

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 24TH MAY 2018

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

By Paul Northcott

Question

As an element of the mitigating arguments arising out of the petitioning process on Phase 2a can the portfolio holder give my constituents of Newcastle Rural information and assurances that, in light of the HS2 petition negotiations, the highways improvements such as the junctions of the A53 and A51 at the location of Blackbrook and the Swan with 2 Necks will be taking place in the near future before major work in the area commences?

Reply

The assurances and undertakings obtained by the Council in connection with the HS2 Phase 2a Hybrid Bill will become obligations on HS2 Ltd once the Bill receives Royal Assent.

With respect to the highway improvement at the junction of the A53 and A51 at Blackbrook mentioned above, HS2 Ltd are required to promote an 'additional provision' to ensure that they have the appropriate powers to provide the permanent highway improvement.

HS2 Ltd have indicated that, in line with works elsewhere along the route of the project, highway improvement work to facilitate construction traffic will be programmed at the commencement of main civil engineering works. It is not possible to provide a date for these works at this time.