

Meeting minutes

Phase 2b Planning Forum – Environmental Health Subgroup Minutes #1 – February 2022

Meeting date	Tuesday, 08 February 2022
Meeting location	Microsoft Teams
Meeting time	09:30am – 12:00pm

Presenters
Coordinator & Chair: Technical Engagement Manager (HS2), Head of Environmental Sciences (HS2)
Air Quality: Air Quality Manager (HS2)
Contaminated Land: Lead Contamination Engineer (HS2), Town Planning Lead (HS2)
Sound Noise and Vibration: Noise Assessment Specialist (HS2) Head of Noise Assessment (HS2)
Meeting minutes: Technical Engagement Advisor (HS2)
Attendees
Organisation
Cheshire East Council
Cheshire West and Chester Council
Cumbria County Council
Lancashire Council
Manchester City Council
Trafford Council
Warrington Borough Council
Wigan Council
Mott Macdonald
Mott Macdonald

1 Agenda item – Introduction

- 1.1 HS2 Ltd staff introduced themselves and Local Authority LA attendees were asked to introduce themselves, and which organisation they represent via the chat box. HS2 Ltd, ran through the agenda for the meeting and set out the reasoning for the EHO Planning Forum.

2 Agenda item – Terms of Reference

- 2.1 HS2 Ltd went through the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) and explained that the Planning Forum Subgroup is to discuss route wide issues
- 2.2 It was advised that the ToR is to be agreed with the LA before the next Subgroup meeting, HS2 Ltd advised that the draft ToR will be sent out with the meeting minutes and mentioned that HS2 Ltd will work with the LA and give the LA time to read the ToR.
- 2.3 A query was raised on when the next EHO Subgroup will take place, HS2 Ltd advised that there is flexibility on the meeting frequency, this was further discussed and documented under the AOB below.

Action 1: HS2 to share the meeting minutes and the ToR with the LA

3 Agenda item – Phase 1 EHO Subgroup 2021

- 3.1 HS2 Ltd explained what meetings were held at the Phase 1 EHO Subgroup Planning Forums in 2021, and the key themes they covered. It was also advised that the meeting minutes for the Phase 1 EHO Subgroup can be found online on the Gov.Uk website.
- 3.2 HS2 Ltd summarised how similar meetings have been run on other Phases of HS2, providing examples of topics discussed in recent years including topics such as, site lighting, vibration from tunnelling, Service Level Agreements, noise insulation, construction management and other topics/issues that are of interest to the LA attendees.
- 3.3 HS2 Ltd advised that they are happy for the agenda of these meetings to be led by the LA requirements as well as HS2 Ltd requirements.

Action 2: HS2 to update PowerPoint slides to include the links to the Phase 1 EHO Planning Forum meeting minutes, and the slides to be circulated to the LA

4 Agenda item – Project Update

- 4.1 HS2 Ltd gave an update on the overall HS2 Phase 2b project. Details of the upcoming HS2 Ltd Phase 2b webinar dates were provided, and it was explained that further topic specific webinars will also be taking place, details of which could be found on [HS2 events webpage](#). HS2 Ltd explained the programme for Phase 2b and provided links to various resources associated with the Bill and the current Parliamentary consultation.

- 4.2 A query was raised regarding whether the LA can have the GIS data, HS2 Ltd advised that they will come back to the LA regarding the GIS data.

Action 3: HS2 to provide GIS data to the LA

5 Agenda item – Hybrid Bill Overview

- 5.1 HS2 Ltd gave an overview of the contents of a Hybrid Bill and the Environmental Statement. HS2 Ltd went on to explain the Hybrid Bill process and what happens at each stage of the passage of the Bill through Parliament and the House of Lords.

6 Agenda item – Air Quality – Vol 2, 5, BID & Maps & Mitigation

- 6.1 HS2 Ltd gave an overview on the various reports and map books and what they include from an air quality perspective. The approach on mitigation measures was summarised and advice was given on where this information can be found.
- 6.2 HS2 Ltd provided links to the HS2 & Air Quality webpage which provides a summary of the air quality controls set out across the project as well as a summary of completed innovation projects (this is updated as innovation projects are completed). HS2 Ltd explained the air quality monitoring currently undertaken across Phase One and 2a and directed the group to the webpages where the monthly monitoring summary reports, annual air quality report and raw monitoring data is published.
- 6.3 A query was raised regarding whether HS2 would be required to report air quality effects in the Schedule 17, and how compliance is assured. HS2 Ltd advised that information on monitoring is published monthly (as noted above). Furthermore, the compliance assurance process was detailed highlighting that the emission compliance dashboards for construction vehicles and Non-Road Mobile Machinery (NRMM) will be shared with the group through a SharePoint site once works commence.
- 6.4 A query was raised on how the monthly monitoring reports would be broken down into areas. HS2 Ltd advised that the monthly reports will be done per local authority area and would include a summary of the works undertaken, monitoring information, complaints and any monitor trigger alerts along with associated investigations and actions.
- 6.5 A query was raised on what type of engagement HS2 would have with the LA if the air quality monitoring results was showing worse than predicted in the ES. HS2 Ltd explained that this type of scenario is yet to happen across Phase One and 2a, but that early engagement with the LA would take place and would be aimed at discussing suitable mitigation and controls to reduce impacts.
- 6.6 HS2 was requested to briefly discuss what air quality innovation projects may be considered. HS2 Ltd highlighted some of the key examples aimed at reducing reliance on diesel in

construction including trials on hydrogen, battery machines, retrofits, and using diesel more efficiently. HS2 Ltd agreed to detail key innovations in future EHO Planning Forums.

