

## INDEPENDENT Phase 2a Planning FORUM FOR HS2

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Independent Phase 2a Planning Forum for HS2</b>	
<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020 11:00 – 12:30</b> <b>Microsoft Teams (virtual meeting)</b>	
<b>Chair</b>	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
<b>HS2 Ltd Attendees:</b>	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
<b>Independent</b>	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

<b>Local Authority Attendees:</b>	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
<b>Promoter Attendee:</b>	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
<b>Apologies:</b>		

<b>Item</b>		<b>Action Owner</b>
	<b>Introductions</b>  The Chair invited new attendees to introduce themselves.	
<b>1</b>	<b>Review of notes &amp; actions from last meeting</b>  The previous minutes were agreed and will be uploaded to GOV.UK. All outstanding actions, except the SLA email request and the deferred VR fly-through experience for members, were complete.	

<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>Phase 2a Bill – update</b></p> <p>HS2 Ltd explained that the House of Lords Select Committee published its Special Report on 19 October (<a href="http://committees.parliament.uk/committee/404/high-speed-rail-west-midlands-crewe-bill-select-committee-lords/news/120165/hs2-bill-committee-publishes-report/">http://committees.parliament.uk/committee/404/high-speed-rail-west-midlands-crewe-bill-select-committee-lords/news/120165/hs2-bill-committee-publishes-report/</a>).</p> <p>The Government published its response to the Select Committee report on 23 November (<a href="http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-phase-2a-promoters-response-to-lords-select-committees-special-report">http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-phase-2a-promoters-response-to-lords-select-committees-special-report</a>).</p> <p>On 24 November the Government published a Statement of Reasons Command Paper, setting out an overview of the case for the scheme and its environmental impacts (<a href="http://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/statement-of-reasons-command-paper-for-the-high-speed-rail-west-midlands-to-crewe-bill">http://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/statement-of-reasons-command-paper-for-the-high-speed-rail-west-midlands-to-crewe-bill</a>).</p> <p>The Command Paper is required by Standing Orders to be published at least a week in advance of Third Reading of the Bill in each House. This Command Paper is an updated version of the one published in advance of Third Reading in the House of Commons in June 2019.</p> <p>The Bill was considered in Grand Committee on 9 &amp; 12 November. No amendments to the Bill were made.</p> <p>The Bill will now continue through its remaining ‘normal’ public Bill stages in the House of Lords – Report and Third Reading. Report stage will take place on 30 November. No date has yet been fixed for Third Reading: there has to be a minimum period of a week between Report and Third Reading, so the earliest possible date is 7 December.</p> <p>After Third Reading, the Bill will return to the House of Commons for one final stage – Commons Consideration of Lords Amendments (where the House of Commons considers amendments to the Bill made in the Lords, often referred to as ‘ping-pong’). Royal Assent is possible in late 2020 subject to the Parliamentary timetable, otherwise early 2021.</p>	
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>Construction programme update</b></p> <p>HS2 Ltd provided an update to the construction programme including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ground investigation surveys – which will take place between November 2020 and July 2021. Ground investigations are required to inform the detailed design process for all structures including embankments that HS2 Ltd will need to build.</li> <li>• Environmental / Ecological surveys – which will continue throughout 2021 and will determine the location of species.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utility works – which will commence from Spring 2021 starting at the King’s Bromley end of the works. The utility works will continue across the route for the next 3 – 4 years.</li> <li>Early Environmental Works (EEW) – which will commence from Summer 2021. EEW are required to construct translocation and environmental mitigation sites across the route, such as woodlands, ponds, grassland and other forms of habitats. This will enable the safe translocation of species from areas where the main HS2 works will be required. It was noted that the contract for EEW has been awarded and the process of detailed design will now commence. Finally, it was explained that Schedule 17 pre-applications are ongoing with submissions expected in early 2021.</li> </ul> <p>SCC raised that there were outstanding concerns related to the Schedule 17 lorry routes and would not be accepting any Schedule 17 applications until these queries had been resolved.</p> <p>HS2 Ltd noted SCC concern and agreed to continue dialogue to resolve the issues raised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Early Civic Works (ECW1) is scheduled for November 2021. This package consists of two high priority highway interventions M6 J1 at Hanchurch and Wood End Lane, Stafford.</li> <li>Early Civic Works (ECW2) is scheduled for January 2022. This will consist of mainly highway improvements: of significance is the replacement of the road bridge at Yarnfield across the M6.</li> <li>Advanced Civic Works (ACW) is scheduled for January 2023. This is the main line of route clearance package and will involve the clearance of land, establishment of haul roads and the creation of construction compounds.</li> <li>Design Delivery Partner (DDP) is scheduled for October 2022. DDP will partner with HS2 Ltd and contractors in order to construct the scheme.</li> </ul> <p>SCC queried when members could expect Schedule 4 submissions, as input would be required.</p> <p>HS2 Ltd stated that the DDP would not be onboard until at least mid-2021, but engagement will take place with members.</p>	
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4	<p><b>Class Approval - update</b></p> <p>HS2 Ltd reminded members of the purpose of the Class Approval and requested that members respond to the DfT consultation. For further information please see slide deck.</p> <p><b>Action – Members to provide any further comments on the Class Approval via email to the DfT.</b></p>	
5	<p><b>Draft Statutory Guidance - update</b></p> <p>HS2 Ltd reminded members of the purpose of the Draft Statutory Guidance and requested that members respond to the DfT consultation.</p> <p>The DfT advised that the guidance was shared on 9<sup>th</sup> November, but no deadline has been set.</p> <p>Members advised that further time was required to review the draft statutory guidance.</p> <p><b>Action – LA members to inform the DfT if they have comments and when they will provide comments to the draft Statutory Guidance.</b></p>	LAs
6	<p><b>Schedule 17 Forward Plan</b></p> <p>HS2 Ltd provided an overview of the upcoming works Schedule 17 programme for November 2020 to March 2021. Further information can be found in the slide pack.</p>	
7	<p><b>Community Engagement Update</b></p> <p>HS2 Ltd provided an update on three key areas: Strategic activity, Communities and Looking ahead.</p> <p><b>Strategic activity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• House of Lords Select Committee report published</li> <li>• HS2 Residents' Commissioner report published</li> <li>• Being a Good Neighbour community survey</li> <li>• MP survey</li> <li>• Continued political engagement</li> </ul> <p><b>Communities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community and business funds online presentations</li> <li>• Skills, education and employment, and business opportunities online presentations</li> <li>• Route-wide ground investigation work started, with supporting communications</li> <li>• Construction commissioner engagement hotspots walk-through</li> </ul>	

