

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 14 DECEMBER 2017

**Question to Mark Winnington
Cabinet Member for Economic Growth**

By Jill Hood

Question

Why is it that the Cabinet Member for Economic Growth seeks to achieve mitigation for the economically detrimental Stone site, rather than seeking to gain either Alternative Provision or Petitioning for the far superior Aldersey's Rough option, especially as the Stone site will ultimately lead to Stafford station losing its HS2 services and status as an HS2 hub? Page 31 lists six bullet points as key petitioning points, why isn't there a seventh which would state that "Proper assessment of the potential of the Railhead for HS2 ph2a being at Aldersey's Rough, instead of Stone, thereby avoiding the need to bypass Stafford with HS2 Services, avoiding the log-jam of traffic on the A34 and the M6 at J15 associated with a Railhead at Stone, and having the potential to develop effectively the rail services for North Staffordshire safeguarding the interests of Staffordshire's residents?"

Reply

The Authority is aware of the suggestion by some residents to relocate the proposed HS2 maintenance depot at Stone to Aldersey's Rough. The Authority is also aware that there are opposing views to this proposal from residents living near to Aldersey's Rough.

The Authority does not agree that HS2 Ltd proposals for the location of the maintenance depot will mean that the HS2 passenger services for Stafford Station will be lost once it is constructed. Indeed we are working closely with the Government to ensure that the benefits of HS2 trains stopping in Stafford are maximised both in the short and long term.

The authority will take residents views into account when preparing its petitioning document which will be submitted in early 2018. It should also be noted that the Authority has recently held a community meeting where the petitioning process was explained in detail allowing interested stakeholders to effectively petition the current HS2 Ltd proposals for Phase 2a.