

July 2016

Briefing pack: David Higgins South Yorkshire Report

Overview

On 7 July 2016, David Higgins, Chairman of HS2 Ltd, published a report making recommendations to Government on the station location and route for HS2 services in South Yorkshire. The report is based on detailed analysis conducted by HS2 Ltd, which examined several station and route options.

The [report](#) makes a different recommendation for HS2's route and station proposals in South Yorkshire.

This briefing pack aims to provide a summary of the report's main findings and useful information for local authorities and Members of Parliament along the line-of-route. Our Community Engagement team is working with council officers to ensure that affected communities are kept up to date and know who to speak to.

The pack includes:

- A summary of David Higgins' report.
- Links to technical documentation published by HS2 Ltd relating to David Higgins' report.
- Information regarding planned HS2 Ltd community engagement activity in your area.
- Material and information provided by HS2 Ltd to affected communities.
- Information regarding the Exceptional Hardship Scheme.

For further information or the support available to local communities, please contact the **HS2 Ltd Helpdesk** on **020 7944 4908** or email HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk. The Helpdesk provides a 24-hour service.

If you receive any enquiries or requests for information from local communities please refer them to our Helpdesk team, who will be able to provide useful advice and information or put them in touch with our community engagement team.

David Higgins Sheffield and South Yorkshire Report 2016

Background

Reaching a decision as to the best option for a station in South Yorkshire has been challenging. Building a reliable high speed line and station in the region has posed significant technical challenge due to the topography of the area, floodplains within which the existing Sheffield Midland station lies and the legacy of mine workings and heavy industry. Added to this, there have been differing political and economic perspectives which have made it difficult to achieve consensus amongst stakeholders within the region on where to locate a station.

Due to the challenges outlined above and a changing landscape with the emerging plans from Transport for the North, HS2 Ltd has undertaken detailed analysis of all of the possible options.

This review aimed to establish the best possible option, balancing a range of different factors, including demand both within the region and along the eastern leg of the route, connectivity and the ambitions of Transport for the North, local constraints, environmental impact and the comparative cost of the different options.

David Higgins' Sheffield and South Yorkshire Report is available online [HERE](#)

Summary of the route options

Meadowhall

- Meadowhall has been the Government's preferred option for South Yorkshire. It would provide benefits for the whole region and deliver good connectivity to the main areas of demand.
- However, the consultation raised concerns about the Meadowhall proposals: the impact on important local employers and planned development sites; concerns over the impact of the 4km long, 20 metre high viaduct that would be required for the station; and in addition, the ambition for city centre to city centre connections set out by Transport for the North, which raised further questions over the Meadowhall option.

City Centre High Speed through-route

Within the context of the new requirements of Transport for the North we also re-examined the options for a city centre station.

- **Midland** - Firstly we looked at the potential for a through route stopping at Midland. This could provide connectivity to the wider region but had significant challenges:
 - A route through Midland requires a new line into and out of the city and requires substantial tunnelling. There would be significant community impacts within a dense urban area. This brings with it very high costs, of at least £2 billion.
 - Midland is also on a floodplain, therefore threatening to compromise the integrity of the service further to the North.
- **Victoria** - We also examined possible options for the disused Victoria station, which was the strong preference of Sheffield City Council.
 - Victoria has poor connectivity to Midland station and the wider region.
 - The station site itself is constrained and would not have enough capacity to enable Northern Powerhouse Rail and a full HS2 through route.
 - And an HS2 station at Victoria would cost at least another £700 million.

A Different Approach: Classic Compatible Spur

Given the substantial question-marks and caveats that now surround all of these options, we have considered a different approach. Our aim has been to:

- Ensure, first and foremost that South Yorkshire is well served by HS2.
- Separate the issues of providing a core HS2 service to South Yorkshire whilst maintaining the integrity of the service to the larger markets in Leeds, York and Newcastle.

We have therefore examined the potential for so called **classic compatible trains** – a dedicated link taking high speed services off the main line and **running up to two trains per hour into Sheffield Midland station**. The main HS2 line would continue to carry trains serving Leeds and cities further north.

This option will also be beneficial because:

- It would open up the possibility of providing **services to Chesterfield** and therefore serve Derbyshire better, whilst at the same time delivering a journey time from London to Sheffield of 83 minutes, reducing journey times by around an hour.
- It would allow HS2 services to be run into Midland station, therefore meeting the aspirations of Transport for the North by providing good connectivity to the wider region.
- There is also a possibility of running high speed **services to Rotherham and Barnsley**.

