

High Speed Rail (Crewe – Manchester) Bill – House of Commons Select Committee

Cheshire West & Chester Council: Petition HS2-110 and AP1-016

Statement to be read onto the record on 4 July 2023

1. In August 2022, Cheshire West & Chester Council petitioned against the Bill and Additional Provision 1.
2. The petitions' themes include the impact of the construction and operation of the Phase 2b railway on local communities, on the environment, landscape, and biodiversity, and on the local traffic network.
3. Since August 2022, Council officers and representatives from the Promoter have held meetings to discuss the content of the petitions and, arising from those meetings, the Promoter has provided explanations for certain areas of uncertainty; for instance, the effects of construction traffic at certain junctions.
4. More recently, the teams have been negotiating the form and content of parliamentary assurances. While some drafting issues need to be agreed, the Council is satisfied that the commitments received address the principal areas of concern within its petitions.
5. Owing to this, the Council decided on 29 June 2023 that it would not need to appear at Select Committee on its petitions. The Council is now looking forward to agreeing the final drafting points with the Promoter and for the assurances to then be published on the Promoter's Register of Assurances and Undertakings.
6. Once the final issues have been agreed, the Council will formally withdraw its petitions against the Bill and AP1, but that withdrawal will be subject to the Council being able to petition against any future changes to the Bill.
7. The Council expresses its sincere appreciation to the Select Committee for allowing this statement to be read onto the record