

# EH Subgroup Minutes

<b>Meeting date</b>	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2023, 14:30 to 17:00
<b>Meeting location</b>	Microsoft Teams
<b>Meeting title</b>	Environmental Health (EH) Subgroup Meeting #45
<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

Independent Planning Forum Chair

## Nominated Undertaker Attendees

Air Quality Manager (Construction) – HS2 Ltd

Environment Advisor– HS2 Ltd

Head of Environmental Sciences – HS2 Ltd

Noise Assessment Specialist (Construction) – HS2 Ltd

Phase One Town Planning Lead – HS2 Ltd

Environment Director – HS2 Ltd

## EH Attendees

Buckinghamshire Council (BC1)

Cherwell District Council (CDC)

Lichfield District Council (LDC)

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)

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC1)

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC1)

Staffordshire County Council (SCC1)

Three Rivers District Council (TRDC)

Watford Borough Council (WBC)

Westminster City Council (WCC)

### **Apologies**

Buckinghamshire Council (BC1)

Staffordshire County Council (SCC2)

Noise and Vibration Manager – HS2 Ltd

Head of Noise Assessment – 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 and Chair. The meeting was recorded to aid with minute taking, attendees were notified.

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

A review of the February 2023 meeting minutes was undertaken. The Chair queried the progress made in guidance regarding out of hours workings as raised in the previous meeting and asked for this to be added to the action log. HS2’s noise assessment specialist noted this is still under review. The meeting minutes were agreed by attendees and there were no further items for discussion.

### **Item 3 – View from the Bridge**

The Chair welcomed the HS2 Environment Director to provide a strategic overview of Environment at HS2. An update was provided on the latest ministerial announcement, noting there are ongoing discussions but a continued focus remains on HS2’s environmental commitments. An overview was provided of the Phase 1 route, noting progressing earth works and detailed design. Figures were shared highlighting the scale of community, innovation and environment works taking place across the route.

The Chair thanked HS2’s Environment Director for providing a strategic view and welcomed a further briefing in a future meeting.

### **Questions/Comments:**

Q (LBC1): Does the delay have an impact on the baseline Environmental Statement?

A(HS2 Environment Director): This is a continued focus for HS2’s topic leads but we don’t anticipate any impact. If there is, we will action this appropriately.

Q(LBC1): Is the Department of Transport (DfT) solely determining the scope of the Euston area?

A(HS2 Environment Director): Discussions will involve project teams working with the DfT, Treasury and HS2 Executives.

Q(LCB1): What is happening in regard to monitoring such as noise monitoring around Euston?

A(HS2 Head of Environmental Sciences): Currently those will remain. We will continue to share information as we receive it.

Q(LBHF) For the air quality monitoring, locations need to be double checked. Around Old Oak Common especially, it needs to be confirmed that guidance is followed, and monitoring are placed in optimal location.

Q(LBE): What will happen to community initiatives around Euston?

A(HS2 Director of Environment): CEF and BLEF will continue across all of the Phase1 route.

Q (Chair): What timescales are we looking at for understanding more of what is happening? Our next meeting is in June.

A(HS2 Environment Director): We should have a more defined direction in a few months, and we can provide another briefing if needed.

#### **Item 4 – Low Carbon Materials**

A presentation was given by HS2 Head of Environmental Sciences on low carbon materials. An introduction was provided on HS2's Sustainability Vision and Net Zero Carbon Plan, alongside performance against related 2022 objectives. Concrete, steel, and fuel initiatives were discussed, noting key challenges, ongoing workstreams and progress being made on Phase1 in these areas. The presentation concluded with case studies on efficiencies, alternative fuels and, electric and renewables.

The Chair commented that this was an interesting topic of discussion and that HS2's position to trial innovation is important to share with the wider industry.

#### **Item 5 – Phase One Update**

An update on Phase One was provided by HS2's Environment Advisor. It was noted that a reduced update was provided due to timings between forums. A general update of Phase 1 works was provided which included ongoing excavation, foundation, piling and utilities works. Images were shared of highlights across the route such as the Chipping Warden Green Tunnel segment installation and the first Birmingham viaduct pier.