M18/Eastern Route

By separating out the services to South Yorkshire, we were also able to re-appraise the HS2 route. Examined in this context, the original proposed alignment via Meadowhall and the M1 is not the optimal route to meet the demand needs of Leeds and cities further north.

We have concluded that:

- An alternative **route to the East which initially runs parallel to the M18 motorway** would meet the overall strategic objectives for HS2 better, and at the same time could result in a **lower environmental impact and require fewer property demolitions**.
- This option could also deliver Transport for the North's aspiration of a **30-minute journey time between Sheffield and Leeds**, by utilising the existing network from Midland and connecting back onto the HS2 mainline north of Sheffield.

Conclusion

We have sought a resolution, but it is clear there is no option that meets all the criteria equally.

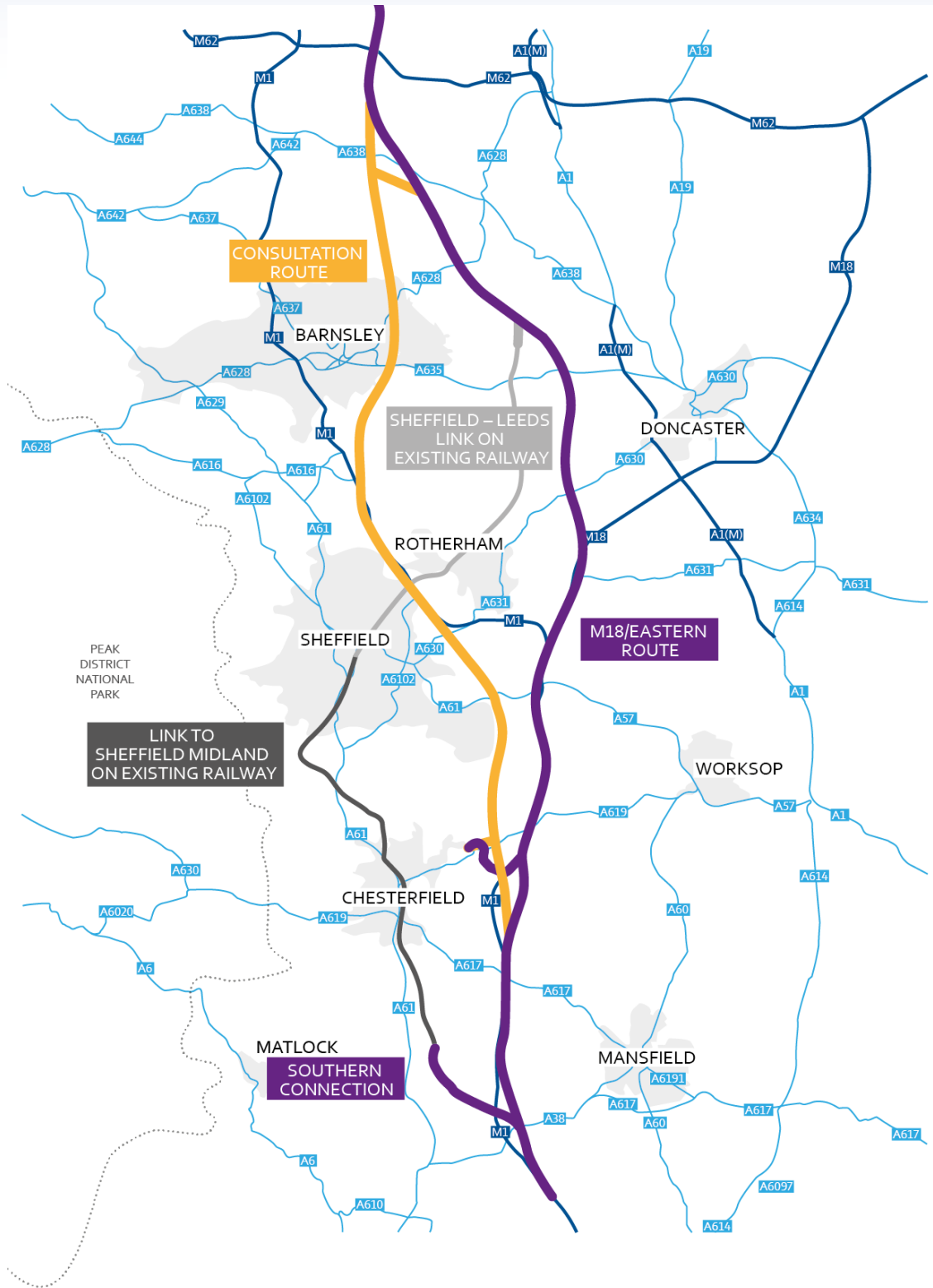
- We have been clear on the need to provide for HS2 services in South Yorkshire as a core part of the network, whilst at the same time, to preserve the integrity of the service to Leeds, York and Newcastle, as well as, ultimately, Edinburgh.
- We believe that our new proposal – running classic compatible services to Sheffield city centre and moving the route to the East – meets those two key objectives and is the best strategic option for the region and the project as a whole.

