

INDEPENDENT Phase 2b Planning FORUM FOR HS2

<b>Title:</b>	Planning Forum for HS2 Phase 2b	
<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2023 10:00 – 12:30 Microsoft Teams (Virtual meeting)	
<b>Attendees</b>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>        <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>          <p>Cheshire East Council (CEC)  Cumbria County Council (CuCC)  Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWCC)  Trafford Council (TC)  Cumbria County Council (CuCC)  Trafford Council (TC)  Manchester City Council</p>

<b>Apologies:</b>		
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<b>Item</b>		<b>Action Owner</b>
	<p><b>Welcome and Introductions</b></p> <p>Chair opened the meeting and welcomed those who were attending the Forum for the first time.</p>	

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<p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>Review of Actions Log</b></p> <p>1.1 HS2 Ltd provided an overview of the Actions Log and advised that all outstanding actions had either been completed, formed part of the meeting agenda or were programmed for a future meeting of the Forum. Item 1 (Nov) related to the catalogue of meeting presentations, and these will be circulated with the minutes.</p> <p>1.2 MCC noted that actions taken at the Minerals and Waste meeting held on 1/3/2023 were not captured on the Log.</p> <p>1.3 HS2 explained that this is a matter separate from Planning Forum, but it was agreed that actions on this issue would remain on the action log for the next meeting. Minutes and actions from that meeting would be circulated soon.</p> <p><b>Action: Update actions log to include reference to Minerals and Waste meeting and circulate minutes of the meeting.</b></p>	<p><b>HS2 Ltd</b></p>
<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>Review of Minutes from Previous meeting</b></p> <p>2.1 The January 2023 meeting minutes were agreed and will be published on GOV.UK.</p> <p><b>Action: HS2 Ltd to upload the January 2023 minutes to GOV.UK.</b></p>	<p><b>HS2 Ltd</b></p>
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>Bill Update</b></p> <p>3.1 HS2 Ltd explained that an update on 2b Bill matters would be circulated via email</p> <p><b>Action: HS2 Ltd to circulate an update on Bill matters</b></p>	<p><b>HS2 Ltd</b></p>
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>HS2 Helpdesk</b></p> <p>4.1 HS2 Ltd provided a summary of the HS2 helpdesk. This included information about the numbers of calls and correspondence received by the helpdesk and a detailed overview of the established processes for responding to enquiries and complaints (Please refer to the slide deck).</p> <p>4.2 The Chair asked whether the Construction Commissioner could be invited to a future meeting of the Forum. HS2 Ltd noted that the Construction Commissioner for 2b would be appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport, following Royal Assent. However, the</p>	



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	<p>role and operation of the EMRs and provides a commitment on behalf of the Government to Parliament on the application of the EMRs to Phase 2b.</p> <p><b>ACTION: HS2 Ltd to provide a link to the opening statements of select committee</b></p> <p>5.3. With regard to Environmental Management Systems (EMS) the Chair asked whether there is a published report of the performance of the EMS for different contracts. HS2 Ltd responded that there are external performance reports for different topic areas such as air quality and links will be circulated.</p> <p><b>ACTION: HS2 Ltd to provide links to relevant environmental reporting</b></p> <p>5.4. MCC noted that the Environmental Statement (ES) includes numerous examples of stated intent to undertake further environmental assessment once the scheme design has matured. MCC highlighted the example of the Christie Hospital and asked when MCC would see the further assessment of electromagnetic interference during the detailed design stage. A further example to a reference to further assessment was in relation to the SUDs hierarchy at Piccadilly Station. In response, HS2 Ltd outlined that there is intent to reduce environmental impact from that assessed in the ES as an obligation but that it would be impractical for HS2 to be obliged to share and engage on detailed further assessment due to programme requirements, especially as the purpose of sharing assessment findings is not defined. MCC stated that it was not necessarily seeking to create additional approval steps for HS2 Ltd and the LPAs regarding these additional details in all cases, but it would like to reach agreement on how some further assessment work would be shared in an appropriate way with the LPAs.</p> <p>5.5. HS2 Ltd suggested that as a first step MCC should draw up a list of the specific topics or issues where further information sharing was requested. This list can be considered before the next Forum meeting. MCC agreed and welcomed the suggestion, which could be one of the items discussed at the next LPA pre meeting on 19 April.</p> <p><b>ACTION: LPAs (led by MCC) to discuss /agree a list of topics or issues where further assessments are proposed in the ES at detailed design /post construction and HS2 Ltd to review list and further discuss with LPAs how information sharing can be managed through design implementation and post construction regarding these topics.</b></p>	<p>HS2 Ltd</p> <p>HS2 Ltd</p> <p>MCC</p>
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	<p>5.5 MCC also asked whether there would a response to the comments made on the Environmental Memorandum. HS2 Ltd responded that there would be and that this would be progressed with Environment colleagues. MCC requested that responses to be shared as soon as possible.</p> <p><b>Action: HS2 to circulate a response to comments made on the Environmental Memorandum.</b></p>	<p><b>HS2 Ltd</b></p>
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>Planning Memorandum Update</b></p> <p>6.1 HS2 Ltd provided an update on the Planning Memorandum. The update was in the context of previous discussion at Forum in November 2022 and subsequent comments from Local Planning Authorities. HS2 Ltd set out that when the planning regime was considered as a whole, a lot of the comments received on the Planning Memorandum were already addressed. (Please refer to slide pack).</p> <p>6.2 MCC expressed concern at the lack of changes proposed to the EMRs in light of comments, especially in the context of tweaks proposed at sub groups and at the main Forum.</p> <p>6.3 HS2 Ltd noted that there is a lot of detail in Planning Forum Notes (PFN’s) that are considered vital in addressing the concerns raised. HS2 Ltd suggested that PFN’s were covered in more detail at the next Forum meeting. The Chair agreed and noted that some links to the draft PFN’s had been previously circulated. The chair also considered it important to explore the status of PFN’s at the next Forum.</p> <p><b>ACTION: HS2 Ltd to cover PFN’s at the next meeting.</b></p> <p>6.4 MCC also noted that a formal comment sheet had not been provided for the Planning Memorandum. HS2 Ltd responded that comments had been captured but that further comments were still welcome. Trafford Council agreed that the proposed discussion on the PFN’s would seem to be important in addressing concerns.</p>	<p><b>HS2 Ltd</b></p>
<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>Temporary Construction Activities and the scope of Schedule 17</b></p> <p>7.1 HS2 Ltd provided an overview of the role of Schedule 17 in the management of construction activity. This focussed on Paras 4 &amp; 5 – matters ancillary to development, Para 6 – road transport and Paras 7 &amp; 8 – waste and soil disposal and excavation (please refer to the slide deck).</p>	

