of Year 6, although not always. The majority of GRT pupils will be EHE from Year 7 onwards, although where a middle school system exists these children will sometimes stay in mainstream education in Year 8. Good links existed between these schools and the GRT communities as well as with the GRT Advisor.

Schools have limited opportunities to show what has been achieved with these children and this can impact on a school's desire to accept the more transient children such as those from the GRT community. In particular there is an impact on the Progress 8 scores which may make some schools reluctant to take on GRT pupils.

Most GRT EHE are registered with the LA and most are happy to engage with the GRT Advisor.

There is particular concern following the recent decision by Central Government to make sex education compulsory in Year 5 and it is anticipated that this will result in a significant rise in the number of GRT pupils becoming EHE in Year 4 and/or 5. The changes are expected to come into effect from September 2019 and will include mandatory sex and relationship education in all schools, not just maintained schools. The Government has committed to retain parents' right to withdraw their child from sex education in secondary schools as currently, but not from relationships education at primary settings.

Alongside the good work of both schools and the GRT Advisor, we are aware of work within local communities and churches to support GRT communities (a Newcastle example of good community working was shared). We wish to acknowledge the benefits of such support and commend this excellent example of people helping people.

Returning to mainstream schooling from EHE

Whilst it is important to try and accommodate pupils who wish to return from EHE to mainstream schooling it also needs to be acknowledged that this has a significant impact on the school. Where EHE children do return to mainstream education a lot of work is needed to support that transition and ensure an appropriate curriculum offer. In the most part head teachers told us that those who had been EHE tended to have good general knowledge, could answer questions well and had good enquiry skills but found the more formal methodology difficult.

Schools concerns

In general, those head teachers we heard from felt there were a number of concerns that could have an impact on EHE numbers. These included:

- the pressure on pupils as a result of constant testing and the consequent mental health concerns;
- the cut back in health care home visits giving less opportunity to find and identify those that need support and are unregistered;
- cut backs in the number of SEND team visits to 3 per year in schools;
- schools buckling under budget cuts and under funding.

Unregistered Schools

Currently we are not aware of any unregistered schools in Staffordshire. The LA has previously worked with both the DfE and Ofsted where there have been suspected unregistered schools in the County on two occasions. Of these, one school has since received approval to become a registered school. The second has been visited by Ofsted, with the LA being unaware of any further action being taken. This would imply that the establishment didn't meet the criteria of an unregistered school.

Should the LA become aware of a potential unregistered school, they inform both the DfE (unregistered schools department) and Ofsted. Whilst the LA doesn't routinely look for unregistered schools they do undertake checks to establish where children are reported to be being educated when they move from a school. If this indicates that education is being provided where there is no registration, the LA informs the appropriate regulatory bodies.

Ofsted's unregistered schools team continues to investigate settings across the country that may require registration as independent schools. This inevitably includes settings that are providing alternative education. The lack of a requirement for alternative providers to register unless they operate more full-time education and the lack of regulation for unregistered providers continue to be significant concerns for Ofsted.¹

In February 2018 Ofsted said that it had identified more than 350 suspected unregistered schools. (After setting up a specialist taskforce in 2016, it has failed to prosecute a single proprietor for running an unregistered school.) Ofsted believes that it currently lacks sufficient powers to close them. In response to a February BBC report on safeguarding concerns in unregistered schools, Ofsted Chief Inspector Amanda Spielman says that her "hands are tied". In March 2018 she confirmed to MPs that she "would very much like to have stronger powers."

The DfE states clearly that "Unregistered schools and out-of-school settings are not the same thing." In March 2018 the Chief Ofsted Inspector suggested to MPs that, at the time when registration was deemed non-essential, "nobody really contemplated there being schools that simply would not want to comply with the law." Recently, relating to the Government Call for Evidence, and revised DfE guidance on Home Education, concerns have been "expressed by some LA staff that this (compulsory registration) could make their job of working pro-actively with the families involved more difficult. Compulsory registration carries with it the need for sanctions or penalties for non-compliance." In supporting a policy of compulsory registration

¹ "Social care commentary: hidden children - the challenges of safeguarding children who are not attending school " Ofsted's National Director, Social Care, Eleanor Schooling

consideration will need to be given to staffing, resources, and to the relationship between LAs and the home education community.

Reasons for the rise in EHE

The significant rise in the numbers of EHE in Staffordshire is mirrored nationally.

The LAs that responded to the ADCS survey indicated that over 80% of their known EHE cohort had previously attended school. General dissatisfaction with school was the most common reason for families choosing to educate their child at home. However, increasingly, some parents allege that EHE is 'suggested' to them as an 'option' to avoid attendance fines or further exclusions. These parents invariably say they do not know what EHE entails.²

For many years there has been a small group of elective home educators that choose to educate their children at home, recognize and accept the huge responsibility this involves and take up the challenge and immense work load that tackling home education requires. These parents were represented in the home educators we met, and their commitment and dedication to home educating their children was palpable. However, we have seen a significant and concerning rise in the number of children becoming home educated as a direct result of poor attendance and/or to avoid exclusion or prosecution. Parents may not always understand what they are signing up for. One telling example given by an LA was of a parent persuaded by the school to educate their child at home as an alternative to exclusion. Schools are not permitted to do this. The parent's lack of understanding of what they had agreed to became apparent when they phoned the LA and asked when they (the LA) would start to provide the home education.

An example of unacceptable influence on a Year 11 pupil's parent deciding to electively home educate their child is attached at Appendix 1. This Staffordshire case study evidences one example where a parent clearly did not understand the impact on either themselves or their child of electing to home educate and would not have chosen to do so without this suggestion being both instigated and encouraged by the school. In this instance the County Manager, Targeted Services, successfully challenged the circumstances and the pupil was re-instated on a reduced time table and allowed to take his examinations.

Ofsted school inspections now focus strongly on children who are not being educated in school. This includes: reasons for exclusions; action taken by the school when children are missing education; pupils taken off roll; and the quality of education that pupils receive in alternative provision. It would be helpful if Ofsted investigate the reasons behind parents choosing to educate their child at home to help establish whether schools have influenced this decision.

The nature of senior school staff positions has changed in recent times, and this is contextually important in understanding the relationship between schools and the anecdotal cases of encouragement of EHE. The ADCS recognises how "Schools and their leaders stand and fall on their reputation." Similarly, the ADCS 2017 report

² "Social care commentary: hidden children - the challenges of safeguarding children who are not attending school " Ofsted's National Director, Social Care, Eleanor Schooling

on EHE, suggests the increase in EHE numbers, in part, “may be due to increased pressures on schools”, as well as on pupils and parents. The possible correlation here is, as suggested by the chair of the association's education achievement committee, “that rather than the school excluding them, the child is electively educated at home” – the concern here is that elective home education is being encouraged with consideration being given to school performance, to the disadvantage of the child's educational needs.

There is a growing sense of shared concern as a result of evidence suggesting that schools are involved with parents' decisions to electively home educate. The ADCS November 2017 Report stated, “a concern that "suggesting", "proposing" or "promoting" EHE may increasingly be used as a strategy to move children from roll.” A following comment in February 2018 restated their concerns around “when the decision to home educate is not a well-informed, considered decision...when it is used as a cover for an informal exclusion.” Kevin Courtney, general secretary of the NUT, said in July 2017 that the rise in exclusions of questionable validity was a “concerning trend.”

The pressure that schools, and in particular senior leaders in those schools, are under around performance, inspections and league tables is understood and considered. However, statements from the DfE make clear that school involvement in the decision to home educate is ultimately unacceptable. Responding to ADCS concerns in February 2018, the department spokesperson said that it was “never appropriate for a school to pressurise a parent into taking this decision”.

Community Impact

Resources and Value for Money

We have recommended extra resource into supporting EHE and to facilitate the EHE annual celebrations. We are aware of the budgetary limitations the Council currently faces but feel that it is unreasonable to continue a service which has seen more than a 66% increase in demand at the same time as seeing a staff reduction of 2 thirds.

Equalities and Legal

LAs have a statutory duty under Section 436A of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to make arrangements to enable them to establish (so far as they are able to do so) the identities of children in their area who are of compulsory school age but: a) are not registered pupils at a school, and b) are not receiving suitable education otherwise than at a school. They also have a duty to ensure that all children receive a suitable education.

Risk

There is a risk that the Council will not meet its statutory obligations as listed above.

Climate Change

There are no climate change implications.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following officers who supported the Working Group:

- Karl Hobson, County Manager, Targeted Service;
- Helen Phillips, Scrutiny & Support Officer;
- Julie Roberts, Scrutiny & Support Officer;
- Finn Cartman-Frost, Business Support Apprentice

**County Councillor Paul Snape
Review Group Chairman
May 2018**

Contact Officer/s

Helen Phillips, Scrutiny and Support Officer
Staffordshire County Council
Telephone: 01785 276143
e-mail: helen.phillips@staffordshire.gov.uk

Julie Roberts, Scrutiny and Support Officer
Staffordshire County Council
Telephone: 01785 276136
e-mail: julie.roberts@staffordshire.gov.uk

Finn Cartman-Frost, Business Support Apprentice
Staffordshire County Council
Telephone: 01785 895204
e-mail: finn.cartman-frost@staffordshire.gov.uk

List of Appendices/Background Papers

Appendices

- Appendix 1 Case Study 2018
Parent advised to Electively Home Educate their child in order to avoid
Permanent exclusion

Background papers

- Final Report of the Prosperous Staffordshire Working Group on CMOOE 2014

- <http://moderngov.staffordshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=868&MIId=5047&Ver=4>
- Report to the Secretary of State on the Review of Elective Home Education in England, Graham Badman, June 2009
<https://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/downloadableDocs/PDF%20FINAL%20HOME%20ED.pdf>
 - “Social care commentary: hidden children - the challenges of safeguarding children who are not attending school” Ofsted’s National Director, Social Care, Eleanor Schooling
<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/social-care-commentary-hidden-children-the-challenges-of-safeguarding-children-who-are-not-attending-school>
 - Home Education (Duty of Local Authorities) Bill
<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2017-2019/0011/18011.pdf>
 - “Unregistered independent schools and out of school settings” Departmental advice for collaborative working between the Department for Education, Ofsted and local authorities
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/690495/La_Guidance_March_2018.pdf
 - “Out-of-school education settings” Report on the call for evidence conducted November 2015 to January 2016
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/698250/Out-of-school_education_settings-Report_on_the_call_for_evidence.pdf
 - Progress 8 and Attainment – how measures are calculated
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/561021/Progress_8_and_Attainment_8_how_measures_are_calculated.pdf
 - Sex and Relationships in Schools (England)
<https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/SN06103>
 - Policy Statement: Relationships Education, Relationships and sex Education, and Personal Social, Health and Economic Education

Appendix 1

Case Study 2018

Parent advised to Electively Home Educate (EHE) their child in order to avoid Permanent exclusion.

EHE Officer contacted the parent to discuss their recent decision to remove their child from year 11 of the local high school. Parent stated that they had only done this to avoid their child being permanently excluded from school, but had been promised the child could return to the school to take their exams. EHE officer outlined to the parent that they were now responsible for the education of their child. Parent explained that they did not feel able to provide an education for their child and again reiterated that the only reason he was electively home educated was to avoid a permanent exclusion. EHE officer asked permission from the parent to pass on her details to the County Manager, Targeted Services as she felt the school had acted inappropriately in putting the parent in this position.

County Manager, Targeted Services contacts parent. Parent again explains in more detail how the school coerced her into removing her child from year 11. Parent was very clear that she did want her child to remain in education and only removed him when she felt under pressure to do so. Parent explained that she had wanted her son to be put on a reduced timetable for the remainder of his time in year 11. Parent was very clear that she understood her son did have some behavioural issues, but felt that the school were not willing to even consider a reduced timetable so that he could remain in education and take his exams. Parent gave permission for the County Manager to contact the school directly and request them to take the child back on their role and offer a reduced timetable.

County Manager contacted the head teacher of the school. County Manager explained to the head teacher the conversation that had taken place with the parent and asked the head teacher to comment on what the parent had reported. Initially the head teacher refuted what had been said, and stated that the parent had willingly withdrawn their child from school in order to educate them at home. The County Manager challenged the head teacher as to why a parent would withdraw their child in year 11, just prior to the beginning of the exam period. A discussion then took place which concluded in the head teacher agreeing to reinstate the student, and to facilitate a reduced timetable. However, during the conversation the head teacher was asked about the promise made to the parent that the child could return to school for his exams. The head teacher explained that whilst this offer had been made the parent would have to pay for the examinations, I pointed out to the head teacher that this was in no way made clear to the parents.

I understand that the school contacted the family directly and arranged a meeting to reinstate the student into the school with a reduced timetable. The child will now be able to attend school specifically for the subjects he wishes to take his exams in.

Glossary	
ADCS	Association of Directors of Children's Services
CME	Children Missing Education
CMEO	Children Missing Education Officer
CMOOE	Children Missing Out on Education
DfE	Department for Education (previously DCSF/DES/DfES)
DIPs	District Inclusion Partnership
EHE	Elective Home Education
EOTAS	Education other than at School
GRT	Gypsy, Roma, Traveller
KS	Key Stage
LA	Local Authority
LST	Local Support Team

Local Members' Interest
N/A

Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee – 19 July 2018

HS2 Construction Routes and Road Safety

Recommendations

1. To note the work undertaken to date on efforts to influence HS2 construction routes.
2. To note the limited powers (as outlined in the phase 1 and phase 2a Hybrid Bill) available to the highway authority in respect of approving HS2 construction routes.
3. To comment on the proposed HS2 construction routes as described in the phase 1 and phase 2 documentation
4. To comment on the emerging construction route proposals being developed by the authority.
5. To raise awareness of the HS2 Helpline and email: HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk or Freephone 08081 434 434 for all queries and complaints regarding construction.

Report of Cllr Helen Fisher, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

Summary

This report provides the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee with an update on HS2 activity in Staffordshire and explains the powers and influence that the authority has in determining HS2 construction traffic routing.