Next Steps

- **David Higgins has now made a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Transport, which will be considered in advance of a route announcement on Phase 2B of HS2.**
- **If the Secretary of State is minded to pursue this option further, the new M18 / Eastern route will then require consultation at this point.**

Map of the Proposed Route

This map shows the route alignment proposed in David Higgins' report, set alongside the consultation route.



Supporting Documents

In addition to David Higgins' report, HS2 Ltd has today published the following supporting technical documentation. Please click on the links below to access this information.

[Sheffield and South Yorkshire Technical Report](#)

This report provides a detailed analysis of the different station and route options considered for South Yorkshire.

[HS2 Plan and Profile Maps: M18/Eastern Route](#)

The maps use Ordnance Survey data as their baseline and the second half of each map shows the HS2 route in relation to the ground, for example, showing where the route is in an embankment, over a bridge or over a viaduct. They also show indicative road diversions and junction layouts.

The maps are organised into groups that correspond to a specific geographical area along the HS2 route. There is also a key plan to help you understand how the route has been divided into these geographical areas for your ease of reference.

The scale used for each map is shown on the map itself and varies depending on rural or urban locations.

Support for local communities

Working with local communities

We recognise that this will be a difficult time for those communities that would be directly affected by the proposed route.

Our community engagement team is ready to offer the support and information that local communities and businesses may need. We aim to be as open and transparent as possible and we want to work closely with community groups, local authorities and Members of Parliament in order to build relationships with local communities going forward.

The team will be in the local area on the day of and day after the announcement (Thursday 7th and Friday 8th July) in order to respond quickly to any immediate concerns. In addition, we will be holding a [series of information events](#) over the coming weeks to ensure that communities have face-to-face contact with members of the HS2 Ltd team. The events will provide an opportunity for residents and businesses to ask questions and find out more information about the route and how it may impact them.

Details of HS2 Information Events due to be held along the proposed M18/Eastern route can be found on the events page of our website – [HERE](#).

Alternatively, to speak to a member of our team, please get in touch with the **HS2 Ltd Helpdesk** on **020 7944 4908** or email HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk

Exceptional Hardship Scheme

Although no decision has been made by the Secretary of State for Transport regarding the HS2 Phase 2b route, we recognise that those property owners that are likely to be affected by the proposals may have real concerns.

The **Exceptional Hardships Scheme** is available for property owners who have an urgent need to sell and whose properties may be affected by the announcement of a route for a high speed rail link from the West Midlands to Leeds, Crewe to Manchester and connections to the West and East Coast Main Lines.

A **guidance note and application form** for the HS2 Exceptional Hardship Scheme is available online [HERE](#).

[Address]

[Date]

Dear [X],

I am writing to you because your property is now affected by changes I am proposing to the plans for the High Speed Two (HS2) railway. This letter explains what this means for you. Once you have read it, I encourage you to contact our Helpdesk team, who can help arrange a face-to-face meeting with us to talk about the plans and your options. If you are not the owner of this property, please pass this letter to your landlord.

Plans for HS2 in your area

HS2 is the Government's proposed new high speed railway. It is being planned in two phases: Phase One will run between London and the West Midlands, with Phase Two linking the West Midlands to Leeds, Manchester and beyond.

After a careful consideration of several different options, I am recommending that HS2 services to South Yorkshire split from the main high speed line near Alfreton, and run to Sheffield Midland station on a conventional-speed rail line, with the option to stop at Chesterfield. The main high speed line would continue in parallel to the M18 motorway, and pass to the east of Rotherham.

This would allow core HS2 services to run to Sheffield Midland, rather than to Meadowhall as has previously been considered. It would also reduce the overall cost of the scheme by around £1 billion, compared with other route options, and better serve the way people in the region travel.

