

Report to Council

30th April 2014

High Speed Rail (London-West Midlands) Bill – Petitioning by Lichfield District Council

On November 25th 2013 the Government laid before Parliament a Hybrid Bill seeking consent to build and operate a High Speed rail line between London (Camden) and the West Midlands (Handsacre, Lichfield District). The Bill covers Phase 1 of a wider scheme intended to provide a high speed network linking London with the north-west and Yorkshire.

Ever since the announcement was made by the Secretary of State for Transport to develop a high speed rail line and wider high speed network in January 2012, the District Council has voiced its strong objections.

Appended to this report at **Annex 1** is a report considered by the Council's Cabinet on the 1st April relating to the opportunity available now to formally petition the Bill and seek via Parliament changes to the Government's proposals to provide for appropriate mitigation.

To allow it to lodge a petition in Parliament against the Bill, the District Council is required by legislation to pass a resolution to this effect supported by more than 50% of the elected Council membership.

It is therefore recommended that:

- (1) That in the judgment of the Lichfield District Council it is expedient for the Council to oppose the High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Bill introduced in the Session of Parliament 2013-14.
- (2) That the Cabinet Member for Economic Growth, Tourism and Development and the Strategic Director Democratic, Development and Legal Services take all necessary steps to carry the foregoing Resolution into effect, that the Common Seal be affixed to any necessary documents and that confirmation be given that Sharpe Pritchard (Parliamentary Agents) be authorised to sign the Petition of the Council against the Bill.