

Report of the Chief Executive

EXTENDING THE BENEFITS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH FROM HS2 TO THE NORTH OF BROXTOWE1. Purpose of Report

To invite members to consider recommending to the Finance and Resource Committee:

- a) The commissioning of an engineering study demonstrating how a tram extension from the Toton HS2 hub station to Langley Mill and Kimberley could be reliably delivered;
- b) The commissioning of a report to demonstrate the economic, social and environmental benefits of such a proposal, in order to produce a compelling case to justify the investment required.

2. Detail

It is a key objective of the current administration to work to secure the benefits of economic growth from the HS2 project for areas in the North of Broxtowe including Kimberley and Eastwood and the A610 corridor.

Stakeholder meetings have taken place with various partners including: Nottingham City Council, East Midlands Councils, Amber Valley District Council, the D2N2 local enterprise partnership, the Light rail transport association, and British Land in order to discuss how to advance the objective and build cross party consensus about the desirability of the project, which will require public funding to implement.

An initial feasibility study was conducted by Mott MacDonald into an extension of NET line 1. This assessment also investigated existing levels of local congestion and the wider implications on highway capacity. The cost of the work was £55,000. What is now required is to build on this work with further layers of technical engineering detail, and to identify the full range of economic, social and environmental benefits that would result from the increased connectivity that would result.

A diagram showing the potential strategic connectivity of the Langley Mill superhub in relation to Kimberley, Eastwood and the HS2 hub at Toton is set out in plan A and B appendix 2. Financial, legal and Equality implications are set out in appendix 1.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to RECOMMEND to the Finance and Resources Committee that the projects set out in paragraph 1 (a) and (b) be funded using ITPS funding for the North of Broxtowe.

Background papers

Nil

APPENDIX 1

Financial implications

The estimated cost of the projects (including the cost of drafting specifications for the work) are estimated to be at least £100,000. The costs of the work will be paid for from section 106 ITPS funding received from the Mushroom Farm development. It is also proposed to seek financial support from Amber Valley District Council.

Legal implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal Services were as follows:

The work would be tendered in accordance with the Council's procurement strategy and standing orders.

Equality Impact Assessment

The proposal will advance the prospects for economic inclusion as a result of improving the connectivity of areas of higher unemployment and skills with economic growth opportunities in the South of the Borough as a result of the HS2 project.