The detailed plan for construction would not be developed until at least 2020, and would be subject to detailed scrutiny before approval by Parliament.

What this means for you

If this plan is approved by the Secretary of State for Transport, it is likely that the Government would need to acquire some or all of your land or property in order to construct the railway. I realise this is likely to be distressing news, and I am sorry for any upset it causes.

What happens next?

The Government is expected to launch a consultation on its proposed plan in the autumn, before making a final decision about the route. You can find more information about the proposed route, including detailed maps, at www.gov.uk/hs2.

If you urgently need to move house, but are unable to sell because of this proposal for the HS2 route, you can apply for help from our Exceptional Hardship Scheme. There are expected to be more property compensation schemes available in the autumn, and we will send you information about these in due course.

If you would like to meet with representatives of HS2 Ltd before then to talk through your options, please call the Helpdesk on 020 7944 4908 and mention this letter. They will put you in direct contact with your local team, who will arrange a face-to-face meeting at a time convenient to you. You can also email the Helpdesk at HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk.

You will also soon receive an invitation to an information event in your area, where you can talk with experts and representatives from HS2 Ltd about the plans, and what they mean for you. I hope you will be able to attend.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Higgins', followed by a horizontal line that ends in an arrowhead pointing to the right.

David Higgins

Chairman

[Address]

[Date]

Dear [X],

I am writing to you to share some information about the High Speed Two (HS2) railway. As plans for the HS2 project develop, we are making decisions about the route.

Plans for the railway in your area

After careful consideration, I am now recommending that HS2 services to South Yorkshire split from the main high speed line near Alfreton, and run to Sheffield Midland station on a conventional-speed rail line, with the option to stop at Chesterfield. The main high speed line would continue in parallel to the M18 motorway, and pass to the east of Rotherham.

This would allow core HS2 services to run into Sheffield Midland, rather than to Meadowhall as has previously been considered. It would also reduce the cost of the scheme by £1.2 billion compared with the other route options, and better serve the way people in the region travel.

What does this mean for me?

Under the new proposed plan, your property would no longer be affected by HS2.

I hope this will be welcome news. However, we understand that blight and property concerns may still be an issue for you. If you urgently need to move house, but are unable to sell because of the plans for HS2, you can still apply to our Exceptional Hardship Scheme. You can find out more by contacting our Helpdesk on 020 7944 4908 or at HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk.

What happens next?

The new proposed route has not yet been confirmed. A consultation on the proposed plans is expected to take place in Autumn 2016, and this will be followed by a formal decision by the Government. We will write to you again when that decision has been taken.

What can I do?

If you want to talk to someone about what is happening and what your options are, you can contact our Helpdesk on 020 7944 4908 or at HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk. There is also information about the route plans, including detailed maps, on our website at www.gov.uk/hs2.

If you are not the owner of this property, please pass this letter to your landlord.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Higgins', followed by a long horizontal line that ends in an arrowhead pointing to the right.

David Higgins

Chairman

HS2 Phase Two

July 2016 update



High Speed Two is the Government's proposed new high speed railway. It is being planned in two phases: Phase One between London and the West Midlands, and Phase Two from the West Midlands to Leeds, Manchester and beyond.





South Yorkshire route options

The best location for a South Yorkshire station is a key decision for HS2. The route needs to balance competing needs, including serving communities in South Yorkshire effectively, delivering value for taxpayers and passengers, and minimising disruption to local communities and businesses.

After a careful consideration of several options, we are proposing a change to the South Yorkshire route. HS2 services to South Yorkshire would run on a link to the existing Erewash Valley line (in dark grey), while the main high speed line would continue towards Leeds (in purple). This route would allow core HS2 services to run to Sheffield Midland in the city centre, rather than to Meadowhall as before (in yellow). A link between Sheffield and Leeds (in light grey) is also being considered by Transport for the North.

What are the next steps?

The Secretary of State will consider the proposal for this part of the route, and a consultation will be held, where you can have your say. We are committed to presenting our plan for the whole Phase Two route by the end of the year.

-  New M18/Eastern route
-  Previously consulted route
-  Link to Sheffield Midland
-  Sheffield - Leeds link



Property

Where people are affected by HS2, we are committed to compensating them fairly. The Phase Two exceptional hardship scheme (EHS) is available for owners who have an urgent need to sell, but may be affected by the Phase Two route plans. You can find the latest information on property schemes by visiting:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-property

The Residents' Charter is our promise to communicate as clearly as possible with people who live near the HS2 route. You can read it by visiting:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-residents-charter

You can contact our independent Residents' commissioner at: residentscommissioner@hs2.org.uk



Image: HS2/Bob Martin.

