

MOTIONS

8.1 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR RILEY

Council notes and supports the July Cabinet decision with regard to the latest HS2 consultation and that, as well as the environmental devastation it will cause, the stated rising cost of the proposed HS2 route lacks, as it always has, economic credibility. The Institute of Economic Affairs has stated it “...*defies economic logic...*”, and the Institute of Directors describe the scheme as a “...*grand folly...*”.

Council further notes that Lord Mandelson, the former business Secretary, now refers to HS2 as an “...*expensive mistake...*”, a “...*politically driven...*” decision intended to “...*paint an upbeat view of the future following the financial crash...*”. The former Transport Secretary and Chancellor of the Exchequer, Alistair Darling, now declares himself an “...*HS2 sceptic...*” as “...*there’s an awful lot of things in there that are wrong...*”. Also, former Chancellor of the exchequer, Lord Lawson, correctly describes the HS2 scheme as “...*madness...*” and “...*simply a prestige project which makes no economic sense at all and is extraordinarily expensive and totally cost ineffective...*”.

Council welcomes the fact that leading organisations and former prominent politicians have come to the same conclusions as Hillingdon and many other Local Authorities concerning this project. HS2 has no credible business case and will be an environmental disaster. Accordingly the Council reaffirms the commitment to continue to put residents first by providing on-going financial and practical support to the Hillingdon Against HS2 Group and the 51M Group of Councils.