

# EH Subgroup Minutes

<b>Meeting date</b>	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> August 2022, 12:30 to 14:30
<b>Meeting location</b>	Microsoft Teams
<b>Meeting title</b>	Environmental Health (EH) Subgroup Meeting #41
<b>HS2 contact or group</b>	<a href="mailto:planning.forum@hs2.org.uk">planning.forum@hs2.org.uk</a>
<b>Stakeholder</b>	Environmental Health Subgroup to Planning Forum

## External Attendees

Independent Chair

Planning Forum Chair

## Nominated Undertaker Attendees

Air Quality Manager– HS2 Ltd

Air Quality Manager (Construction) – HS2 Ltd

Environment Graduate – HS2 Ltd

Head of Environmental Sciences – HS2 Ltd

Head of Noise Assessment – HS2 Ltd

Noise Assessment Manager – HS2 Ltd

Phase One Town Planning Lead – HS2 Ltd

## EH Attendees

Buckinghamshire Council (BC1)

Buckinghamshire Council (BC2)

Hertfordshire County Council (HCC)

London Borough of Brent (LBB)

London Borough of Camden (LBC)

London Borough of Ealing (LBE)

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham (LHF)

North Warwickshire Borough Council (NWBC)

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC<sub>1</sub>)

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC<sub>2</sub>)

Staffordshire County Council (SCC)

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC)

### **Apologies**

Warwickshire County Council

Oxfordshire County Council

### **Item 1 – Chairman’s Introduction and Apologies**

The Chair called the meeting to order and provided an overview of the meeting etiquette. The Chair welcomed attendees and asked for introductions for those attending in person. It was noted that this was a hybrid meeting so the meeting will be run taking this into account. The meeting was recorded to aid with minute taking, attendees were notified.

### **Item 2 - Review of Minutes from Previous Meeting**

A review of the previous meeting minutes was undertaken. The meeting minutes were agreed by attendees and there were no further items for discussion

### **Item 3 – Site Visit Summary**

The Chair ran through what was viewed as part of the site visit which took place prior to the meeting. This included the exhibition visitors centre, the tunnel boring machine (TBM) viewing platform and the Colne Valley Viaduct. It was noted that the scale of the site and the works carried out was impressive. The Chair thanked the tour guide and HS2’s Air Quality Manager for setting this up and suggested the possibility of future site visits to other areas of the route.

### **Item 4 – Phase One Update**

An update on Phase One was provided by HS2’s Head of Environmental Sciences. Highlights were given of the latest press releases across the HS2 programme, including:

- New plans for wetland habitats around HS2’s Birmingham and Fazely Canal viaduct;
- HS2 welcomes planning approval for major Birmingham Viaducts;
- Laing O’Rourke wins HS2 Interchange Station contract;
- HS2 trials ‘first of a kind’ electric drilling rig in bid to cut carbon in construction; and
- HS2 starts work on first pioneering ‘Green Tunnel’.

An update was provided of key works for all HS2 Stations and contracts, including what progress has been made and a lookahead of works.

### **Item 5 – Monthly Monitoring Report**

HS2’s Head of Environmental Sciences talked through the new monthly monitoring reports which are being considered. It was explained that the current reports may not be as user friendly as they could be and with HS2 progressing, the process could be streamlined into a web-based mapping format. It was suggested that a working group of the sub-group could review the new proposal and share thoughts to support its development. A mock-up was shared of what the new reports could look like for air quality and noise and vibration. It was mentioned that this is in very early stages of development.

### **Questions/Comments:**

C Chair: This was discussed at pre-meet and attendees seemed happy to be involved in a working group to trial the mock up.

Q LBE: Will this process allow for quicker turnaround of reports closer to real time?

A HS2 Head of Environmental Sciences: All the data will be quality assured as is completed now; the data will just be presented different. This is a quicker process as it is loaded onto a website and is more user-friendly for residents.

A Noise Assessment Manager: Challenge was getting the information out quickly, but this will allow faster turn around and will be more interactive.

C SMBC1: I have a log in to noise platform for my local authority and seeing exact location data is helpful. Residents are concerned about their specific sites and do not want reports. This sounds like it will work well.

A HS2 Head of Environmental Sciences: Commitment that you as EH attendees can get access to live contractor data, by requesting log in information.

C BC1: Noise reports can be difficult to read. Positive but residents will be interested around their home not where monitor is. I am happy to volunteer in this.

SMBC2 and LBB are also happy to volunteer in this. HS2 Head of Environmental Sciences asked any further volunteers to get in touch so a meeting can be set up.

**Confirmed volunteers for the working group are: BC1, SMBC2, LBB & LBC.**

## **Item 6 – Air Quality Update**

The chair welcomed HS2 Air Quality Manager (Construction) to provide an AQ update across the route. HS2's approach to AQ was discussed including dust risk assessments and the monthly monitoring reports. The Annual Air Quality Monitoring Report 2021 is currently under review and due to be published soon. This will contain all the diffusion tube results. Vehicle compliance figures were presented from January 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> 2022. As 100% was not achieved, compliance action plans have been set up to address this. NRMM compliance figures were shown for all route areas. It was noted that re-training is taking place with the contracts to reduce non-compliance.

