

To the Chair and Members of the Cabinet

National College for High Speed Rail (NCHSR) Progress Update and Next Steps

Relevant Cabinet Member	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Mayor Ros Jones, with responsibility for budget and policy framework.		
Councillor Bill Mordue, portfolio holder for Business, Skills, Tourism and Culture	All	No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to update on the significant progress made by the NCHSR, a new specialist rail and engineering campus at Lakeside.
2. The Chief Executive is a member of the Governing Board of the NCHSR, known as the National College for High Speed Rail Corporation Board.
3. Student enrolment will commence in spring 2017, however work is already underway to develop progression routes and pathways into the NCHSR and to promote the widest possible access for local communities.
4. The construction of college building is on programme with a 'topping out' ceremony due shortly and completion of the building set for August 2017. Almost £4.5m in contracts have already been let to Doncaster based companies either as main sub-contract packages or through the wider supply chain. To date, 8 apprentices have been appointed to work on the site, 3 from Doncaster and the remaining 5 from within a 15 miles radius.

EXEMPT REPORT

5. This item is not exempt.

RECOMMENDATIONS

6. It is requested that Cabinet approve the following recommendations:
 - (i) Cabinet note the progress made on the NCHSR.
 - (ii) An invitation is extended to Cabinet to visit the site (in early 2017), tour the unique building and hear what facilities will be available.

- (iii) A programme of staff engagement and briefings is started, including departmental newsletters and a virtual tour of the building.
- (iv) A report on student accommodation is presented to Cabinet at a later date.
- (v) Note that corporate resources no longer need to be set aside as a contingency for the project as grant funding is now fully secured.
- (vi) In conjunction with NCHSR, establish series of media events at the site and schedule events to capture wider interest in the project, starting with promotional sessions at Doncaster's Business Showcase in February 2017.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

- 7. Doncaster is confronting the fundamental challenges around education, skills and employability and the NCHSR is a core component of Doncaster's Economic Growth Plan.
- 8. On 21st October 2016, Doncaster launched the eagerly awaited 'ONE Doncaster' report from the Independent Commission on Education and Skills. The key messages from the report (in relation to the NCHSR) are:

"The Commission believes that there is a window of opportunity to capitalise on the academic, government and business partnerships responsible for delivery of the National College for High Speed Rail. By extending these relationships through close working with universities, and the private sector, it should be possible to expand higher level skills education provision in Doncaster - swiftly and on a significant scale.

The increasing costs of degree level courses, coupled with rapid changes in the business world, create an opportunity for Doncaster in the provision of shorter technical learning at Level 4 plus with the National College for High Speed Rail set to be a national exemplar in this respect."

BACKGROUND

The Vision for the National College for High Speed Rail.

- 9. Opening in September 2017, the high speed rail college will be an elite institution, defined by its focus on progression to a higher level of study (Level 3 and above, with a focus on Level 4 and 5), by its employer leadership, its role in setting industry standards in its area and the quality of its provision - delivering truly innovative training and offering the very best in teaching and specialist equipment. As an elite institution, the college will be a flagship facility for advanced and higher level apprentices, as well as providing opportunities for the existing workforce to learn new skills in the latest technology.
- 10. As well as rail engineering, the core offer will include skills in new technologies associated with engineering design, construction and management, including Building Information Modelling. The college will also meet the wider economic need for an increased supply in engineers and will therefore have a purpose beyond the timeframes of HS2. Employers have a central leadership role in the college, through strong representation on its governing body and by supporting

the design, development and delivery of its provision, for example, by offering placements and providing real life work challenges for coursework.

11. A full governing body (known as the Corporation Board) has been established with the Council's Chief Executive representing the Sheffield City Region Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). Other members include HS2, Birmingham City Council and local employers such as VolkerWessell, Rhomberg Sersa UK and Hitachi.
12. The Corporation Board is responsible for the two stages of the college's development: pre-opening and post opening. Pre-opening covers the design and construction of the College.

What has been delivered so far?