	<p><b><i>Looking ahead</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online ecology and ground investigation presentations</li> <li>• Virtual Land and Property surgeries</li> <li>• Royal Assent communications</li> <li>• Launch of post Royal Assent property schemes</li> <li>• Launch of CEF and BLEF schemes</li> <li>• Managing community expectations</li> </ul> <p>HS2 Ltd emphasised that they will be supporting Balfour Beatty in their engagement with the communities that HS2 work with for upcoming ground investigations.</p> <p>HS2 Ltd informed members that they will be managing community expectations, particularly informing communities that they will see a phased approach to construction work: it will not be shovels in the ground from day one.</p> <p>The Chair sought feedback from HS2 Ltd on how virtual engagement has gone over the past months.</p> <p>HS2 Ltd explained that online presentations and webinars effectively convey the message and do enable opportunities for interaction. However, it was acknowledged that the reach of virtual engagement is not as extensive and cannot replace sensitive face to face conversations, when they are required. HS2 Ltd added that in the future it is likely HS2 will employ a mixture of virtual and face to face meetings.</p> <p>The Chair questioned how HS2 Ltd intended to manage community expectations.</p> <p>HS2 Ltd explained that this will be an important part of engagement, to ensure that all communities know what is happening in their area and when it will take place. HS2 Ltd will emphasis to communities that once the works obtain authorisation it does not necessary mean that works will commence straightaway. A clear strategy will be developed towards the middle of 2021 on how HS2 Ltd communicates to all stakeholders to avoid the risk of an information void.</p>	
8	<p><b>Independent Construction Commissioner</b></p> <p>Sir Mark Worthington thanked members for the invitation to speak at the Planning Forum.</p> <p>Sir Mark advised he was appointed by the Secretary of State and provided an overview of his role as Independent Construction Commissioner.</p> <p>The role of the Independent Construction Commissioner is to take an overview of construction related complaints and advise individuals, groups</p>	

