




## INDEPENDENT Phase 2a Planning FORUM FOR HS2

<b>Title:</b>	Phase 2a Planning Forum for HS2	
<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2022 10:30 – 12:15 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] [REDACTED]

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

Item		Action Owner
	<b>Introductions</b>	
<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Review of previous meeting minutes and actions</b></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting (May) 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></p> <p>HS2 reviewed the actions log and the following actions were discussed:</p>	[REDACTED]

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>LDC unable to access SharePoint so HS2 to follow up with I.T.</b> – ongoing action with Litchfield and Cheshire East.</li> <li>• <b>HS2 to organise agenda item on their Zero Carbon Strategy for May</b> – confirmed for meeting in July – action closed.</li> <li>• <b>HS2 to publish all meeting minutes on GOV.UK</b> – completed action (ongoing)</li> <li>• <b>HS2 to share the agreed version of Schedule 17 Forward Lookahead</b> – complete, shared with Planning Forum Members (action closed)</li> <li>• <b>HS2 to clarify if the DDP were undertaking public consultation for CDEs</b> – completed action – to be covered under Agenda Item 3.</li> </ul> <p><u>May Minutes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>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.</b> Complete (action closed).</li> </ul>	     
2.	<p>(The Construction update was given a brief overview by HS2 with further updates to be deferred to the next meeting to accommodate the presenter's availability.</p> <p>Schedule 17 – Forward Lookahead, a verbal presentation was delivered to the Forum by HS2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early environmental works we have had 11 Schedule 17s approved and now looking at 8 Bat houses approved through schedule 17. Scheduled to be submitted in summer / autumn this year.</li> <li>• Early civil works 1, a number of pre-app meetings with Litchfield and Stafford Boroughs and Staffordshire County Council regarding Wood End Road modifications. We are looking for the Schedule 17s to be submitted late summer early autumn this year. LAs will be kept informed on the progress of these.</li> <li>• Early civil works 2, we are starting to gear up for pre-app with the LAs and with submissions scheduled for early 2023.</li> </ul> <p>DDP will be announced in September and will then be mobilising. This will include a number of 'Hot Start' meetings with HS2 teams.</p> <p>The Chair asked if the DDP will be responsible for the design and consents, then manage the main works contractor. If it would be a single works contractor and that the tender is out. Confirmed by HS2.</p> <p>HS2 confirmed the awarding of the main works contractor will be mid 2023 with the works starting around Spring 2024, first quarter.</p>	

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3.	<p><b>Net Zero Carbon</b></p> <p>HS2 gave an overview, with a slide pack, to the Forum Members, outlining the work HS2 are doing to manage and minimize carbon emissions as they design and deliver HS2, then outlined the plan to work towards net zero carbon from 2035.</p> <p>HS2 is all about the 3Cs – Carbon reduction isn't a new requirement for HS2 it is fundamental to our purpose of a net zero transport system, it will deliver zero carbon journeys to hundreds of thousands of people daily.</p> <p>The benefits are how it is built, not just what is built to meet HS2's strategic goals and objectives and all suppliers will be signed up to help deliver on these goals and held to account.</p> <p>HS2 developed carbon literacy learning to seeks to provide colleagues with the motivation and capability to take action to reduce carbon emissions. Rolled out to Board and Executive Leadership Team we achieved Carbon Literate Organisation Bronze Accreditation and are actively rolling out across the organisation over 125 carbon literate certified staff and close to 300 staff currently engaged or completed the learning.</p> <p>The Chair thanked HS2 for a very interesting presentation and requested a follow-up in 12-18 months.</p>	
4.	<p><b>S.17 Consents Forward Lookahead – SharePoint and Live Tracker</b></p> <p>HS2 gave an update on Schedule 17 Performance from May to June 2022 with projected figures until November 2022.</p> <p>The Chair highlighted the peak figures for Total Planned Submissions for June 2022 being 16 and actual being 2 and queried if it is a result of an over optimistic design team. HS2 confirmed that ongoing discussions with contractors were taking place to ensure more accurate data.</p> <p>HS2 explained the 'live tracker' for Schedule 17's was working better because it can be altered regularly and the information (links) can be sent to the LA's.</p> <p>The Chair stated the value is for the local authorities to plan, but if they expected to receive 8 in June they would have geared up to receive and plan accordingly but only received 2. The Chair noted it needs to be more reliable 1-2 months in advance.</p>	