Action 4: HS2 to present an example on how HS2 Ltd demonstrates air quality compliance (in Phase One and 2a)

Action 5: HS2 highlight completed and ongoing innovation projects in future EHO Planning Forums

Meeting break (10 mins)

7 Agenda item – Contaminated Land – Vol 2, 5, BID Maps & Mitigation

- 7.1 HS2 Ltd gave an overview on the various reports and map books and what they include from a contaminated land perspective. HS2 Ltd also explained, sites which are taken through to the next stage of assessment will follow the Land Contamination Risk Management (LCRM) process.
- 7.2 HS2 Ltd noted that section 11 of the draft Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) covers land quality matters and the approach adopted to mitigate Contaminated Land issues.
- 7.3 A query was raised regarding if a Schedule 17 would be required if there was any spoil movement, HS2 Ltd advised that a Schedule 17 would be required.
- 7.4 Another query was raised regarding when detailed site investigations will commence, and when will the LA have sight of the GIS information, HS2 Ltd explained that Phase 2b do not have the right to access all land, and HS2 will only be able to access such information once the Bill becomes an Act.

8 Agenda item – SNV – Vol 2, 5, BID & Maps & Mitigation

- 8.1 HS2 Ltd covered key areas of various reports and map books and what they include from a sound, noise, and vibration (SNV) perspective. HS2 Ltd advised that a more detailed information on SNV is covered in the Volume 5 report, and recommended LA read Volume 2 first. HS2 Ltd also summarised Information Papers E9 to E13.
- 8.2 A query was raised regarding the amount of noise reduction provided by an open window and what assumptions were made in the ES. HS2 Ltd recommended the LA read Sound, noise and vibration methodology, assumptions and assessment ([SV-001-00000](#)), which provides detail on SNV criteria and assumptions. Further queries were raised regarding construction phase mitigation and when this will be provided in the programme. HS2 Ltd advised that insulation required in construction phase will be identified prior to the commencement of the works. HS2 Ltd advised that more information can be found in the draft [Code of Construction Practice](#) (Section 13.2.12) and more details about the procedure can be found

in HS2 [Phase 2b Information Paper E13](#). HS2 Ltd also advised that a best practice document for consents relating to construction noise had been authored on Phase One. LA advised that it would be useful to have foresight on the best practice document.

- 8.3 HS2 Ltd also noted that there is a noise page on the HS2 website which has information on the impacts of noise during construction, HS2 Ltd included a link in the Teams meeting chat box ([Construction phase page](#), [Operational phase page](#)).

Action 6: HS2 to circulate the best practice document to the LA

Action 7: HS2 to include the noise page links on the PowerPoint presentation and circulate to the LA

9 Agenda item – Next steps & AOB

- 9.1 HS2 Ltd advised that HS2 Ltd would like these planning forums to address issues that are useful to the LA and asked the LA if there is a preference on frequency of these planning forums. It was highlighted that the LA found it useful to speak directly with those leading the project and would like another meeting before the ES consultation deadline. HS2 Ltd, agreed on another meeting before the ES consultation deadline, however, reiterated that the Planning Forums are created to discuss route wide issues (i.e., noise, air quality).
- 9.2 A query was raised regarding the LA having a pre-meeting together to discuss what queries/topics they would like to bring to the next planning forum. HS2 Ltd agreed, it would be useful to have an idea on what questions the LA have in advance of the meeting, so that HS2 are able to create an agenda specifically on those points.
- 9.3 It has been agreed that HS2 set up a pre-meet for the LA, who will discuss and send a list of topics and/or broad questions for HS2 to answer. HS2 will ensure the right people attend the meetings to answer the LA queries. HS2 Ltd advised that during the phase 1 planning forums, a live query tracker was created, it was agreed that phase 2b do the same.

Action:

- 8. HS2 to set up a LA pre-meeting for w/c 28/02/22 in advance of the next planning forum meeting**
- 9. HS2 to set up another planning forum meeting w/c 07/03/2022 in advance of the ES consultation deadline date**
- 10. HS2 to create a queries tracker in advance of the next planning forum**
- 11. HS2 to set up an external share drive/Teams' folder, where local authorities have access to the query tracker, PowerPoint presentation and other useful information**
- 12. LA to provide HS2 with a list of topics/questions prior to the next planning forum**