

# Decision Record – HS2 Phase 2b Working Draft Environmental Statement (WDES) Consultation; Warwickshire County Council's Response

<b>Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking the decision</b>	Cllr Jeff Clarke Transport and Planning
<b>Date of Decision</b> (not before 7 December 2018)	<b>10/12/2018</b>

## Decision Taken

That the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning:

1. Agrees to Inform HS2 Ltd that in its view the WDES (Working Draft Environmental Statement) is deficient and provides little assurance at this stage to Warwickshire that the impact of HS2 is being appropriately considered.
2. Endorses the recommendations outlined in the attached appendix as the County Council's consultation response. This response will request that HS2 Ltd addresses the shortcomings and improves its documentation for the full Environmental Statement prior to the deposit of the hybrid Bill in 2020.

## Reasons for Decision

It is a requirement of the Council's Constitution that responses to consultations be agreed by the relevant Portfolio Holder.

## Background Information

### Warwickshire County Council's main areas of concern

It is the County Council's view that the WDES requires further improvement in a number of key areas not least:

- a) the design of Bodymoor Heath Lane
- b) the access and operation at Kingsbury Water Park
- c) the impact on villages and roads at Kingsbury, Whateley, Overwoods Road and Birchmoor
- d) the need to refine the design at J10 of the M42 to reduce the impact on all the communities in North Warwickshire and ensure the future housing and economic growth in the borough
- e) the potential for isolation within Birchmoor
- f) the suitability of the roads near to Pooley Park for HGV traffic and the impact on the park during and after HS2
- g) the impact at Austrey on the roads, HGV movements, flooding risk and loss of their recreational facilities.
- h) the detailed consideration of the use of slip accesses on and off the M42 in preference to the use of the local rural road network.
- i) the lack of baseline data in the WDES
- j) the inconsistency between PROW in Phase 1 and Phase 2b
- k) the overall impact on health, wellbeing and equalities for the communities of North Warwickshire

The accompanying appendix provides greater analysis by the County Council of these impacts and where possible at this stage makes broad suggestions for improvement prior to the Full ES in 2020.

The omission of almost all baseline data means that our ability to provide a comprehensive response on the WDES is limited. Without data and evidence it is very difficult to assess the

assertions made in the documents or consider the appropriateness of the mitigation.

It has not been possible to conduct a full analysis of the DWES because of the relatively short duration of the consultation period and limited data. It is the Council's expectation that HS2 Ltd pays due attention to the concerns raised in the appendix addresses each point and mitigates accordingly prior to the deposit of the full ES. This will provide a robust position statement that communities can have confidence in and negate the necessity to see amendments through the Parliamentary process in the Commons and Lords.

**Financial Implications**

None

<b>Report Author</b>	Sara-Louise Lee
<b>Head of Service</b>	Mark Ryder
<b>Joint Managing Director</b>	Monica Fogarty
<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	Councillor Jeff Clarke

**Checklist**

<b>Urgent matter?</b>	No
<b>Confidential or Exempt?(State the category of exempt information)</b>	No
<b>Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?</b>	No

**List of Reports considered**

Link to published proposed decision report:

<https://democratic.warwickshire.gov.uk/cm5/Calendarofmeetings/tabid/73/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/410/Meeting/4431/Committee/593/Default.aspx>

**List of Background Papers**

None

**Members and officers consulted or informed**

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Jeff Clarke  
 Corporate Board  
 Legal – Ian Marriott,  
 Finance – Liz Firmstone, Virginia Rennie  
 Equality – Clare Bonnet  
 Democratic Services – Paul Williams

Councillors Parsons, Reilly, Wright, Jens, Butlin and Clarke