Report

Background

1. HS2 is a major national infrastructure project led by HS2 Ltd., an executive non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Department for Transport. While it is not a County Council project, we have responded as an authority by focusing on getting the best deal for Staffordshire in terms of mitigation, compensation for residents, economic benefits and improved connectivity.
2. Members will recall that the County Council petitioned against Phase 1 and successfully achieved the lowering of 8 km of the line in Lichfield. We also secured an assurance that the Handsacre link, connecting HS2 to the West Coast Main Line, would be constructed. This will provide the infrastructure needed for Staffordshire to receive HS2 services and gain economic benefit as a result.
3. On 17 July 2017, the Phase 2a hybrid Bill was deposited in Parliament. The Bill seeks powers to build the route from the West Midlands through Staffordshire to Crewe. We petitioned this Bill in spring 2018 and achieved a number of improvements to HS2's proposed mitigation, including an assurance to lower the line of route as it passes near

Kings Bromley on viaduct, and a multi-million pound suite of permanent highways improvements.

4. The Department for Transport deposited an additional provision to the Bill on Friday 23 March. Petitioning against the additional provision closed on Friday 27 April. The County Council submitted a response to the consultation but did not petition the additional provision.
5. The Phase 2a hybrid Bill is at committee stage in the House of Commons, during which petitioners present their cases to Select Committee. Royal Assent is likely to be given during 2020, although this is subject to change.

Phase 2b

6. Phase 2b of the line runs from the West Midlands to Leeds. A section of the line will run past the south of Tamworth towards the East Midlands. This section of route will be subject to its own hybrid Bill, which the Secretary of State for Transport has stated he intends to deposit to Parliament in 2019. The County Council will engage with this as it has done for the previous two HS2 Bills and will be actively seeking to minimise the impact of construction traffic on the town.

Engagement

7. The Council has been in discussion with HS2 Ltd. and other highway authorities along the line of route to discuss and debate matters of common interest. This is via the HS2 Phase 1 Local Authorities Planning Forum, the minutes of which can be found [here](#). Construction traffic and routing has been a key discussion point and the Environmental Minimum Requirements supporting the Bill have to some extent been shaped by these discussions.
8. Getting the construction traffic routing right is vital to ensure road safety matters are appropriately managed and environmental impact is controlled. Information gained from Kent County Council indicated that a significant number of complaints to the HS1 'Construction Hotline' related to construction traffic routing and mud on the highway.
9. Since late 2017, limited, localised HS2 activity has been taking place at various locations along the route related mainly to ecological mitigation and archaeology.
10. As the project moves from the planning phase to the main construction phase it should be expected that the construction activity will have a significant impact on the public, particularly in close proximity to the construction sites.

The Council's Powers in Relation to HS2 Construction Routes

11. HS2 Ltd proposed construction routes (greater than 24 heavy good vehicles movements per day) were included in the Environmental Statement documentation on both phase 1 and phase 2a at the time of the Hybrid Bill deposit.
12. The County Council has some limited powers over the approval of some types of HS2 construction route. Schedule 17 of the Act states that for a construction route where there are greater than 24 large goods vehicle movements in a day, consent must be

obtained from the Highways Authority. Large goods vehicles are defined by the Act as vehicles over 7.5 tonnes (the same meaning as in Part 4 of the Road Traffic Act 1988). The grounds on which the County Council can refuse consent are as follows:

(6) The relevant planning authority may only refuse to approve arrangements for the purposes of this paragraph on the ground that—

(a) the arrangements relate to development which, for the purposes of regulating the matter in question, ought to and can reasonably be considered in conjunction with development which has deemed planning permission under section 17(1) and which is to be carried out in the authority's area, or

(b) the arrangements ought to be modified—

(i) to preserve the local environment or local amenity,

(ii) to prevent or reduce prejudicial effects on road safety or on the free flow of traffic in the local area, or

(iii) to preserve a site of archaeological or historic interest or nature conservation value, and are reasonably capable of being so modified.

13. If there are fewer than 24 heavy vehicle movements per day, the Council has no control at all, nor does it have any control over routes used by non-heavy vehicles, even where numbers are significant. Where we do have limited control on construction routing it should be noted that if we refuse a route, HS2 Ltd. may appeal to the Secretary of State who could overrule us. Officers have been trying to avoid this situation through extensive engagement and through the additional highways improvements agreed in our assurances.
14. The Council will also have some powers of approval over interferences to the highway (diversions for example) under Schedule 4 of the Act.

Phase One

15. The Phase One hybrid bill has completed the Parliamentary process in both houses and received Royal Assent in February 2017, making it an Act. This granted deemed planning permission for the construction, operation and maintenance of HS2 Phase One.
16. The first part of construction, the enabling works (including archaeology, utilities diversions, early planting), has now commenced. We have been advised that main civil engineering works are likely to commence in spring 2019. This may be subject to change, as press reports indicate that the Notice to Proceed for main civil engineering works is delayed by approximately eight months to allow for cost reduction exercises. No information has been provided from HS2 Ltd. at the time of writing on this matter; a formal query has been channelled through the local authorities' planning forum. The line is expected to open to passengers in 2026 although it is unclear whether this may now also be deferred.
17. General highways and construction routing matters are presented to the Council by HS2 Ltd. and their contractors via a monthly Traffic Liaison Group. An introduction to upcoming consents and approvals is also provided. Meetings to discuss the detail of the required consent will then be held separately (similar to pre-application discussions) in order to identify and resolve any queries. When these are completed, the consent itself will be submitted to the Council's consents and approvals inbox for approval, and must be responded to within 28 days (otherwise it is deemed as being granted). Consents and

approvals are managed on behalf of the Council by Amey. Resource planning for management of approvals will be undertaken on an ongoing basis by Amey.

18. A map illustrating the Council's comments on the proposed Phase One construction routes is appended to this report. If taken on board by HS2 Ltd this should result in significant volumes of heavy vehicle construction traffic being removed from the Lichfield City road network. These comments have been received favourably by the contractor (Balfour Beatty Vinci), however they have not yet requested the commencement of pre-application discussions.
19. Consents and approvals work is fully funded by HS2 Ltd. via a Service Level Agreement.

Phase 2a

20. The Bill received its Second Reading in the House of Commons on 30 January 2018. This triggered a petitioning period which ran until 26 February 2018. The County Council petitioned on a range of matters (some jointly alongside District and Borough Councils). These included a wide range of concerns on construction traffic routing.
21. The Council was scheduled to appear on its highways items (among others) on 8 May 2018. Following robust negotiations with HS2 Ltd., supported by our parliamentary agent and QC, a suite of assurances and undertakings on key items have now been agreed. These included Highways matters such as routing construction traffic out of Lichfield City Centre, minimisation of use of Yarnfield Lane and Beaconside, a suite of mitigation measures for the Stone railhead/IMB-R and protection of veteran trees and hedgerows, among other items. Consequently, the Council did not appear at Select Committee on 8 May.
22. Negotiating assurances in this way retains control in the hands of the Council as far as possible. Should the Council have elected to appear at Committee, it is quite possible that all the offers from HS2 Ltd. would have been withdrawn, or at the very least reduced in number.
23. A full copy of the assurances secured is appended to this report. Following Royal Assent, the consents and approvals process will mirror that describes above for Phase One.

Environmental Minimum Requirements

24. These documents accompany the High Speed Rail (London - West Midlands) Act 2017. They are intended to ensure that impacts which have been assessed in the ES will not be exceeded. They include the Code of Construction Practice (CoCP), which sets out a series of proposed measures and standards of work, which must be applied by contractors throughout construction to provide effective planning, management and control of potential impacts upon people, businesses and the natural and historic environment; and provide the mechanisms to engage with the local community and their representatives throughout the construction period.
25. Part of the work of the HS2 Phase One Planning Forum has been to input into, influence and develop these documents in order to make them as robust as possible. Draft EMRs

are also in place for Phase 2a. These will cease to become drafts following Royal Assent.

26. All complaints during the construction period should be referred to the HS2 Helpline or email: HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk or Freephone 08081 434 434. The Phase One Planning forum has formally requested details of complaints made to date and is awaiting a response.

Link to Strategic Plan

27. People will aspire to live in Staffordshire; from families looking for the very best schools and space to grow and thrive, to older people seeking a great quality of life.

28. By exploiting the arrival of HS2 the county town of Stafford has undergone a renaissance with a new station quarter teeming with business start-ups and homes, all under an hour away from London, Birmingham and Manchester.

Link to Other Overview and Scrutiny Activity – [County Council](#), Thursday, 14th December, 2017 10.00 am

Community Impact – not applicable as although the project will have a major community impact, it is not a County Council project: HS2 Ltd. is a third party.

Contact Officer

Name and Job Title: Sarah Mallen
Telephone No: 01785 277252
Address/e-mail: sarah.mallen@staffordshire.gov.uk

Appendices/Background papers

Appendix A - Phase One HS2 proposed construction routes (attached)

Appendix B - Phase One SCC proposed construction routes (attached)

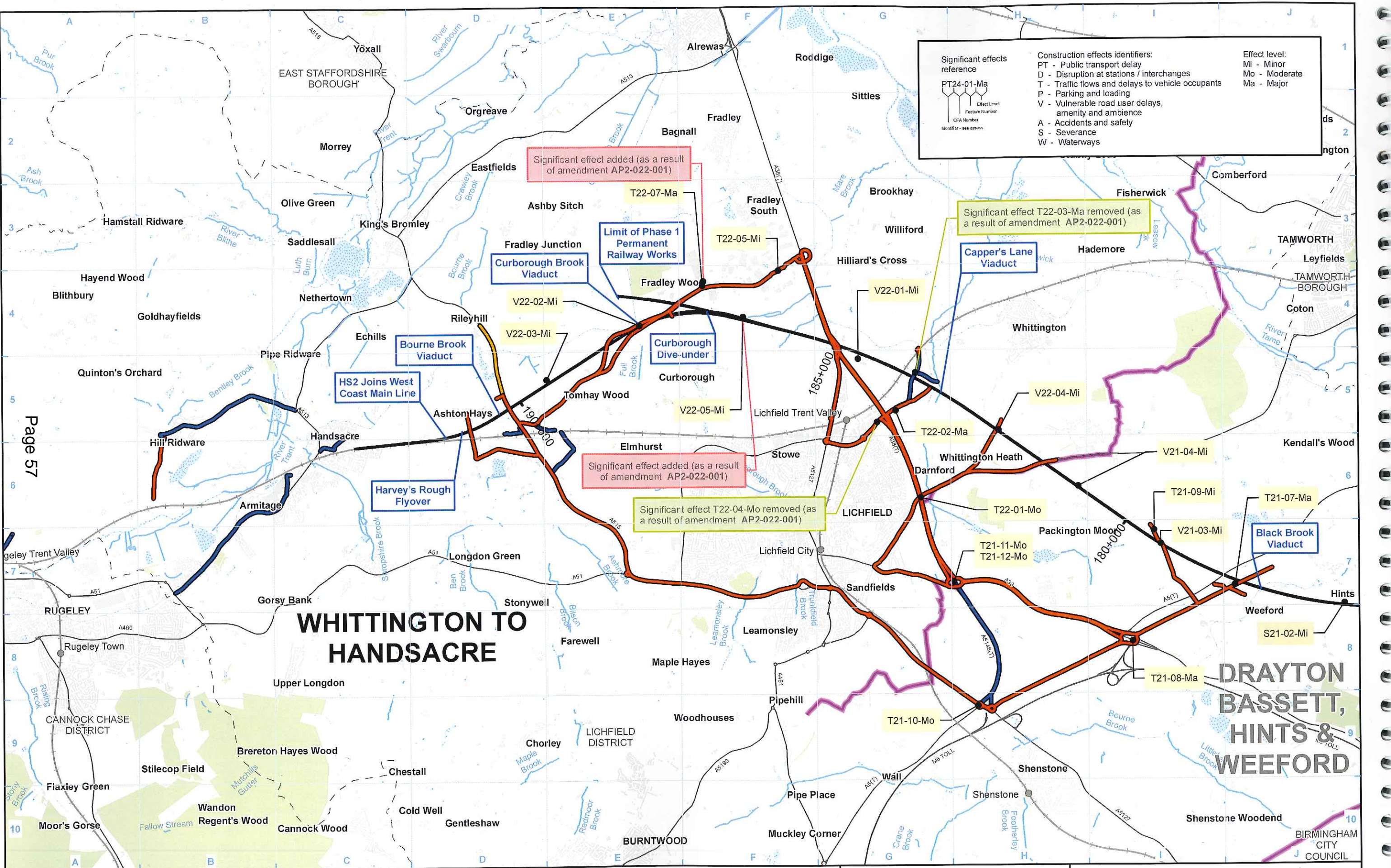
Phase One Environmental Minimum Requirements:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-minimum-requirements>

Phase 2a hybrid Bill:

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2017-2019/0006/18006.pdf>

Appendix C - Phase 2a Undertakings and Assurances (attached)



Significant effects reference PT24-01-Ma Effect Level Feature Number CFA Number Identifier - see across	Construction effects identifiers: PT - Public transport delay D - Disruption at stations / interchanges T - Traffic flows and delays to vehicle occupants P - Parking and loading V - Vulnerable road user delays, amenity and ambience A - Accidents and safety S - Severance W - Waterways	Effect level: Mi - Minor Mo - Moderate Ma - Major
---	---	---

Page 57

WHITTINGTON TO HANDSACRE

DRAYTON BASSETT, HINTS & WEEFORD

Legend Route in tunnel Route on surface Depot station, headhouse or portal building Community forum boundary County boundary District / borough boundary	Watercourse Water body Woodland Construction lorry routes Additional construction lorry routes Removed construction lorry routes	Construction significant effects arising from the SES/AP: Adverse-permanent Adverse-temporary Beneficial-temporary Beneficial-permanent	Construction significant effects unchanged from the SES/AP: Adverse-permanent Adverse-temporary Beneficial-temporary Beneficial-permanent	See text for full description and extent of significant effects. (*) Where SES/AP is reason for significant effect. Receptor/significant effect removed/added (as a result of amendment*: AP4-XXX-YYY) Reduced effect Increased effect
---	---	--	--	---

