

Terms of reference – HS2 Growth Taskforce

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HS2 GROWTH TASKFORCE TERMS OF REFERENCE

The HS2 programme is the most important investment in public infrastructure in a generation.

The investment will be made at a time when there is an absolute economic imperative to drive every pound of benefit from such investments.

The HS2 Growth Taskforce will have a relentless focus on driving growth and unlocking the huge economic potential of this historic project.

The Taskforce will:

- look at and learn lessons from the British and international experience of driving growth from major infrastructure investments; and
- bearing in mind affordability, set out options and make recommendations on:
 - how can we use HS2 as a local catalyst for economic growth and regeneration around the stations and surrounding communities;
 - how can we maximise the regional and national growth opportunities;
 - the potential to use the buying power of HS2 to improve supply chains and manufacturing capacity across the UK;
 - how we make British industry ready to respond to the opportunities;
 - and how we maximise jobs and ensure that the UK workforce is ready for the opportunities that HS2 will provide.

In formulating its recommendations, the Taskforce will examine how to make best use of HS2 to leverage private sector capital and existing public funding streams. Its work will be consistent with and support the governance and cost control framework the Government is putting in place for the project, to ensure that the project is delivered within budget and tax payers receive value for money.

The work will involve engagement with city and business leaders, and the Local Enterprise Partnerships. This will be determined by the particular expertise and background of taskforce members.

Structure

The Taskforce will be made up of the Chair and up to 15 taskforce members and will be supported by a small secretariat made up of Civil Servants and potentially secondees from local government and business.

Output

The taskforce will publish its initial report (including lessons for HS2 from British and international experience) by the autumn. It will submit a report to Government which sets out options and makes recommendations early in 2014. The report will be considered by Government and will drive a programme of work with Core Cities to ensure we maximise the economic opportunities presented by the railway.