

# EH Subgroup Minutes

<b>Meeting date</b>	Thursday 8th June 2023, 14:30 to 16:30
<b>Meeting location</b>	Microsoft Teams
<b>Meeting title</b>	Environmental Health (EH) Subgroup Meeting #46
<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

Head of Engineering – Sixense Ltd

Independent Chair

Independent Planning Forum Chair

Noise, Vibration and Air Quality Manger - Align

## Nominated Undertaker Attendees

Air Quality Manager (Construction) – HS2 Ltd

Environment Advisor– HS2 Ltd

Head of Environmental Sciences – HS2 Ltd

Noise and Vibration Manager – HS2 Ltd

Head of Noise Assessment – HS2 Ltd

Phase One Town Planning Lead – HS2 Ltd

## EH Attendees

Buckinghamshire Council (BC)

London Borough of Brent (LBB)

London Borough of Camden (LBC1)

London Borough of Camden (LBC<sub>2</sub>)

London Borough of Camden (LBC<sub>3</sub>)

London Borough of Ealing (LBE)

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham (LHF)

North Warwickshire Borough Council (NWBC)

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC)

Stratford On Avon District Council (SADC)

Three Rivers District Council (TRDC)

**Apologies**

Buckinghamshire Council (BC)

London Borough of Ealing (LBE)

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham (LHF)

### **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 March 2023 meeting minutes was undertaken. The Chair queried out of hours working guidance note and asked for comment during the noise update item 6. The meeting minutes were agreed by attendees and there were no further items for discussion.

### **Item 3 – HS2 Programme Update**

The Chair welcomed HS2 Head of Environmental Sciences who provided a programme-wide update, including details of the incidents and project updates that had recently been in the media.

The HS2 Head of Environmental Sciences welcomed any questions and encouraged attendees to reach out if any further information was needed.

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

Q (Chair): Queried whether Section 61 applications may be impacted by the Align-EKFB rebalancing of work packages?

A (HS2 Head of Environmental Sciences): Confirmed, that it is likely but that we would work with the local authorities affected on this.

### **Item 4 – Phase One Update**

An update on Phase One was provided by HS2’s Environment Advisor. 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 including the base slab in Old Oak Common Station and Highfurlong Brook Viaduct pier installation.

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

- Further progress at HS2’s Old Oak Common Station site as first base slab poured
- Worlds first as HS2 trials dual-fuel piling rig on London site
- HS2 supports creation of ‘green’ apprenticeship selected in honour of Kings Coronation
- HS2 contractors invests on upskilling Bucks residents ready for jobs on HS2
- HS2 super-sizes offsite manufacturing as Kent ‘viaduct’ factory begins production

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

Q(Chair): How does the dual fuel piling rig work?

A (HS2 Head of Environmental Sciences): The construction minister came to a Construction Leadership Council event at Old Oak Common Station to launch the diesel free route map for the wider industry. I can share details on this at a future meeting. Specifically, in reference to the piling rig, once the engine reaches a certain temperature, it will switch to hydrogen, otherwise this rig ran off HVO.

### **Item 5 – Noise Recognition Analysis System (NORA)**

Aligns' Noise, Vibration and Air Quality Manager, and Sixense Head of Engineering were introduced to provide a presentation on NORA within the Align IPT. The presentation started with an overview of the previous NVQ management system which was used within Align. As part of this, data was presented on noise monitors installed and number of noise recordings which were being captured. The 5 locations where NORA was implemented was discussed and how the system works. The presentation covered the process of how noise is processed by NORA through noise recognition.

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

Q (BC): Does NORA need to be trained for every individual site?

A (Sixense Head of Engineering): A training period is done to ensure NORA is specific and suitable for the site. This takes about 3 weeks.

Q (BC): Will HS2 Noise and Vibration Manager have an opportunity to listen to noise recordings?

A (Sixense Head of Engineering): Yes, this will never be 100% accurate but will make it easier than the previous system. The recordings are checked monthly, and changes are recorded for the future.

Q (BC): Can the system distinguish between different overlapping noises?

A (Align Noise Vibration and AQ Manager): It picks up the predominant sound. We are trialling picking up other sounds on other projects.