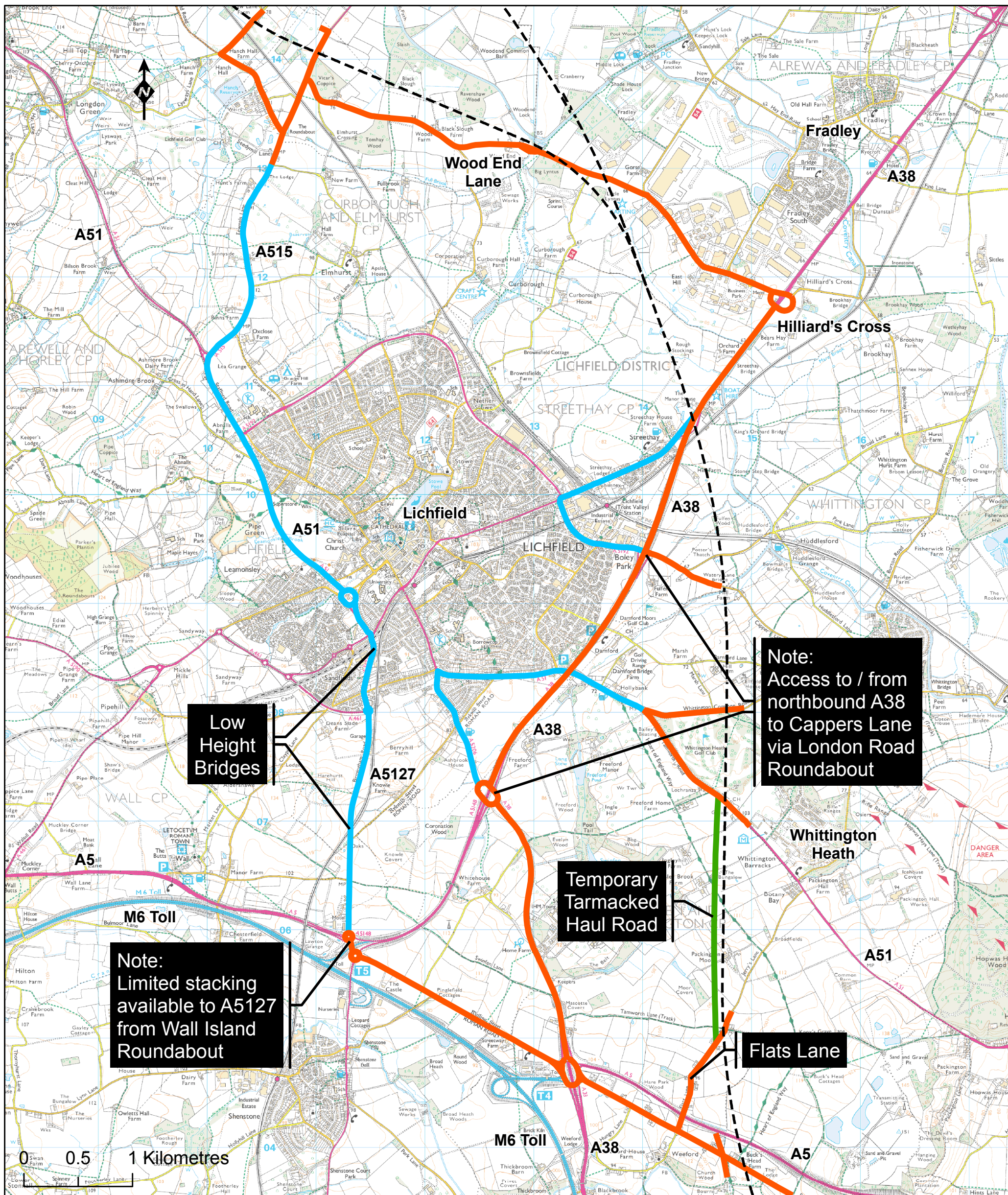
Map Number: TR-03-107
 Map Name: Significant Residual Transport Effects Arising during Construction and Construction Lorry Routes
 SES3 and AP4 ES
 Community Forum Area CFA22: Whittington to Handsacre

HS2 Ltd accept no responsibility for any circumstances, which arise from the reproduction of this map after alteration, amendment or abbreviation or if it is issued in part or issued incomplete in any way.

Registered in England. Registration number 06791686.
 Registered office: One Canada Square, London, E14 5AB.
 © Crown copyright and database rights 2015.
 Ordnance Survey Licence Number 100049190.

Scale at A3: 1:50,000

 Date: 17/09/15



- HS2 Alignment
- HS2 Ltd Proposed Construction Lorry Routes
- Staffordshire County Council Proposed Additional Construction Lorry Route
- HS2 Ltd Proposed Construction Lorry Routes Currently Considered Inappropriate

Alastair Lewis
Sharpe Pritchard LLP
Elm Yard
13-16 Elm Street
London
WC1X 0BJ

By email [to: ALewis@sharpepritchard.co.uk](mailto:ALewis@sharpepritchard.co.uk)

Dear Mr Lewis

8 May 2018

**HIGH SPEED RAIL (WEST MIDLANDS – CREWE) BILL – HOUSE OF COMMONS SELECT COMMITTEE:
PETITION P2A-000130 – STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Director of Hybrid Bill Delivery at HS2 Ltd, which is acting on behalf of the Promoter of the High Speed Rail (West Midlands-Crewe) Bill ('the Bill') currently before Parliament. I understand that your clients, Staffordshire County Council ('the County') have raised a number of concerns about the impact of Phase 2a of HS2 (known as 'the Proposed Scheme') and have submitted a petition on that basis against the Bill in the House of Commons.

I also understand that the Council and members of HS2 Ltd have been in constructive dialogue over a long period of time with a view to trying to resolve your key concerns, a number of which are also raised by Lichfield District Council. Further to those discussions I am writing to you on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport, to offer your client the assurances at Annex A to this letter, and to enter into the undertaking at Annex B.

These assurances and the undertaking are offered on the understanding that they reflect and address the Council's concerns regarding matters contained within its petition (P2A-130) (save for in respect of Rugeley Power Station as explained below). Notwithstanding that, the Promoter recognises the importance of an ongoing relationship with the County and the need for a continuing dialogue on issues related to the Proposed Scheme as part of ongoing normal engagement and in exercising the powers in the Bill.

Rugeley Power Station

The Promoter recognises the importance to the County of the site of the former Rugeley Power Station for redevelopment. At the request of a number of interested parties the Promoter has been considering whether there is an alternative option for the electricity supply required for the Proposed Scheme, which would mean that the Promoter would not need to exercise the powers in the Bill in relation to the Rugeley Power Station site.

This work is ongoing, and the Promoter should be in a position to report on progress within the next few months. The Promoter will keep the County informed of developments.

As part of the undertaking offered to the County, there is a provision that allows for the County to appear before the House of Commons Select Committee at a later date on the sole issue of Rugeley Power Station.

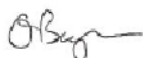
Given your close working relationship with Lichfield District Council, and the areas of common interest in your petitions, the assurances and the undertaking are also offered on the basis that Lichfield formally confirm that they are willing to withdraw their petition. However, we have written to them separately to confirm that we would have no objection to them appearing with the County as a witness should the County feel the need to appear on the question of Rugeley Power Station.

Maximising the use of the rail connection to the IMB-R

The assurances offered look to address the County's concerns about the Infrastructure Maintenance Base-Rail (IMB-R). In relation to assurance 4a the Council may wish to note the evidence of Mr Smart given to the Select Committee on 25th April 2018 (Paragraph 735 onwards) in relation to the anticipated frequency of rail services which may offer further reassurance.

I hope that you find this response to these aspects of your client's petition useful. If you require further assistance, please contact Martin Wells, Senior Petition Manager, by telephone on 020 7944 0601 or by email at martin.wells@hs2.org.uk.

Yours sincerely



Oliver Bayne

Director, Hybrid Bill Delivery
High Speed Two (HS2) Limited

¹ A copy can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/understanding-the-hybrid-bill-hs2-phase-2a-information-papers>

HS2 Phase 2a – Assurances for Staffordshire County Council P2A-130

These assurances are provided on the understanding that they reflect and address the entirety of Staffordshire County Council's concerns regarding the matters contained within its petition (P2A-130), with the exception of the points that Staffordshire County Council has raised in respect of Rugeley Power Station at paragraph 18 of its petition.

In these assurances:

"*Additional Provision*" means an amendment to the Bill, and any requisite supplemental environmental information, which confers on the Secretary of State additional land and/or works powers;

"the Bill" means the High Speed Rail (West Midlands – Crewe) Bill as deposited in the House of Commons on 17 July 2017;

"*Code of Construction Practice*" means the HS2 code of construction practice published as part of the Environmental Statement which was produced to accompany the Bill (as amended) as finalised following the Bill achieving Royal Assent;

"*draft Construction Code of Practice*" means the draft Code of Construction Practice published alongside the Bill in July 2017.

"*Large Goods Vehicle*" has the same meaning as in Part 4 of the Road Traffic Act 1988;

"*M6 Slip Roads*" means those slip roads proposed in the Bill on the northbound and southbound carriageways of the M6 as set out in paragraph 14.4.15 of the Stone and Swynnerton Community Area 3 report in Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement;

"*the nominated undertaker*" refers to the body or bodies appointed by the Secretary of State to carry out the powers conferred under the Bill to construct and maintain the scheme. The nominated undertaker may be HS2 Ltd, or it may be another body or bodies appointed to oversee the construction and operation of the Proposed Scheme;

"*Proposed Scheme*" means Phase 2a of HS2 as defined further in the Bill;

"*Stone IMB-R*" means the permanent infrastructure maintenance facility proposed between the route of the Proposed Scheme and the M6 as set out at paragraph 2.5.52 to 2.5.55 of the Stone and Swynnerton Community Area 3 report in Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement and shown on Map CT-05-223;

"*Yarnfield North Embankment Temporary Worker Accommodation*" means the temporary modular accommodation block proposed for the Yarnfield North embankment satellite compound as set out at paragraph 2.3.61 of the Stone and Swynnerton Community Area 3 report in Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement and shown on Map CT-05-223.

Kings Bromley not to be used for HS2 LGV construction traffic

As 'A' classified roads the Promoter believes that the roads through Kings Bromley are suitable for use by Large Goods Vehicles should the need arise, however the Promoter recognises that it is not the preferred route of the local highway authority.

1. *The Promoter will require the nominated undertaker to restrict HS2 Large Goods Vehicle construction traffic from entering the village of Kings Bromley and using the A513 Alrewas Road within the village as a through route, except:*

- i. in circumstances where it is required to do so by the relevant planning authority under the powers conferred on it by paragraph 6 of Schedule 17 to the Bill, or*
- ii. in circumstances where it would not be reasonably practicable to use other access routes, for example (but not limited to) in respect of any utilities works proposed within the village of Kings Bromley as part of the Proposed Scheme, or*
- iii. in the case of an emergency or if directed to do so by the police or emergency services, or*
- iv. where, it would prejudice the safe, timely and economic construction and/or operation of the Proposed Scheme.*

Temporary roundabout A513/A515 and use of Kings Bromley for traffic involved in its construction

The Promoter is willing to offer the following assurance due to the potential impacts of removal / reinstatement work at this specific location:

2. *(a) Recognising that the local highway authority would like the temporary roundabout proposed in the Bill at the junction of the A513 Rugeley Road and A515 Lichfield Road and shown on Map Number CT-05-202 in the CA1 Fradley to Colton Mapbook, in Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement ("the Temporary Roundabout") to be made permanent, the Promoter will require the nominated undertaker to design and construct the works to provide the Temporary Roundabout in a manner that does not preclude this subject to the satisfaction of the following conditions:*

(b) The conditions in paragraph (a) are:

- i. the nominated undertaker being satisfied that the permanent retention of the Temporary Roundabout can be delivered without the need for any additional land to that included within the limits of land to be acquired or used in the Bill;*
- ii. Staffordshire County Council securing the necessary consents and approvals to enable the permanent retention and adoption of the Temporary Roundabout, under relevant legislation prior to the Temporary Roundabout being removed by the nominated undertaker.*

(c) Nothing in this assurance shall require the Promoter or nominated undertaker to retain the works in paragraph (a) permanently or seek any powers or consents for the permanent retention of the Temporary Roundabout.

Maximising the use of the Stone railhead and the rail connection to the IMB-R

The Promoter recognises that the impact of construction traffic on local roads is likely to be a particular concern for the local community and has sought to reduce the use of roads for transport to and from construction sites, using the construction corridor and rail where reasonably practicable. In the case of the Stone railhead, the Promoter is willing to offer the following assurance aimed at addressing the concerns of the local community:

3. (a) The Promoter will require the nominated undertaker to explore, and subject to the conditions in sub-paragraph (c) implement, options for maximising, as far as is reasonably practicable, the volume of materials and equipment brought in, and the volume of excavated material removed, by rail via the Stone railhead once that railhead is operational. In exploring those options, the nominated undertaker must balance the wider environmental impacts to the local community with the impact on rail passenger services.

(b) The Promoter will require the nominated undertaker to respond to any reasonable request made by Staffordshire County Council for information about the progress made in exploring the options mentioned in paragraph (a).

(c) The conditions in paragraph (a) are that such options:

- i. must be deliverable within the existing powers of the Bill;*
- ii. are subject to the availability of train paths; and*
- iii. must not prejudice the safe, timely and economic delivery of the Proposed Scheme.*

4. (a) The Promoter will require the nominated undertaker to explore, and, as far as is reasonably practicable and subject to the availability of train paths, implement options for maximising the use of the Norton Bridge to Stone Railway connection to the Stone IMB-R for the movement of materials and equipment involved in maintenance works during the operation of the Proposed Scheme. In exploring those options, the nominated undertaker must balance the wider environmental impacts to the local community with the impact on rail passenger services.

(b) The Promoter will require the nominated undertaker to respond to any reasonable request made by Staffordshire County Council for information about progress made in exploring the options mentioned in paragraph (a).