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	<p>and local authorities as to how to make a complaint and can be involved in the mediation between the relevant parties.</p> <p>The HS2 Construction Commissioner provides a fair and balanced approach if a case cannot be resolved through the normal HS2 complaints process and in cases where a response to a complaint is unsatisfactory or remains outstanding.</p> <p>Sir Mark advised that many complainants provide a copy of their complaint to the Independent Construction Commissioner. As a result, resolutions to complaints have been agreed and avoided the need for a formal complaint.</p> <p>Sir Mark explained that his role as Independent Construction Commissioner did not cover the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• complaints that have not first been considered by the nominated undertaker's/HS2 Ltd's helpdesk</li><li>• complaints relating to works that are not part of, or associated with, the HS2 project</li><li>• complaints relating to planning conditions and other matters that are subject to the approval of statutory authorities</li><li>• matters considered by Parliament in approving the project</li><li>• matters dealt with by the Office of Rail and Road, and operational rail matters dealt with by train operating companies and passenger watchdogs</li><li>• matters under investigation by the Health and Safety Executive</li><li>• complaints relating to property compensation issues</li><li>• claims for losses over £10,000</li><li>• complaints relating to settlement deeds (see Information paper C3: ground settlement and Information paper C10: small claims scheme for further details)</li><li>• the future operation of the HS2 railway or services</li><li>• matters relating to HS2 Safeguarding Directions</li></ul> <p>The Commissioner also acts as an arbitrator for the Small claims scheme in the event that a dispute cannot be resolved through the normal process.</p> <p>The Commissioner reports on activities and makes recommendations to HS2 Ltd on how complaints may be minimised or reduced. Further information can be found here: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-construction-commissioners-report-14">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-construction-commissioners-report-14</a></p> <p>Sir Mark expressed the importance of maintaining community expectations through engagement and that HS2 Ltd should ensure information is readily and properly available. It was also noted that lessons learnt from Phase 1 should be embedded in Phase 2a, to yield the maximum advantage for communities.</p>	
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	<p>Sir Mark encouraged members to contact him for any advice or assistance with any construction matters related to HS2. It was also confirmed that the Independent Construction Commissioner would be writing to members setting out his role and what assistance he can provide.</p>	
9	<p><b>Feedback from LAs</b></p> <p>The Chair invited members to provide comments on the planning regime and any related processes and/or procedures.</p> <p>SCC advised that they had no concerns but did raise that SCC is currently undergoing a restructure.</p> <p>SPC sought confirmation that SCC would send Schedule 17 lorry route consultations that affect their area to SPC. SCC confirmed that this was correct.</p> <p>It was also queried if passing points on the A525 in Shropshire would genuinely be used for passing points and not just holding bays for construction traffic. War Parish Council had concerns that there may be habitat and/or ecological impacts.</p> <p>HS2 Ltd advised SPC that an Extraordinary annual meeting, which came about from a Select Committee report recommendation, will be taking place on the 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020. The issue of passing points has been raised by Parish Councils along the route and HS2 Ltd will provide an update in policy terms and explain that the passing points are required for road operations and not for holding bays.</p>	
10	<p><b>Subgroup update</b></p> <p>HS2 Ltd provided a summary of the key items from the previous subgroup meetings and the dates for future subgroup meetings. Further information can be found in the slide pack.</p> <p>It was agreed that provided all members could access the SharePoint page then a subgroup update would no longer be required.</p>	
11	<p><b>Phase 2a SharePoint page</b></p> <p>HS2 Ltd outlined the purpose of the dedicated SharePoint page, which is to enable greater collaboration between HS2 Ltd and members.</p> <p>It was explained that the SharePoint page could be used by members to create shared documents and enable other members to more easily see draft documents or comment and organise joint responses to draft consultations (or other documents). Furthermore, members would have</p>	

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	<p>instant access to subgroup forum information i.e. previous and upcoming meeting documents</p> <p>It was also emphasised that the SharePoint page can only be accessed by the Chair, members and HS2 Ltd staff – contractors or other third parties do not have access to the dedicated Phase 2a PF page.</p> <p>HS2 Ltd recommended that members use Google Chrome to access the SharePoint page.</p> <p><b>Action - Members to ensure that they can obtain access to the SharePoint page via the link.</b></p> <p><b>Action – HS2 Ltd to advise further on the security arrangements (email or password protected) for the SharePoint page and how access is granted.</b></p>	<p>HS2 Ltd</p> <p>HS2 Ltd</p>
<b>12</b>	<p><b>Forward Plan and Document Tracker</b></p> <p>HS2 Ltd provided an overview of the business for the Forum meetings up until March 2021. Further information can be found in the slide pack.</p>	
<b>13</b>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>HS2 Ltd reminded members to forward any Certificate of Alternative Appropriate Development to the DfT and HS2 Ltd <a href="mailto:LPClaims@hs2.org.uk">LPClaims@hs2.org.uk</a></p> <p>Members agreed to a new start time of 10:30am and to the following 2021 Planning Forum dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20<sup>th</sup> January</li> <li>• 17<sup>th</sup> March</li> <li>• 19<sup>th</sup> May</li> <li>• 21<sup>st</sup> July</li> <li>• 22<sup>nd</sup> September</li> <li>• 17<sup>th</sup> November</li> </ul> <p>HS2 Ltd advised that the Independent Chair's contract was due for renewal and sought members' opinion as to whether it should be extended for another year. Members all agreed that they were happy with the appointment and agreed that the Chair's contract should be extended.</p>	
	Meeting concluded at 12:40pm	