

INDEPENDENT Phase 2a Planning FORUM FOR HS2

Title:	Phase 2a Planning Forum for HS2	
Date & Time	Wednesday 19th January 2022 10:30 – 12:00 Microsoft Teams (Virtual meeting)	
Chair	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
HS2 Ltd Attendees:	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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

Item		Action Owner
	Introductions	
1	<p>Review of previous meeting minutes and actions</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated so the Chair asked the Forum if any amendments were required: none were highlighted, and it was agreed they could be published on gov.uk. ACTION</p> <p>HS2 reviewed the actions log and the following actions were highlighted:</p>	[REDACTED]

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links to the Phase 2a Planning Context Reports: HS2 confirmed that the links were now publicly available, so this action was marked complete • Biodiversity Investment Fund (BiF): HS2 reiterated that the deadline for applications had passed. The Chair queried this action as they thought there was a further action for HS2 to share examples of projects where a BiF had been awarded. HS2 said they would take this away as an action. ACTION • Traffic Liaison Group (TLG) Attendance: HS2 confirmed that Balfour Beatty, Arup and Kier had been invited to meetings and marked as in attendance • Updates to Waste data reported in the Environment Statement (ES): HS2 confirmed that they do not currently have updated data, but this would be available once the Design Delivery Partner (DDP) was onboard, although it is likely to be at least a year from award before new information is available. • Future Forum Meetings: HS2 confirmed that nobody had raised any problems with the proposed meeting dates and calendar invitations would be sent out in due course <p>-</p>	
2	<p>Phase 2a Construction Programme – update</p> <p>HS2 gave an update on the construction programme and made the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ground Investigation (GI) - the programme was nearing completion (due to end of March). This would be followed by 12 months of monitoring in these locations • Utility Works - the first major utility diversion located at Kings Bromley had been completed • Early Environmental Works (EEW) – the programme was gaining momentum with land being acquired for possession to start constructing environmental works. Schedule 17 applications for those works that require it will be submitted to LAs in due course • Early Civils Works (ECW) – these included the widening of Wood End Lane and detailed design for the Hanchurch Interchange. The second package of ECW which is primarily highway works was currently in the design phase and likely to begin construction in 2023 • Main Construction Works (MCW) – plans and processes were currently being implemented with the contract for these works to be awarded in due course. 	

<p>3</p>	<p>Schedule 17 – Forward Lookahead</p> <p>HS2 presented a slide which contained a bar chart that compared “planned” Schedule 17 submissions with “actual” Schedule 17 submissions. HS2 acknowledged that the performance in terms of the “actual” submissions was disappointing but reiterated that work was ongoing to ensure the Forward Plans containing the “planned” submissions were more robust. The Chair said that the pattern was similar on Phase 1 as well as other infrastructure projects then asked HS2 for a further explanation. HS2 explained that designers are optimistic and acknowledged that handling Schedule 17 applications puts additional pressure on LAs, therefore it was important to improve the ability to plan submissions.</p> <p>HS2 said that the next issue of the Forward Plans would be sent to LAs at the end of January. CEC asked if this document could be shared with members, HS2 said they were content with this.</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>Planning Appeals - update</p> <p>HS2 gave an overview of planning appeals and court cases currently underway or recently determined on Phase 1. The key points were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bromford Tunnel Appeal (North Warwickshire Borough Council) – NWBC Statement of Case is expected imminently • Waste Lane Lorry Route Appeal (Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council) – HS2 explained that they were disappointed the Inspector dismissed their appeal and that the Appeals Digest would be updated and shared with LAs to summarise the Inspector’s decision. HS2 explained that essentially the Inspector concluded that an alternative route existed, but that it depends on works outside of Act powers that are therefore beyond the nominated undertaker’s control. HS2 were currently deciding how to work with this decision and meetings with the LA are ongoing • Bucks Council Judicial Review – HS2 were waiting for the High Court to make a decision on whether the JRs will be heard <p>The Chair asked HS2 to clarify what the Inspector said regarding the SMBC appeal in terms of an alternative route outside of Act powers. HS2 explained that the lorry route applied for had been assessed in the ES. However, there was local concern so HS2 and SMBC were reviewing alternatives which could be delivered. One of these alternatives required the construction of a temporary haul road which was partially outside of limits and therefore</p>	

