

## Summary Questionnaire

The proposed High Speed 2 (HS2) rail link from London to Birmingham comes through the Borough. A new Interchange Station (the Station) is to be developed to the east of the NEC. The HS2 proposal presents an opportunity for new jobs and growth to meet local needs. But to achieve this, a new Plan for this part of the Borough is needed.

The Council is starting to prepare a Local Area Plan (the new Plan) for the HS2 Interchange and adjoining area. Views are being sought on the new Plan and what it should contain. Following this consultation options for the area will be prepared with further consultation next year.

A master plan for the M42 corridor in Solihull, known as UK Central was launched last year. The HS2 Interchange Station is part of the UK Central Hub area, including the Airport, NEC and Jaguar Land Rover.

A prospectus proposing a 'Garden City' approach to the Interchange and adjoining area was published in June. The new Plan will set out the planning framework for future development of the Station area, businesses and homes. This growth is vital if the potential of HS2 and the Station is to be realised.

### **Q1 Do you agree with the approach to the Local Area Plan, focussing on the HS2 Interchange site and adjoining area? If not, what alternative approach should be adopted?**

The prospectus includes a vision of what the Station area might look like. This will be developed in the new Plan, based on modern 'Garden City' principles. It will attract businesses that will provide jobs for the wider area and create new homes for around 4,000 people.

### **Q2 Do you support the Vision proposed for the Local Area Plan? If not, how might the vision be improved?**

*The new Plan will be based on a number of priorities. It aims to capture the economic and social benefits of the HS2 rail link by making better use of the land required for the Station. It will support the continued well-being of the Airport, NEC, JLR and other major businesses in the area. At the same time, the new Plan will contribute to housing need within the Borough. This will be developed around a new green network with links to transport networks. And the new Plan will promote a move to a low carbon economy to meet concerns about climate change.*

### **Q3 Do you support the proposed strategic priorities of the Local Area Plan? What alternatives should be included?**


*The proposals for the Station area are being promoted by the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership and are supported by the HS2 growth task force. The UK Central master plan and prospectus for the Station indicate that the area could provide around 20,000 jobs and at least 2,000 homes. Work is taking place on the uses that could be attracted to the area. The Council and its partners are looking at ways to improve accessibility to the M42. Further work on the green belt and local housing needs will be undertaken. A sustainability appraisal will be prepared alongside the new Plan.*

**Q4 Does the evidence highlighted provide justification for the Local Area Plan? What additional evidence needs to be gathered?**

**Q5 Do you agree with the scope for the Local Area Plan sustainability appraisal?**

*The 'Garden City' approach will mean parks and open spaces across the area. As well as for recreation, wildlife will be encouraged and the new Plan will aim to enhance biodiversity. A new local delivery body will be set up to take the project forward.*

**Q6 Do you have any other comments about the proposed content of the Local Area Plan?**

 Data protection

The comments you provide will be used by Policy and Spatial Planning (PSP) to develop this Local Area Plan and will be reported to the Council's Cabinet Members. Additionally, your personal details may be shared with other Solihull MBC departments and partner organisations to ensure our records are kept accurate and to keep you informed of future consultation documents. This means that with the exception of telephone numbers, personal email addresses and signatures, your comments and other details that you provide will be publicly available for inspection at the Council's principle offices and will also be published on the internet. Should you have any further queries please contact PSP on 0121 704 6395.