Noise at Stone Infrastructure Maintenance Base – Rail

5. The Promoter will require the nominated undertaker to, subject to securing the necessary consents and approvals under the Bill and in so far as is consistent with the Environmental Statement, use reasonable endeavours to ensure that at the Stone IMB-R:

(a) a landscape, noise and flood mitigation bund, of 430m in length and 3m in height is provided to the west of the M6 and north of the realigned Yarnfield Lane to provide noise and visual screening for properties to the west of the Proposed Scheme; and

(b) a landscape bund 90m in length and 3m in height, is located at the eastern extent of the Norton Bridge to Stone sidings with a noise fence barrier, 2m in height, along the top of the landscape bund to provide visual and acoustic screening for Micklow House Farm and residents of properties in Walton.

M6 slips – put in place as early as practicable and maximise use to reduce use of Yarnfield Lane

The Promoter recognises the importance to the local community of the ability to continue to use Yarnfield Lane during construction of the Proposed Scheme. The Promoter has already taken steps to ensure that the road remains open throughout construction of the Proposed Scheme, which have been welcomed locally. The Promoter has also made provision in the Bill for the creation of slip roads onto the M6 to alleviate the need to use the stretch of the road from the A34.

While the Promoter has explained to Staffordshire County Council why it is not possible to avoid the use of any part of Yarnfield Lane during construction, and in particular during site set up, accessing the M6 slips and for more local or worker trips, the Promoter is willing to offer the following assurances aimed at addressing the concerns of the local community:

6. (a) The Promoter will (subject to any necessary consents or approvals being in place) require the nominated undertaker to use reasonable endeavours to complete the construction and commissioning of the M6 Slip Roads as soon as reasonably practicable in the main civil engineering works construction programme for the Proposed Scheme.

(b) The Promoter will (subject to any necessary consents or approvals being in place) require the nominated undertaker to ensure that, upon the opening of the completed M6 Slip Roads to HS2 construction traffic, it will use reasonable endeavours to maximise the use of the M6 Slip Roads by HS2 Large Goods Vehicle construction traffic, so far as reasonably practicable, for access to and egress from the Stone railhead main compound so as to reduce so far as reasonably practicable the use of Yarnfield Lane by HS2 Large Goods Vehicle construction traffic accessing the Stone railhead main compound.

Height of Yarnfield North Embankment Temporary Worker Accommodation and any Office Buildings

The Promoter recognises the concerns expressed by Staffordshire County Council about the visual impact of the proposed temporary worker accommodation and any office buildings at the Yarnfield North embankment satellite compound and is willing to offer the following assurance aimed at addressing the concern:

7. The Promoter will require the nominated undertaker to limit the external elevation of the building comprising the Yarnfield North Embankment satellite compound Temporary Worker Accommodation and any temporary office buildings within this compound to two storeys.

Height of permanent buildings at the Stone IMB-R

8. The Promoter will require the nominated undertaker to limit the external elevation of any permanent buildings at the Stone IMB-R constructed under the powers in the Bill to two storeys.

Dust monitoring at Stone railhead main compound

The Promoter believes that the measures set out in the draft Code of Construction Practice would be sufficient to manage and control dust from the construction of both the Stone railhead and the Stone IMB-R.

However, the Promoter recognises that local concerns could be allayed by a commitment to monitor dust during the most intensive periods of construction. On that basis the Promoter is willing to offer an assurance in the following terms:

9. (a) The Promoter will require the nominated undertaker to treat the Stone railhead main compound as 'medium risk' as set out in the Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) 'Guidance on the assessment of dust from demolition and construction', 2014 as revised from time to time ("IAGM, 2014") for the purposes of worksite boundary construction dust monitoring unless and until it is demonstrated by the appointed contractor that the Stone railhead main compound does not meet the criteria to be classed as medium risk under IAQM, 2014.

(b) Worksite boundary construction dust monitoring will be undertaken at the Stone railhead main compound for any such period that it is treated as medium risk under (a) above as set out in Section 7.3 of the draft Code of Construction Practice, and the results will be reported back to the relevant local authority as set out in Section 4.3 of the draft Code of Construction Practice.

Footprint of Stone IMB-R

Staffordshire County Council and Stafford Borough Council have requested that additional visual screening be employed at the Stone IMB-R. While the Promoter is satisfied that the existing scheme proposals in the Bill include sufficient mitigation here such that additional screening is not required for environmental reasons, the Promoter is prepared to offer an assurance in the following terms:

10. The Promoter will require the nominated undertaker to use reasonable endeavours in the design of the Stone IMB-R to:

(a) reduce, so far as is reasonably practicable, the footprint of the permanent works included in the Stone IMB-R (other than any mitigation works); and

(b) explore, and so far as is reasonably practicable, implement options for local placement of excavated material to create additional visual screening of the permanent works included in the Stone IMB-R (other than any mitigation works), and can be achieved within the existing powers of the Bill and the limits of land to be acquired or used within the Bill plans for the purpose of the Stone IMB-R.

(c) The Promoter will require the Nominated Undertaker to respond to any reasonable request made by Staffordshire County Council for information about progress made in exploring the options mentioned in paragraphs (a) & (b).

Haul roads

11.(a) In managing the HS2 Large Goods Vehicle construction traffic within the Petitioner's administrative boundary and in order to reduce the impact of HS2 Large Goods Vehicle construction traffic on the local road network, the Promoter shall, subject to the conditions in paragraph (b), require the nominated undertaker to use reasonable endeavours to:

(i) commence construction of each Haul Road as soon as reasonably practicable following commencement of main civil engineering works in the construction programme for the Proposed Scheme, having regard to the purpose of each Haul Road; and

(ii) prioritise the use of the Haul Roads by HS2 LGV construction traffic so far as reasonably practicable above the use of the local road network.

(c) The conditions referred to in paragraph (a) above are:

(i) the securing of any necessary consents and approvals; and

(ii) the Promoter being satisfied that doing so would not prejudice the safe, timely and economic construction of the Proposed Scheme.

In this assurance "Haul Roads" means those haul routes described in the Environmental Statement as proposed within the limits of land to be acquired or used as shown on the plans deposited with the Bill.

Impact on hedgerows

12. (a) The Promoter will require the nominated undertaker in exercising the powers of the Bill to carry out Road Widening Works to explore and, where reasonably practicable, implement options to avoid the need to remove existing hedgerows during the widening works, for example by carrying out the widening on only one side of the existing road, so far as doing so can be done: within the existing powers of the Bill and without the need for any additional land from that identified on the deposited plans as within the limits of land to be acquired or used for the purposes of the Proposed Scheme; and without prejudicing the safe, timely and economic delivery of the Proposed Scheme, including having regard to the safety of all road users and particularly pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians.

In this assurance: "Road Widening Works" means those works authorised by the Bill to widen those existing highways not forming part of the Strategic Road Network or other 'A' roads within Staffordshire County Council's administrative boundary which have existing hedgerows at the boundary of the highways which are within the limits of land identified on the deposited plans as within the limits of land to be acquired or used for the purposes of the Proposed Scheme.

Impact on veteran trees

13. The Promoter will require the nominated undertaker in exercising the powers of the Bill to carry out works which the Environmental Statement reports might result in the loss of any Veteran Trees to explore and, where reasonably practicable, implement options to avoid in each case the need to remove a Veteran Tree.

In this assurance: "Veteran Trees" means those trees within the administrative boundary of Staffordshire County Council and identified in:

- paragraph 8.3.27 of the Community area report for CA1, Fradley to Colton, in Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement;
- paragraphs 8.3.27 and 8.3.28 of the Community area report for CA2, Colwich to Yarlet, in Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement;
- paragraph 8.3.28 of the Community area report for CA3, Stone and Swynnerton, in Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement;
- paragraph 8.3.29 of the Community area report for CA4, Whitmore Heath to Madeley, in Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement; and
- paragraph 8.3.20 and 8.3.21 of the Community area report for CA5, South Cheshire, in Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement.

Widening of Bishton Lane (CA2)

Staffordshire County Council has raised concerns that the widening works proposed in the Bill for Bishton Lane could result in a permanent change to the nature of this country road following construction as a consequence of what Staffordshire County Council sees as a relatively small number of HS2 vehicles during construction and operation that need to use Bishton Lane.

Given the lack of suitable roads to get access to this remote part of the route, the Promoter believes that it is appropriate at this stage of the development of the scheme, to seek sufficient powers in the Bill to ensure that construction, and any operational maintenance works, can be undertaken in this area. The powers are needed to enable widening works on Bishton Lane should it be required given the restricted width of this road. However, in recognition of Staffordshire County Council's concerns the Promoter is willing to offer the following assurance.

14.(a) The Promoter will require the nominated undertaker to explore during detailed design of the Proposed Scheme and, if reasonably practicable, implement options for alternative traffic management measures which could be carried out within the existing highway boundary on Bishton Lane instead of the Bishton Lane Widening Works in order to seek to avoid or reduce the need for the Bishton Lane Widening Works and the associated permanent loss of approximately 3km of native species-rich hedgerows reported in paragraph 8.4.16 of the Community area report for CA2, Colwich to Yarlet, in Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement. As part of this the nominated undertaker will have regard to the volume of HS2 traffic proposed to use Bishton Lane during the construction and operation of the Proposed Scheme.

In this assurance: "Bishton Lane Widening Works" means the widening of a 1.5km section of Bishton Lane to 3.5m in width, with provision of passing bays, from The Hollies to Colwich Bridleway 23, with replacement hedgerow planting on both sides of Bishton Lane as set out in paragraph 2.2.11 of the Community area report for CA2, Colwich to Yarlet, in Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement

Additional construction traffic route to reduce the impact upon Beaconside

Staffordshire County Council has requested that an additional HS2 lorry construction route be assumed to allow some of the HS2 traffic currently identified to use roads in the Beaconside area to be redirected.

Given that both Staffordshire County Council and the Promoter accept that the A34 Stone Road has sufficient link traffic capacity to accommodate additional HS2 construction traffic the Promoter is willing to offer the following assurance:

15. (a) The Promoter will, subject to the conditions in paragraph (b), require the nominated undertaker to undertake an environmental assessment of a construction route for Large Goods Vehicles between the Yarlet South Cutting Satellite Compound and the junction of the A51 and the A518 via the A34 Stone Road and the A51 as shown in green for indicative purposes on the attached plan (the "Additional Construction Route") to ensure that the use of the route creates no new significant adverse environmental effects.

(b) The assurance in paragraph (a) is subject to:

- i. the Promoter being satisfied that the Additional Construction Route is deliverable within the existing powers of the Bill and without the need for any additional land from that identified on the deposited plans as within the limits of land to be acquired or used for the purposes of the Proposed Scheme;*
- ii. the Additional Construction Route not requiring the protection of other assets and being capable of being used for Large Goods Vehicles or the condition of the highway not unreasonably deteriorating as a result of its use as an Additional Construction Route; and*
- iii. the carrying out of a satisfactory environmental impact assessment of the effects of the Additional Construction Route and the inclusion of the Additional Construction Route in a Supplementary Environmental Statement to accompany the Bill*
- iv. the approval of the route by the relevant planning authority under Schedule 17 as a lorry route, as required.*

Marston Lane haul road

16. The Promoter will (subject to any necessary consents or approvals being in place) require the nominated undertaker to ensure that, upon the opening of the Haul Road to HS2 construction traffic, it will use reasonable endeavours to maximise the use of the Haul Road by HS2 LGV construction traffic so far as reasonably practicable to access the Marston South embankment satellite compound so as to reduce the use of Marston Lane by HS2 LGV construction traffic accessing the Marston South embankment satellite compound. This assurance is subject to the Promoter being satisfied that doing so would not prejudice the safe, timely and economic construction and operation of the Proposed Scheme.

In this assurance: "Haul Road" means that site haul route described in the fourth bullet point of paragraph 2.3.94 of the Community area report for CA2, Colwich to Yarlet, in Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement.

Junction improvements

The Promoter and Staffordshire County Council have been in discussion about a number of junctions identified in the Traffic Assessment on routes which may be required to be used for construction traffic as needing further attention and have a shared understanding of what would be practicable in each case. Notwithstanding the fact that the anticipated impacts from the HS2 construction traffic are temporary, the Promoter is willing to offer the following assurances due to the potential impacts of removal / reinstatement works at these specific locations:

17. (a) The Promoter will promote an Additional Provision to provide for the following traffic measures to be provided on a permanent basis:

- The introduction of traffic signals at the existing non-signalised intersection of the A513 and Marston Lane;
- Works to widen the Hydrant Way approach to the A513/A518/Hydrant Way roundabout; and
- Signalisation of the existing priority junction of A34 with Yarnfield Lane.

(b) The Promoter will engage with Staffordshire County Council in preparing the Additional Provision to seek to understand highway capacity and safety standards issues.

(c) The Promoter will require the nominated undertaker to use reasonable endeavours to commence implementation of the traffic measures mentioned in paragraph (a) above as soon as reasonably practicable following commencement of main civil engineering works in the construction programme for the Proposed Scheme.

(d) the Promoter will, subject to securing any necessary consents and approvals and, if necessary, any additional works powers to those currently in the Bill by way of the promotion of an Additional Provision, provide for the introduction of temporary traffic signals at the existing non-signalised intersection of the A513 and Sandon Road (east) for the period in which such temporary traffic signals would provide mitigation to reduce the effects of HS2 construction traffic at that junction.

(e) The Promoter will require the nominated undertaker to notify Staffordshire County Council before making any decision to remove the temporary traffic signals referred to in paragraph (d) above.

(f) The Promoter will require the nominated undertaker to engage with any developer proposing highways improvements to junctions in the vicinity of Beaconside in respect of which works are proposed as part of the Proposed Scheme (provided that the local highway authority gives the nominated undertaker notice of such proposed developer's highway improvements) with the aim of securing that the developer coordinates its works with those in the Proposed Scheme.