Q (Chair): Does the system have a directional ability to identify noise out or on site?

A (Sixense Head of Engineering): This has been implemented on other projects, but these noise monitors are new to the market and expensive.

### **Item 6 – Noise Update**

HS2's Noise Assessment Manager was introduced to provide a noise update. An overview of the Prolonged Disruption Compensation Scheme (PDCS) was provided, setting out the review which was undertaken and the recommendations which followed. Data was presented on applications made in April and May 2023. A forward look for the next two months was also presented for S61 and Sol applications for each contractor and area. Only one Sol is expected for SCS.

The Chair asked about the status of out of hour guidance and asked if it could be shared with attendees. The guidance was issued to contractors at the end of March 2023. A copy of the document will be circulated to Local Authorities.

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

Q (LBC1): Have other forms of disturbance such as dust been considered as part of the PDCS?

A (HS2 Noise and Vibration Manager): Yes, we recognise it is not just one but the combined impact.

Q(LBC): Small changes in factors such as dust can have an impact on health conditions. This should be considered as a prolonged disturbance.

Q (LBE): What assessment has been done to consider combined impacts such as air quality followed by elevated noise levels? This can complicate the issue.

#### **Item 7 – 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 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023 for both light duty vehicles and heavy goods vehicles, for each contractor. 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 (NWBC): Residents are concerned about dust levels around site. I would like more proactive controls. Also, should we be concerned about an increase in PM<sub>2.5</sub> from construction?

A (HS2 Air Quality Manager): I am visiting site to understand what measures are being undertaken and will query environment managers. I have not seen any dust alerts for PM<sub>10</sub> but I can look into that. For PM<sub>2.5</sub>, during the Environmental Statement, there were no predicted significant effects, therefore we don't monitor PM<sub>2.5</sub>, but rather PM<sub>10</sub> as a means to ensure our mitigations on site are effective.

HS2 Air Quality Manager agreed to co-ordinate a site visit with NWBC.

C (HS2 Head of Environmental Sciences): The Environment Agency is currently doing summer readiness audits and will be looking at dust suppression measures as part of this.

#### **Item 8 – 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 planning consents performance and an update on 3 appeal decisions. A discussion took place on defining the process around discharge of Schedule 17 conditions, which HS2 will develop further. Updates were provided on Planning Forum Notes (PFN), such as PFN 16 on bridge parapets

and the discussion around PFN 5. A new PFN 19 was presented to the attendees on Schedule 17 process for contractors and local authorities. There was discussion following a presentation on the SLA process.

The Chair queried the status of PFN 18 which HS2 Phase One Town Planning Lead confirmed is expected to be uploaded soon following a delay in passing through HS2 document control.

#### **Item 9 – Joint Regulators Forum Feedback**

HS2's Head of Environmental Sciences provided feedback from the Joint Regulators Forum. The key topics discussed included potential deviations following changes in standards linked to HSE, and HS2 performance metrics. The future agenda item for the forum will discuss how to share learnings across joint ventures and the HS2.

The Chair asked if anyone would like to attend the forum going forward to get in touch.

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

The Chair invited attendees to comment. BC raised the issue of discrepancies between noise predictions in consents and actual levels. This may be due to shifts in consented works and in response have started issuing longer consents but more frequent reviews to keep predictions more current. An issue was also raised that all exceedances of trigger levels are alerted to as HS2 noise monthly reports show no exceedances of triggers. HS2 Noise and Vibration Manager agreed that flexibility is needed in how consents are approached.

SMBC discussed that they have been receiving separate applications for core and outside of core hours. This initially worked well but quickly developed a backlog. They have decided to return to combined applications. The Chair thanked SMBC for sharing their experience on this with attendees.

#### **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. BC asked if out of hours guidance can be shared out with the minutes.

The Chair queried whether there was an opportunity to undertake a site visit as part of a further subgroup (as done last year). HS2 Head of Environmental Sciences suggested options, and if attendees were interested to confirm so plans can be agreed.

The Chair queried the progress of the online noise and air quality monitoring system to be a future agenda item. HS2's Head of Environmental Sciences agreed this will be added to a future session once it had developed slightly further.

The Chair closed the meeting and thanked attendees.



