

<b>Local Members Interest</b>
N/A

## **Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee – Friday 26 February 2021**

### **HS2 Update - Impacts on Staffordshire**

#### **Recommendations**

I recommend that the Committee:

- a. Acknowledge the work undertaken to secure economic mitigation in Staffordshire to date.
- b. Select any areas of interest from the topics listed below that they wish to be reported regularly to this select committee.

#### **Report of the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills**

#### **Summary**

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

1. Information on the economic impacts of HS2 in Staffordshire has been requested by this select committee. This report presents the various areas which may be covered by this heading in the context of the committee, and requests that Members select any topic areas they wish to be reported regularly to this committee.
2. The County Council does not support HS2, and acknowledges the significant human impact of the scheme on our residents and communities. We remain focused on getting the best deal for Staffordshire in terms of mitigation, compensation for residents, improved connectivity and economic benefits (the latter being the remit of this report). We will retain this focus throughout construction, undertaking our statutory role to minimise impacts wherever possible and ensuring that commitments made during the parliamentary process are delivered.

#### **Report**

##### **Background**

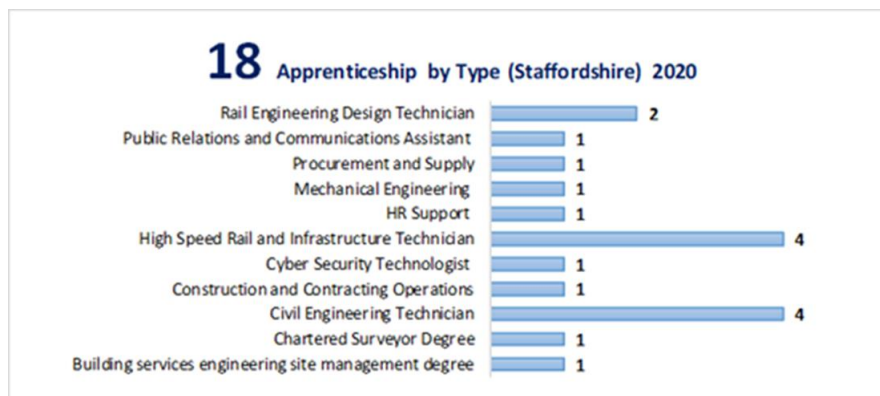
3. Some of the impacts of HS2 on Staffordshire, both positive and negative, where further detail could be provided on a regular basis are as follows (expanded from the pre committee meeting briefing note with examples where available):

##### **Positive impacts:**

4. Following petitioning by the County Council during the parliamentary process for Phase One, followed by extensive lobbying, the Handsacre link will be constructed,

with potential large scale development in Stafford coming on that back of that. Stafford will benefit from a high speed service to key cities around the country, including London in less than an hour. Information on growth linked to Stafford's high speed service could be provided in liaison with the Assistant Director for Business and Enterprise.

5. HS2 Ltd.'s commitments to use local suppliers, materials and labour in Staffordshire where possible. A desktop map of the HS2 supply chain can be viewed at: [HS2 supply chain map - desktop | High Speed 2](#)
6. Spending in local communities by the HS2 workforce (this cannot be quantified in terms of £ spent, but approximate information can be provided on the type and scale of spending). HS2 Ltd have been asked to collate this information and provide to the HS2 Project Manager on a quarterly basis.
7. There is potential for delivery of HS2 highway works through the I+ partnership, which could generate income for SCC, which the authority may then choose to reinvest back into services. This could be quantified by contract value.
8. Apprenticeships and local jobs generated. An example of what this would look like is provided here. The data show new apprenticeship starts within HS2 (HS2 Ltd and supply chain) who have postcodes in the Staffordshire area. Members are advised that these are the only apprentice data that HS2 Ltd. holds postcode information on. Also, individuals already on an apprenticeship at the time of a contractor's mobilisation onto HS2 are not included, as postcode data are not collected for these individuals. The information provided is for Phase One, from Royal Assent (April 2017) up to and including Quarter 3, 2020/21. As some postcode data are not reported, a margin of plus/minus 2% should be applied to allow for this exception.



9. Details of Community Environment Fund (CEF) and Business and Local Economy Fund (BLEF) monies awarded in Staffordshire can be provided on demand. These can be viewed at:

<https://hs2funds.org.uk/home/projects-funded-by-hs2-funds/>

## Negative impacts:

10. Disruption to drivers on the road network during construction. The authority has successfully petitioned for a range of mitigation, but clearly there will still be an impact. However, we have secured a range of permanent schemes and improvements to offset this. A range of data could be provided here including details of the schemes secured, with more detail available as design progresses, or complaints received by HS2 Ltd.'s helpdesk.
11. Disruption to individuals and local communities during construction noise. This information could be provided through analysis of complaints received, as detailed by the monthly helpdesk reports sent to the HS2 Project Manager by HS2 Ltd.
12. Loss of environmental habitats. This can be described using the HS2 environmental statement, but it would not be possible to quantify economic impact (on tourism for example).

## Link to Strategic Plan

13. Help Staffordshire's economy to grow and generate more good jobs.

## Link to Other Overview and Scrutiny Activity

14. Not applicable.

## List of Background Documents/Appendices:

[HS2 supply chain map - desktop | High Speed 2](#)

## Contact Details

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