The Promoter and Staffordshire County Council have been in discussion about a number of other junctions with existing problems that the Environmental Statement identifies as potential routes where approval would be required under Schedule 17 of the Bill as lorry routes. While HS2 construction traffic creates a temporary impact, the schemes that Staffordshire County Council has been discussing with HS2 Ltd in three particular areas, if retained, would provide a permanent

improvement. Given the substantial cost of these schemes (c. £6.75m) and the potential impacts of removal / reinstatement works at the following locations:

- the A51/A34 Stafford Road (Brooms Road Roundabout);
- the A51 London Road and A53 Newcastle Road junction; and
- the A500/A519 junction, the junction of the A519/A5182 and the part of the A519 Newcastle Road between the two junctions.

the Promoter is willing to consider whether these three other schemes could be constructed to a permanent standard for retention in the event that Staffordshire County Council will enter into an Undertaking to detail the terms whereby the works may be retained and withdraw their objection to the Bill.

This Undertaking also covers Staffordshire County Council's request for an upgrade of Wood End Lane, which would bring that package of measures to a total of c. £7.61m.

Stopping up of Bottom Lane

The Promoter has been in discussion with Staffordshire County Council and the adjoining landowner about the future usage of Bottom Lane after construction of the Proposed Scheme. Having concluded that it is no longer required for public use after that time, the Promoter is willing to offer the following assurance:

18. The Promoter will promote an Additional Provision to provide for the permanent stopping up of Bottom Lane at its junction with the A519 Newcastle Road.

Great Haywood viaduct

Staffordshire County Council has requested that design work on the Great Haywood viaduct commence early in the process and that the 'Cannock Chase AONB HS2 Group' be involved in the process.

The Promoter recognises the value of local involvement in the design of key features of the HS2 scheme, however, the scheme will be delivered through a design and build contract with the detailed design element commencing after Royal Assent. As such the Promoter is willing to offer an assurance in the following terms:

19. (a) The Promoter will require the nominated undertaker, after the relevant main civil engineering works contract which includes the Great Haywood Viaduct has been awarded and commenced (and is free from any legal challenge), to use reasonable endeavours to promptly commence the process for designing the Great Haywood Viaduct.

(b) As a key design element, the Promoter will require the nominated undertaker to engage the public on the design development of the Great Haywood Viaduct as set out in Information Paper D1: Design.

In this assurance: "Great Haywood Viaduct" means that part of Work No. 17 on viaduct over the Macclesfield to Colwich Line and the River Trent as shown on Sheet Nos. 1-24 of the plans deposited with the Bill

The group currently known as the 'Cannock Chase AONB HS2 Group' and referred to in Staffordshire County Council's petition is still in a formative stage. Assuming they are able to agree suitable terms of reference, and ensure that their membership is fully representative of local interests, the Promoter believes that this group could play an important role and would encourage them to participate in the engagement process in part (b) of the assurance.

Ecology Review Group

Staffordshire County Council plays an active role in the Ecology Review Group for Phase 1 and the Promoter is prepared to offer the following assurance:

20. Following Royal Assent of the Bill, the Promoter will extend the Ecology Review Group, comprised of relevant statutory bodies, non-governmental organisations and local authorities, to cover the Proposed Scheme. The Group reviews the outputs of monitoring for habitat creation sites in respect of the Proposed Scheme and makes recommendations for remedial action where appropriate. The Ecology Review Group may, for the avoidance of doubt, be combined with such a group established for HS2 Phase One.

The Promoters would invite Staffordshire County Council to participate in the Group for the Proposed Scheme.

Green Infrastructure and the Green Corridor

In respect of Staffordshire County Council's wider issues in relation to ecology we are willing to offer the following assurance:

21. The Promoter will require the nominated undertaker to work with Staffordshire County Council to identify potential opportunities for environmental enhancements by the nominated undertaker, the council and others in their area as part of the environmental corridor that will be developed as part of the Proposed Scheme as set out in the Environmental Statement and in Information Paper E28: Green Infrastructure and the Green Corridor. The nominated undertaker will give attention to potential improvements to the Stone Meadows Local Nature Reserve, as part of this work

Common Lane

22 (a) Recognising Staffordshire County Council's request for Common Lane to not be permanently stopped up and subject to the satisfaction of the condition in paragraph (b), the Secretary of State will require the nominated undertaker to design and construct a permanent alternative vehicular route between Common Lane and A515 Lichfield Road to the north of the Proposed Scheme to replace that part of Common Lane which is to be permanently stopped up under the Bill between points P6 and P7 on Sheet No. 1-05 of the plans deposited with the Bill ("the Alternative Route").

(b) The assurance in paragraph (a) is subject to the successful promotion of an amendment to the Bill through the introduction of an Additional Provision, and any requisite environmental information, which confers on the Secretary of State the land and works powers to acquire compulsorily the additional land required for the provision of the Alternative Route and to construct the Alternative Route.

(c) The Promoter will use reasonable endeavours to promote the Additional Provision referred to in paragraph (b).

Socio-economic

23 (a) The Promoter will require the nominated undertaker to require its suppliers to seek to create or promote apprenticeship and employment opportunities for local, disadvantaged and under-represented groups in the construction of the Proposed Scheme, in order to promote fair and equal access to the employment opportunities generated by the Proposed Scheme. The Promoter will require the nominated undertaker to, insofar as it is lawful to do so, ensure equality of opportunity in order to encourage the recruitment of local, disadvantaged or under-represented groups in the construction of the Proposed Scheme. This is in accordance with the HS2 Ltd Sustainability Policy, which commits to "providing rewarding jobs and careers that are open to all in society, setting new standards for equality, diversity and inclusion and providing a legacy of skills, learning, expertise and experience"

(b) The Promoter will require the nominated undertaker to report, prior to commencement of the main civil engineering contract, to Lichfield District Council and Staffordshire County Council on the steps it has taken under paragraph (a).

Noise

“Prediction in ‘all reasonably foreseeable circumstances’

24. The Promoter will require the nominated undertaker, in making predictions of noise and vibration in all reasonably foreseeable circumstances for the purpose of HS2 Phase 2a Information Papers E9 Control of Airborne Noise, E10 Control of Groundborne Noise and Vibration from the Operation of Temporary and Permanent Railways, and E11 Control of Noise from the Operation of Stationary Systems, to include, but not limit such predictions to, the following: the potential for freight operation; planned operational speeds; high speed train noise and vibration characteristics; planned operational rail traffic volumes and compositions; degradation to rolling stock and/or track over the maintenance cycle of the railway; and prediction model uncertainty.

Use of prediction models

25. The Promoter will require the nominated undertaker to use noise or vibration prediction models during the design and construction phases of the Proposed Scheme that are validated for the range of circumstances over which they are applied. Validation reports for the prediction models used shall be provided to all Local Authority Environmental Health Departments with a declaration of the numerical values of prediction model uncertainty being applied by the nominated undertaker under paragraph 24 above.

Individual receptors

26. The Promoter will require the nominated undertaker to apply the noise and vibration commitments set out in HS2 Phase 2a Information Papers E9 Control of Airborne Noise, E10 Control of Groundborne Noise and Vibration from the Operation of Temporary and Permanent Railways, E11 Control of Noise from the Operation of Stationary Systems and E13 Control of Construction Noise and Vibration to individual noise sensitive receptors.

Performance of control measures

27. The Promoter will require the nominated undertaker to share with the Local Authority Environmental Health Departments information that is relevant to understanding the noise and vibration performance of the control measures adopted during the design of the Proposed Scheme for receptors within their administrative area.

Noise change

28. The Promoter will require the nominated undertaker to apply the November 2015 release of Government's Transport Analysis Guidance Unit A3 when valuing the effect of noise change and consider this value when assessing the benefit of applying operational airborne noise control measures to the Proposed Scheme.

Monitoring of research evidence

29. The Promoter will require the nominated undertaker to monitor peer-reviewed research by independent sources into annoyance and health effects specific to high speed railway noise and vibration and notify all Local Authority Environmental Health Departments on the HS2 Phase One route if a numerical correction to noise and vibration levels from the scheme is applied, to account for the research findings.”

Amendment to Schedule 17

30. The Promoter will bring forward an amendment to Schedule 17 to the Bill which would provide for the nominated undertaker to elect to end an approval of lorry routes obtained under Schedule 17. This approach would allow the nominated undertaker to write to the relevant planning authority when it wished to end an approval of lorry routes for a specific site. After this point the nominated undertaker would not be limited to using the routes that had been approved but if it wished to have more than 24 lorry movements from that specific site in a day it would need a new lorry route approval under Schedule 17. The relevant obligations in the Code of Construction Practice and Routewide Traffic Management Plan would still apply.

Discussion about LGV routes with Traffic Liaison Groups

In addition to the amendment to Schedule 17 to the Bill outlined above, the Promoter is also willing to offer the following assurance:

31. Where a site is in regular use by Large Goods Vehicles and the site is not subject to an approval under paragraph 6 of Schedule 17 to the Bill where reasonably practicable routes to and from the site will be discussed at the relevant local Traffic Liaison Group so that any appropriate advice can be provided to the relevant contractor(s) prior to use of that route."

In this assurance: "site" means:

- (a) a working or storage site,
- (b) a site where anything transported to the site will be re-used, or
- (c) a waste disposal site.

Retaining Noddy's Oak

The Promoter is willing to offer the following assurance:

32. The Promoter will require the nominated undertaker to retain the veteran oak tree colloquially known as "Noddy's Oak" on Newlands Lane, Stockwell Heath during construction of the works related to the Proposed Scheme in the area. With regards to Natural England and Forestry Commission standing advice on ancient woodland and veteran trees, and taking account of paragraph 12.2 of the draft Code of Construction Practice particularly in relation to root protection zones, the nominated undertaker will further use reasonable endeavours to ensure that the tree's roots are not damaged during the works to utilities in that area."

Dated: 2018

- (1) The Secretary of State for Transport
- (2) Staffordshire County Council

AGREEMENT
Subject to contract

Relating to High Speed Rail (West Midlands – Crewe) Bill

Contents

Clause		Page
1	DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION	2
2	THE COUNCIL'S OBLIGATIONS.....	4
3	PROMOTER'S OBLIGATIONS	4
4	TRANSFER OF POWERS.....	5
5	SAVINGS FOR COMPENSATION	6
6	SAVINGS IN RELATION TO BILL AMENDMENTS	6
7	POWERS OF THE PROMOTER	6
8	RIGHTS OF THIRD PARTIES ACT 1999	6
9	DISPUTE RESOLUTION.....	6
10	ENTIRE AGREEMENT	7
11	JURISDICTION	7

DRAFT

BETWEEN

- (1) The Secretary of State for Transport
- (2) Staffordshire County Council of 1 Staffordshire Place, Stafford, ST16 2DH ("the **Council**")

BACKGROUND

- (A) A Bill providing for a railway between a junction with Phase One of High Speed 2, near Fradley Wood in Staffordshire, and a junction with the West Coast Main Line near Crewe in Cheshire, and for connected purposes, has been introduced into Parliament and is promoted by the Secretary of State for Transport.
- (B) The Council is the local highway authority for the purposes of the Highways Act 1980 for public highways in the county of Staffordshire, except for those which are the responsibility of the Secretary of State for Transport. The Council has land interests which are affected by provisions of the Bill and has petitioned against the Bill.
- (C) The Promoter and the Council are entering into this Agreement for the purposes of addressing concerns expressed by the Council as to the potential effects of the provisions of the Bill on roads around Lichfield, the A51/A34 (Brooms Road Roundabout), the A53/A51 junction, and the A519 between its junction with the A500 and the A5182.
- (D) The Promoter and Staffordshire County Council have been in discussion about the A51/A34 (Brooms Road Roundabout), the A53/A51 junction, and the A519 between its junction with the A500 and the A5182 as junctions with existing problems that the Environmental Statement identifies as potential routes where approval would be required under Schedule 17 of the Bill as construction traffic routes. While HS2 construction traffic creates a temporary impact, the schemes that Staffordshire County Council has been discussing with the Promoter in these three particular areas, if retained, would provide a permanent improvement in light if the potential impacts of removal / reinstatement works.

OPERATIVE PROVISIONS

1. **DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION**

- 1.1 In this Agreement and the recitals above the following words and expressions have the following meanings:

"Additional Provision"	means an amendment to the Bill, and any requisite supplemental environmental information, which confers on the Secretary of State for Transport additional land and/or works powers from those included in the Bill;
"the Bill"	means the High Speed Rail (West Midlands - Crewe) Bill as originally introduced in the House of Commons on 17 July 2017;
"construction traffic route"	means a route assessed in a deposited statement as a construction traffic route;
"deposited plans"	means the plans deposited with the Bill as amended during the Promotion of the Bill;
"deposited statement"	has the meaning given by clause 60 of the Bill;
"Large Goods Vehicle"	has the same meaning as in Part 4 of the Road Traffic Act 1988;

“Limits of land to be Acquired of Used” has the meaning given by clause 60 of the Bill;

“Nominated Undertaker” means a person whose name appears in an order made under clause 41 of the Bill;

“the Petition” means the petition against the Bill submitted by the Council to the House of Commons with petition reference P2A-130;

“Phase One Widening Works” means the works to widen the realigned part of Wood End Lane authorised by the High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Act 2017 as set out in the HS2 Phase One Volume 2 Area Report Supplementary Environmental Statement and Addition Provision 2 for Community Forum Area 22: Whittington to Handsacre between the junction of the realigned Wood End Lane with Gorse Lane and Black Slough Farm;

“Phase One of High Speed 2” has the same meaning as in the High Speed Rail (London - West Midlands) Act 2017 (see section 1(3) of that Act);

“the Promoter” means the Secretary of State for Transport or any successor Secretary of State or Minister holding the Transport portfolio and includes so far as relevant any Nominated Undertaker exercising the powers or functions under the Bill by virtue of an order under clause 41 of the Bill and any transferee within the meaning of clause 4 of this Agreement;

“Proposed Scheme” means Phase 2a of High Speed 2 as more particularly set out in the Bill as enacted; and

“Select Committee” means the High Speed Rail (West Midlands - Crewe) Bill Select Committee (Commons).