13. Emerging from the Lakeside site, the £21.6m college is the largest capital build project currently being undertaken by the Council. It is funded from a combined grant from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and the Sheffield City Region with the Council gifting the land to help secure funding and accelerate the project.
14. Led by the Council's Strategic Infrastructure Major Projects team, the building is progressing very well and following successful completion of the steelwork frame, which utilises British-made steel, enclosure of the building with the cladding, curtain walling and roofing is nearing completion. This will ensure that internal works can progress well through the winter months with significant progress having already been made in respect of the workshop slab construction including train and bogie inspection pits, internal partitioning and the programme critical Mechanical and Electrical works have commenced in appropriate areas. The latest images of the project are attached in Appendix A.
15. The DMBC project delivery team is keen for Doncaster and the Sheffield City Region to benefit economically from the construction stage of the project and a Meet the Buyer Event was held in late 2015 with around 100 local firms in attendance.
16. Additionally the team has worked with the main contractor Willmott Dixon to ensure a minimum of at least one Doncaster based company being invited to tender for sub-contracts on the project. **As a result to date almost £4.5m of contracts have been let to Doncaster based companies either as main sub-contract packages or through the wider supply chain supporting the scheme.** In addition a further £3m of contracted work has been granted to companies in the wider Sheffield City Region. The team is continuing to work with the main contractor Willmott Dixon to maximise opportunities for local business through the remaining work packages.
17. With the distinctive structure of the building well advanced, many local companies have been awarded contracts or form part the supply chain. **Specific examples of the benefits to the Borough are:**
 - Tudor Harp has secured a combined package of around £900,000 for suspended ceilings and partition walling.
 - New Image were appointed to undertake fire protection treatment of the building structure, a contract worth just over £200,000, but perhaps more

importantly due to the impressive delivery of their contracted work they have now been entered onto the approved Willmott Dixon supply chain. This means that they will have good opportunities to bid for work on future Willmott Dixon schemes nationally.

- Willmott Dixon has appointed a full time apprentice from Armthorpe to work with the on-site team and the intention is that if the individual successfully completes the apprenticeship they will be retained as a permanent employee. **A total of 8 apprentices are working on the construction of the NCHSR, 3 are from Doncaster and the remaining five from within a 15 miles radius.**

18. Preparations centre on the curriculum development and its impact on: the number and size of classrooms, workshops, infrastructure provision (internal and external), research and development and monitoring the demand for residential accommodation.
19. Already, co-design of the curriculum and operational links to civil engineering operations in other parts of the country have been facilitated by DMBC, most recently the HS2 Maintenance Depot at Staveley, near Chesterfield. A nationally renowned Doncaster company, Highfields ABC have been appointed to ensure that courses are nationally accredited.
20. The skills and education agenda around the project is important to both the Council and Willmott Dixon and several visits to site by local schools and Colleges have been facilitated by the team.
21. Project is well on target to achieve community engagement targets, with several more events booked or in the pipeline. Events to date include;

<u>Work experience weeks</u>	<u>Site workshops / visits</u>	<u>Off-site events</u>
Hall Cross Academy	Sir Thomas Wharton Community College	Teen Tech Doncaster
Sir Thomas Wharton Community College	Ridgewood School	Doncaster Chamber of Commerce event
Doncaster JobCentre Plus	Balby Central Primary	Hornsea Futures Day
	University of Leeds	
	Leeds College of Building	

Key Activity planned for 2017

22. In January the 'Skills Village' will commence on site. This will consist of temporary buildings erected within the safe non-construction site zone in which students will be taught key construction skills as part of their College courses. The idea is that this will give them experience of a real life working environment with regular tours of the construction site itself to see practical application of some of the skills being learned. **Enrolment to the skills village will commence in late January/early February 2017. A designated tutor has been appointed to develop the Skills Village curriculum.**

23. In conjunction with the UK HS2 Engagement team, a programme of engagements with schools and local communities will commence in 2017. With the prospect of a University Technical College on the horizon, young people will be better able to progress into a career in the civil engineering through training opportunities at Doncaster or Birmingham.
24. A stakeholder management team has been established by the College, this will work with a number of valuable private sector contacts introduced by DMBC. DMBC has organised a series of events designed to swell and strengthen private sector affiliations, consolidating earlier pledges of technical support, equipment and staff and trigger new pledges of support.
25. A new campaign has been launched to highlight the NCHSR brand. A website is now available with replacement site hoardings now on site to communicate what the college will deliver. **A calendar of key events for 2017 will include promotional sessions at Doncaster's Business Showcase in February and a 100 day countdown to the opening in September 2017.**
26. Accommodation needs of all students enrolling at the College will be collected by DMBC to produce a separate report to Cabinet.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