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	<p>7.2 CW&amp;C asked whether in terms of landfill, contractors on Phase One were using the lowest cost option or whether a more strategic approach was in place. HS2 Ltd responded this had been covered to an extent at the minerals and waste meeting held on 1/3/2023. HS2 Ltd explained that although there needs to be reasonable worst case assumptions in the Environmental Statement about waste material, contractors are incentivised to avoid landfill tax and therefore the experience to date has been very high rates of diversion of inert waste from landfill.</p>	
<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>Community Engagement Update</b></p> <p>8.1 HS2 Ltd provided a verbal update on recent engagement around the proposed Additional Provision 2. It was reported that Land Interest Questionnaires (LIQs) had been sent out on 8<sup>th</sup> February and that briefings had occurred with Local Authorities. Engagement activity had also taken place with one remaining webinar scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> March.</p> <p>8.2 The Chair requested that an overview of AP2 changes be presented to the Forum in the Autumn.  <b>Action: HS2 Ltd to provide an overview at Forum meeting to cover AP2 changes.</b></p> <p>8.3 MCC raised concern that the Council had only been given hours of advance warning before engagement activity had taken place which had caused avoidable issues. A request was made for a review of the approach to avoid such issues in the future. HS2 Ltd noted and understood the issue raised. With regard to future design changes, these would be largely petition led with Local Authorities having a detailed understanding of these.</p> <p>8.4 MCC also requested detailed plans for AP2 changes. HS2 Ltd responded that these should have been received but Hs2 Ltd will follow up.  <b>Action: HS2 Ltd to ensure MCC had received the detailed plans</b></p>	<p>HS2 Ltd</p> <p>HS2 Ltd</p>
<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>Forum sub group update</b></p> <p>9.1 HS2 Ltd provided an overview of recent activity at the Planning Forum sub groups. It was reported that only the EHO sub group had met this year, with upcoming meetings in March for Heritage, Highways and Flooding and Drainage.</p>	

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	<p>9.2 MCC made reference to the recent EHO subgroup and thanked HS2 Ltd for the detailed presentations and helpful discussions.</p>	
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Local Authority Feedback and Matters</b></p> <p>10.1 The chair reported that the pre meeting with Local Authorities had taken place on the 8<sup>th</sup> February and that all the actions and points emerging had been including in the agenda for this Forum.</p> <p>10.2 The next LPA Forum Pre meeting is on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023.</p>	
<b>11</b>	<p><b>Future Meeting Content</b></p> <p>11.1 Given the content of the meeting, HS2 Ltd proposed to amend forward meetings and focus the May Forum meeting on responding to comments on the Environmental Memorandum and Planning Forum Notes.</p> <p><b>Action: HS2 to update forward meetings schedule.</b></p>	
<b>12</b>	<p><b>Arrangements for next meeting</b></p> <p>12.1 The Chair advised that the next meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> May would be an online meeting. The Chair also reiterated the intent to hold a meeting in person in the future should there be available meeting space and reasonable travel options.</p>	
<b>13</b>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>13.1 HS2 Ltd suggested that it would be beneficial for Forum members to visit an existing construction site on Phase One, especially in the context of the discussion on the EMRs at the meeting.</p> <p>13.2 MCC welcomed the proposed site visit. MCC reported recently visiting Euston station with Camden Council. CW&amp;C also welcomed a site visit being organised and suggested it would be useful if possible to incorporate time with members of the local community as part of a visit. The Chair noted that care would need to be taken with dates given the need to accommodate travelling requirements, parliamentary recess and also the timing of the deposit for Additional Provision 2.</p>	

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	13.1 MCC thanked HS2 for the thorough discussion on the EMRs <b>ACTION – HS2 Ltd to propose a schedule for a visit in Summer 2023</b>	<b>HS2 Ltd</b>
	<b>END</b>	12:30