

INDEPENDENT Phase 2a Planning FORUM FOR HS2

Title:	Planning Forum for Phase 2a of HS2	
Date & Time:	Wednesday 21 September 2022 10:30 – 12:30 Microsoft Teams (Virtual meeting)	
Chair:	[REDACTED]	Independent Chair
HS2 Ltd Attendees:	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	HS2 Ltd - Head of Town Planning HS2 Ltd - Town Planning Lead, Phase 2a HS2 Ltd - Senior Community Engagement Manager, Phase 2a HS2 Ltd - Town Planning Manager HS2 Ltd - Town Planning Assistant HS2 Ltd - Head of Urban Design and Integration HS2 Ltd - Lead Urban Designer HS2 Ltd - Senior Commercial Manager HS2 Ltd - Town Planning Administrator

Local Authority Attendees:	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	Stafford Borough Council (SBC) Cheshire East Council (CEC) East Staffordshire Borough Council (ESBC) Staffordshire County Council (SCC) Staffordshire County Council (SCC) Lichfield District Council (LDC) Shropshire Council (SC) Lichfield District Council (LDC)
Promoter Attendees:	[REDACTED]	Department for Transport (DfT)
Apologies:	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	HS2 Ltd – Head of Early Works (Phase 2a) HS2 Ltd - Head of Phase 2a – Community and Stakeholder Engagement Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council (NULBC) Stafford Borough Council (SBC) Shropshire County Council (SC) East Staffs Borough Council (ESBC) Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council (NULBC) Staffordshire County Council (SCC)

Item		Action Owner
	Introductions	
1.	Review of previous meeting minutes and actions	

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	<p>The minutes of the previous meeting (July) 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. – - An action item since January. Remove January action. ACTION LDC to contact HS2 with any remaining issues. • HS2 to publish all meeting minutes on GOV.UK – (ongoing) • HS2 confirmed the next Forward Plan will be issued to the Chair and LAs at the end of July and will reflect the current stats. At the next Forum there will be increased numbers reflected in September and October. Completed – Forward Plan circulated 25/08/22 • 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 LDC on the specific case mentioned. HS2 will share the outcome at the Forum Meeting in September. Completed - Covered under agenda item 6 • HS2 confirmed the six PFNs listed in the slide pack were signed off. These will be published on the gov.uk website. ACTION - All PFNs to be uploaded to gov.uk post confirmation of PFNs 12 and 13 (agenda item 9) • The Chair suggested slide 39 of the presentation should be relocated to the PFN update section before slides are circulated after the meeting. - Complete circulated 15/08/2022 • HS2 to investigate logistics and liaise with Staffordshire in the next couple of weeks and report back. Completed - Covered under agenda item 12 	<p>HS2 Ltd</p> <p>LDC</p> <p>HS2 Ltd</p> <p>HS2 Ltd</p>
2.	<p>(The Construction update was given by a verbal overview by HS2 with further updates to be deferred to the next meeting to accommodate the presenter's availability.)</p> <p>The update included a summary of works for the EEW and ECW1 contracts and associated works. Forum was advised that the October snapshot Forward Plan would cover all S17/TCPA activity across all live contracts over the coming 6 months. An update on DDP and ACW procurement was provided.</p>	
3.	Schedule 17 Consents - Forward Lookahead – SharePoint and Live Tracker	

