

## INDEPENDENT Phase 2a Planning FORUM FOR HS2

<b>Title:</b>	Phase 2a Planning Forum for HS2	
<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2022 10:30 – 12:00 Microsoft Teams (Virtual meeting)	
<b>Chair</b>	[REDACTED]	Independent Chair
<b>HS2 Ltd Attendees:</b>	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

<b>Local Authority Attendees:</b>	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
<b>Promoter Attendees:</b>	None	
<b>Apologies:</b>	None	

Item		Action Owner
	<b>Introductions</b>	
<b>1.</b>	<b>Review of previous meeting minutes and actions</b>  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. <b>ACTION.</b>	[REDACTED]

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	<p>HS2 reviewed the actions log and the following actions were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Subgroup meeting material</b> – ongoing action to circulate to Forum</li> <li>• <b>November 2021 Meeting Minutes published on gov.uk</b> – completed action</li> <li>• <b>Biodiversity Investment Fund</b> – completed action</li> <li>• <b>LDC SharePoint Access</b> – ongoing action. LDC said they needed to check their email correspondence</li> <li>• <b>Zero Carbon Strategy</b> – completed action as item scheduled to be presented to LAs at the May Forum meeting</li> </ul>	
2.	<p>(The Construction update was deferred to agenda Item 4 to accommodate the presenter’s availability.)</p> <p><b>Schedule 17 – Forward Lookahead</b></p> <p>HS2 presented a slide that showed planned and actual Schedule 17 submissions for the last and next three months. HS2 explained that the Forward Lookahead was being reviewed with contractors to reduce the peak in submissions in May. HS2 said they would send a revised Forward Lookahead to LAs when approved. The Chair acknowledged the benefit of producing this chart as it showed when planned submissions may peak so work can be done to delay or bring forward submission dates to flatten the workload.</p> <p>The Chair asked for the slide to be revised once the Lookahead is agreed. <b>ACTION</b></p> <p>HS2 presented a further slide which showed that one submission was currently pending with NULBC. HS2 also updated the Forum on a recent session between the HS2 Town Planning team and contractors to refresh on what was expected in terms of the information in the Forward Lookaheads.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Innovation – Update/Reducing emissions in construction</b></p> <p>HS2 presented slides to show what the project was doing on Phase 1 so LAs could understand what was intended for Phase 2a and 2b. The presentation included the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HS2 have a legal obligation to limit the carbon footprint</li> <li>• HS2’s Corporate KPIs include carbon reduction</li> <li>• Net Zero Carbon Plan – sets targets for HS2 which includes the aim to have Diesel-free construction sites by 2029</li> <li>• Innovation (Air Quality) – there is not a “One-Size-Fits-All” solution as each construction site has its own constraints so innovation and work with stakeholders was required to reduce carbon emissions</li> </ul>	

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	<p>SCC acknowledged the extensive work that had been done in this area on the HS2 project: the Chair agreed and said it was important that HS2 are at the forefront of innovation as it gives the supply chain confidence in their research and investment.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Phase 2a Construction Programme – update</b></p> <p>HS2 gave an update on the construction programme and made the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ground Investigation - HS2 had made further progress and this programme of works was due to end in March</li> <li>• Utility Diversions – currently working with Cadent to deliver five utility diversions</li> <li>• Early Environmental Works (EEW) – HS2 had commenced intrusive archaeological works</li> <li>• Early Civils Works (ECW) – HS2 are currently in the design phase for works located at the M6 J15, Yarnfield Lane, Wood End Lane and 20 other sites across Staffordshire</li> <li>• Main Works Contractor (MWC) – the first contractor, for Advanced Civils Works (ACW), is currently being procured and expected to start later this year. Their initial role will be to take possession of land, construct fencing and install haul roads and compounds</li> </ul>	
5.	<p><b>Planning Appeals - update</b></p> <p>HS2 gave a brief update on the project’s planning appeals and legal challenges, which were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bromford Tunnel Eastern Portal – HS2 and the LA are debating the application of Section 2 Schedule 2 Act powers with the hearing scheduled for April</li> <li>• Bucks County Council – the LA are seeking a Judicial Review of 3 Lorry Route Approval decisions, scheduled to be heard at the High Court in June</li> </ul>	
6.	<p><b>Common Design Elements (CDEs) Engagement</b></p> <p>HS2 gave a presentation which included the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HS2 are currently producing a Guidance Note which will be shared with LAs once it has been approved</li> <li>• CDEs to be engaged on include Parapets, Piers and Noise Barriers, although some of their engineering and structural details are fixed</li> <li>• Key Design Elements (KDEs) will also be engaged on although their locations are predetermined</li> <li>• The Design and Delivery Partner (DDP) will be delivering CDE Engagement which will be set out for HS2 in an Engagement Plan</li> </ul>	