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	could not be used in the short term although it was seeking to deliver it in the future. However, the Inspector concluded it was a reasonable alternative.	
5	<p>Feedback from LAs</p> <p>The Chair invited LAs to raise any questions regarding planning matters. The Chair acknowledged that there may be little to highlight to HS2 due to the low current level of activity. The LAs gave the following feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEC said they had been handling Schedule 17 applications and any issues had been worked through with HS2 • SBC said there was little activity as submissions had been delayed • LDC said they did not have any pending applications or pre-application discussions. LDC also highlighted that they were unable to access SharePoint. ACTION. 	
6	<p>Planning Forum Notes (PFNs) - update</p> <p>HS2 said there were no comments or amendments proposed by LAs to the draft Planning Forum Note 18: Waste and Spoil Disposal and Excavation and therefore plan to publish this document on gov.uk as the next step. The Chair asked the Forum if that was agreed: no comments were raised so the document was considered approved for publication.</p> <p>HS2 said that they were reviewing all PFNs to ensure they were consistent with the changes that had been made to the PFNs on Phase 1 because of the recent Court of Appeal decision. HS2 said that any significant amendments would be highlighted at the next Forum meeting.</p>	
7	<p>Community Engagement</p> <p>HS2 gave an update on Community Engagement, the key points were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Rail Plan – this was published in November and set out the plans to complete the Phase 2b Western section from Crewe to Manchester, as well as the Eastern Leg between Birmingham and East Midlands Parkway with trains continuing to Nottingham and Derby • Design Delivery Partner (DDP) - the invitation to tender had been issued 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rolling Stock Contract Award – a route-wide contract had been awarded which would support 2500 jobs • Zero Carbon – the Minister had announced that HS2 trains would be zero carbon • HS2inFocus – webinars which gave the public an overview of the environmental works in their local area were ongoing • Phase 2a Design Journey Webinar – this was a planned webinar to help explain to communities the stages of design before main works construction, including what they can expect to see on the ground • Stafford Railway Station Campaign – this was a planned campaign for local businesses and communities around Stafford <p>SBC asked if HS2 had engaged with the LAs Communities personnel. HS2 said an email had been sent but if there were a specific person's details that could be shared by SBC then that would be beneficial. The Chair asked HS2 to clarify whether HS2 trains could stop at Stafford station. HS2 confirmed that they could, via a spur.</p>	
8	<p>Subgroups – update</p> <p>HS2 presented a slide which showed the planned dates for the following Subgroups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highways Subgroup – 24th February 2022 • Environmental Health (EH) Subgroup – June (date TBC) • Flood Water & Drainage Subgroup – Late January/Early February (date TBC) • Heritage Subgroup – June (date TBC) <p>HS2 said that they would update the Forum at the next meeting if dates had been confirmed. The Chair asked if there was any overlap between attendees at the EH Subgroup and the Forum, or if it were similar to Phase 1 whereby attendees were separate LA officers. The Chair proceeded to ask the Forum if they would be interested in a presentation from HS2 regarding their Zero Carbon Strategy. LDC said they would and HS2 took this away as an action. ACTION.</p>	
9	<p>Planning Forum Forward Plan</p> <p>HS2 presented a slide showing future agenda items and asked the Forum when an agenda item for the Zero Carbon Strategy would be suitable. The Chair suggested May.</p>	

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	<p>Proposed agenda items for the next meeting included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schedule 17 Performance• PFNs Review• Heritage Subgroup update• Common Design Element Engagement <p>Then HS2 presented a slide which showed the status of the PFNs. The Chair asked if those that were marked as “agreed PFNs” had been published on the gov.uk website. HS2 confirmed that most had been published and those remaining would be published by the next Forum meeting. HS2 also confirmed that there was a separate Phase 2a PFN page.</p>	
10	<p>AOB</p> <p>There was no AOB from the Forum and the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.</p>	
11	<p>END</p>	