- 1.2 Words importing the singular include the plural and vice versa.
- 1.3 Words importing persons include firms companies and corporations and vice versa.
- 1.4 Any reference to any statute (whether or not specifically named) shall include any statutory modification or re-enactment of it for the time being in force;
- 1.5 Where any obligation is undertaken by two or more persons jointly those persons shall be jointly and severally liable in respect of that obligation.
- 1.6 Any obligation on any party not to do or omit to do anything shall be deemed to include an obligation not to allow that thing to be done or omitted to be done by any person under its control.
- 1.7 References in this Agreement to clauses and provisions of, and works authorised by, the Bill are taken from the Bill as introduced in the House of Commons on 17 July 2017 but shall be modified as far as may be necessary to reflect changes in the Act upon Royal Assent.
- 1.8 The headings to the clauses and schedules of this Agreement are for ease of reference only and shall not affect the construction or meaning of this Agreement.
- 1.9 Any consent, approval, authorisation or notice required or given under this Agreement shall only take effect if given in writing.

2. **THE COUNCIL'S OBLIGATIONS**

2.1 In consideration of the terms of this Agreement the Council shall, on completion of the Agreement, withdraw its opposition in respect of all elements of the Petition with the exception of paragraph 18 of Part 2 of the Petition and the Whitmore Tunnel Extension and notify the Select Committee of such withdrawal.

3. **PROMOTER'S OBLIGATIONS**

3.1 Subject to the conditions in clause 3.2 being first satisfied, the Promoter will as part of the construction of the Proposed Scheme provide traffic signals at the junction of Wood End Lane and the A515 and widen Wood End Lane within the highway boundary to a width of up to 7.3m for the carriageway between the junction of Wood End Lane and the A515, and the tie-in with the Phase One works near the Black Slough Farm as shown indicatively on the plans at Appendix 1 and 2 ("the Phase 2a Widening Works").

3.2 The conditions referred to in clause 3.1 are:

3.2.1 the Promoter being satisfied that the Phase 2a Widening Works will not give rise to any significant environmental impacts on traffic at the junction between the A38 Rykneld Street and Wood End Lane in Staffordshire known as Hilliard's Cross which would necessitate any mitigation works at Hilliard's Cross; and

3.2.2 the Promoter being satisfied that the Phase 2a Widening Works will not conflict with any assurances or undertakings given in respect of Phase One of HS2; and

3.2.3 the successful promotion of an amendment to the Bill through the introduction of an Additional Provision, and any requisite environmental information, which confers on the Promoter the land and works powers to acquire compulsorily any additional land required for the provision of the Phase 2a Widening Works and to construct the Phase 2a Widening Works.

3.3 The Promoter will use reasonable endeavours to promote the Additional Provision referred to in clause 3.2.3.

3.4 Subject to the successful promotion of the Additional Provision referred to in clause 3.2, the Promoter will promote the designation of Wood End Lane as a construction traffic route ("the Additional Construction Route"), provided that the Promoter is satisfied that:

3.4.1 the Additional Construction Route would not give rise to any significant environmental impacts on traffic at the junction between the A38 Rykneld Street and Wood End Lane in Staffordshire known as Hilliard's Cross which would necessitate any mitigation works at Hilliard's Cross;

3.4.2 the Additional Construction Route is deliverable as a construction traffic route without giving rise to any new or different significant effects from those assessed in the Environmental Statement deposited with the Bill, or any Supplementary Environmental Statement, that cannot reasonably be mitigated to a non-significant level within the existing powers of the Bill and without the need for any additional land to that identified on the deposited plans as within the limits of land to be acquired or used for the purposes of the Proposed Scheme;

3.4.3 the Additional Construction Route not requiring the protection of other assets and being capable of being used for Large Goods Vehicles or the condition of the highway not unreasonably deteriorating as a result of its use as a construction traffic route; and

3.5 Subject to clause 3.6, the Promoter will use reasonable endeavours to promote an Additional Provision to confer upon the Promoter the necessary powers to provide for the construction and operation of the following permanent highway works:

- 3.5.1 works to the A51/A34 Stafford Road (Brooms Road Roundabout) which would provide a dedicated signalised left turn filter lane from the A51 Stone Bypass into the A34 Stafford Road, with associated modifications to highway drainage, as shown indicatively in Appendix 3;
- 3.5.2 works to the A51 London Road and A53 Newcastle Road involving:
 - 3.5.2.1 a realignment of the A53 junction with the A51 in the vicinity of White Farm and the Old Smithy, requiring agricultural land outside of the existing highway boundary;
 - 3.5.2.2 localised realignment of the A51 junction with the A53 (near the Swan with Two Necks public house); and
 - 3.5.2.3 signalisation of both A51 junctions with the A53
 as shown for indicative purposes on the drawing at Appendix 4.
- 3.5.3 works to the junction of the A500/A519, the junction of the A519/A5182 and the part of the A519 Newcastle Road between the two junctions") involving:
 - 3.5.3.1 carriageway widening to provide left turn lanes at the A500/A519 roundabout;
 - 3.5.3.2 widening of A519 Newcastle Road link between the A500 and A5182 junctions
 - 3.5.3.3 a new signalised junction at the A519/A5182; and
 - 3.5.3.4 widening of A519 and B5038 junction approaches
 and shown indicatively on the drawing at Appendix 5 (together "the A500/A519 and A519/A5182 Works")

and the parties recognise that the exact scope of the works in this clause 3.5 will be developed as part of the relevant Additional Provision.

- 3.6 The inclusion of the A500/A519 and A519/A5182 Works in the Additional Provision referred to in clause 3.5 is subject to the Promoter being first satisfied that Highways England has given its approval to the construction of the A500/A519 and A519/A5182 Works as proposed in the Additional Provision.
- 3.7 Clause 3.5 ceases to have effect on the date on which the earlier of the following events occur:
 - 3.7.1 the Bill is introduced into the House of Lords following passage through the House of Commons; or
 - 3.7.2 the parties agree in writing that clause 3.5 has been discharged.

4. **TRANSFER OF POWERS**

- 4.1 In the event that any person other than the Promoter is appointed as the Nominated Undertaker for the purposes of the provisions of the Bill to which this Agreement relates and the provisions of this Agreement are not otherwise made directly enforceable against any such person ("the Transferee") the Promoter covenants that he will require the Transferee to enter into a direct covenant in favour of the Council that the Transferee shall observe and perform such obligations of the Nominated Undertaker or the Promoter as the case may be as relate to the exercise of the powers which have been transferred as though the Transferee had been an original party to this Agreement.

4.2 Upon the Transferee entering into such a deed of covenant the Promoter shall be released from the liability to observe and perform such obligations and restrictions under this Agreement as relate to the exercise of the powers that are exercised by the Transferee and the Transferee shall be bound by and may enforce the terms of this Agreement as though it had been an original party to this Agreement.

5. **SAVINGS FOR COMPENSATION**

5.1 Nothing in this Agreement shall prejudice or affect the Council's right to compensation under the Bill or any enactment applied by or incorporated in the Bill arising in consequence of the exercise of any powers conferred by the Bill, except that the Council shall not be entitled to be compensated in respect of a matter under the Bill or any such enactment if they are entitled to compensation under this Agreement in respect of that matter.

6. **SAVINGS IN RELATION TO BILL AMENDMENTS**

6.1 Nothing in this Agreement shall prejudice or affect the right of the Council to:

6.1.1 pursue those matters raised in paragraph 18 of Part 2 of the Petition including appearing in front of the Select Committee in respect of those matters; and

6.1.2 oppose any new or amended provisions of the Bill that may be introduced following the date of the execution of this Agreement.

7. **POWERS OF THE PROMOTER**

7.1 For the avoidance of doubt nothing in this Agreement shall be taken to detract from the powers of the Promoter other than powers conferred upon the Promoter under the Bill as expressly provided for in this Agreement.

8. **RIGHTS OF THIRD PARTIES ACT 1999**

8.1 Only the Promoter and the Council may enforce the terms of this Agreement and no other third party may enforce any such term by virtue of the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999.

9. **DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

9.1 Any dispute or difference arising between the parties as to their respective rights duties and obligations under this Agreement or as to any matters arising out of or in connection with the subject matter of this Agreement (other than a dispute or difference with regard to the meaning or construction of this Agreement or a dispute or difference as to compensation which is referable to the Upper Tribunal) shall be referred to and determined by an independent person (acting as an expert) to be agreed between the parties or failing such agreement to be nominated by the President or Vice-President or other duly authorised officer of the Institution of Civil Engineers on the application of either party (after having given notice to the other).

9.2 Any dispute or difference arising between the parties as to the meaning or construction of this Agreement shall be referred to and determined by an independent solicitor or barrister of at least ten years standing acting as an expert and who is experienced in drafting, negotiating and advising upon agreements similar to this Agreement, such independent person to be agreed between the Parties or failing such agreement to be nominated by the President or Vice President or other duly qualified officer of the Law Society on the application of either party (after having given notice to the other).

9.3 Any expert appointed under clauses 9.1 and 9.2 will afford each of the parties an opportunity to make written representations to them and also an opportunity to make written counter-representations on any representation made to them by the other party but will not be in any way limited or fettered by such representations and counter-representations and will be entitled to rely on their own judgement and opinion.

9.4 If any expert appointed under clauses 9.1 and 9.2 dies or refuses to act or becomes incapable of acting or if the expert fails to publish a determination within three months of the date upon which the expert accepted the appointment either party may (after having given notice to the other) apply to either the President or Vice-President or other duly authorised officer of the Institution of Civil Engineers or the President or Vice President or other duly qualified officer of the Law Society (as the case may be) to discharge such an expert and appoint another expert in their place.

9.5 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement the costs of the parties in connection with any expert determination under this Agreement shall be borne as the expert shall direct.

10. ENTIRE AGREEMENT

10.1 This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties in relation to its subject matter and supersedes any prior agreements and understandings whether oral or written with respect to its subject matter.

10.2 No variation of this Agreement shall be effective unless it is reduced to writing and is signed by or on behalf of a duly authorised representative of each of the parties.

11. JURISDICTION

11.1 This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the law of England.

EXECUTED AS A DEED by the parties on the day and year first before written

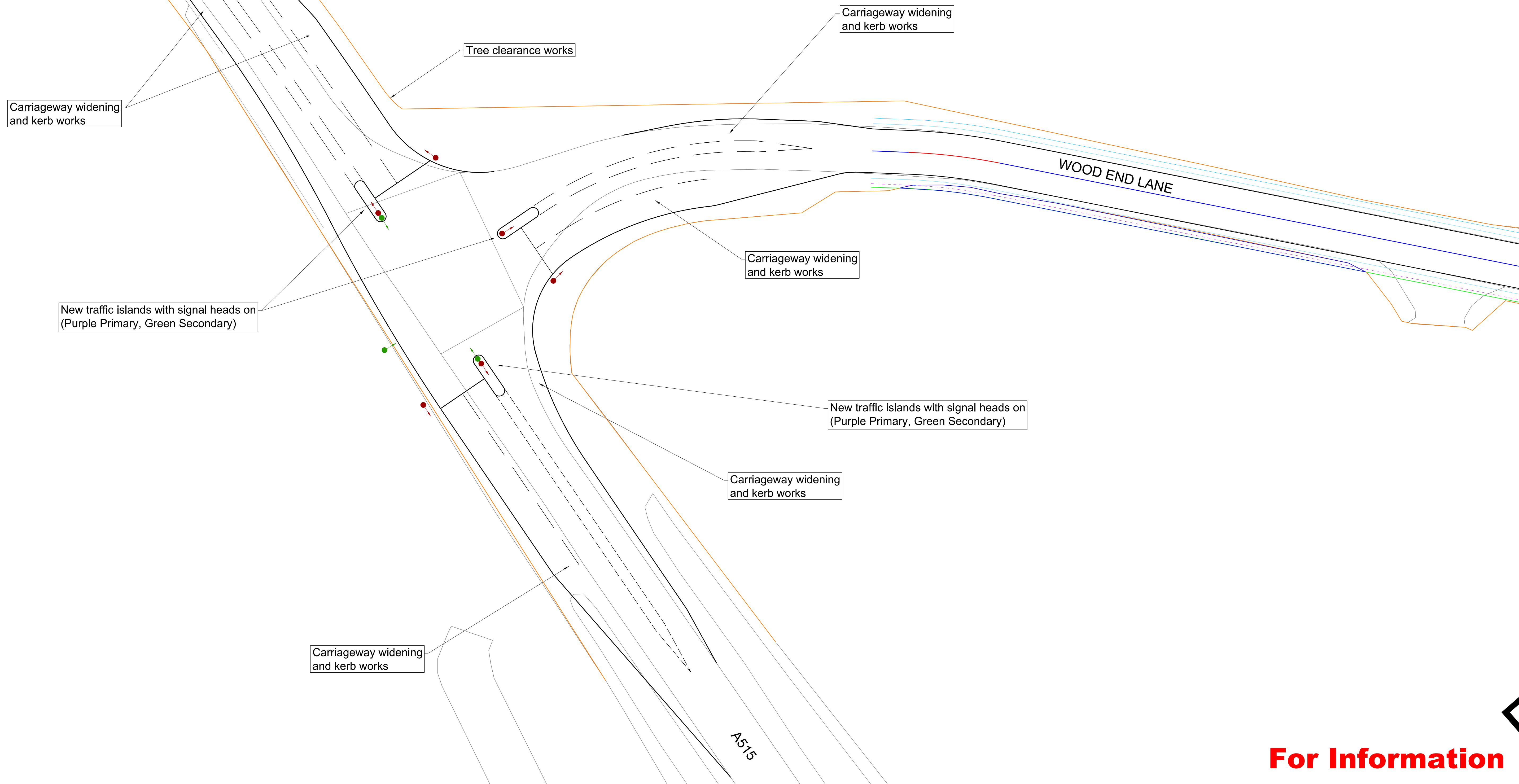
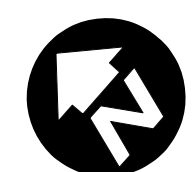
THE CORPORATE SEAL of the)
THE SECRETARY OF STATE)
hereunto affixed to this Deed)
is authenticated by)

Authorised by the Secretary of State for Transport

THE COMMON SEAL of)
STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL)
was affixed to this deed in the presence of:)

Authorised Signatory

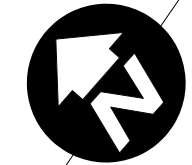
Appendix 1 - Wood End Lane/A515 signalised junction (indicative) (Undertaking)



Page 83

For Information

P00.1					HS2 accepts no responsibility for any circumstances which arise from the reproduction of this document after alteration, amendment or abbreviation or if it is issued in part or issued incompletely in any way.	Legends/Notes: Existing Highway Boundary	Registered in England Registration No. 06791686 Registered office: 2 Show Hill, Queensway, Birmingham, B4 6GA	Zone	Route Wide	Project/Contract	P2A Civils Design & Environmental Services			
					© Crown Copyright and database right 2017. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100049190			Design Stage	Hybrid Bill Support	Discipline/Function	Civil			
					© Crown Copyright material is reproduced with the permission of Land Registry under delegated authority from the Controller of HMSO.			Drawing Title	EI-342 - Construction Routes - Wood End Lane			Drawn	Checked	Approved
					This material was last updated on 2017 and may not be copied, distributed, sold or published without the formal permission of Land Registry. Only an official copy of a title plan or register obtained from the Land Registry may be used for legal or other official purposes.			Date	01/02/2017	Scale	1:2500	Size	A1	
Rev	Description	Drawn	Checked	Con App	HS2 App	Scale with caution as distortion can occur.	METRES @ 1:2500	Creator/Originator Ove Arup & Partners International Ltd	Sheet 1 of 2	Drawing No.	C861-ARP-TM-WKG-000-000032		Rev.	P00.1



Appendix 2 - widening of Wood End Lane (indicative) (Undertaking)

FRADLEY to COLTON

HS2 Phase One Tie-in point



Page 84

For Information

P00.1									
Rev	Description	Drawn	Checked	Con App	HS2 App	Scale with caution as distortion can occur.			

