

30 November 2015

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DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT			
To	Action	Info	File
- 4 DEC 2015			
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Dear Tom

You will be aware that, as part of today's announcement, the government published David Higgins' report on proposals for Leeds Station, which he prepared at the request of the Chancellor. This report reflects the work that we have undertaken with local stakeholders, including yourselves at Leeds City Council, and focusses specifically on how the HS2 station in Leeds should link in with local aspirations for regeneration and wider transport connectivity.

Alongside this report, the Government is making a number of other announcements today, and I want to provide you with some context to clarify how this announcement fits with the developing proposals for Phase Two of HS2.

In addition to announcements on Leeds Station and the acceleration of the route to Crewe, the Secretary of State today confirmed the Government's commitment to delivering the full Phase 2 route. The Government's Command Paper is clear that the Secretary of State expects to take a decision on the Phase Two route in Autumn 2016. To enable the Secretary of State to make this decision, we have been conducting an extensive route refinement process which has been influenced by the consultation that took place between July 2013 and January 2014.

We are very aware of the concerns of elected members, residents and the MP about the impacts of the route as it approaches Leeds, particularly at Woodlesford. Many residents from Woodlesford and Swillington attended the Information Events and the one closest to Woodlesford, held in Rothwell, was one of the best attended events in the region. Following this we received numerous responses to the consultation including proposals for an alternative route. We are now continuing to undertake route refinement to ensure that we properly consider the views expressed in consultation in developing the Phase Two route, including giving consideration to the concerns raised about the route in the Woodlesford area.

Our Community and Stakeholder Team will be ensuring residents groups are aware of today's announcement and will be offering to meet them to discuss the announcement in more detail. They would be happy to meet with you as well if you feel this would be useful. Please contact Rachael Blake on

Yours sincerely

Paul Griffiths
Phase Two Development Director

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