

HS2 Bulletin

Winter 2015

High Speed Two (HS2) is the Government's proposal for a high speed north-south railway. The scheme is being taken forward in two phases:



Phase One will connect London with Birmingham and the West Midlands

Phase Two will extend the route to Manchester and Leeds.

The focus of Warwickshire County Council's role on HS2 is to scrutinise the implications of the scheme and develop protection and mitigation around planning, highways, traffic and transport, public rights of way, historic environment, and ecology.

The Government's HS2 hybrid bill legislation is currently progressing through

Parliament, and MP's have voted in favour of the scheme at its **Second Reading** to effectively agree HS2 in principle. The county council, along with many other local authorities and organisations along the route, submitted a **petition** last May to address a range of concerns with the scheme, these were put before a **select committee** which has the power to recommend amendments to the bill.

Warwickshire's HS2 Select Committee hearing

Warwickshire County Council and North Warwickshire Borough Council put their cases to Parliament in a bid to secure a better deal for communities from HS2.

The two local authorities appeared before the HS2 Select Committee between 27 and 28 October seeking measures to mitigate the impact of the high speed railway.

The county council and borough council submitted evidence to MP's on a range of issues contained in their petitions, which are available on the Parliamentary website here:

[Click to open link](#)

The full transcripts from the hearing can be found here:

October 27th pm

[Open link to PDF](#)

October 28th am

[Open link to PDF](#)

October 28th pm

[Open link to PDF](#)

The accompanying evidence slides are here:

October 27th

[Open link to PDF](#)

October 28th

[Open link to PDF](#)

Warwickshire's HS2 Select Committee hearing cont...

The HS2 Select Committee will make recommendations at a future date. During the appearance agreement was reached on a variety of petition issues, including £3.5 million funding towards a new primary school at Water Orton, the introduction and staffing of a Special Management Zone for North Warwickshire, better traffic management and works for the A446 road near Coleshill, improvements for Kenilworth Greenway, a new cycle bridge over the Fosse Way at Offchurch, and a green bridge at Wormleighton.

The full list of assurances received by the county council from HS2 Ltd can be viewed via this web page:

[Click to open link](#)

Select Committee news

HS2 environmental case 'deficient'

The chair of the Parliamentary HS2 select committee has made a key statement on route-wide petition issues to pave the way for communities to challenge HS2 Ltd.

In his comments during the HS2 petition hearings at Westminster, Mr Robert Syms MP said: *"On the Environmental Statement, we found the session with Warwickshire County Council very useful in clarifying expectations and allowing certain helpful explanations and positions to be put on record."*

These comments relate to a submission by Nathalie Lieven QC, on behalf of Warwickshire County Council, to the select committee on October 28. In the submission, Ms Lieven outlined the county council's concerns about the accuracy of the initial Environmental Statement data and the risk posed to petitioners because of the deficiencies contained in HS2's original document.

Other select committee publications, including the transcripts, can be found here:

[Click to open link](#)

Latest committee programme:

[Open link to PDF](#)

Parliament TV:

[Click to open link](#)

Current HS2 timeline



HS2 Hybrid bill additional provisions

In November 2013 the Government deposited the hybrid Bill in Parliament to provide powers to build, operate and maintain the first phase of High Speed Two (HS2). The Government has recently deposited a further set of documents, known as Additional Provisions, which would authorise changes to the Bill proposals. There are a total of 15 additional provisions which affect Warwickshire.

The county council has issued a response to the consultation on the Additional Provision changes to the main HS2 Environmental Statement, which closed on November 14:

[Click to open link](#)

HS2 community and business support funds launched

The Community and Environment Fund (CEF) and the Business and Local Economy Fund (BLEF) will make up to £30 million available for residents and local communities between London and Birmingham to invest in public projects such as the refurbishment of local community centres, nature conservation and measures to support local economies and employment.

The CEF will support local projects that bring community and environmental benefits to areas affected by HS2. Part of the pot will fund small scale community projects, the remainder will fund larger schemes that have third party or match funding.

The BLEF will invite business groups to bring forward projects that will maintain business activity and employment in their local communities.

The not-for-profit charity New Philanthropy Capital (NPC) will be working with HS2 Ltd to ensure the funds are delivered in the most effective way possible. Detailed eligibility and application criteria for the fund will be published in 2015, and the fund will not open until the construction phase begins in 2017

[Click to here for more about this](#)

Phase Two news

HS2 Ltd chairman Sir David Higgins launched his second report on HS2, Rebalancing Britain: From HS2 towards a national transport strategy.

The report sets out recommendations to maximise the benefits of HS2 and to greatly improve east/west connectivity across the north, and outlines the delivery of a hub at Crewe be accelerated to 2027 instead of 2033 and that Leeds station be remodelled to cater for future growth.

The report proposes:

- the strategic proposal for the phase two route is correct
- substantial improvements in east/west connectivity across the north
- creation of a new joint body made up of the major local authorities across the north

The full document is available [here](#)

[Open link to PDF](#)

New interactive map published

HS2 Ltd has published a new interactive map to help people navigate the plans for the new railway:

The map has been designed to visualise where the new high speed line is proposed to go. Sections of the route may be subject to design refinements, and the line shown may change alignment depending on the outcome of future consultations, but it will remain up to date with the current and most accurate information.

[Click to open link to interactive map](#)

Signposts – for further information

High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands)
Bill
House of Commons Stages of the bill:
<http://tinyurl.com/n8m43eo> (PDF file)

HS2 Ltd information papers:
<http://tinyurl.com/l8lygdz>

Warwickshire County Council petition:
<http://tinyurl.com/m5jgpwr>

High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands)
Bill, what you need to know:
<http://tinyurl.com/ln6jrhh> (PDF file)

FAQs:
<http://tinyurl.com/mw5mejg>

Warwickshire County Council
briefings:
<http://tinyurl.com/m3mo4hm>

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