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	<p>HS2 confirmed that emails are sent to LAs as much in advance as possible and are striving to refine this.</p> <p>HS2 confirmed the next Forward Plan will be issued to the Chair and LA's at the end of July and will reflect the current stats and at the next Forum there will be increased numbers reflected in September and October.</p> <p><b>Schedule 17 Decision Timescales – pie chart.</b> Number of weeks the LAs taken to sign off the Schedule 17s. Only 1 went to 9 weeks and that is being addressed, therefore the situation is positive.it is</p> <p><b>Approved Schedule 17's in 2022 – bar chart.</b> 11 requests for approval have been determined, all with the exception of 1 were approved within 8 weeks and the 1 HS2 were given plenty of notice and an extension granted to the LA.</p> <p>The Chair congratulated both sides.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Planning Appeals - update</b></p> <p>HS2 gave a brief update on the project's planning appeals and legal challenges, which included 2 self-explanatory slides for Phase 1 Appeals and Judicial Reviews. There was also a link accessible to the Forum Members on slide 2.</p> <p>The Chair stated that the Government website for appeals is a very good source of information.</p>	
6.	<p><b>CEF / BLEF / BIF – update</b></p> <p>HS2 gave a presentation with slides and explained that CEF stands for Community Environment Fund, BLEF is Business and Local Economy Fund and BIF is Biodiversity and Investment Fund.</p> <p>HS2 update statistics at the end of each month, and includes Phase 1 statistics for comparison, noting the funds are now phase 1 and phase 2a recently reached 200 project milestone £12M distributed across Phase 1 and Phase 2a.</p> <p>The fund has been open since March 2017. For Phase 2a the applications opened in April 2021.</p> <p>There were several slides detailing project examples.</p> <p>BIF update – it is a £2M fund for phase 2a only, currently stage 1 applications were submitted and round 1 working on their stage 2 applications and the deadline for their</p>	

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	<p>applications is 19 September. BIF is about creating and restoring habitats in order to generate biodiversity gains. More environmentally focused projects in comparison to CEF and BLEF, but the link is Groundwork UK are managing the biodiversity investment fund alongside CEF and BLEF so there are lots of similarities between the funds but the biodiversity fund is about how many biodiversity gains can be produced from those projects. Cannot share projects as they have not been through the assessment process but in the first quarter of next year we hope to share projects that have been through BIF.</p> <p>A question was raised regarding applications for ‘not a run of a mill organization’. HS2 advised the last slide has contact details where a dedicated team can assist with form filling, advising what information is required for the charity etc. to complete and to guide them through the process. HS2 encouraged Members to share the information.</p> <p>The Chair thanked HS2 for the presentation and suggested the Members click on the link to <a href="http://groundwork.org.uk">groundwork.org.uk</a>.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Feedback from Local Authorities</b></p> <p>The Chair asked the Forum if they wished to raise any matters and noted there are currently no regular pre-meeting of LAs as yet.</p> <p>██████████ – Cheshire East Council – All going fairly smoothly. It is important to understand what is coming forward. What is expected and what is actually submitted. It makes it very difficult to plan long term and to understand what resources are required. We’re unsure if we require another officer to deal with a whole range of items with HS2 including schedule 17 applications. Need clarity for the long term regarding the volume of applications that will need to be determined by us, making planning difficult and to appoint staff. Any certainty that HS2 can provide would be appreciated.</p> <p>HS2 appreciate the difficulty and are working with the early works and civil works contractors to ensure the information received is as accurate as can be.</p> <p>██████████ Lichfield Dacorum Council – received an out of the blue request from a nominated undertaker for a schedule 15, but experiencing difficulty looking for guidance as it is a different planning approval. Is there information anywhere, how to manage those and what’s expected?</p> <p>The Chair asked for someone to outline what a Schedule 15 is for the Forum.</p> <p>HS2 stated Schedule 15 is a ‘Site Restoration Approval’ looked after by HS2’s Utilities Team and gave a brief outline to the Forum:</p>	

