

INDEPENDENT Phase 2a Planning FORUM FOR HS2

[illegible]

Local Authority Attendees:	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	[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 discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LDC unable to access SharePoint so HS2 to follow up with I.T. – ongoing action with Lichfield and Cheshire East. Keep open. • HS2 to organise agenda item on their Zero Carbon Strategy for May – confirmed for meeting in July. • HS2 to share the agreed version of Schedule 17 Forward Lookahead – complete (and see agenda item 4) • HS2 to clarify if the DDP were undertaking public consultation on CDEs – completed action (see item 8 below) 	

2.	<p>Construction Update</p> <p>A brief update was given in view of the presenter's non-availability.</p> <p>The Chair noted that previously updates had included a bar-chart showing progress through the different phases and where the project was. He hoped to see this again in future.</p> <p>HS2 stated that the DDP Contractor is on schedule to be appointed in September 2022. ACTION: Further details will be provided at the July meeting. Once the contactor is appointed the mobilization period will begin.</p>	
3.	<p>Heritage & Archaeology – Update</p> <p>HS2 gave an update (see the slide pack), including a short video.</p>	
4.	<p>S.17 Consents Forward Lookahead – SharePoint & Live Tracker</p> <p>HS2 presented a bar-chart that showed planned and actual Schedule 17 submissions for the last and next three months and confirmed they were accurate as of this Forum's date. HS2 confirmed that the April Forward Plan was issued to the Chair and LAs at the end of April.</p> <p>HS2 also showed a pie chart which indicated there are currently ten S.17s submitted to the LPAs.</p> <p>HS2 were pleased to confirm that since the previous meeting HS2 have launched a 'live tracker' for Schedule 17s. Notifications of any changes to the forward lookahead will be emailed to the LAs who can access it via SharePoint to obtain the most up-to-date numbers. Thus, in between every quarterly forward look, LAs now have the ability to see what changes have been made, which hopefully will clarify any queries on data in future.</p> <p>The Chair enquired regarding the peak figure for Total Planned Submissions for June 2022 being 16 and asked if this had changed since the previous Forum. It was confirmed by HS2 that it had previously been planned as 22 and the revised number was sent out on 7th April to the LAs.</p>	
5.	<p>Planning Appeals - update</p> <p>HS2 gave a brief update on the project's current planning appeals and legal challenges (on Phase 1), namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bucks County Council – the LA are seeking a Judicial Review of three Lorry Route Approval decisions, scheduled to be heard at the High Court in early June • Bromford Tunnel Eastern Portal – HS2 and the LA are debating the application of Section 2 Schedule 2 Act powers with the hearing held in April: a few more steps yet to go through with further plans to be prepared and don't expect a decision on this until late June / July at the earliest. • Solihull – Lorry Route appeal: revolves around reasonableness of an alternative route, which being outside Act powers HS2 has no 	

	ability legally to deliver it. Solihull have submitted their 'Statement of Case' and HS2 has responded so expecting a decision in approximately 3-4 weeks, as per process.	
6.	<p>Phase 1 S.17 Consents Performance</p> <p>The Chair gave a presentation on Phase 1 performance with pie charts from 2020-2021 and a 'Summary of Performance Review Findings' which included the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 20 – March 21: half of Schedule 17s determined had taken more than 16 weeks. • The Act requires an eight week determination time unless otherwise agreed, so concern that so many consents were taking over 16 weeks. This prompted the May 2021 Phase 1 Planning Forum to look for reasons behind this poor performance. A subset of LAs met twice in a break-out group: the results identified five minor factors and four major factors that were shared in the September meeting. <p>The decision was taken to work on the four major factors (slide no.2 of 3). Two further break-out meetings were held and reported to the November Forum. In January the Director General of HS2 at the DfT wrote to the Chief Executives of LAs on Phase 1 expressing concern at the length of time planning consents were taking, acknowledging work to be done on the LAs' and Project's side and referring to the Planning Forum's efforts to improve the situation. The Chair responded to the DG's letter summarizing the factors identified and explaining that the Forum continued to work on them.</p> <p>Within the findings it was identified that only one LA had put in place a process for the arrangements anticipated in the Planning Memorandum. The Chair will therefore now write to LAs on Phase 1 asking them to develop process charts that enable them to track progress towards an eight week determination time unless otherwise agreed with HS2.</p> <p>The purpose of the Chair's presentation is to alert the LAs in Phase 2a to the situation on Phase 1 in the hope of avoiding the same on Phase 2a. (Note: Staffordshire is a good performer on Phase 1 having determined their submissions within eight weeks).</p> <p>HS2 offered to assist with briefings to the LA's on the required consenting processes</p> <p>ACTION: The Chair offered to circulate the Hertfordshire County Council process flow-diagram (note that Herts process the S17s for determination by Three Rivers District Council.) to Phase 2a LAs for them to consider, adopt or modify as necessary.</p>	
7.	<p>Principles that should be applied when considering conditions</p> <p>HS2 gave a presentation on the principles contained in Planning Forum Note 5 (see the slide pack, including links to relevant documents).</p>	

