

INDEPENDENT Phase 2a Planning FORUM FOR HS2

Phase 2a Planning Forum Agenda Meeting 20th January 2021

Date & Time:	Phase 2a Planning Forum Meeting Wednesday 20th January 2021 10:30 – 12:30 Planning Forum Microsoft Teams (See calendar invite)
Independent Chair:	

Item		Lead	Time
	Introductions	All	10:30
1	Review of previous meeting minutes and actions	All	10:35
2	2a Bill – update	HS2 Ltd	10:40
3	2a Construction programme - update	HS2 Ltd	10:55
4	Class approval - update	DfT	11:05
5	Statutory guidance - update	DfT	11:15
6	Schedule 17 Forward Plan	HS2 Ltd	11:25
7	Feedback from LAs	LAs	11:35
8	Community engagement – update	HS2 Ltd	11:45
9	Royal Assent readiness	HS2 Ltd	11:55
10	Accessing SharePoint	HS2 Ltd	12:05
11	Appointment of a Phase 2a representative to the Construction Commissioner Steering Group (CCSG)	LAs	12:10
11	Planning Forum Forward Plan and Documents	HS2 Ltd	12:15
12	AOB	All	12:25
	End		

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Title:	Independent Phase 2a Planning Forum for HS2	
Date & Time	Wednesday 20th January 2021 10:30 – 12:30 Microsoft Teams (virtual meeting)	
Chair	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
HS2 Ltd Attendees:	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Local Authority Attendees:	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Promoter Attendee:	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Apologies:	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Item		Action Owner
	<p>Introductions</p> <p>The Chair invited new attendees to introduce themselves.</p>	
1	<p>Review of notes & actions from last meeting</p> <p>The previous minutes were agreed and will be uploaded to GOV.UK.</p> <p>All outstanding actions, except the SLA request to members and the deferred VR fly-through experience were completed.</p>	
2	<p>Phase 2a Bill – update</p> <p>HS2 Ltd provided an overview of the two amendments to the Bill made at Report stage in the House of Lords.</p>	

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- Report stage on the Bill took place on 30 November and 8 December. Two amendments to the Bill were made and included in the Bill as new clauses 59 & 60.
- A new clause (59) on Ancient woodland, requiring HS2 Ltd to prepare and publish annual reports about the impact of the construction of each phase of HS2 on Ancient woodland. The amendment was accepted by the Government.
- A new clause (60) requiring HS2 Ltd to consult residents along the Phase 2a route on their concerns about road traffic, environmental impact and public transport provision and to produce a consultation report and action plan by 1 May 2021. The amendment was passed by a 276 to 259 vote against the Government.

HS2 Ltd explained the final stages of the Bill noting that:

- Third Reading in the House of Lords took place on 14 December. No amendments to the Bill were made and the Bill secured its Third Reading without a vote.
- After Third Reading, the Bill returned 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’).
- Commons Consideration of the Lords Amendments (see above) took place on 19 January: the amendments were accepted.
- Royal Assent is expected by the end January 2021.

The Chair asked if the new clause requiring further community consultation was a one off and what would happen following the consultation. HS2 Ltd confirmed that the consultation was a one-off consultation. HS2 Ltd explained that following the consultation a summary report of the responses from consultees would be produced and Ministers would make a statement to Parliament setting out any steps that would be taken to implement the findings of the report, by 1 May 2021.

NUL queried the dates for the consultation and whether members would have an opportunity to see the consultation document prior to the public consultation going live.

HS2 Ltd advised that the dates were yet to be confirmed, but that it was expected that the consultation would run for four weeks in February 2021. It was also stated that the consultation document would follow the format of previous HS2 consultations.

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	<p>SPC said that HS2 Ltd needed to be very clear on the status, scope and the outcome of any recommendations that may come about as a result of the consultation with stakeholders.</p> <p>HS2 Ltd acknowledged this point and explained that the consultation document would set out the next steps following the consultation.</p> <p>SCC asked if all members would be consultees.</p> <p>HS2 Ltd confirmed that this was correct and that the intention was that consultees would include residents, local authorities, parish councils, and MPs in the local authority areas of Staffordshire, Shropshire, Cheshire East and Cheshire West & Chester, as well as a number of other relevant other stakeholders.</p>	
3	<p>Construction programme update</p> <p>HS2 Ltd provided an update to the construction programme including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 the initial design process and Schedule 17 pre-applications are ongoing with submissions expected in early 2021.• Construction compounds for the EEW will begin construction in Summer 2021 and remain in place for approx. two years.• Ground investigation surveys – HS2 are now on the fourth ground investigation site. Ground investigations are required to inform the detailed design process for all structures including embankments that HS2 Ltd will need to build.• Highway works – The first package will address concerns around congestion in Hanchurch and widening of Wood End Lane in Lichfield. The second package relates to road and junction improvements contained in the Hybrid Bill and its additional provisions documents towards the end of 2022.• Lorry routes – pre-application discussions are taking place with members alongside the Town Planning team. <p>The Chair sought clarity on the programme for the main works contract.</p>	