Photos of dust management techniques were shown in the presentation. This includes mist cannons, wheel wash, bowser with spray bar and moto fogs for inaccessible stockpiles. HS2's Air Quality Manager (Construction) added that they will be on site to ensure these methods are continuing to be effective.

Questions/Comments:

Q Chair: First time I have seen a drop in LDV compliance figures in area north. Is this a concern?

A HS2's Air Quality Manager (Construction): Area north have had difficulties in uploading data which is being addressed, and risk reduction meetings are taking place. Going forward we anticipate better compliance.

Q LBE: We continue to have AQ alerts in the Old Oak Common area. Mitigation needs to reflect the construction activities taking place. Has any further thought been given on this?

A HS2's Air Quality Manager (Construction): During a recent visit to the OOC station site to see the mitigation in place and there was effective dust management. This will continue to be monitored closely and working closely with the site teams to ensure sufficient information.

### **Item 7 – Noise Update**

An update was provided on noise and vibration by HS2 Noise Assessment Manager. The S61 working group has reviewed the existing S61 procedure. Feedback was taken from attendees and several areas of potential change were presented at the July S61 working group meeting. The main changes of the documents were talked through and included enhanced engagement with LA's, a new section on Sol preparation and enhanced S61 application preparation and appeals. The document will be shared with attendees for review. Following this, it needs to pass through HS2 governance and then can be issued formally.

An update was also provided on the Prolonged Disruption Compensation Scheme. Review is ongoing and engagement will take place with review panel for August/September. Plan to conclude in early Autumn. Update was given on health impact study being carried out by Imperial College London (ICL). Collation of survey responses with a conclusion in late Autumn. HS2 Noise Assessment Manager noted that they would like to bring ICL to present at a future meeting. Data was presented of S61 and Sol applications for April, May and June 2022. There has been a slight increase in applications over what was previously detailed. A forward look for the next two months was also presented on S61 applications for each contractor; the most significant being for EKFB.

\*Post meeting note\*

HS2's Noise Assessment Manager shared the revised draft S61 procedure document and comment sheet in an email to attendees with a deadline of the 19<sup>th</sup> August for any further comments.

### **Questions/comments:**

Q Chair: Raised at pre-meet, there are still issues with S61 process, so these changes are urgently needed. How quick can this be issued formally?

A HS2 Noise Assessment Manager: Could be a month or two but if there are issues then these should be raised directly in order to resolve in a timely manner.

C BC2: When you share the draft of the document, please give a timescale so we can support.

Q BC1: Are PCSD review case studies going to be shared with LA's of the area?

A HS2 Noise Assessment Manager: I believe so. No reason why this can't be shared.

### **Item 8 – Working Group and Joint Regulators Feedback**

Representative from Buckinghamshire Council (BC2) will present a detailed update at the next meeting.

### **Item 9 – Planning Forum Feedback**

Hs2 Phase One Town Planning Lead was introduced to provide Phase 1 Planning Forum update. Review was undertaken of planning performance consents. The Phase 1 Planning Forum Chair has asked authorities to consider internal process for determining Sch17 requests, noting a letter regarding this from Department of Transport. Local authority feedback included improving information in Sch17 written statements. There was concern over contractor resource pressure and a discussion on how this can be supported. Update was provided on line-side noise barriers and proposed planning forum notes. Current appeal and judicial reviews were also discussed.

### **Questions/Comments:**

Q Chair: Will the noise barrier planning note contain acoustic information?

A Phase One Town Planning Lead: No. The planning forum note covers appearance. Acoustic information will be in individual Sch17 applications.

### **Item 10 – Ongoing Construction and Section 61 Experience**

Chair notes key issue at pre-meet were S61 and dust management and invited attendees to contribute. BC2 provided an update on a S61 investigation. It was also noted that issues are being raised by residents on working hours and this needs to be looked into when considering S61 applications. The Chair asked HS2's Noise Assessment Manager to look into this at S61 working group

BC1 raised the issue of a complaint from a resident around lorry movement and the dust and noise this generated. BC1 asked if others have had similar issues and asked HS2 for comment. HS2's Air Quality Manager responded that HS2 will look into this in greater detail with EKFB. Issue of dust and vibration was echoed by NWBC.

### **Item 11 – Action Log / Forward Plan / AOB**

The Chair reviewed the action log, which has been updated to reflect items that remain open. HS2 Head of Environmental Sciences noted that LEMPS under final review. The S61 condition appeal being over seen by the acoustic expert appointed by the Secretary of State (SoS) is still taking place. The action on Common Design Elements was mentioned as now closed.

LBE raised an issue regarding noise insulation and view on installing ventilation. HS2's Noise Assessment Manager responded that it is offered as part of noise insulation package where required.

The Chair thanks all the presenters and HS2 for organising the site visit and closes the meeting.