



Committee and date

Cabinet

10th February 2016

Membership of the Northern Gateway Partnership

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1.0 Summary

- 1.1 A new HS2 Hub Station is being planned for Crewe, located in Cheshire East Council. The area will become one of the best connected places in the UK and provide the vital link between the 'Northern Powerhouse' and 'Midlands Engine' and be a major component in the government's plans to rebalance the UK economy.
- 1.2 Following discussions with the Departments for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) early progress has been made on the establishment of a Northern Gateway Partnership, including seven local authorities and two Local Enterprise Partnerships, which is considering the wider growth prospects. This has been recognised in the HS2 announcement with an initial £600k allocated to develop a Growth Strategy for the Northern Gateway with further funding anticipated as the Strategy progresses.
- 1.3 Shropshire Council has now been invited to join the Northern Gateway Partnership

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet agrees to give authority for the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Business and Economy, to represent Shropshire Council on the Northern Gateway Partnership.

3.0 Report

- 3.1 A new HS2 Hub Station is being planned for Crewe, located in Cheshire East Council. The area will become one of the best connected places in the UK and

provide the vital link between the Northern Powerhouse and Midlands Engine and be a major component in the government's plans to rebalance the UK economy.

- 3.2 Evidence from the recent work of the Independent Transport Commission suggests that the economic transformation could mirror the experiences of a number of other similar high speed rail investments across Europe in regions such as Lille.
- 3.3 A high level assessment of its economic impact, has concluded that it can deliver over 120,000 new jobs, over 100,000 new homes and additional GVA of £10bn by 2040. This growth would spread across a new economic region, the Northern Gateway, which would include parts of Cheshire, Shropshire and Staffordshire and have the potential to turn some areas of deprivation into more prosperous communities.
- 3.4 The fundamental component of achieving this transformation is the delivery of the HS2 Hub Station in Crewe capable of serving a minimum of seven high speed trains per hour in both directions, with connections to London, Birmingham and Manchester. Following the Sir David Higgins report, Rebalancing Britain, Cheshire East Council has been working with the Department of Transport (DofT), Network Rail (NR) and London Continental Railways (LCR) to help determine the best location of the HS2 Hub Station at Crewe.
- 3.5 Following discussions with the Departments for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) early progress has been made on the establishment of a Northern Gateway Partnership, including seven local authorities and two Local Enterprise Partnerships, which is considering the wider growth prospects. This has been recognised in the HS2 announcement with an initial £600k allocated to develop a Growth Strategy for the Northern Gateway with further funding anticipated as the Strategy progresses. The details of how the funding is to be allocated have yet to be set out by the government.
- 3.6 In October 2015 the Northern Gateway Partnership was formed, with the Cheshire and Warrington LEP and Stoke and Staffordshire LEP signing a concordat agreement committing them, supported by the wider network of local authority partners, to work together to ensure plan-led sustainable targeted growth and optimise the benefits of HS2 investment.
- 3.7 The Northern Gateway is a landmark partnership to deliver significant economic growth and regeneration across the region on the back of HS2 investment at Crewe. The Partnership is a collaboration of seven local authorities and the Cheshire and Warrington and Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnerships. It aims to unlock major new growth and investment opportunities to deliver over 100,000 new homes and 120,000 new jobs across the area by 2040.

- 3.8 The Northern Gateway spans Cheshire and the North of Staffordshire including the city of Stoke-on-Trent, Crewe and the A500 corridor. The partners working together to deliver a new joint Growth Strategy include the two LEAs, Cheshire East Council, Cheshire West and Chester Council, Newcastle-Under-Lyme Borough Council, Stafford Borough Council, Staffordshire County Council, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council.
- 3.9 The Northern Gateway partners are also committed to capitalising immediately on the Cheshire/Staffordshire region's unique position as the bridging link between the Midlands Engine and the Northern Powerhouse.
- 3.10 At a Growth Summit of Leaders and Chief Executives of the partner authorities together with select Government officials held on 23rd September 2015, Cheshire and Warrington LEP and Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire LEP Chairs signed a concordat committing the two organisations, supported by the wider network of Local Authority Partners, to working together to ensure plan led sustainable targeted growth and optimise the benefits of HS2 investment via the Northern Gateway Partnership.
- 3.11 The Northern Gateway partners are currently working alongside Government to develop the joint Northern Gateway Growth Strategy which will identify the key areas of growth and regeneration across the Northern Gateway Development Zone and map out the development of strategic sites to deliver the 2040 growth ambitions. This has been recognised in the Government announcement and an initial contribution of £600,000 has been identified from Government to support this work. It is expected that further funding towards the development of the strategy will follow as the Growth Strategy progresses.
- 3.11 Shropshire Council has now been invited to join the Northern Gateway Partnership.

4.0 Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1 Being a partner in the Northern Gateway Partnership will allow the Council to collaborate with stakeholders and Central Government in order to consider the long term benefits of the HS2 hub at Crewe and maximise the opportunities for the County in the long term. This close working relationship will enable long term policy planning to take place through the Review of the Local Plan and associated Economic Growth Strategy.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 At this stage there are no proposed financial contributions expected from Shropshire Council to the Partnership. Central Government has committed an initial £600k towards a Growth Strategy for the Northern Gateway.

Background Papers
Cabinet Member: Portfolio Holder for Business and Economy, Steve Charmley
Local Member/s: Councillor Gerald Dakin Councillor Tom Biggins Councillor Peggy Mullock
Appendices None