

# EH Subgroup Minutes

<b>Meeting date</b>	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> July 2023, 14:30 to 16:30
<b>Meeting location</b>	Microsoft Teams
<b>Meeting title</b>	Environmental Health (EH) Subgroup Meeting #47
<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 and Vibration Manager – HS2 Ltd

## EH Attendees

Buckinghamshire Council (BC)

Buckinghamshire Council (BC)

London Borough of Brent (LBB)

London Borough of Camden (LBC)

London Borough of Camden (LBC)

London Borough of Camden (LBC)

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham (LHF)

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC)

Staffordshire County Council (SCC)

Stratford-on-Avon District Council (SADC)

Three Rivers District Council (TRDC)

Watford Borough Council (WBC)

Westminster City Council (WCC)

**Apologies**

London Borough of Ealing (LBE)

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham (LHF)

Staffordshire County Council (SCC)

### **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 June 2023 meeting minutes was undertaken. The Chair queried the status of Planning Forum Note 18, and the Planning Forum Chair asked if the note could be shared amongst attendees. HS2’s Head of Environmental Sciences agreed to chase with HS2 Phase1 Town Planning Manager. The meeting minutes were agreed by attendees and there were no further items for discussion.

### **Item 3 – 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 Old Oak Common Station and the Atlas Road TBM ‘Lydia’.

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

- Two years of permanent construction completed at HS2’s Old Oak Common Station Site.
- HS2 unveils huge tunnel boring machine ready to dig HS2’s Bromford Tunnel in the West Midlands.
- Progress on HS2’s Copthall Green Tunnel as Western portal is complete.
- New figures show £13.4m awarded to community projects through HS2 fund since 2017.
- Hs2 trials automotive design technology to drive down embedded carbon by 10%

HS2’S Head of Environment noted that there has been media interest in the resignation of HS2’s CEO and that the HS2 Chair will temporarily cover this position.

### **Questions/Comments:**

Q (BC): Is there any update on the handover of works from EKFB to Align?

A (HS2 Head of Environmental Sciences): A lot of work is taking place between the two joint ventures at the minute and once we have more information we will share this soon.

### **Item 4 – Zero Diesel Sites Route Map**

The Chair welcomed HS2 Head of Environmental Sciences who provided a presentation on the Construction Leadership Councils zero diesel sites route map. The presentation covered the members and timeline involved in the creation of the route map. The 4 key elements of a zero-diesel future were presented, and included:

- Improving efficiency: Using best practice
- Transition to cleaner fuels
- Transition to electricity
- Wider Industry support

The presentation also covered priority actions for the 2022/2023, the importance of health and safety, and case study examples, such as Canterbury Road Vent Shaft.

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

Q (LBC): Were power and electricity providers involved in the working groups? It would be beneficial to have them involved. We would like to see how local authorities can support this. Also, it is important to note the public health benefit.

A (HS2 Head of Environmental Sciences): The working groups for each of the 4 elements work to engage with the relevant people to support their aims. I can invite you to our bi-monthly touch points of the various working groups.

Q (LBHF): Is this just on construction sites or does this consider the movement to and from sites?

A (HS2 Head of Environmental Sciences): This does not focus on that, but we are working on other projects to address this, including working with the Department of Transport.

A (HS2 Air Quality Manager (Construction)): This is something I am working on currently. In terms of Hydrogen fuel, there are still limitations we have to consider in terms of depots and source of the Hydrogen.

#### **Item 5 – Noise Update**

HS2's Noise and Vibration Manager was introduced to provide a noise update. An overview was provided of noise and vibration management, noting the various controls which support HS2 commitments. Photos of best practicable means were shared. HS2's Noise and Vibration Manager also presented on how compliance is demonstrated against best practicable means. Data was presented on applications made in April, May and June 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 for this period.

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

Q (Planning Forum Chair): The Planning Forum are interested in the progress of the Prolonged Disruption Compensation Scheme. Can you provide some information on this?

A (HS2 Noise and Vibration Manager): We are in the final stages of the review and are about to finalise the reports in the next few weeks. Once finalised it will be published. A key recommendation of the review is the recognition that it not just one factor but a cumulative effect which impacts communities, and we are looking to see how this can be mitigated.

Q (Chair): What consideration is there for the cost of implementing the scheme?

A (HS2 Noise and Vibration Manager): We are having these discussions with the Department of Transport and the Treasury. We hope to use the budget already allocated to the scheme for this revised version, so there should not be any additional cost.

Q (Planning Forum Chair): It seems like one of the recommendations is to focus on early mitigation. Is this not done anyway? Is the focus going to be more on mitigation than on offering compensation?

A (HS2 Noise and Vibration Manager): Yes, a commitment for on-site mitigation is part of our policies. I'm referring to offering off-site mitigation before thresholds are triggered and supporting communities from the first complaint.

### **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 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 for both light duty vehicles and heavy goods vehicles, for each contractor. NRMM compliance figures were also presented for this period. Photos were also shared of dust management on site. The Chair thanked HS2 Air Quality Manager (Construction) for investigating the work being done on dust control and the improvement on compliance figures.

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

Q (LBHF): What work is being done on dirt track haul roads rather than hard surfaced roads?

A (HS2 Air Quality Manager): I'll look into this for you as it does vary between contractors.

### **Item 7 – Planning Forum Feedback**

The HS2 Planning Forum Chair was introduced to provide a Phase 1 Planning Forum update. Standing items were discussed including planning consents performance and appeals/judicial review update, noting improvements are still required to reduce determination periods. Planning Forum Notes 4, 5, 13, 16a and 16b were discussed in Planning Forum and a working group on Planning Forum Notes 5 & 13 have been set up. A regular HS2 Help desk update was also provided.

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

Representative from BC provided feedback from the Joint Regulators Forum. The key topics discussed included the progress of a dust campaign. The update from the Environment Agency looked at summer and winter readiness, and the interaction of works between EKFB and Align. HS2's Head of Environmental Sciences provided a presentation on climate resilience.

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

The Chair invited attendees to comment. BC raised an issue around a S61 application for earthworks for a rail diversion. A joint application was sent to carry out this work which raised questions on who would be liable for the works carried out and queried other attendees thoughts on a single piece of work by two contractors at slightly different times. The Chair agreed that there is no set way to submit a S61 application but emphasised the need for clarity over who is responsible and legally liable.

A second item was raised by BC, regarding issuing longer consents with regular reviews, which was raised at a previous meeting. It was noted that core monthly noise levels have changed due to these reviews, which has allowed trigger levels to be more accurate and will be beneficial in the long term. BC suggested providing a presentation on this in the future.

#### **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. The Chair suggested various agenda items proposed at the EH Subgroup pre-meet, including rolling stock and rail systems, and a presentation from the community engagement team.

Hs2's Head of Environmental Sciences asked for feedback on the frequency and content of the EH Subgroup and a link was shared in the chat for attendees to complete a feedback form. A reminder was provided asking attendees to share if they would like to attend a site visit to Old Oak Common Station in the September meeting. A link to express interest was shared in the meeting chat.

The Chair closed the meeting and thanked attendees.



