

Meeting:	JOINT COMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
Date:	9 th June 2023
From:	Joint Officer Steering Group

Transport Update

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the transport related issues across the Greater Nottingham conurbation. The report gives an update on train service developments, HS2 and the Porchester Road cycle scheme.

2 BACKGROUND

Train service developments

- 2.1 From the start of the Summer 2023 timetable on Sunday 21st May 2023, East Midlands Railway introduced a number of additional services, significantly restoring service levels to pre-Covid level. These include:-
- Matlock – Nottingham service reinstated during daytimes with some performance changes e.g. Spondon / Attenborough will be alternating hourly off-peak.
 - Robin Hood line. The Saturday service restored to half-hourly to Mansfield Woodhouse but Bulwell omitted on additional services. This is to provide sufficient capacity on a Saturday. No change to Monday to Friday which remains with pandemic timetable for the moment, and reflects continued reduced usage of this line
 - Leicester – Lincoln via Nottingham fully reinstated to pre-Covid timetable so an additional six Monday to Friday services and eight Saturdays.
- 2.2 These changes at East Midlands Railway reflect a growth in passenger numbers in all their sub-sectors of their business, which is better than that overall nationally even taking account of industrial action¹.
- 2.3 Services operated by Cross Country will similarly change from the 21st May 2023, with an expected increase in service volumes on the main inter-city routes through Chesterfield and Derby. A complicating factor is the emergency bridge works between Oxford and Didcot, that have closed the line there until early June 2023 at the earliest. Services between Nottingham and Birmingham New Street are however reduced for the period between May and December 2023 because of limited capacity at Birmingham New Street whilst work to remediate concrete spalling takes place. Intermediate stops on this service are covered by additional calls in other trains.
- 2.4 There are no major changes to the Northern service between Nottingham and Leeds.

Development of East Midlands local and regional services

- 2.5 Midlands Connect and East Midlands Councils have recently completed work on business cases for enhancements to the Nottingham – Newark – Lincoln and Nottingham – Grantham (Poacher Line). These include the case for speed, frequency

¹ [Passenger rail usage - October to December 2022 \(orr.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/passenger-rail-usage-october-to-december-2022)

and stopping pattern enhancements on these routes. The results of this work will be fed into Network Rail's 'Investment Pipeline' work.

HS2 and Midland Main Line electrification

- 2.6 Network Rail continue to progress the electrification of the Midland Main Line north from Kettering to Wigston South Junction south of Leicester. They are also procuring contracts for the further electrification north to Nottingham, Derby and Sheffield, through a series of contracts. However, these are subject to affordability, value for money and compatibility with HS2 East.
- 2.7. The Department for Transport announced recently that due to cost pressures on various elements of HS2 that completion of the links to London Euston, between Crewe and Birmingham and of the link to East Midlands Parkway will be delayed by up to five years. Members will be aware of the speculation in the news media of the impact of this on decision making for the region, including on the local plan, and on businesses planning to or who have already invested in the region based on the assumption of completing HS2 East and Midland Main electrification in the shorter term.

Active Travel England funding

- 2.8 As reported at the last meeting, Active Travel England has announced that a further £200million was being made available to local authorities to improve cycling and walking infrastructure². Officers from both City and County Councils prepared bids for this funding, and the City Council was successful in obtaining £1.7m of this for the Porchester Road Active Travel Project – a key project in the City's strategic cycle network. Detailed consultation for which will commence later in the year. The County Council was successful in securing £1.1m for the Baulk Lane, Stapleford route improvement which will improve connections to the tram terminus from Stapleford.

3 RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 3.1 It is recommended that the contents of this report be noted.

4 BACKGROUND PAPERS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

None

Contact Officers

Chris Carter, Development and Growth, Nottingham City Council

Tel: 0115 8763940

Email: chris.carter@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Kevin Sharman, Place Department, Nottinghamshire County Council

Tel: 0115 9772970

Email: kevin.sharman@nottscc.gov.uk

² [£200 million to improve walking and cycling routes and boost local economies - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/200-million-to-improve-walking-and-cycling-routes-and-boost-local-economies)