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	<p>HS2 reminded the Forum that Piers and Parapets had previously undergone public consultation on Phase 1 of the project and those CDEs were agreed by LAs via the Phase 1 Planning Forum and set out in the relevant Planning Forum Notes. Noise Barriers had also undergone public consultation but HS2 are still working on this CDE. HS2 reminded members that LAs had been engaged on Piers and Parapets previously through this Forum, and HS2 considered them content with their designs for the purposes of public consultation. HS2 also explained that they were unsure if the DDP were undertaking the public consultation or if HS2 were and would clarify this with procurement colleagues and report back at the next meeting. <b>ACTION</b></p> <p>The Chair said that engagement on Phase 1 was carried out by HS2 rather than a contractor so wondered why a different approach is proposed for Phase 2a. HS2 explained said that the engagement on the CDEs and KDEs will be on the DDP contractor's designs, so it is theirs to manage because of how the contract has been set up.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Feedback from Local Authorities</b></p> <p>The Chair asked the Forum if they wished to raise any matters.</p> <p>SBC asked if other LAs are experiencing delays to submission dates to those reported in their Forward Lookahead as it was affecting their internal resourcing.</p> <p>LDC said they were experiencing delays on both Phases of the project, up to 6 weeks after an initial email requesting pre-application was received. The Chair commented that it was not unusual for submission dates to slip by a couple of weeks as the Forward Lookahead is an estimate. HS2 acknowledged that the Forward Lookaheads are not as accurate as they would like and were working with their supply chain to make them more accurate. However, working on a project of this scale meant it was challenging to meet precise dates. HS2 said that the Forward Lookahead should be used to anticipate the scale of submissions and that HS2 would take financial responsibility should a scenario occur whereby a LA put a resource in place to manage a submission based on information given in the Forward Lookahead, that then wasn't made.</p> <p>The Chair said that the Director on Phase 1 of the project had also made the same point, whereby LAs would be funded to meet the submission dates reported in the Forward Lookahead and that if the submissions do not arrive on that date, then the cost of that will be captured by the project.</p> <p>SBC explained that they have had a large increase in applications, as have other LAs, and recruitment is an issue even if funding is available. A second issue is the lack of</p>	

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	<p>communication from the contractor when submission dates change. HS2 said that was disappointing and would take this point back to their supply chain. HS2 suggested that LAs discuss their SLA with the relevant personnel in HS2 if it was not currently meeting funding requirements.</p> <p>SCC agreed with SBC regarding recruitment and explained that they were also experiencing issues. HS2 acknowledged this and said they wanted to work with LAs to find a solution. The Chair said that the use of consultants under the SLA was already agreed although LAs should try to obtain a HS2 funded resource.</p>	
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>Planning Forum Notes (PFNs) - update</b></p> <p>HS2 explained that they had undertaken a review of the Phase 2a PFNs to ensure they reflected the amendments that had been made to the Phase 1 PFNs because of the Court of Appeal decisions and changes to the Statutory Guidance.</p> <p>HS2 presented an example of the amendments that had been made to some PFNs and said that the documents would be shared with the LAs for their review.</p>	
<b>9.</b>	<p><b>Community Engagement</b></p> <p>HS2 gave an update on Community Engagement, the key points were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Activity – the Phase 2b Bill had now been deposited; recruitment of the Phase 2b Chair was underway and contractors were attending a monthly engagement forum</li> <li>• Wider Community – a third award for CEF/BLEF had been given to Wynbunbury Sailing Club; newsletter published; STEM workshop for students delivered as well as workshops with primary schools</li> <li>• Looking Ahead – monthly virtual appointments where the public can book in ongoing; EEW engagement as well as ECW1 engagement with residents at Newcastle Road</li> </ul>	
<b>10.</b>	<p><b>Subgroups – update</b></p> <p>HS2 presented a slide which included items that had been discussed at meetings as well as dates of previous and planned meetings for the following Subgroups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highways</li> <li>• Environmental Health</li> <li>• Flood Water &amp; Drainage</li> <li>• Heritage</li> </ul>	
<b>11.</b>	<p><b>Planning Forum Forward Plan</b></p>	

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	<p>HS2 presented a slide showing future agenda items for meetings this year. The agenda for the next meeting in May would include the usual standard items and a heritage/archaeological update, which had originally been planned for this meeting but was postponed due to staffing availability. The Chair asked LAs if there were content with the proposed items, no comments were made.</p> <p>HS2 also presented a slide which showed the status of Phase 2a PFNs that had been agreed at the Planning Forum.</p>	
<b>12.</b>	<b>AOB</b>  There being no other business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.	
<b>13.</b>	<b>END</b>	