HS2 accepts no responsibility for any circumstances which arise from the reproduction of this document after alteration, amendment or abbreviation or if it is issued in part or issued incompletely in any way.

© Crown Copyright and database right 2017. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100049190

© Crown Copyright material is reproduced with the permission of Land Registry under delegated authority from the Controller of HMSO.

This material was last updated on 2017 and may not be copied, distributed, sold or published without the formal permission of Land Registry. Only an official copy of a title plan or register obtained from the Land Registry may be used for legal or other official purposes.

Legends/Notes:

- Carriageway centreline (Bend) —
- Carriageway centreline (Straight) —
- Back of verge - - -
- Earthworks extent beyond verge —
- Existing Public Right of Way - - -

METRES @ 1:2500

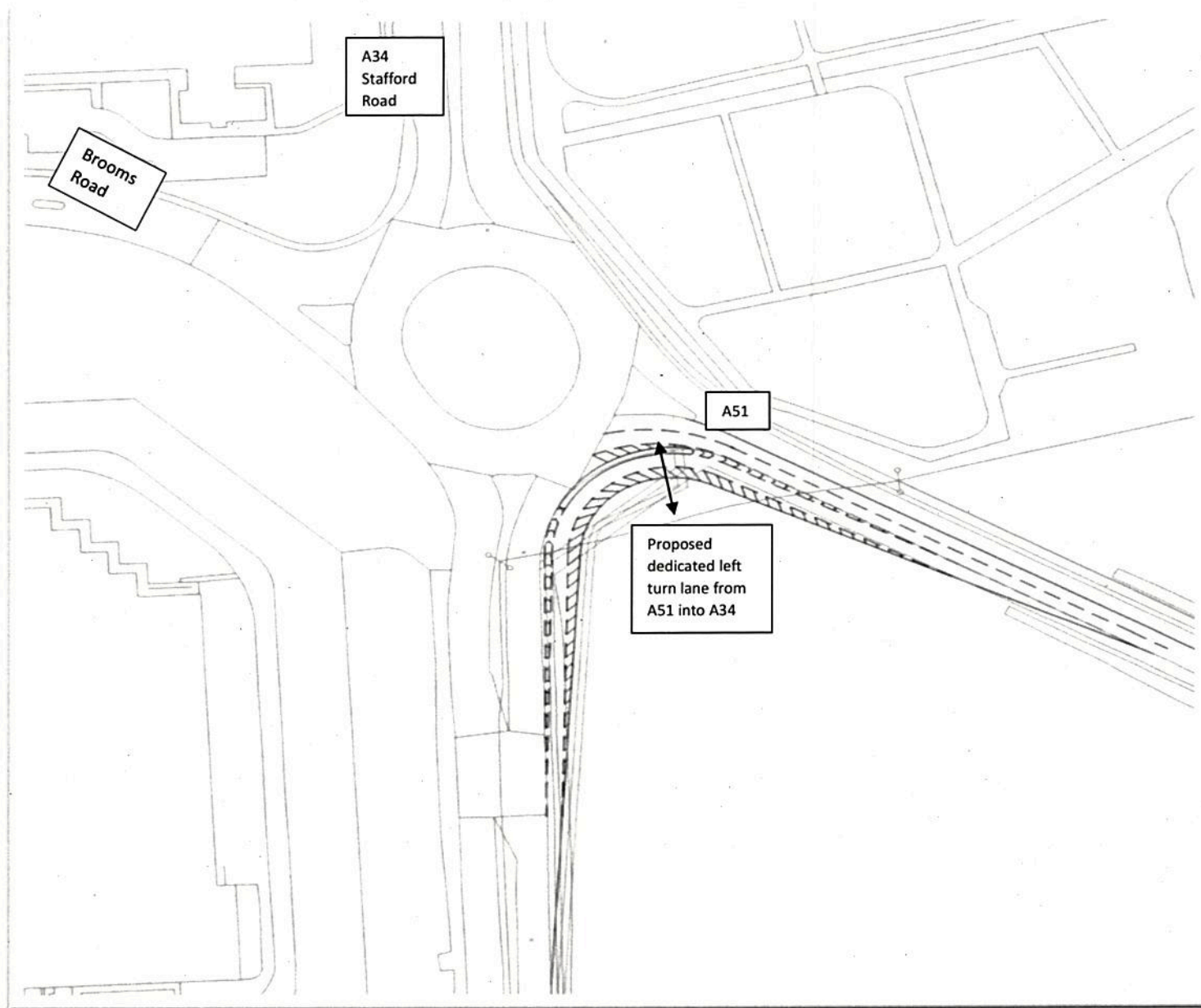
Registered in England
Registration No. 06791686
Registered office:
2 Show Hill,
Queensway,
Birmingham, B4 6GA

Creator/Originator
Ove Arup & Partners International Ltd

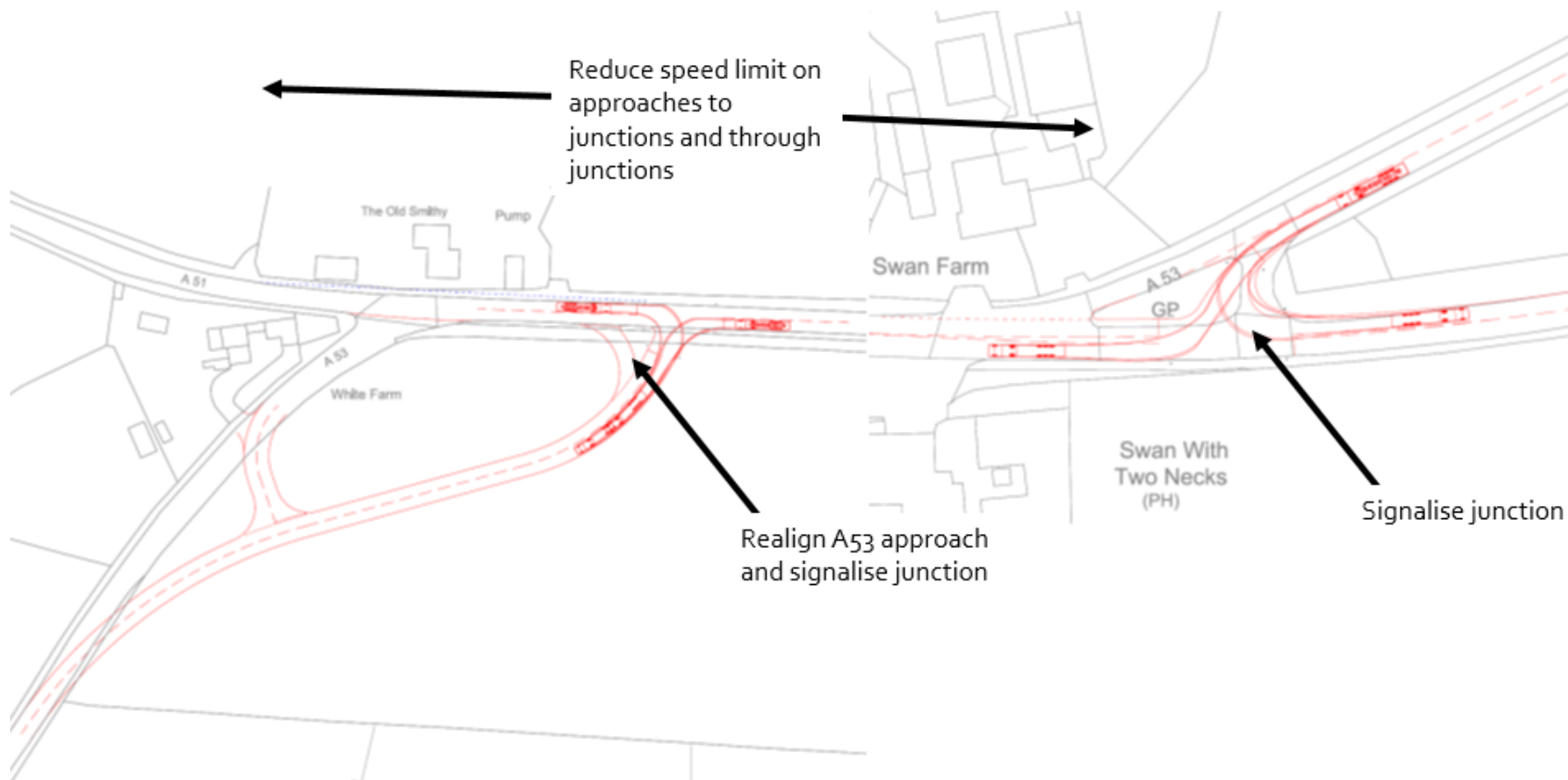
Zone	Route Wide	
Design Stage	Hybrid Bill Support	
Drawing Title	EI-342 - Construction Routes - Wood End Lane	
	Sheet 2 of 2	

Project/Contract			P2A Civils Design & Environmental Services		
Discipline/Function			Civil		
Drawn	Checked	Approved			
PN	CH				
Date	Scale	Size			
04/05/2018	1:2500	A1			
Drawing No.		Rev.			
C861-ARP-TM-WKG-000-000032		P00.1			

Proposed dedicated left turn lane : A34/A51

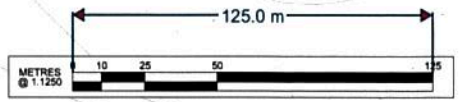
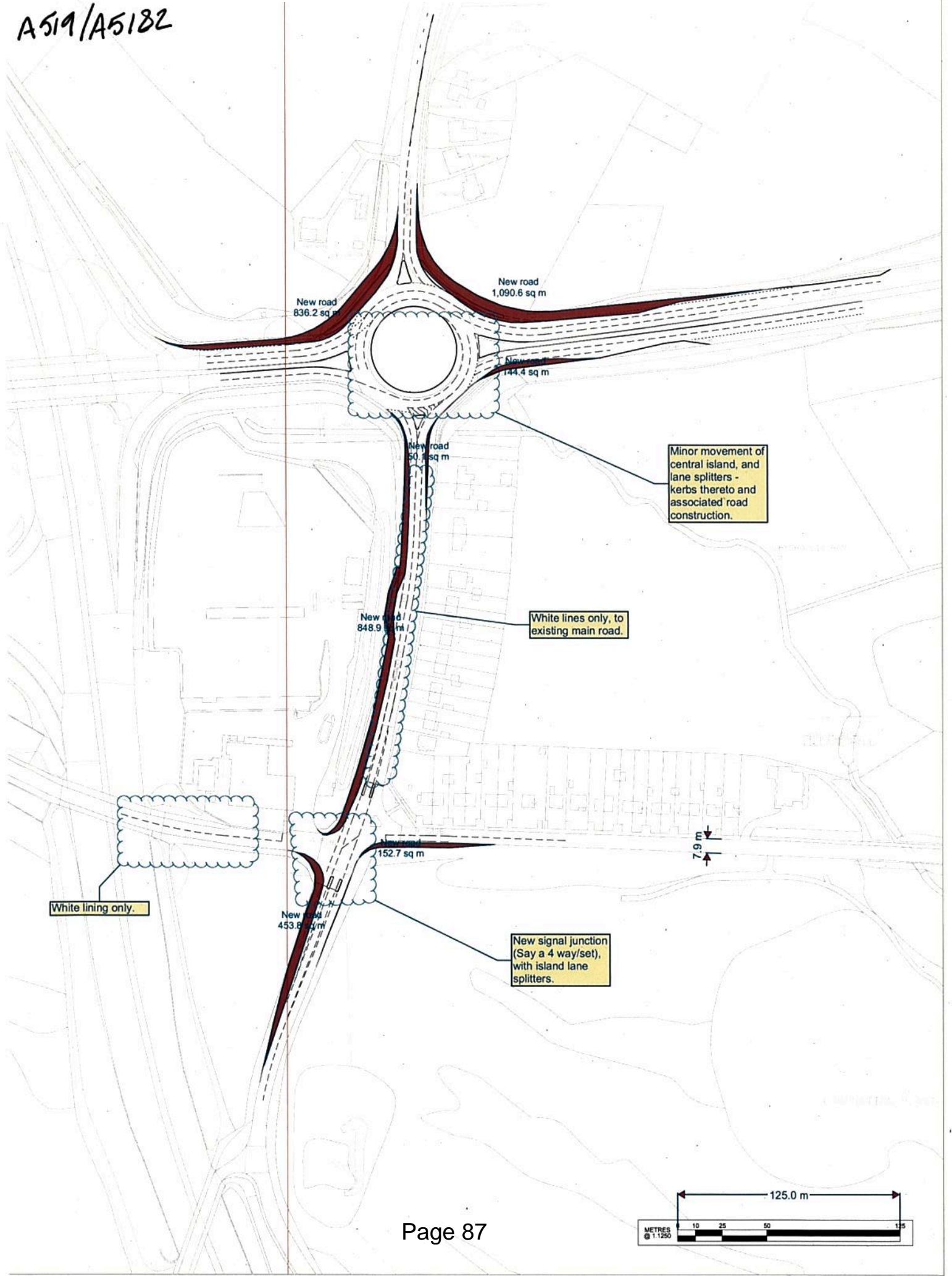


