

# EH Subgroup Minutes

<b>Meeting date</b>	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> October 2022, 12:30 to 17:00
<b>Meeting location</b>	Microsoft Teams
<b>Meeting title</b>	Environmental Health (EH) Subgroup Meeting #42
<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)

London Borough of Brent (LBB)

London Borough of Camden (LBC1)

London Borough of Camden (LBC2)

London Borough of Camden (LBC3)

London Borough of Ealing (LBE)

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham (LHF1)

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham (LHF2)

Lichfield District Council (LDC)

North Warwickshire Borough Council (NWBC1)

North Warwickshire Borough Council (NWBC2)

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC1)

Staffordshire County Council (SCC)

Warwick District Council (WDC)

Westminster City Council (WCC)

### **Apologies**

Oxfordshire County Council

Head of Environment (Routewide) – HS2 Ltd

### **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 to be made in the chat function. Apologies were shared by the secretariate. 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. HS2’s Head of Environmental Sciences provided an update on the status of the monthly monitoring reports. A meeting is to be organised in the following weeks with those who volunteered at the previous Subgroup meeting. The meeting minutes were agreed by attendees and there were no further items for discussion

### **Item 3 – Diesel Elimination Approach**

HS2’s Air Quality Manager was introduced to share a presentation on HS2’s diesel elimination approach on meeting the HS2 Net Zero Carbon Plan ambition of diesel free construction sites by 2029. It was noted that this approach has been endorsed by senior leadership, as well as executive board at HS2 and DfT. National context was provided around escalating diesel prices as well as the opportunity to act now. A reminder was given of HS2’s free construction site delivered by SCS at Canterbury Road Vent Shaft. HS2’s Air Quality Manager ran through the workstreams underway such as the Diesel-status matrix and the Diesel Sprint Challenge, which includes a HS2 video was shown on anti-idling as a collaboration between HS2, subcontractors, academia and the Supply Chain Sustainability School: [https://youtu.be/\\_addTi8bOgs](https://youtu.be/_addTi8bOgs)

### **Questions/Comments:**

Q (LBHF1): In the cost-analysis tool demonstrated, it might be useful to include reduction in NOx and particulate matter? For auto-stop and start technology has that been investigated for HS2?

A (HS2’s Air Quality Manager): For some this would be beneficial to include this information; and will be considered. For auto-stop and start technology, the technology does exist (especially in newer machines); but is easily overridden by operators. Further possibilities and solutions are being investigated to cut down on unnecessary idling time.

Q (LBE): There is an issue around budgeting and supply of mains power for many local authorities. Are HS2 experiencing something similar?

A (HS2’s Air Quality Manager): HS2 have the same issues around mains connections. We have many remote sites, so we need to ask what the next best solution is to access power sources. The efficiencies themselves will contribute towards reducing the amount of energy required.

Q (LBC): What learning have you taken from Canterbury Road Vent Shaft and how will this be shared? Is the diesel free matrix publicly available or available to be replicated elsewhere?

A (HS2's Air Quality Manager): Lessons learnt are being captured and shared across JVs. Success was possible due to the site team who were fully supportive of ambitions. The Construction Leadership Council industry-wide route map includes this matrix as a resource to be attached. The NRMM management plan with Imperial College is also included for industry wide use.

C (Chair): I would like to see more focus on health benefits. Particulate air issue and air quality is an important topic as part of this.

A (HS2's Air Quality Manager): Carbon reduction is a largely topical issue and drives change right now. The anti-idling campaign relates to occupational wellbeing and air quality on site.

#### **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:

- HS2 reveals huge new tunnel at Euston Station
- HS2 completes first tunnel cross passages
- HS2 helps build brand-new play park in Lichfield
- HS2 celebrates big emissions cut through trial of LPG generator

An update was provided of key works for all HS2 Stations and contracts, including what progress has been made and a lookahead of works. An update was provided on management of site lighting for each contractor, setting out site-specific measures. HS2's Head of Environmental Sciences also updated attendees on the status of LEMPs updates, noting that Area Central will be published shortly.

#### **Questions/Comments:**

Q (LBHF): For EKFB, the lighting guidance mentioned is now out of date. Could this be forwarded to the contractor for notice?

A (HS2's Head of Environmental Sciences): Yes, we will follow up on this.

C (BC1): Concern that local environmental plans are covering a large amount of area so may not be specific enough.

A Neil: LEMPs are being dealt with by individual IPTs so this will become more evident once they are published.

