



Phase 2b Western Leg Information Paper

G2: Community relations

This paper outlines the approach to community engagement to be taken by the nominated undertaker during construction of the Proposed Scheme.

It will be of particular interest to those potentially affected by the Government's proposals for high speed rail.

This paper was prepared in relation to the promotion of the High Speed Rail (Crewe - Manchester) Bill. Content will be maintained and updated as considered appropriate during the passage of the Bill.

If you have any queries about this paper or about how it might apply to you, please contact the HS2 Helpdesk in the first instance.

The Helpdesk can be contacted:

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Version 2

Last updated: 6 July 2022

1 Introduction

- 1.1 High Speed Two (HS2) is the Government's scheme for a new, high speed north-south railway, which is being taken forward in a number of phases. Phase One will connect London with Birmingham and the West Midlands. Phase 2a will extend the route from the West Midlands to Crewe. The Phase 2b Western Leg will connect Crewe to Manchester. As set out in the Integrated Rail Plan, published in November 2021, HS2 East is proposed to deliver a new high speed line from the West Midlands to East Midlands Parkway.
- 1.2 HS2 Ltd is the non-departmental public body responsible for developing and promoting these proposals. The company works under the terms of a Development Agreement entered into with the Secretary of State for Transport.
- 1.3 The construction and operation of Phase One of HS2 is authorised by the High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Act 2017 and Phase 2a by the High Speed Rail (West Midlands – Crewe) Act 2021.
- 1.4 In January 2022, the Government introduced a hybrid Bill to Parliament (hereafter referred to as 'the Bill'), to seek powers for the construction and operation of the Phase 2b Western Leg (the Proposed Scheme), which is called the High Speed Rail (Crewe – Manchester) Bill. The Proposed Scheme comprises the Phase 2b Western Leg from Crewe to Manchester and several off-route works. It also facilitates the delivery of Northern Powerhouse Rail by providing the Crewe Northern Connection and junctions and other infrastructure to be used in future schemes.
- 1.5 The work to produce the Bill includes an Equalities Impact Assessment and an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), the results of which are reported in an Environmental Statement (ES) submitted alongside the Bill. The Secretary of State has also published draft Environmental Minimum Requirements (EMRs), which set out the environmental and sustainability commitments that will be observed in the construction of the Proposed

Scheme. For more information on the EMRs please see Information Paper E1: Control of environmental impacts.

- 1.6 The Secretary of State for Transport is the Promoter of the Bill through Parliament. The Promoter will also appoint a body responsible for delivering the Proposed Scheme under the powers granted by the Bill. This body is known as the 'nominated undertaker'. There may be more than one nominated undertaker. However, any and all nominated undertakers will be bound by the obligations contained in the Bill, the policies established in the EMRs and any commitments provided in the information papers.
- 1.7 These information papers have been produced to explain the commitments made in the Bill and the EMRs and how they will be applied to the design and construction of the Proposed Scheme. They also provide information about the Proposed Scheme itself, the powers contained in the Bill and how particular decisions about the Proposed Scheme have been reached.

2 Overview

- 2.1 This information paper explains the nominated undertaker's approach to community engagement, identifying the relevant documents, standards and controls that will apply during construction of the Proposed Scheme.

3 Community engagement strategy

- 3.1 HS2's Community Engagement Strategy was updated in October 2021 to reflect the changes in the Project and the changing impacts on the lives of local people. It explains how we will respect people and places as we build HS2. We will do this by:
- telling you what we are going to do and when;
 - letting you know if things change; and
 - if we get something wrong, we will listen to you and do our best to make it right.

- 3.2 It sets out the different types of engagement activity that HS2 Ltd undertakes:
- Informing – HS2 will keep you updated on issues that affect your area;
 - Consulting – HS2 will formally consult with you while we seek permission to build the phase 2b Western Leg: Crewe to Manchester
 - Involving – HS2 will involve you in opportunities as we plan and build HS2;
 - Responding – HS2 will listen to you and help with your questions and concerns.
- 3.3 HS2 Ltd will develop plans to deliver community engagement that reflect the requirements and needs of the local area, while supporting the successful delivery of the Proposed Scheme.
- 3.4 Community engagement activities will be delivered by community engagement specialists that know their local area. These specialists may either be assigned to a geographical area or a project area depending on local requirements.
- 3.5 Engagement activity will cater for people of all backgrounds and circumstances, including vulnerable people and people with additional needs.
- 3.6 Engagement activity will be based around programme milestones to ensure meaningful consultation and engagement at key points when stakeholders have the ability to influence design and avoid engagement fatigue from stakeholders and communities
- 3.7 The new document, 'Respecting people, respecting places', explains how we will help people whilst we build HS2 by:
- Telling people what HS2 will do and when;
 - Keeping in touch with people living on or close to the route if things change; and

- And if anything goes wrong, listening to those affected and carrying out best endeavours to make things right.

3.8 Community engagement will incorporate lessons learnt across phases to deliver continuous improvement in its practice and activities.

4 Community engagement framework

4.1 The nominated undertaker will develop a Community Engagement Framework for the Proposed Scheme, in accordance with HS2 Ltd's Community Engagement Strategy. It will be written in line with the draft Code of Construction Practice and will support any specific undertakings and assurances given through the Parliamentary process, to be applied by the nominated undertaker and to which the contractors, and their sub-contractors, have to adhere to during the construction of the Proposed Scheme.

4.2 The framework will include the responsibilities of the nominated undertaker and contractors, and their sub-contractors, in complying with undertakings and performance of commitments, local agreements and specific community requirements throughout the Proposed Scheme.

4.3 The framework will explain how proactive and reactive engagement activity will be delivered during construction. This includes the approach that HS2 Ltd will take to community engagement plans, advance notification of works, complaints and enquiries, and local community investment initiatives.

5 Residents' Charter

5.1 The Residents' Charter is HS2's promise to communicate as clearly as we possibly can with people who live along or near the HS2 route.

6 Residents' commissioner

6.1 The independent Residents' Commissioner oversees and monitors HS2's commitments to you. The commissioner's reports and HS2's responses

can be found at www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-ltd-residents-commissioner.

- 6.2 The independent Residents' Commissioner holds HS2 accountable to the commitments made in the Community Engagement Strategy.
- 6.3 In addition, the Residents' Commissioner meets regularly with the Chairman of HS2 Ltd to raise and discuss emerging trends and concerns.
- 6.4 The Residents' Commissioner does not investigate individual cases, act as an arbitrator for individual resident concerns, or deal with complaints.

7 Construction commissioner

- 7.1 The independent Construction Commissioner's role will be to mediate and monitor the way in which the nominated undertaker manages and responds to construction complaints.
- 7.2 The independent Construction Commissioner regularly meets our Chief Executive Officer to raise any concerns or emerging trends across HS2.
- 7.3 The Construction Commissioner will mediate any unresolved construction related disputes between the nominated undertaker and individuals or bodies, and will provide advice to members of the public about how to make a complaint arising out of construction of the Proposed Scheme.
- 7.4 For more information, see Information Paper D4: Construction commissioner.

8 More information

- 8.1 More detail on the Bill and related documents can be found at www.gov.uk/hs2-phase2b-crewe-manchester.

References

HS2 Community Engagement Strategy:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-ltds-community-engagement-strategy>