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	<p><i>There are site restorations under Schedule 17, but if the land is acquired under Schedule 15 or 16 there is still an Agreement required with the LA for site restoration but it is under one of those schedules and not Schedule 17. It falls out of the remit of the Town Planning Team but it is exactly the same for HS2's LA colleagues because they're being asked for a view on it.</i></p> <p>HS2 agreed to take away an action to clarify how LAs should manage requests under Schedule 15 and which team in HS2 is assuring/monitoring those matters. HS2 would correspond directly with [REDACTED] on the specific case mentioned. HS2 will share the outcome at the Forum Meeting in September. ACTION</p> <p>The Chair thanked HS2 for the explanation and noted an update would be provided to the next Forum.</p> <p><i>NB: HS2 have followed up on this (27.07.2022) and emailed information to the Forum Members. ACTION to be closed on Action List.</i></p>	HS2 Ltd
8.	<p><b>Planning Forum Notes (PFNs) - update</b></p> <p>HS2 confirmed the six listed in the slide pack were signed off. These will be published on the website. ACTION</p> <p>HS2 confirmed that following sign off at the last Forum all form notes have now been amended and signed off and will all be going on GOV.UK website. HS2 do not have Forum Note 14 which is noise barriers. Depending on what happens on Phase 1 with the noise barriers will determine when that forum note is brought forward.</p> <p>The Chair gave an update on this subject from a meeting attended prior to this Forum of today's date.</p> <p>The design group is still discussing noise barriers (sub group on Phase 1, chaired by the Chief Architect, a couple of meetings ago it looked like we were moving towards a common design element that would be encapsulated in a Planning Forum Note which would have had as a default the 'as the norm'.</p> <p>The Chair suggested slide 39 of the presentation should be relocated to the PFN update section before slides are circulated after the meeting. ACTION</p>	[REDACTED]
9.	<p><b>Community Engagement Snapshot</b></p> <p>HS2 presented an update on Community Engagement over the last couple of months, the key points were:</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Strategic Activity</b> - New HS2 Transport Minister (looking after rail) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Protestor enforcement activity over last 3 months in Staffordshire has concluded, there are no protestors remaining in created tunnels and pits. Both sites handed over to Balfour Beatty as the contractor in the area; Phase 2b 2<sup>nd</sup> hybrid Bill reading on 20 June, vote went 205 for and 6 against, overwhelming support; Phase 2b Additional Provision deposited 6<sup>th</sup> July to Parliament, removal of the Goldbourne Link from the phase 2b Bill. The media have been reporting it has been scrapped which is not the case it is simply removed because further work needs to be done. Extension to the Crewe tunnel; HS2 Corporate Plan is available on the HS2 website.</li> <li>• <b>Wider Community</b> - Held event co-hosted by [REDACTED] MP for Crewe and Nantwich – very good feedback; Published Quarterly newsletter along the route of business and residential over 17,000 and also available online; Virtual 1:1's are still popular and fully booked, impacts in the area; Local Area Engagement Plan – how we will be delivering over next 12 months; Attended community events, stone festival, village day etc. we have a pop-up tent;</li> <li>• <b>Look Ahead</b> - Going to be delivering webinars on archaeology and land and property; in early September Woodend Lane engagement event.</li> </ul>	
10.	<p><b>Subgroup Meetings – 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> <p>It was stated that a number of meetings had been held since the last Forum, albeit not Flood Water and Drainage but this should be scheduled for the end of this month / the start of next month. As is normal practice, information on these meetings will be sent out.</p> <p>The Chair asked if the Planners have meetings with Highways, Heritage and Environment colleagues so the teams are all joined up, and suggested meetings with other disciplines to enable LAs to behave like a team on HS2 matters, e.g., the Highways Teams update Planners on details and content in the sub group keeping them well informed of technical overviews.</p>	
11.	<b>Planning Forum Forward Plan</b>	

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	<p>HS2 presented a slide showing future agenda items for meetings this year. The agenda for the next meeting in September would include the usual standard items and a presentation / update.</p> <p>The Chair asked LAs if there were content with the proposed items, no comments were made.</p> <p>HS2 stated the September meeting 'Urban Integration Update' was scheduled for this meeting but has been re-scheduled for next meeting with a new Head of Urban Integration who wants to attend which is a good opportunity for members to meet him.</p> <p>HS2 suggested setting dates for the 2023 Forum Meeting in November's Forum.</p> <p>HS2 suggested the Forum start doing meetings in person / hybrid again to discuss in September's Forum on Wednesday 21st, highlighting recently LA's and HS2 met in Manchester and others tuned in.</p> <p>The Chair agreed at least once per year as a hybrid meeting.</p> <p>Discussion was held and it was agreed to ensure the correct I.T. systems were accessible, e.g. a smart screen in the room and a dial-in facility. Forum Members were keen for a physical meeting in Birmingham (HS2) or Stafford.</p> <p>HS2 to investigate logistics and liaise with Staffordshire in the next couple of weeks and report back. ACTION</p>	
12.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>██████████ stated this would be █████ last 2a Forum as █████ will be leaving HS2 on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022 after 6 ½ years on Phase 1 and Phase 2. █████ further stated that █████ will be leading on Planning Forum going forward.</p> <p>The Chair shared his appreciation for █████ extensive contribution and wished █████ well in █████ future endeavors. This was echoed by Members of the Forum.</p> <p>There being no other business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.</p>	
13.	<b>END</b>	