

Cabinet - 16 October 2018

Item 11 – HS2 Phase 2b

This paper raises very serious matters and at significant cost to the County Council demanding a clear grasp and understanding of our priorities.

At Scrutiny last Thursday the Lead Cabinet Member still believed the commitment to be a single sum of £400,000 for a ten year project. In reality, of course, it is an open ended request for growth which could therefore amount to around £4million

The paper is complex and at times confusing. No costs are given for Option 2 whilst Option 1 is hardly an option at all (para 38). There are further costs beyond the scope of the paper (eg paras 15 and 55). The project itself has such a wide sweep that caution is expressed that it could overlap the HS2 Mitigation Board (para 35). The reporting structure is bureaucratic with a Mitigation Board responsible to Executive Board, reporting to a Strategic Board which is overseen by D2N2 and EMC of which we are members.

If this sounds harsh it is a warning to the Cabinet, and the Council as a whole, how difficult it is becoming to fulfil our strategic role, to respond to external demand from government and industry, to meet our long term our environmental responsibilities and at the same time fulfil our 'day job' of keeping the county moving.

It was clear at Scrutiny that this paper carried a serious message and at significant ongoing cost. Such projects therefore require rather better engagement by the Cabinet in the future.

All meetings of the E&T Scrutiny Committee are broadcast and can be found here:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWFpwBLs6MnUzG0WjejrQtQ>

COMMENTS FROM MAX HUNT CC

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