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	<p><u>Approved S.17s in 2022 – bar chart</u></p> <p>Slide presented showing total number of approved S17s by LPAs so far in 2022.</p> <p>HS2 asked if the Forum would want to see the ‘S17 Decision Timescales’ chart showing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Would it be useful to include a second chart on the ‘Schedule 17 Decision Timescales’ slide to show the overall picture for determination periods as well as the current ‘live’ applications chart? b. Would the Forum wish to see the determination periods for all determined S17s with a breakdown by Local Authority? <p>ACTION The Chair agreed to think and get back to HS2 outside of the meeting of how to present the data.</p>	Chair
4.	<p>Planning Appeals – update</p> <p>HS2 gave a verbal update on the project’s planning appeals and legal challenges, outlining the five live appeals:</p> <p>Waste Lane lorry route appeal (Solihull) is a resubmission of a previous application refused on appeal a few months ago because of a potential alternative route. This was addressed by the resubmission. It has been recovered by Ministers at DfT and DHLUC and the next step is for the Inspector’s report to be submitted to Ministers. A decision is expected in the next month or two.</p> <p>Bromford tunnel eastern portal – an appeal of the plans and specifications for the tunnel portal and associated works (North Warwick District Council area). This decision has also been recovered by Ministers but is not expected for several months.</p> <p>Two appeals: - borrow pits in Warwickshire County Council area. These were applications made to the County for the winning of material to be used on construction. Both appeals are underway: all the documents have been exchanged and the Inspector has made a site visit. A decision is awaited.</p> <p>Bowood Lane Road Bridge in Buckinghamshire is a plans and specifications appeal relating to a bridge design over the railway, specifically the width of the carriageway / bridge, and how that relates to its landscape setting.</p>	

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	<p>ACTION Once HS2 receives decisions on the above and when the Appeals Digest is updated HS2 will circulate the same to Forum Members and will add an item to a future agenda to discuss outcomes.</p> <p>The Chair advised that the Gov.uk website is a good information source for appeal decisions, summaries, inspector reports etc. and suggested Authorities read them if they have issues with similar applications that have previously gone to appeal.</p>	HS2 Ltd
5.	<p>Site Restoration: Schedules 15(5) and 17(12)</p> <p>HS2 gave a verbal overview to the Forum, noting it was an action from July.</p> <p>The specific request from LDC was how to deal with a site restoration request received under S.15(5) not S.17. HS2 responded individually to LDC on that request but advised the Forum to deal with them as set out in Planning Forum Note 11, specifically paragraphs 11, 12 and 13 except that the Agreement Letter should reference Schedule 15 and not Schedule 17.</p> <p>The decision should be sent to the contractor and HS2 Town Planning team and HS2 will hold a copy of that Agreement to inform the final bringing into use (BIU) submission for the relevant scheduled work.</p> <p>Stafford Borough Council (SBC) asked how many, and when, they are likely to receive these? They stated some Authorities will have delegated powers specific to S17 but not S15 so it might be something (<i>in SBC's case</i>) for which they would need to get the Council Constitution changed.</p> <p>HS2 stated that it's difficult to estimate numbers at this stage, it depends how the land acquisition process goes; with the S.15 process land is temporarily occupied by HS2 then it's returned to the landowner. The scheme must be agreed by the landowner and the council. The S.17 process applies where HS2 has acquired the land, what commitment may have been given to landowners via the Bill process and how contractors will organise the packaging of site restoration works. It is envisaged the majority will not occur until the back end of the consenting process. There might be some in the meantime, e.g., utilities work on temporarily occupied land. HS2 advised that the live Forward Plan will show any site restoration requests under S17 as well as any under S15 (associated with utilities works for example).</p> <p>HS2 reminded members that S15s are not planning approvals under the planning schedule, nor conditions under the Act. Therefore, they may need to be factored into each LA's thinking regarding their determination process / scheme of delegation.</p>	

