

Council – 25th February 2014
Recommendation from Cabinet
11th February 2014

Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held at 2.00 pm. on 11th February 2014

Present:

Cabinet Members: Councillor D Chater
Councillor G Duggins
Councillor D Gannon
Councillor A Gingell
Councillor Kelly
Councillor R Lancaster
Councillor E Ruane
Councillor P Townshend (Chair)

Deputy Cabinet Members: Councillor Caan
Councillor Howells

Non-voting Opposition Members: Councillor Andrews

Other Members: Councillor McNicholas

Employees (by Directorate):

Chief Executive's: M Reeves (Chief Executive), F Collingham, R Nawaz,
R Tennant, J Venn

People: Brian Walsh (Executive Director), P Fahy

Place: M Yardley (Executive Director) C Knight, A Williams

Resources: C West (Executive Director), B Hastie, H Lynch,
M Salmon, L Welton

Apologies: Councillor J Innes, D Kershaw, A Khan, A Lucas

Public business

RECOMMENDATION

125. High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Bill

The Cabinet considered a report of the Executive Director, Place that sought approval to formally oppose aspects of the High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Bill.

The City Council passed a resolution in June 2013 (minute 27/13 refers) on the Government's commitment to proceed with HS2 and sought to secure the best possible outcome for the City.

The Government had since maintained its position and on 25th November 2013 introduced the High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Bill (“the Bill”) in the House of Commons. The Bill would grant the powers necessary to construct and operate Phase 1 of HS2 and further detailed the project, including plans of the route and the anticipated environmental and economic impacts which were set out in the Environmental Statement (ES) and other accompanying documents.

To secure the best possible outcome for Coventry, the City Council would need to formally engage in the Hybrid Bill petitioning process. To do this, the Council was required to pass a resolution to formally oppose the Bill in accordance with the Section 239 of the Local Government Act (LGA) 1972. Depositing a petition against the Bill would allow the Council to make representations and give evidence to the House of Commons Select Committee in order to try to secure the best possible outcome for the City. Unless the Council passed a resolution to technically oppose the Bill, it would not be able to appear before Select Committee.

Resolving to oppose the Bill would not change the City Council's resolution of June 2013 on HS2, but would allow it to carry out its intention to secure the best possible outcome for the City from HS2.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet recommend that, in order to get the best possible outcome from HS2 for the City Bill and in accordance with the Section 239 of the Local Government Act (LGA) 1972, the Council formally opposes aspects of the High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Bill and in order to do this passes the following resolutions:

- (1) That in the judgment of the Coventry City 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 (Business, Enterprise and Employment), the Executive Director, Place and Assistant Director, Legal & Democratic 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.**

(Meeting finished at 2.25 p.m.)