

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 11th February 2015
Report of: Executive Director of Economic Growth and Prosperity -
Caroline Simpson
Subject/Title: Jobs Regeneration and Assets Overview and Scrutiny
Committee - High Growth City Project Task and Finish
Group Report
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Don Stockton – Housing and Jobs

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 This report introduces the High Growth City Project Task and Finish Group's (the Task Group) Report on its findings, conclusions and recommendations following its review. The Report and the Group's terms of reference are attached.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet receive the Task Group's Report (attached).
- 2.2 That Cabinet note the Task Group's recommendations below, which are contained in the attached report:
- 2.2.1 To ensure that benefits of an HS2 NW Hub Station in Crewe are realised, the Group recommends that:
- A. The Council must ensure that it is prepared to deal with the scale of growth potential associated with HS2 and High Growth City by putting the necessary resources and structures in place to enhance the delivery of services, particularly in our planning, infrastructure and regeneration teams.
 - B. The Council must consider how the changes that need to be made to its resources and structures are going to impact on its overall budgets and where funding for projects is going to come from.
 - C. The Council must work with Government, Neighbouring Authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships to create a strong governing board needed to realise the maximum benefit of the opportunity to create higher quality places and life opportunities for our residents. The Council must be clear about the role it will play alongside its partners when choosing the preferred delivery mechanisms.
 - D. The Council should learn the lessons of other local authorities which have been impacted by national infrastructure projects such as HS1, and where they failed or succeeded in making the most of the opportunities.
 - E. Even though the Government has not yet formally decided on Crewe as the location for NW Hub Station for HS2, the Council must develop an evidence based Growth Strategy to inform future planning requirements and growth

deals to ensure the area secures the right levels of investment to deliver the strategy outcomes.

- F. The Council must consider how the anticipated growth in Crewe and the surrounding area is going to affect the demographics of the Borough and the impact this will have on demand for services like education, health, leisure and waste to ensure plans are in place to prepare for new demand.
- G. The Council should anticipate a review of the Local Plan in the future once a Growth Strategy has been delivered to ensure we have a credible planning approach.
- H. The Council must develop a local communication strategy with the public and key stakeholders to ensure residents and local businesses understand and support the benefits that HS2 will bring.
- I. The Council should develop a Business and Skills Engagement Plan with local companies, universities, colleges, schools and Government agencies to address how the area can prepare for and deliver the economic transformation of the area.

- 2.3 That a response to the Task Group's report be submitted to the Jobs Regeneration and Assets Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The Task Group was established to assess the Council's readiness to capture the full economic and social benefits of a potential hub station for HS2 in Crewe. The Task Group's findings and recommendations provide advice to Cabinet and Officers to aid efforts to put strategies and partnerships in place to maximise the benefits of HS2 for Crewe and the wider region.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 All

6.0 Policy Implications

- 6.1 If there is a Government decision that the route for HS2 will include a North West Hub Station at Crewe there are going to be major implications for a variety of policy areas including, regeneration, planning and development, education and skills, jobs, transport and highways.

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 Consideration of financial implications is not required at this stage.

8.0 Legal implications

- 8.1 Consideration of the legal implications is not required at this stage.

9.0 Risk Management

- 9.1 If effective strategies, partnerships and delivery mechanisms are not put in place there is a risk that the Council may not realise the full economic and social benefits arising from a North West Hub Station in Crewe.

10.0 Background

- 10.1 The Jobs Regeneration and Assets Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to set up the task and finish group at its meeting on 22 September 2014. The purpose was to assess the readiness of the Council to capture the full economic and social benefits that a potential superhub station at Crewe could bring for Crewe, Cheshire East and the wider sub-region.
- 10.2 Over the previous few weeks the Task Group has met with Officers, the Leader of the Council and reviewed documentation to gain an understanding of the implications for the Council of HS2 and what needs to be done to capitalise on the opportunities it will bring. The group focused its considerations on the following key questions:
1. What are the implications of HS2 for Cheshire East Council and the local economy?
 2. If Crewe was the location of a Superhub station how do we ensure successful delivery of the projected 64,000 jobs that this investment would create?
 3. What do we need to do to ensure the right infrastructure is in place to maximise the benefit of HS2 for the local area the boarder sub-region?
 4. What are the key business sectors of the economy that would benefit from the Crewe Superhub?
 5. How can we best ensure we can deliver the skilled residents, needed to support these businesses?
- 10.3 The attached report documents the Task Group's findings, conclusions and recommendations to Council.

11.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

Name: James Morley
Designation: Scrutiny Officer
Tel No: 01270 6 86468
Email: james.morley@cheshireeast.gov.uk