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	<p>SBC advised they have one opportunity annually to change the Constitution and whilst not difficult to change, there is a significant lead time to do so. Cheshire East noted that their scheme of delegation is specific to S17.</p> <p>The Chair suggested the LAs exchange what each other are doing to potentially learn from one another, exchange ideas, what the wording and the exceptions might be and suggested it might be worth comparing notes with Phase 1 LAs.</p> <p>HS2 said that while it is for LAs to decide their governance arrangements it would be useful to discuss them in the Forum.</p> <p>ACTION The Chair suggested that LAs share their schemes of delegation ahead of the next Forum meeting and that this topic should be on the November Forum Agenda. ACTION</p>	<p>All LAs HS2 Ltd</p>
6.	<p>Urban Integration</p> <p>HS2 gave a detailed presentation, with a slide pack, to the Forum, outlining the work that the HS2 Urban Design and Integration Team are planning to undertake, which included suggestions for future involvement of LAs in workshop events to inform the Context Integration Studies.</p> <p>ACTION The Chair thanked HS2 for an interesting presentation and requested a follow-up in March 2023.</p>	<p>HS2 Ltd</p>
7.	<p>Feedback from Local Authorities</p> <p>The Chair asked the LA members of the Forum if they wanted to raise any matters and whilst noting that there are still no pre-meetings of LAs so he has no 'heads up' of LAs' points of concern. He reminded LA members that the meeting is their opportunity to raise any queries or problems.</p> <p>SLAs - SBC raised they have been chasing payments through HS2's Commercial Team since October 2021 and hadn't submitted anymore because of this. Staffordshire County Council (SCC) have received no payments for the previous tax year.</p> <p>HS2 stated the Town Planning team across all three phases do not administer SLA payments and ACTION agreed to invite the right person, the Senior Commercial Manager, Phase 2, to the November Forum for a Q&A and to explain the process.</p> <p>ACTION All LAs with SLAs to advise HS2 what is and is not working for the Agenda item.</p>	<p>HS2 Ltd</p> <p>LAs</p>

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	<p>SBC stated they should have quarterly meetings with the HS2 Commercial Team and only nearly arranged one even though the SLA was signed some time ago: other LAs are in the same situation. The Chair stated the quarterly meetings could have been helpful in preventing non-payment for a year. ACTION He suggested the meetings are reinstated to provide help.</p>	HS2 Ltd
8.	<p>Planning Forum Notes (PFNs) - update</p> <p>Planning Forum Note status</p> <p>HS2 carried out an audit of all PFNs and their status and identified that agreement of the Planning Forum Notes 12 and 13, in their amended form, had not been recorded in the relevant meeting minutes.</p> <p>HS2 reminded the Forum of the previously circulated amends to: <u>Planning Forum Note 13</u> – pre-app engagement – if members recall text was added on guidance for LAs as part of the pre-app process. <u>Planning Forum Note 12</u> - was engagement/consultation of statutory consultees.</p> <p>HS2 asked if the Forum would agree that HS2 record in this meeting's minutes that those PFNs were agreed, given there were no comments when circulated.</p> <p>The Chair, with the LAs' consent, agreed to record in these minutes that PFNs 12 and 13 are agreed. There was no challenge or query. ACTION HS2 to record. <u>Planning Forum Note 14</u> - Operational Noise / Noise Barriers is 'In Abeyance' whilst HS2 await what DPP do when they arrive and pick up the design.</p>	HS2 Ltd
9.	<p>Community Engagement Snapshot</p> <p>HS2 presented an update on Community Engagement over the last few months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Activity – On Tuesday 20th September 2022, the High Court granted HS2 an interim injunction against the four categories set out in that injunction including a number of named defendants. That covers the whole of HS2 railway, helping HS2 to deter activists and reduce trespass and obstruction on the worksites that has been endangering the health and safety of both HS2 staff and the protestors. HS2 will provide more information in the coming days. If Members have any specific questions, HS2 will take away and follow up. • At the end of the Phase 2b Hybrid Bill petitioning there were approximately 131 petitions against the Hybrid Bill and 20 against. Additional Provision 1. That leaves 137 individual petitioners to be heard 	

