
Request details – FOI 6499

How much money has Birmingham City Council spent on researching, assessing, consulting, promoting and lobbying for High Speed Rail, including fees, wages and use of paid consultants?

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In acknowledgement of HS2's significant benefits to the City, the City Council passed a resolution of unanimous support for HS2 in January 2011, welcoming the proposals and noting the benefits from independent research (by KPMG), which include for the West Midlands Metropolitan area, around 22,000 new jobs (10,000 of which would be for the City), a predicted £1.5 billion increase in Gross Value Added, and a £300 increase in annual salary per employee.

The DfT's own more conservative estimates are for 40,000 jobs nationally, of which 8,300 are in Birmingham. In addition there are significant local benefits from capacity freed up on the existing rail network for more local services and freight leading to mode shift and reduced congestion, and the potential for improvements to transport networks to access HS2 and for local environmental improvements.

On this basis the City Council submitted a response to the national consultation on HS2 in July 2011 offering full and strong support for the proposals, and subsequently welcomed the positive decision on HS2 announced by the Secretary of State for Transport on 11th January 2012.

In order for the City Council to objectively formulate its position with regard to HS2 an amount of technical work was required. As matters progressed to consultation in the light of the rather animated public debate on HS2, and the huge part that HS2 can play in the future a successful and prosperous City competing on a global stage, we felt that showing support for the proposals in a variety of ways was appropriate and in fact necessary.

It was also necessary to have sufficient detailed knowledge to respond to any erroneous information published, and to ensure that the public and stakeholders had sufficient information to respond to the consultations. The primary purpose of any lobbying in support of HS2 is to facilitate the City's economic regeneration in line with existing policy.

Please find enclosed a spread sheet detailing the expenditure.*

**Due to the volume of documents contained within this response, it has not been possible to publish all the documents on our website. If you require further information on this, please contact the Corporate Information Management Team quoting the FOI request reference number.*

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