8.	<p>Common Design Elements – Public Engagement</p> <p>HS2 confirmed that the Phase 2a CDE public engagement would be carried out by the DDP (Design and Delivery Partner). This is a different approach to Phase 1, where HS2 carried it out, due to the number of contractors involved.</p> <p>However, on Phase 2a the responsibility for delivery will sit with DDP. The CDE engagement will sit with them but HS2 will be integral to the design and monitor the delivery of that engagement.</p>	
9.	<p>Feedback from Local Authorities</p> <p>The Chair asked the LA members if they wished to raise any matters.</p> <p>Newcastle Under Lyme had granted a wetlands approval recently. Officers do not have delegated authority, so it went to Planning Committee. Late conditions were requested relating to tree root protection zones. These were later withdrawn in advance of the committee meeting after discussions were held.</p> <p>Head of Planning at NUL suggested ongoing discussions. HS2 offered to discuss the workings of the planning regime established under Schedule 17 further with LPAs including possible schemes of delegation, if requested.</p> <p>The Chair asked if all S17's would be going to Planning Committee in NUL, and this was confirmed.</p>	
10.	<p>Planning Forum Notes (PFNs) - update</p> <p>HS2 confirmed that six PFNs (namely 3, 5, 6, 7, 11 & 13) were signed off as no comments had been received by Forum Members. ACTION: These will be published on the website.</p>	<div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 15px;"></div>
11.	<p>Community Engagement Snapshot</p> <p>HS2 gave an update on Community Engagement, the key points were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Activity – [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Fourth bi-annual update to Parliament, HS2 remains in budget and on schedule. • Wider Community – carried out meetings with residents on their health and safety concerns, a webinar on Traffic and Transport, continuing 1:1 appointments (a monthly virtual or face-to-face opportunity supported by colleagues from Engineering as a topic that comes up often), a site visit in March from Community Area 4 to see the portal, and 13 applications for CEF/BLEF of which seven have been successful, with four now in the public domain. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] • Looking Ahead – business event upcoming, 1:1s and Community Area 5 visit to the portal, and ongoing parish council community engagements. 	

12.	<p>Subgroup Meetings – update</p> <p>HS2 presented dates of previous and planned meetings and items that had been discussed, for the following Subgroups (noting that only the Highways Subgroup had met since the March Planning Forum):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highways • Environmental Health • Flood Water & Drainage • Heritage 	
13.	<p>Planning Forum Forward Plan</p> <p>HS2 presented suggestions for agenda items for forthcoming meetings. The agenda for the next meeting in July would include the usual standard items.</p> <p>The Chair asked LAs if they were content with the proposed items or had requests for others: no comments were made.</p> <p>HS2 also presented a slide which showed the status of all the Phase 2a PFNs that had so far been agreed at the Planning Forum. HS2 suggested hyperlinks could be put into the slide. ACTION</p> <p>HS2 requested LAs to submit any items they wish to have on future agendas, to HS2 and the Chair.</p>	HS2
14	<p>AOB</p> <p>There being no other business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.</p>	