Why do we need HS2?

HS2 will enable us to meet the huge growth in demand for rail travel; it will bring cities closer together through greater connectivity and quicker journey times; and it will free up capacity for local and regional services. It will be a key part of our national rail network and will transform the experience of passengers by improving services and reliability across the railways.

About us

HS2 Ltd was set up by the Government to deal with the design, engineering and technical requirements of building the railway. But we also have an important role in making sure that if you're affected by the Government's plans, you understand what to expect (and when), and how we can help.

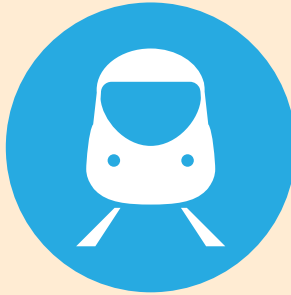
Contact us

E HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk T 020 7944 4908 www.gov.uk/hs2

Please contact us if you would like a free copy of this leaflet in: • Large print • Braille • Audio
You can also contact us for help and information in a different language.

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We would like to invite you to an event about HS2





All images: HS2 Ltd/Bob Martin

Dear resident,

We would like to invite you to an event about the High Speed Two railway, to talk about a change to the proposed route in your area. You are receiving this mailout because your property may be within 500m of the proposed route.

The new proposals would see the HS2 main line moved from its previously consulted route (in yellow) to around 40 miles further east (in purple). A new spur (in purple) would connect HS2 with the existing rail network (in dark grey). A link between Sheffield and Leeds (in light grey) is also being considered by Transport for the North.

At our information events, you can speak to experts and find out more about the plans for the railway, before a formal consultation on the proposed route in the autumn.

- New M18/Eastern route
- Previously consulted route
- Link to Sheffield Midland
- Sheffield - Leeds link



Please see the list below to find an information event near you:

Date	Venue	Time
19 July	Mexborough Resource Centre Dolcliffe Road, Mexborough South Yorkshire S64 9AZ	12-7pm
20 July	The Speedwell Rooms Inkersall Road, Staveley Chesterfield S43 3JL	12:30- 8pm
21 July	Bainbridge Hall Chapel Road, Carr Vale Bolsover S44 6JD	12:30- 8pm
22 July	Bramley Parish Hall Cross Street, Bramley Rotherham S66 2SA	12:30- 8pm
26 July	Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Hall Rose Garth Avenue, Aston Sheffield S26 2DD	12:30- 8pm
28 July	Hemsworth Community Centre Bullenshaw Road, Hemsworth, Pontefract West Yorkshire WF9 4NE	12:30- 8pm
29 July	Hilcote Miners Welfare and Community Centre 544 New Street, Hilcote, Alfreton Derbyshire DE55 5HU	12:30- 8pm
2 August	Crofton Community Centre Middle Lane, New Crofton Wakefield WF4 1LB	12:30- 8pm
5 August	Tibshelf Village Hall 110 High Street, Tibshelf, Alfreton Derbyshire DE55 5NU	12:30- 8pm

Find out more

You can read more about the new proposals, including detailed route maps, at www.gov.uk/hs2

What are the next steps?

The Secretary of State will consider the proposal for this part of the route, and a consultation will be held, when you can have your say. One of our aims in the Phase Two route plans is to reduce any effects on the environment and local communities. We are committed to presenting our plan for the whole Phase Two route in Autumn 2016.

Property

Where people are affected by HS2, we are committed to compensating them fairly.

The Phase Two exceptional hardship scheme (EHS) is available for property owners who have an urgent need to sell and whose properties may be affected by the announcement of the Phase Two route – to find out more, visit www.gov.uk/hs2 and search for *HS2 EHS*.

You can find the latest information on property schemes by visiting: www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-property

Residents' Charter

The Residents' Charter is our promise to communicate as clearly as possible with people who live near the HS2 route. You can read it by visiting:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-residents-charter

The charter is overseen by an independent Residents' Commissioner, whose job is to make sure we review the charter and keep its promises. You can read the commissioner's reports at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-residents-commissioner-report-1-may-2015

You can contact the commissioner at residentscommissioner@hs2.org.uk



Image: HS2/Bob Martin.

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