27. Not applicable.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

28. Not applicable.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

29. The report has the following impacts:

Outcomes	Implications
<p>All people in Doncaster benefit from a thriving and resilient economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Be a strong voice for our veterans</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	<p>Doncaster's ability to create the institutional framework for education, training and skills will help realise new growth opportunities for business, generate more high quality jobs, create a skilled workforce and increase wealth throughout the Borough.</p> <p>Demand for highly skilled engineers and digitally skilled employees is growing with engineering identified as a national priority growth sector requiring 830,000 graduates by 2020.</p>
<p>People live safe, healthy, active and independent lives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down</i> 	Not applicable.

the cost of living	
<p>People in Doncaster benefit from a high quality built and natural environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	Not applicable.
<p>All families thrive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	Not applicable.
Council services are modern and value for money.	Not applicable.
Working with our partners we will provide strong leadership and governance.	A proven quality governance model has been established with strong leadership from the public and private sector.

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

30. There are no risks associated with this decision.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

31. S111 Local Government Act 1972 provides a local authority with the power to do anything (whether or not involving the expenditure, borrowing or lending of money or the acquisition or disposal of any property or rights) which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of their functions.
32. Section 1 of the 2011 Localism Act introduced the so called "general power of competence" which states that "A local authority has power to do anything that individuals generally may do".

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

33. This project is contained within the Capital Programme and the total cost spread over three years is £21.67m (2015/16 - £1.81m, 2016/17 - £16.81m and 2017/18 - £3.05m). The total capital costs are to be met from capital grants from the Department of Education and Sheffield City Region Funding.
34. The report to Cabinet on 19 February 2016 referred to the requirement to set aside corporate resources to fund costs, as the grants from SCR and BEIS hadn't been fully secured. Those grants are now fully secured and corporate resources

are not needed to meet the project's costs. As stated above, all costs will be met from the two grants.

35. The funding is profiled over three years, should the project differ from this spend profile then permission would need to be given from the funding bodies to change the funding profile.
36. The total spend to date is £9.74m (£1.81m in 15/16 and £7.93m so far in 16/17). The total spend projection is still £21.67m. The budget includes a £100k contingency which is, as yet, untouched. Council staff are working closely with the accountable body, Birmingham City Council, and our contractor, Willmott Dixon, to ensure any changes to the spend profile can be managed from within the SCR and BEIS grant allocations.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

37. There are no human resources implications in this case.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

38. There are no technology implications in this case.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

39. There are no equality implications in this case.

CONSULTATION

40. This report has been prepared in consultation with the Directorate of Regeneration and Environment.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

41. Background papers are:

National College for High Speed Rail (NCHSR) Variation
Cabinet Report 15th November 2016. Approve variation to delegated powers.

Report to the Mayor – 11th April 2016
Appointment of Construction Contractor.

Executive Decision – Mayoral Approval 19th February 2016
Approval to acceptance of total capital grant funding of £26m from BIS and Sheffield City Region to fund design and construction of the National College for High Speed Rail.

High Speed Rail College. Cabinet Report 2nd June 2015
An update on project progress and approval of expenditure to fund pre-construction and development costs on the National College for High Speed Rail.

Cabinet Report – National College for High Speed Rail, 7th January 2015

REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS

Author: Lee Tillman, Assistant Director, Strategy and Performance.

Contributors: Carole Fox, Senior Manager, Strategy and Performance Unit.

Clair Mowbray, Chief Executive, NCHSR

Simon Rhodes, Project Manager, Regeneration & Environment

Andrew Webb, Rail Sector Development Manager, Regeneration & Environment.

Steve Mawson (Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Director - Finance),

Matthew Smith (Directorate Finance Manager).

Scott Fawcus, Assistant Director, Legal and Democratic Services

Simon Wiles

Director of Finance and Corporate Services

APPENDIX A
VISUAL IMAGES OF THE NATIONAL COLLEGE FOR HIGH SPEED RAIL