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	<p>as it moves through the parliamentary process for the Phase 2b Western Leg.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HS2 met with the new Secretary of State for Transport, [REDACTED] (MP for Berwick-upon-Tweed). She was Secretary of State for International Trade and the President of the Board of Trade from September 2021–2022. A new HS2 Minister announcement is now awaited.• Wider Community – In the last few months delivered numerous community and stakeholder events, village fairs, shows, country shows, to discuss HS2 Phase 2a specifically in those areas. They were very successful, providing answers to what is going on and receiving positive feedback. Over 500 people attended the stands at five events with more due in Spring 2023.• Held the quarterly Members Briefing for Lichfield, Stafford and Newcastle Councillors, covering work completed in the last few months and upcoming work in the next few months. The activities had focussed on environmental sites and surveys to inform road and junction modification designs. The Contractors have delivered numerous community drop-in events, including road modifications. HS2 held one for residents in Newcastle Road for works at Hampton Church interchange junction and another related to Wood End Lane modifications and widening work in the Lichfield area. This was open to local residents to visit and find out more, talk through proposals and where design stages were at as well as discussing rough 6-month programme timeframes.• [REDACTED] (MP for Crewe and Nantwich), was invited on a tour of HS2 in his constituency to the area south of Crewe. The route was discussed, the work taking place currently and upcoming. The visit included progress on an early environmental work site: local business leaders from the Enterprise Partnership and Chamber of Commerce also attended.• Look Ahead – Two public webinars, one in October focussing on land and property explaining HS2's process for access and acquisitions of land and engagement with landowners and communities as there are lots of questions and concerns. The second in November has a joint webinar with the early works contractors to talk about 2022 progress on Phase 2a, and a look-ahead into 2023 giving communities a feel for where the journey of designing and building the railway is and what's expected in the next 12 months. The quarterly community newsletter is due in October providing works and activity updates across the route, sharing	
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	<p>key information of upcoming engagement events, and some funding community activity they can get involved in.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The next series of 1.1 in-person meetings for local residents to book across 10 venues in Phase 2a in November to ask question about community funding and HS2's works in the area with the Engagement Team and HS2 Engineers. <p>LDC asked about attendance levels. HS2 responded: Wood End Lane, 50+ people, Newcastle Road lower than normally expected. 1.1's fully booked, previously 10 at each event over 15 venues and expecting them fully booked again. An hour has been added at the end of each open session for those who cannot get a 1.1. Webinars have a 40-80 attendance depending on the topic and expecting similar.</p> <p>The Chair asked, in terms of reporting construction complaints, how many are received, how quickly they are dealt with and how many are escalated? He suggested HS2 start to track and share basic statistics.</p> <p>HS2 stated they have the data: over the past few months possibly two complaints we received. ACTION going forward HS2 will report these to the Forum.</p>	HS2 Ltd
10.	<p>Subgroup Meetings – update</p> <p>HS2 presented a slide which included items previously discussed at meetings, also dates of previous and planned meetings for the following Subgroups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highways Environmental Health Flood Water & Drainage Heritage <p>At a future Forum meeting there will be an agenda item to include how DDP will handle flood water and drainage consents. It will do that in consultation with Cheshire East Council and Staffordshire County Council.</p> <p>ACTION HS2 confirmed it would add to this slide the date when the minutes were circulated, as well as including previous meetings.</p>	HS2 Ltd
11.	<p>Planning Forum: 2023 dates and hybrid meetings and Planning Forum Forward Plan</p> <p>HS2 presented a slide with 2023 proposed Planning Forum dates. These were agreed by the Members, noting that none fall in school holidays. ACTION HS2 to diarise and send invites to Forum Members.</p>	HS2 Ltd

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	<p>Discussion was held on future face-to-face meetings. Members agreed 17th May 2023 to be held at Staffordshire County Council offices, noting the I.T. systems are accessible, including a dial-in facility.</p> <p>HS2 presented a slide showing future agenda items for meetings in November 2022, January and February 2023. The agenda for the next meeting in November to include the usual standard items and a presentation / update.</p> <p>ACTION It was agreed that November would include SLA's, January to include Highways, and March to include an Urban Integration update.</p> <p>The Chair asked LAs if they were content with the proposed items, no comments were made.</p>	HS2 Ltd
12.	<p>AOB</p> <p>There being no other business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.</p>	
13.	<p>END</p>	