



## Minutes from the All-Party Parliamentary Group on the Black Country

<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	10:30pm – 11:30pm 18th November 2020
<b>Location:</b>	Online (Zoom Meeting)
<b>Speakers:</b>	Allan Cook (HS2 Chairman), Robin Lapish (HS2 Supply Chain Manager), Parv Gandham (Midlands Connect)
<b>Chair:</b>	Mike Wood MP
<b>Contact/Secretariat:</b>	Matthew Lowe, Policy & Lobbying Manager, Black Country Chamber of Commerce / <a href="mailto:appg@blackcountrychamber.co.uk">appg@blackcountrychamber.co.uk</a>

### In Attendance

#### Parliamentarians/Representatives:

Dan Horrocks (DH)	Office of Mike Wood MP
Mike Wood MP (Chair) (MW)	Member of Parliament for Dudley South
Stuart Anderson MP (SAn)	Member of Parliament for Wolverhampton South West
Suzanne Webb MP (SW)	Member of Parliament for Stourbridge
Jane Stevenson MP (JSt)	Member of Parliament for Wolverhampton North East
Marco Longhi MP (MLon)	Member of Parliament for Dudley North

#### Invited Guests/Secretariat:

Corin Crane (CC)	Chief Executive, Black Country Chamber of Commerce
Matthew Lowe (ML)	Policy & Lobbying Manager, Black Country Chamber of Commerce
Sarah Thompson (ST)	Press and PR Officer, Black Country Chamber of Commerce
Paul Maubach (PMau)	Chief Executive, NHS Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group
Neil Anderson (NA)	Director of External Affairs, Black Country Chamber
Allan Cook (AC)	Chair Hs2
Mat Danks (MD)	Public Affairs Manager Hs2
Robin Lapish (RL)	Supply Chain Manager Hs2
Parv Gandham (PG)	Senior Public Affairs Officer Midlands Connect
Paul Butters (PB)	Director of External Affairs Midlands Connect

#### Apologies: None received

NO.	KEY DISCUSSION POINTS/ ACTION POINTS/ DECISIONS	By whom?	By when?
	<b>Welcome and Apologies</b>		

4.01	<p><b>Mike Wood (MW)</b> opened the meeting by welcoming attendees to the fourth meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Black Country.</p> <p>Minutes of the previous meeting were given as seen and no apologies had been received.</p>	MW / ML	Closed
	<p><b>Presentation: Allan Cook (Chair of Hs2) and Robin Lapish (Supply Chain Manager Hs2).</b></p>		
4.02	<p><b>Allan Cook (AC)</b> provided a presentation on HS2. Key discussion points included; why Britain needs HS2, providing more capacity, reducing carbon emissions and improving interregional connectivity.</p> <p>AC also raised key discussion points around the impact of construction on employment and local economies. At the projects peak construction, it will require 30,000 individuals to design and build, including over 2000 apprentices with 2000 already delivering work on HS2. AC also noted that of the work already being undertaken by apprentices, 70% of them are from SMEs.</p> <p>AC also raised that HS2 will create a green corridor with the planting of 7 million trees and shrubs and a commitment to leave behind 30% more wildlife habitats than currently existing along the route.</p> <p>AC updated the APPG on the current progress of the HS2 project through Parliament:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Phase 1 currently support 9000 jobs over 240 sites located between London and the West Midlands</li> <li>- Phase 2a – will extend the line to Crewe with the Phase 2a Bill progressing through Parliament</li> <li>- Phase 2b – will complete the line to Leeds in the east and Manchester in the west. This Bill is being prepared for the route into Manchester which will secure the full western leg from Birmingham. The route into Leeds is under the Integrated Rail Plan.</li> </ul> <p><b>Robin Lapish (RL)</b> provided an update on the work of the HS2 supply chain team. Key discussion points included that 2150 companies from across the UK have begun to work on the development of HS2 with 70% of these firms being SMEs and 98% of them being UK based. £12bn will be going into the supply chain for HS2 with an estimated 400,000 supply chain opportunities resulting from the construction of Phase 1.</p> <p>RL noted that HS2 was already working with Black Country based firms including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- McAuliffe Group (based in Wolverhampton)</li> <li>- Forkers Ltd (based in West Bromwich)</li> <li>- CLM Ltd (based in Oldbury)</li> </ul> <p><b>Corin Crane (CC)</b> Asked if it is possible to obtain data on those specific Black Country based businesses who have secured work from HS2 following the success of the Olympic Games in London and the upcoming Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. <b>AP: RL to investigate this and provide data to the Chamber/APPG.</b></p> <p><b>Suzanne Webb (SW), Stuart Anderson (SA), Jane Stevenson (JS) and Mike Wood (MW)</b> all raised their support for the HS2 project and requested for HS2 to supply them with relevant literature, social media tools and relevant constituency data to allow them to promote and support the projects construction with their constituents.</p>	AC	Closed
	<p><b>Corin Crane (CC)</b> Asked if it is possible to obtain data on those specific Black Country based businesses who have secured work from HS2 following the success of the Olympic Games in London and the upcoming Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. <b>AP: RL to investigate this and provide data to the Chamber/APPG.</b></p> <p><b>Suzanne Webb (SW), Stuart Anderson (SA), Jane Stevenson (JS) and Mike Wood (MW)</b> all raised their support for the HS2 project and requested for HS2 to supply them with relevant literature, social media tools and relevant constituency data to allow them to promote and support the projects construction with their constituents.</p>	CC/RL	On-going

	SW raised her desire with HS2 to run roundtables with constituents and businesses on HS2 supply chain opportunities and export growth potential  <b>AP: RL/HS2 to liaise directly with Black Country MPs to provide them with materials and data.</b>	AC/RL/ ALL	On-going
	<b>Update: Parv Gandham (Senior Public Affairs Officer) Midlands Connect</b>		
4.03	<b>Parv Gandham (PG)</b> provided a brief update on the work of Midlands Connect focusing on maximising the benefits of HS2.  Midlands Connect has a number of projects across its portfolio seeking to take advantage of the increased released capacity from HS2 including projects such as the Shrewsbury – Black Country Corridor.  <b>AP: PG to share slide notes and update to ML for wider circulation to APPG Membership</b>	PG   PG/ML	On-going
	<b>Next steps: APPG Asks for Government / Future Meeting topics</b>		
4.04	MW suggested that future topics of the APPG could focus on the Government Kickstarter scheme and skills across the Black Country.  JS suggested that she would like to see a future meeting on the future construction agenda focusing on the role of 'green' infrastructure in home development and maximising the regions potential.  CC suggested that he would like to see a topic on the Armed Forces and how the region can support veterans and armed forces families into long term sustainable employment.	MW  JS  CC	On-going
	<b>Any other business</b>		
4.05	None		
	<b>Date of next Meeting</b>		
4.06	2021 TBC		