#### **Item 5 – Air Quality Update**

The Chair welcomed HS2's Air Quality Manager (Construction) to provide an air quality update across the route. A reminder was given of HS2's approach to air quality such as emission standards for NRMM and dust risk assessments on sites. Vehicle compliance figures were shown from January 1 to September 30 2022. It

was noted that engagement is being carried out with contractors to address compliance for LDV's. NRMM compliance figures were also presented for this time. Again, engagement and training with the contractor is being carried out to address compliance. HS2's Air Quality Manager (Construction) also provided a summary of the Air Quality Annual Report 2021

**Questions/Comments:**

C (Chair): Compliance for LDV seems to be lower than the previous meeting.

A (HS2's Air Quality – Construction): I am undertaking risk reduction meetings with the contractor for LDVs, and this is being addressed.

Q (LBE): Do the diffusion tubes mentioned belong to HS2? Residents are raising issues around exposure to dust and particulate matter and are requesting assurance on this. I would like to follow up personally on particular sites on this.

A (HS2's Air Quality Manager – Construction): Yes, they are HS2's and I can follow this up separately offline.

A (Chair): HS2's air quality monitoring strategy was agreed upon at the start of the project. There will be reports on this available.

**Item 6 – Noise Update**

HS2's Head of Noise Assessment was introduced to provide a recap on policy and consenting and the Planning Forum Notes which relate to this. An overview was given of Schedule 17 applications alongside data regarding noise Sch17 application status for each contractor. Noise Sch17 application status data was also provided for operational railway and stationary systems. Examples of approved applications were shown as part of the update.

HS2'S Noise Assessment Manager was asked to provide an update on noise and vibration. Following from the previous meeting, no comments were received on the update on revised S61 procedure, so it is currently passing through HS2 governance. Figures were shown of S61 applications for July, August and September 2022. A forward look was provided of the next two months for S61 and Sol's for each contractor. It was noted that no data was provided by EKFB.

**Questions/comments:**

C (BC1): Our planners are considering Schedule 17(9) applications and how they will be addressed. It would be useful to have a working group to discuss this.

A (HS2's Head of Noise Assessment): Yes agreed, ... I am aware of Sch17(9) conversations, and these are taking place. Consideration needs to be given to assets away from mainline, so we can discuss this too.  
[Post meeting note: We will bring this to the next noise working group]

Q (BC1): Would we be able to discuss next year's out of hours working? There needs to be consistency for out of hours earthworks from HS2

A (HS2's Noise Assessment Manager): Yes.

#### **Item 7 –Noise Working Group Feedback**

No noise working group took place, so this item is no longer applicable.

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

Representative from Buckinghamshire Council (BC2) provided an update of the Joint Regulators Forum which took place in July. Attendees and previous actions from the forum were shared. Tunnelling was noted as a key topic of discussion. Future topics which were proposed included rolling stock procurement timeline and noise mitigation.

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

Hs2 Phase One Town Planning Lead was introduced to provide a Phase 1 Planning Forum update. Client Director for Align IPT attended to provide a Phase One project update. Regular standing items were discussed including planning consents performance and determined Sch17 performance from the previous months. The Planning Forum Chair shared data regarding local authorities' performance and Sch17 performances. It was noted that Planning Forum Note 2 could be improved and an action was taken for attendees to provide future feedback on this. Planning Forum Note 18 on noise barrier design was presented for approval. There was also discussion on appeals and judicial reviews.

#### **Questions/Comments:**

Q (Planning Forum Chair): There was also discussion on a Planning Forum Note on parapets.

A (Phase One Town Planning Lead): Yes, that is correct. Green verges were discussed, noting a workshop took place with Buckinghamshire Council on this.

C (Planning Forum Chair): Also, would like to note that there is review being undertaken on SLA's. Planning Forum members will be involved to contribute views on this.

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

Chair noted issues brought were brought up at pre-meet and asked representative from Buckinghamshire Council (BC2) to provide input. BC2 discussed a S61 issue raised from an FOI by a member of public at start of the year. Noted that this raised issues of who is to be held accountable for S61 matters.. The Chair explained that local authorities should receive contact from partner companies who the joint contractors submit applications for on their behalf, and they are to be held accountable.

HS2's Noise Assessment Manager supported this position but welcomed further discussion of this at the S61 Working Group.

The representative for the London Borough of Ealing (LBE) provided input regarding the importance of engagement with residents in close proximity to a work site and providing adequate mitigation.

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

The Chair reviewed the action log, which has been updated to reflect items that remain open and those which are now closed. Action regarding appeals update was queried by the Chair, which HS2's Head of Environmental Science explained is under review and will be picked up when appropriate. The action regarding lighting impact was noted as closed following the Phase One update. Suggestions for future agenda items were raised to be included in action log.

The Chair thanks all the presenters closed the meeting.