

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT CABINET PANEL  
FRIDAY, 11 MAY 2018 10.00AM**

**HIGH SPEED TWO (HS2) UPDATE REPORT**

*Report of the Chief Executive*

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Executive Member: Derrick Ashley, Environment, Planning & Transport

**1. Purpose of report**

1.1 The purpose of the report is:

- a) To update Members of the progress of HS2 in Hertfordshire.
- b) To introduce a presentation from the Main Works Civils Contractors Align Joint Venture to Members

**2. Summary**

2.1 The High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Act 2017 received Royal Assent on 22 February 2017. Since receiving Royal Assent, HS2 Ltd has appointed three Joint Ventures to undertake the works packages between London Euston and Birmingham. For works within Hertfordshire, Align Joint Venture (“Align”) is the Main Works Civils Contractor.

2.2 The County Council is working closely with Align through regular meetings and through the Colne Valley Regional Park Panel.

**3. Recommendations**

3.1 That the Environment, Planning and Transport Panel note the content of this report and the presentation from Align to be delivered at the meeting.

## **4. Background**

- 4.1 Align will construct the 1.9 kilometres of track passing through Hertfordshire. This consists of the north launch to the Colne Valley Viaduct, a new overbridge at Tilehouse Lane, the Chiltern Tunnel south portal and the Chiltern Tunnel itself.
- 4.2 These works will require one of the largest construction compounds along phase one of the route to be built to the east of the M25 and south of Chalfont Lane. The compound will also support a number of satellite compounds associated with the tunnel and viaduct construction.
- 4.3 Align are currently developing plans for the compounds- covering accommodation, offices, catering facilities, concrete batching plant, materials storage, the tunnel boring machine and other construction associated activities.
- 4.4 Align anticipate mobilising the compound around October / November 2018. Tunnelling is expected to commence late 2019 and will continue for around 4 years until completed.
- 4.5 At this time it is understood that the area used for construction will be progressively restored as specific construction activities are completed.
- 4.6 Members may be aware of works already underway in Hertfordshire for the HS2 scheme. These works are enabling works being carried out by Early Works Civils Contractors.
- 4.7 These works consist of: closure of Chalfont Lane for around 8 years, archaeological and ground investigations, moving of a water main along Chalfont Lane, construction of two slip roads onto the M25 between junctions 16 and 17, and construction of a link road from Shire Lane to Hornhill Road. These works are currently expected to be completed around July 2018.
- 4.8 We will continue to update Members regularly on progress.
- 4.9 We also ask Members to be aware of a report to Highways Cabinet Panel – titled HS2 Update Information Paper by Rupert Thacker is available [here](#).

## **5 Financial Implications**

- 5.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

## **6 Equalities**

- 6.1 When considering proposals placed before Members it is important that they are fully aware of, and have themselves rigorously considered, the equality implications of the decision that they are making.
- 6.2 Rigorous consideration will ensure that proper appreciation of any potential impact of that decision on the County Council's statutory obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty. As a minimum this requires decision makers to read and carefully consider the content of any Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) produced by officers.
- 6.3 The Equality Act 2010 requires the County Council when exercising its functions to have due regard to the need to (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act; (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it and (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. The protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 6.4 Equalities issues have been examined as part of the Impact Assessment of HS2 through the parliamentary approval process and therefore, no further assessment or plan is required.