

Meeting minutes

Phase 2b Planning Forum – Environmental Health Subgroup Minutes – May 2023

Meeting date	Wednesday, 24 May 2023
Meeting location	Microsoft Teams
Meeting time	10:00 am – 11:30 am

Presenters
Chair: Technical Engagement Manager HS2
Phase 2B Update: Senior Environment Policy Manager, Department for Transport
Route-wide Update: Environment Advisor HS2
Phase 1 Local Authority: Environmental Protection Team Leader Buckinghamshire Council
Attendees
Organisation
Cheshire East Council
Cheshire West and Chester
Manchester City Council
Trafford Council

1 Agenda item – Welcome and Introduction

- 1.1 Technical Engagement Manager, HS2 took attendees through the meeting agenda and informed them of the housekeeping rules.

2 Agenda item – Minutes of Last Meeting

- 2.1 Technical Engagement Manager, HS2 advised that the previous meeting minutes have been circulated and no comments were returned. It was agreed that the minutes are signed off as complete.

3 Agenda item – Action Log

- 3.1 Technical Engagement Manager went through all of the actions that were taken from the previous EHO meeting.

4 Agenda item – HS2 Phase 2B Update

- 4.1 Senior Environment Policy Officer, DfT gave an update on the Phase 2B Crewe – Manchester Bill focusing on the Select Committee, petitioning and the second Additional Provision.

5 Agenda item – Phase 1 EH Subgroup Local Authority Member

- 5.1 Environmental Protection Team Leader, Buckinghamshire Council shared their experience on HS2 works with 2b subgroup members.

Questions and Discussion:

Head of Environmental Sciences, HS2 asked Buckinghamshire Council to provide an overview on how they have found working with two different contractors, and how they have managed given that the project is not welcomed by some Bucks residents.

Buckinghamshire Council explained how working with two different contractors hadn't caused them a problem although they had two different working styles. Buckinghamshire Council also explained the difficulties faced with being in an area where the project wasn't always popular.

Manchester City Council queried the resources required for working with HS2 and how the process initially impacted Buckinghamshire Council.

Buckinghamshire Council explained how they believed that there could be more work than might first appear.

Manchester City Council asked for Buckinghamshire Councils contact details. Environmental Protection Team Leader, Buckinghamshire Council circulated their contact details in the meeting chat box.

Cheshire West and Chester fed back to Buckinghamshire Council how the work they are doing with HS2 has helped Cheshire West and Chester and queried the volume of HS2 complaints Buckinghamshire Council receive.

Buckinghamshire Council explained how all HS2 related complaints should be referred to the HS2 Helpdesk before they are investigated by the Council. This means they only tend to see the ones that have been escalated. Head of Environmental Sciences, HS2 added how twice a year HS2 invite their complaints handling team to the Phase 1 subgroup meetings to provide a summary of the complaints handling process. Noise and Vibration Manager, HS2 also explained how HS2 organise a bi-monthly noise update with the phase 1 subgroup, providing members with a look back and a forward look from the contractors.

Manchester City Council queried how much time Buckinghamshire Council have spent checking that HS2 contractors are correctly implementing works and properly managing construction compounds.

Buckinghamshire Council advised that they had employed Marshals part of whose job was to monitor site compounds however, the compounds are well managed, and they haven't had many problems.

Action 1: HS2 to request for the HS2 Helpdesk team to attend a future meeting to explain the process they follow in handling community queries and complaints.

6 Agenda item – Route-wide Update

- 6.1 Environment Advisor, HS2 provided a high-level route-wide update explaining the current progress on what is happening on Phase 1.

Questions and Discussion:

Manchester City Council asked if HS2 could share a list of their technical standard documents.

Head of Environment Delivery advised that HS2 will take this away as an action and look into seeing if they are able to share a list of the technical standard documents.

Action 2: circulate presentation to subgroup members

7 Agenda item – Subgroup Member Queries

- 7.1 Technical Engagement Manager, HS2 asked attendees if they had any queries they wish to ask, Manchester City Council advised that they would like to see a list of the technical standard documents so they are able to understand the documents and request a meeting to discuss them before September. Head of Environment Delivery, HS2 advised that they will prioritise the technical documents query which will then effectively form the timetable going forward. Manchester City Council highlighted that they will be busy in July, and favours holding the next EHO subgroup meeting after the summer holidays.

Action 3: HS2 to see if they are able to share a list of technical standard documents with subgroup members.

8 Agenda item – Next Steps and AOB

- 8.1 Technical Engagement Manager, HS2 advised meeting minutes will be drafted and sent to the subgroup for review in due course.