A51 London Road/A53 Newcastle Road indicative staggered crossroads junction



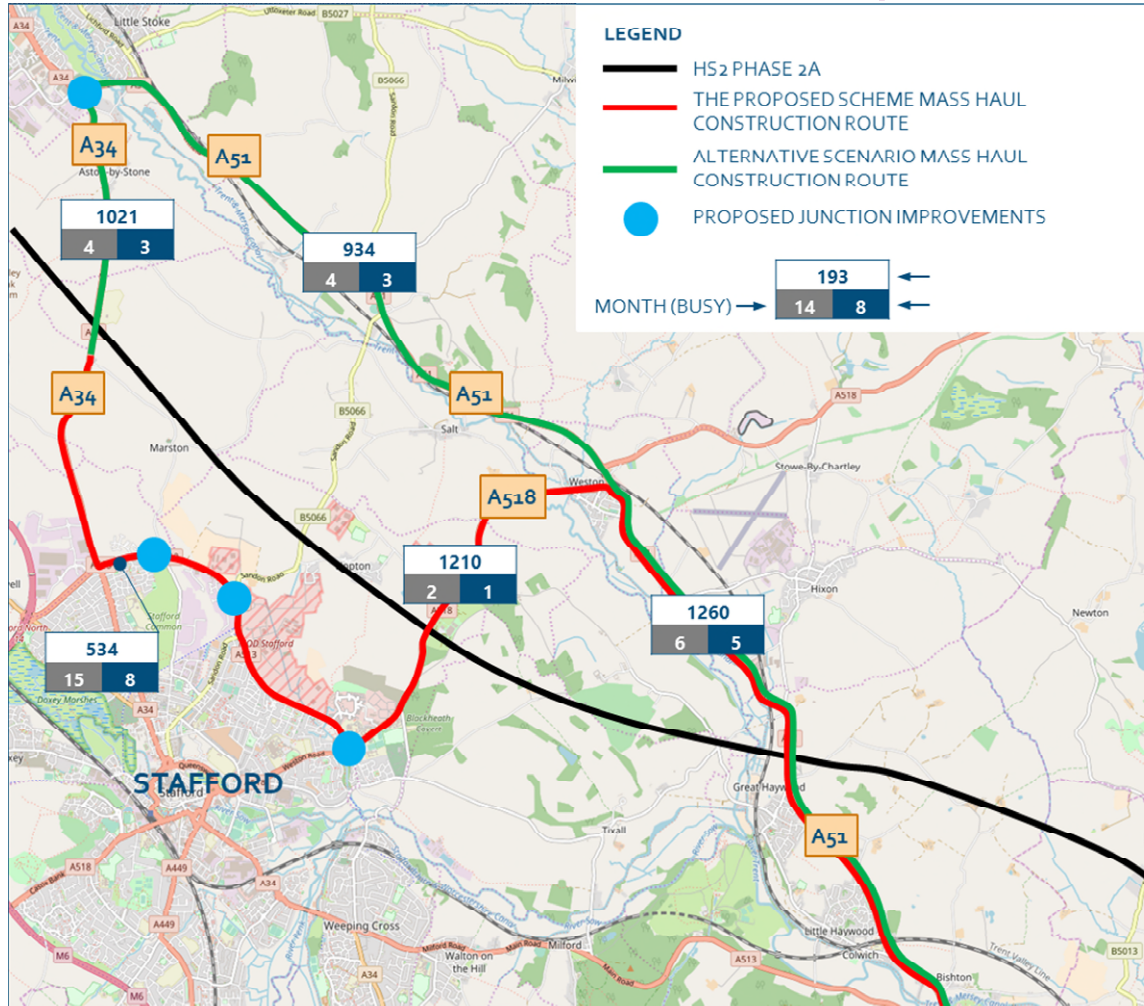
A500/A519 & Appendix 5 - A500/A519 & A519/A5182 junction improvements (indicative)(Undertaking)

A519/A5182



A513 Beaconside/A34/A51

HS2 Construction traffic on A513/A34 & A513 combined routing





Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee Work Programme 2018/19

This document sets out the work programme for the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee for 2018/19. The Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee is responsible for scrutiny of highways infrastructure and connectivity, flood and water management, education, learning and skills. As such the statutory education co-optees will sit on this committee. The Work Programme is linked to the Vision, Outcomes and Priorities detailed in the Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022.

We review our work programme at every meeting. Sometimes we change it - if something important comes up during the year that we think we should investigate as a priority. Our work results in recommendations for the County Council and other organisations about how what they do can be improved, for the benefit of the people and communities of Staffordshire.

County Councillor Ian Parry

Chairman of the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee

If you would like to know more about our work programme, please get in touch with Tina Gould, Scrutiny and Support Manager, 01785 276148 or by emailing tina.gould@staffordshire.gov.uk

Work Programme Items carried over from 2017/18			
Item	Date of meeting when item is due to be considered	Details	Action/Outcome
Review of Charging for Non-household Waste at Household Waste Recycling Centres (to include Large Scale Fly Tipping in Staffordshire) Cabinet Member: Gill Heath Lead officer: Clive Thomson/Chris Jones	4 April 2018	This item was called in and considered by the Corporate Review Committee on 26 October 2016. Members are asked to review the current arrangements that came into effect on 1.11.16. Member's views are sought on how large scale fly tipping is being managed. (Views of JWMB to be sought).	The Committee considered the impact of introducing charging for non-household waste at Household Waste Recycling Centres in Staffordshire. They suggested that additional measures should be taken to improve communications and publicise the charging policy.
SACRE Annual Report Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Emma Jardine-Phillips	4 April 2018		Copies of the Annual Report have been circulated to the Select Committee.
EU Funding Case Studies Cabinet Member: Mark Winnington Lead Officer: Nigel Senior	4 April 2018	Item requested by the Committee at their meeting on 15 December 2017.	The Committee considered details of 3 EU Funding case studies.
Improving Attendance and participation in our schools and settings Cabinet Member: Philip White Lead officer: Karl Hobson	20 June 2018	Members previously considered this matter at their meeting in September 2015 and requested that the Attendance Working Group report further progress, including specific intervention showing how the principles and priorities work in practice; Post-16 changes and any impact these have on take up. 2017-18 Attendance figures not available until June 2018.	Staffordshire continued to have below national average rates in its primary, secondary and special schools. Absence from Pupil Referral Unit schools (PRUs) was a cause for concern. The local authority was working with the PRU headteachers to explore ways to improve attendance, and an independent review had been commissioned of the entire PRU estate.
Libraries and Arts Strategy: Phase 2 Cabinet Member: Gill Heath Lead Officers: Janene Cox/Catherine Mann	20 June 2018	Previously considered at the meeting in September 2017.	The Committee endorsed: the introduction of a self-service pilot; the evaluation and selection process to procure community managed library organisations; the existing support

			package and service specification for community managed libraries; and the application of the principles that had been consulted on to inform the mobile and travelling library service review.
Scrutiny Review of Impact of HGVs on Roads and Communities in Staffordshire – follow up of Executive Response Action Plan Cabinet Member: Helen Fisher Lead officer: Clive Thomson	20 June 2018	Members undertook a review of the impact of HGVs on roads in Staffordshire last year. Members are asked to continue to scrutinise the Executive Response Action Plan until all recommendations are completed or an explanation given. An initial Executive Response was scrutinised by the Committee on 13 September 2016.	The Committee received a briefing note on the action plan and implementation of the recommendations of the Working Together to Address the Impact of Heavy Goods Vehicles/HCVs on Roads in Staffordshire final report.
Midlands Connect Proposal to Become a Sub-National Transport Body – Consultation Cabinet Member: Philip Atkins/Mark Winnington Lead officer: Clive Thomson	20 June 2018	Pre-decision scrutiny (post May)	The Committee supported the proposal for Midlands Connect to become a statutory Sub-National Transport Body, with limited powers, rather than continuing under existing voluntary partnership arrangements.
Rights of Way Cabinet Member: Hele Fisher Lead Officers: Janene Cox/Nicola Swinnerton/Paula Dalton	20 June 2018	Item requested by members	The Committee considered a briefing note on the key outputs of the Public Rights of Way Review, and agreed to scrutinise the plans to deal with the backlog of Section 53 applications at their July meeting.
Rights of Way Cabinet Member: Mike Sutherland/Helen Fisher Lead Officers: Janene Cox/Nicola Swinnerton/Paula Dalton	19 July 2018	Issue regarding backlog of applications	Plans to Deal with Section 53 Backlog
Economic Growth Capital and Development Programme to include Overview of Regeneration Projects and	19 July 2018	Item proposed by the Corporate Director for Economy, Infrastructure and Skills.	

Growth Hub Cabinet Member: Mark Winnington Lead officer: Anthony Hodge			
Inquiry Group Report on Elective Home Education	19 July 2018	Following a referral from the Corporate Parenting Panel a review group was set up conflated with members of the Safe and Strong Select Committee. Its first meeting was held on 12 January where Members received a briefing from officers. Further meetings were held, including the inquiry session scheduled for 21 March. The final report and recommendations will be considered by the Select Committee in readiness for forwarding to the Cabinet Member for his executive response.	
HS2 Construction Routes and Road Safety Cabinet Member: Helen Fisher/ Mark Winnington Lead Officer: Clive Thomson→James Bailey/Sarah Mallen	19 July 2018	Phase 2 under consultation	
Update on Infrastructure + Improvement Plan and Performance Review based on 2017/18 Delivery/Highways Extra Investment Cabinet Member: Mark Deaville Lead officer: James Bailey	18 September 2018	Members have been regularly involved in scrutiny of the contract arrangements with Amey. Members to scrutinise the Improvement Plan and Performance Review on a six monthly basis. Members asked to scrutinise the county's investment in our road network. Members wished to consider the quality of repairs/failure rate.	
Delivering Housing in	18 September 2018		

Staffordshire Cabinet Member: Mark Winnington Lead officers: Mark Parkinson			
Countryside Estate Review Cabinet Member: Gill Heath/Mark Winnington Lead Officer: Ruth Shufflebotham	18 January 2019	Pre-decision scrutiny.	
Sportshire Strategy and Major Events Evaluation Cabinet Member: Mark Winnington Lead Officer: Ben Holland	To be advised	Strategy reviewed in December 2015. Members asked that future evaluation reports include a detailed cost benefit analysis and that any figures used to highlight the success of events should be robust. The negative impact on local communities of Sportshire events was acknowledged and the Select Committee wish to ensure that everything possible is done to mitigate these in future. An evaluation report of the 2017 Ironman event was requested to be brought to a Select Committee meeting approximately three months after the event.	Briefing Note
Post-16 (now Post 18) Education Provision Cabinet Member: Philip White Lead Officer: Tony Baines	To be advised	Item proposed by the Cabinet Member for Learning and Skills.	
Community Transport and Supported Bus Network Cabinet Member: Mark Deaville Lead Officer: Clive Thomson	To be advised		At their meeting on 14 November the Committee agreed to monitor the impact of the removal of bus subsidies going forward.
Capital Programme: Funding for New Schools Cabinet Member: Philip White	To be advised		

Lead Officer: Andrew Marsden			
County Farms Cabinet Member: Gill Heath		Item proposed by Cabinet Member for Economic Growth. Item could be broadened out to a wider issue re rural areas (food production; rural transport; role of county farms; land agents; hydroponics; Agritech)	For discussion at next triangulation meeting

Working Groups

Entrust Service Level Agreement Key Performance Indicator Working group Cabinet Member: Mark Deaville Lead Officer: Ian Turner/Karen Coker	Scrutiny and Support Manager to discuss timing with Chair/Vice Chair	Following consideration of Education Support Services – Commissioning and Contract Performance on 22 January Members agreed to set up a Working Group to consider the review of KPIs and the information they wished to scrutinise in future.	Committee agreed that new Members should be sought and a further meeting of the Group arranged. Chairman to discuss way forward with Cabinet Member for Commercial. Update: Cabinet Member for Commercial is preparing an update for the Committee. Advised to defer setting up of Working Group until this has been received.
Elective Home Education Cabinet Member: Philip White Lead Officer: Karl Hobson		Item referred by Corporate Parenting Panel – August 2017 (NB also referred to Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee)	A review group has been set up jointly with members of the Safe and Strong Select Committee. Its first meeting was held on 12 January where Members received a briefing from officers. A planning meeting was held on 31 January with the inquiry session on 21 March. The Inquiry Group then compiled their report and recommendations which will be submitted to the 19 July Select Committee for their comment and/or endorsement.

Membership

Ian Parry (Chairman)
Julia Jessel (Vice-Chairman)
Ron Clarke
Tina Clements
Keith Flunder
Bryan Jones
Kyle Robinson
David Smith
Simon Tagg
Bernard Williams
Rev. Preb. Michael Metcalf (Co-optee)
Candice Yeomans (Co-optee)

Calendar of Committee Meetings at County Buildings, Martin Street, Stafford ST16 2LH

4 April 2018
20 June 2018
19 July 2018
18 September 2018
15 November 2018
14 December 2018
18 January 2019
1 March 2019

Not for publication by virtue of paragraph(s) 3
of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972

Document is Restricted

Not for publication by virtue of paragraph(s) 5
of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972

Document is Restricted

Not for publication by virtue of paragraph(s) 5
of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972

Document is Restricted

