

17th September 2013**Agenda Item:****REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, HIGHWAYS****HIGH-SPEED RAIL UPDATE****Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform Committee of the arrangements for consultation regarding the Government's plans for a High-Speed rail network serving (inter-alia) the East Midlands.

Information and Advice

2. On 17 July 2013, the Government announced the launch of public consultation on the proposed route of phase 2 of its High-Speed rail network from West Midlands to Manchester, Leeds and beyond, which will pass through the East Midlands, with a station proposed at Toton. It will integrate with existing rail lines to provide onward services to cities in the North and Scotland.
3. The consultation, which runs until 31 January 2014, is "seeking views to ensure that the proposed high speed lines are the best they can be".
4. The consultation is for any interested person or organisation, and submissions or representations may be made by anybody.
5. Various documents have been published on the HS2 website (<http://www.hs2.org.uk/phase-two/route-consultation/document-library>), including
 - Summary consultation document,
 - Full consultation document,
 - Plan and profile maps,
 - a Route Engineering technical report,
 - a sustainability report,
 - various factsheets, and
 - a report by Network Rail on potential use of the released capacity on the existing ('classic') rail network.
6. Copies of the documents have been made available at ten Nottinghamshire libraries: Eastwood, Edgewood, Gotham, Hucknall, Inham Nook, Jacksdale, Kimberley, Selston, Toton, and West Bridgford.
7. A draft County Council response will be brought to this committee in January 2014 for approval prior to submission as the formal County Council response.

Statutory and Policy Implications

This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that Committee:

- a) Notes the start of the consultation period, and the publication of the various documents, and
- b) Notes that the County Council response will be considered at the 9th January 2014 meeting of this Committee.

Andrew Warrington
Service Director Highways

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Jim Bamford, Rail Officer.

Constitutional Comments

None – report for information

Financial Comments

None – report for information

Background Papers

None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

The Districts affected are Ashfield, Broxtowe, Mansfield and Rushcliffe.