

Report of the Chief Executive

TRANSPORT AND TRAM FEASIBILITY STUDY1. Purpose of report

To inform members of a tram feasibility study along the A610 corridor linking Phoenix Park to Kimberley, Eastwood and potentially into Amber Valley. This will be paid for using ITPS money, and the consultants picked following a procurement process. The plan is to start this study early in 2021.

2. Detail

In September 2019 the Jobs and Economy committee recommended to the Finance and Resources Committee that a feasibility study was to be commissioned for an engineering study demonstrating how a tram extension from the Toton HS2 hub station to Langley Mill and Kimberley could be reliably delivered. This was further approved at The Finance and Resources Committee in October 2019, though with a caveat that this was following a positive outcome of the Oakervee Review. The Oakervee Review confirmed that HS2 would be delivered in full in February 2020.

The Government is producing an Integrated Rail Plan for the Midlands and the North. This work will be informed by an assessment from the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) looking at the rail needs of the Midlands and the North, and the available evidence on Northern Powerhouse Rail, Midlands Rail Hub, HS2 Phase 2b and other proposed Network Rail projects. The East Midlands Submission to the NIC's Rail Needs (HS2) Assessment Call for Evidence was submitted following agreement from the East Midlands HS2 Executive Board. The submission is based around three core messages: Deliver in Full; Deliver Early & Invest Now. The NIC report was published in December 2020 and its outcomes raise doubts over the future of the HS2 station and the associated Strategic Site for Growth. We are though at the time of writing this report awaiting a formal government response to the outcomes of the NIC report. Nevertheless, officers are proceeding to implement the previous resolution unless this committee determines otherwise.

3. Financial Implications

The Jobs and Economy Committee meeting held on 5 September 2019 recommended to the Finance and Resources Committee that £100,000 be included in the capital programme for studies demonstrating how a tram extension from the Toton HS2 hub station to Langley Mill and Kimberley could be reliably delivered and demonstrating the economic, social and environmental benefits of such a proposal. This was to be funded from the £676,000 S106 ITPS payment received in respect of the Mushroom Farm development. The Finance and Resources Committee agreed on 10 October 2019 to include £100,000 in the capital programme as set out above. However, no expenditure has been incurred to date. This sum is available to meet the estimated cost of £80-100k for the tram feasibility study as set out in the report.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to NOTE the report.

Background papers

Nil