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	<p>HS2 Ltd explained that the scheme is being worked up, and over the next year or two will be put out to tender, with works commencing on site around 2024.</p> <p>SPC sought clarity on the mitigation associated with the early environmental works, specifically if the route-wide road improvement package was part of the early works tender.</p> <p>HS2 Ltd advised that package of work currently out to tender included route-wide road improvements, which are identified in the Hybrid Bill (e.g. road widening, passing spaces, increased visibility splay etc.).</p> <p>SPC questioned if amendments could be required as a result of the new consultation associated with the Bill (item agenda 2): could Ministers' recommendations be included in the route-wide package of early mitigation works?</p> <p>HS2 Ltd confirmed that there is a possibility that any road improvement amendment required from the consultation could be included in the route-wide early works package.</p>	
4	<p>Class Approval - update</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>	
5	<p>Draft Statutory Guidance - update</p> <p>DfT received the collated feedback on behalf of Planning Forum members before Christmas. It was also advised a small number of individual responses had been received and members will be updated in the next few weeks.</p> <p>Action – Update presentation slide to reflect ‘Statutory Guidance’ rather than ‘Schedule 17 planning appeal guidance’.</p>	HS2 Ltd
8	<p>Schedule 17 Forward Plan</p> <p>HS2 Ltd explained that the Forward Plan and Forward Looks have been sent out to all members – the next Forward Looks will be sent out around the middle of March.</p> <p>No comments received from the members regarding the context of the documents sent out.</p>	
9	<p>Feedback from LAs</p> <p>The Chair invited members to provide comments on the planning regime and any related processes and/or procedures.</p>	

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	<p>No concerns were raised with the planning regime or processes. However, CEC explained that they were unable to obtain purchase orders related to chargeable work pre-royal assent.</p> <p>Action – Commercial team to contact the relevant HS2 member to process a purchase order raise by CEC.</p>	<p>HS2 Ltd</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Community Engagement update</p> <p>HS2 Ltd provided an update on three key areas: Strategic activity, Communities and Looking ahead.</p> <p>Strategic activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement continues to be in line with the latest guidance on COVID-19 • National Infrastructure Commission report published • Phase 2b consultation • Transport Select Committee • Continued political engagement with MPs and local authorities communities <p>Wider community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ground investigation work underway • Land agents update – including protestor risks • Enquiry management and ongoing general engagement with stakeholders <p>Looking ahead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Royal Assent publicity • Consultation under Section 60 of the hybrid Bill • Post Royal Assent Stakeholder roundtables • Launch of post Royal Assent property schemes and CEF and BLEF <p>SBC queried what engagement is proposed with the Parish Council and in the immediate locality around Ingestre Park Golf Club, in relation to the Planning Direction.</p> <p>HS2 Ltd explained that the Planning Direction was ultimately the Department for Transport’s (DfT) decision as they issue the Planning Direction. However, members were made aware that there was no statutory requirement for the DfT to undertake any consultation, although during the design development, consultation did take place with the Parish Council and Statutory Consultees.</p>	
<p>11</p>	<p>Royal Assent readiness</p> <p>HS2 Ltd described current workstreams they are working on, including:</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DfT Class Approval – To be issue soon after RA • Fee and Appeal Regs to be laid in Parliament soon after RA • EMRs published on www.gov.uk post RA • Context Reports to be issued to LPAs mid Feb • S.17 Refresher Session with EEW Contractors – W/C 15th Feb • S.17 Information session with LPAs – proposed W/C 22nd Feb TBC • First S.17 EEW Submission – proposed W/C 19th April <p>Once documents are finalised, they will be published on the GOV.UK or HS2's website and links provided to all Phase 2a Planning Forum members. They will also be put on the Phase 2a Forum SharePoint site.</p> <p>It was also explained that during the finalisation of the documents listed above, minor edits will be required but nothing that would constitute a significant change (mainly typos and word changes i.e. Bill to Act).</p>	
12	<p>Phase 2a SharePoint page</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>In response to an outstanding action, HS2 Ltd explained that the Phase 2a Town Planning Forum SharePoint site requires an email address and is password protected. Members were advised that an email had been circulated, but if members were still experiencing difficulty obtaining access, they should email 2aplanningforum@hs2.org.uk</p>	
13	<p>Appointment of a Phase 2a representative to the Construction Commissioner Steering Group (CCSG)</p> <p>SCC confirmed that they would volunteer to be a representative for Phase 2a. SPC and NUL offered SCC their assistance if required.</p>	
14	<p>Forward Plan and Document Tracker</p> <p>HS2 Ltd provided an overview of the business for the Forum meetings up until July 2021. Further information can be found in the slide pack.</p>	
15	<p>AOB</p>	
	Meeting concluded at 12:00pm	