Highlights were given of the latest press releases across the HS2 programme, including:

- HS2's temporary bridge takes 10,000 lorries off local roads
- HS2 reveals Warwickshire 'ironstone' finish for new Oxford Canal Viaduct
- HS2 launches fast-track employment scheme for unemployed Bucks and Northants residents
- New state-of-the-art Burton Green Village Hall opens, funded by HS2
- HS2 welcomes planning approval for Washwood Heath Depot near Birmingham
- HS2's plans for Balsall Common Viaduct capture local feedback

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

Q(LBE):Is there an area breakdown of employment opportunities?

A(HS2 Environment Advisor): The scheme discussed in the presentation was through EKFB and can revert back to the group if an area break down is available

A(HS2 Head of Environmental Sciences): HS2 graduate opportunities are route wide and the number of applications have doubled from last year.

## **Item 6– Air Quality Update**

The Chair welcomed HS2's Air Quality Manager (Construction) to provide an air quality update across the route. Vehicle compliance figures and vehicle trip summaries were shown from 01 January to 31 January 2023 for both light duty vehicles and heavy goods vehicles. NRMM compliance figures were also presented for this time period. Area South showed no figure due to no new NRMM being deployed during the reporting period. It was noted that actions are being undertaken to improve compliance figures including risk reduction meetings with contractors.

### **Questions/Comments:**

Q(Chair): LDV compliance numbers are going up and down, why is there no improvement?

A(HS2 Air Quality Manager (Construction)): For NRMM at BBV, new sub-contractors onboarded were unaware of requirements but risk-reduction meetings undertaken and improvements in figures through February have been evident. For LDV, not all vehicles are HS2 works related and we are asking contractors to clarify which are HS2 and which are not. Improvements should be visible in coming months.

Q(LBE): What is the root issue for LDV compliance figures being low?

A(HS2 Air Quality Manager (Construction)): It can be a number of factors, including if a personal vehicle is used to go to a site, or out of scope vehicles such as the Royal Mail or a courier service.

A(HS2 Head of Environmental Sciences): In terms of root cause, off the shelf site vehicle monitoring systems are usually focused for HGVs rather than LDVs. Logistics teams are having meetings to discuss issues such as this to find a resolution.

Q(LBE): Could you provide the reasons for the exemptions in the London area offline? Is there a requirement for auto stop-start vehicles and how is this managed?

A(HS2 Air Quality Manager (Construction)): The auto stop-start is featured in recently manufactured vehicles but I can look into this.

A(HS2 Head of Environmental Sciences): That is something we can take to our next logistics forum and ask each contractor for their figures. Contractors are also developing anti-idling policies.

## **Item 7 –Noise Update**

HS2's Noise Assessment Specialist was introduced to provide a noise update. Data was presented on applications made from 01 January 2023 to the 12 March 2023. A forward look for the next two months was also presented for S61 and Sol applications for each contractor and area. No Sols are expected across the route but a significant number of S61s are expected for EKFB.

### **Item 8–Noise Working Group**

A representative from Buckinghamshire Council was invited to provide feedback on the prolonged disruption compensation scheme working group. The working group discussed expanding the notion of disruption to beyond noise and that the existing criteria to qualify is too high. It was also suggested that a focus should be given to the work contractors are doing independently to address disruption. This was agreed to by the HS2 Head of Environmental Sciences who noted this will be a future agenda item following final review.

### **Item 10 – Planning Forum Feedback**

Hs2's Phase One Town Planning Lead was introduced to provide a Phase 1 Planning Forum update. Standing items were discussed which included a phase 1 update, planning consents and contractor performance. An appeals update was also presented. Following this local authority feedback was given and a key issue raised was regarding the update of statutory guidance. A presentation was provided on PFN16 on bridge and parapets. Proposed updates were also discussed for PFN 2 and 13. A HS2 presentation was provided on consultation responses as part of Sch17 submissions. A helpdesk update was also given.

The Planning Forum Chair was invited for comment. It was noted that the help desk presentation led to discussions on how noise complaints are being reported.

### **Item 11 – Ongoing Construction and Section 61 Experience**

The Chair invited attendees to comment. There were no comments from attendees.

### **Item 12 – 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. The Chair queried status of PFN18, which is under a final review and about to be uploaded shortly.

A representative from the London Borough of Ealing raised an issue regarding traffic management and whether HS2 has done anything to address this. There was also an issue from low frequency noise which residents have raised. The Chair suggested taking this to highways officers and involving them in discussions offline, which was echoed by the Planning Forum Chair. HS2's Head of Environmental Sciences agreed and will discuss this with contractors.

The Chair closed the meeting and thanked attendees.