

INDEPENDENT PHASE ONE PLANNING FORUM FOR HS2

	[REDACTED]	<p>Staffordshire County Council (SCC) North Warwickshire Borough Council (NWBC) Stratford-on-Avon District Council (SDC) London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham (LBHF) Buckinghamshire Council (Bucks C) Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) London Borough of Camden (LBC) Solihull Met Borough Council (SMBC) London Borough of Camden (LBC) Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) Lichfield District Council (LDC) Staffordshire County Council (SCC) Birmingham City Council (BCC)</p>
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Item		Action Owner															
1.	Introductions – were made.																
2.	<p>Review of minutes of the January meeting and outstanding actions.</p> <p>Outstanding actions were reviewed:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 10%;">Date</th> <th style="width: 45%;">Action</th> <th style="width: 45%;">Status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Sep 19</td> <td>Consider referencing the reverse side of the noise barrier in the next update to the Planning Forum Note.</td> <td>Update under Item 6 but to be confirmed when the PFN is finalized.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sep 19</td> <td>Consider opportunities within Noise Barrier CDE to replace ‘where appropriate’ with ‘as agreed’ or similar.</td> <td>Update under Item 6 but to be confirmed when the PFN is finalized.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May 21</td> <td>Signage strategy for HS2 to be brought to Planning Forum</td> <td>Eugene Healy from HS2 to provide a presentation on Signage Strategy at September 2022 Planning Forum.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jan 22</td> <td>Chair to provide a list of names to DfT for Planning Forum representatives on the Prolonged Scheme Disturbance review panel</td> <td> <p>The initial meeting was held between DfT/HS2/LA representatives on 7 March. A further meeting is to be arranged. Any further attendees from Planning Forum are welcomed.</p> <p>Relevant data sets are being reviewed following the above</p> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Date	Action	Status	Sep 19	Consider referencing the reverse side of the noise barrier in the next update to the Planning Forum Note.	Update under Item 6 but to be confirmed when the PFN is finalized.	Sep 19	Consider opportunities within Noise Barrier CDE to replace ‘where appropriate’ with ‘as agreed’ or similar.	Update under Item 6 but to be confirmed when the PFN is finalized.	May 21	Signage strategy for HS2 to be brought to Planning Forum	Eugene Healy from HS2 to provide a presentation on Signage Strategy at September 2022 Planning Forum.	Jan 22	Chair to provide a list of names to DfT for Planning Forum representatives on the Prolonged Scheme Disturbance review panel	<p>The initial meeting was held between DfT/HS2/LA representatives on 7 March. A further meeting is to be arranged. Any further attendees from Planning Forum are welcomed.</p> <p>Relevant data sets are being reviewed following the above</p>	
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INDEPENDENT PHASE ONE PLANNING FORUM FOR HS2

			meeting and findings are to be issued shortly. Recommendations are to be developed within the review report and discussed with panel representatives prior to reporting back to Planning Forum in July 2022.
Jan 22	Concern re. Progress on CDEs. HS2 to consider how the Planning Forum can assist with the delivery of CDEs		Closed. PF Design Group met on 4 March. Update under Item 6
Jan 22	HS2 to update appeals digest with Solihull appeal decision.		Closed. Issued 25/05/22
Jan 22	HS2 to update on the availability of Construction Commissioner and HS2 CEO for presentation at a future Planning Forum		Closed. Mark Thurston (HS2 CEO) to attend May Planning Forum. HS2 to update on Construction Commissioner attendance.
Mar 22	HS2 to review statistics of lorry route application submissions to identify any trends		Closed. Update provided under Item 4
Mar 22	HS2 to provide feedback on LPA timesheet scrutiny		Presentation to LPA's to be arranged within the next quarter to address SLA issues generally
Mar 22	HS2 to issue a programme for the completion of lineside noise barriers PFN & parapets on road overbridges design		Closed. Update provided under Item 6
Mar 22	HS2 to arrange for a future presentation on the fencing design approach		A presentation is to be provided to the PF Design Group with a date for the presentation currently being arranged
Mar 22	HS2 to identify a presenter for a future Planning Forum to discuss SME involvement with HS2		HS2 to present on SME involvement at July Planning Forum.
Mar 22	HS2 to arrange a presentation for future Planning Forum on details of frameworks in place for bilateral agreements between HS2 and landowners		HS2 to present at July Planning Forum
Mar 22	HS2 to arrange a discussion session with LPA's regarding the position on		Session to be arranged in the next quarter.

INDEPENDENT PHASE ONE PLANNING FORUM FOR HS2

	SLA's.	
3.	<p>HS2 Project Update</p> <p>The Phase 1 Project update was provided by DE (HS2), showing progress on enabling works, main works & station contracts.</p>	
4.	<p>Community Engagement</p> <p>SG (HS2) advised that April 2022 helpdesk contacts were similar to the year before with a slight decrease. Around 62% of enquiries are resolved by the helpdesk at the first point of contact. 38% require referral to technical specialists or the supply chain. Of those around 71% are resolved within 2 working days.</p> <p>In terms of the new KPI relating to urgent construction enquiries and complaints, since the start of reporting the new KPI from October 2021, 94% of urgent enquiries and complaints were responded to within 2 working days.</p> <p>In April 2022, 90 complaints were received. 98% relate to Phase 1. Since the new financial year in April 22, the reporting figures look slightly different to the slides the Forum has received as HS2 will break down the worksites in more detail, which will come within a couple of months.</p> <p>None of the 90 complaints in April 22 was escalated to the Construction Commissioner. In the last financial year, HS2 received over 1,600 complaints, which was a decrease from the previous year by 13%.</p>	
5.	<p>HS2 CEO's Remarks</p> <p>MT (HS2 CEO) provided a programme overview. With the deposit of the Bill for Phase 2b WestHS2 hope to get the 2B West Bill 2nd reading completed before the summer 2022 recess and to secure consent around 2025. The timescale of the eastern leg is to be determined, but it has been safeguarded. The government has allocated £100m to assess the most appropriate way to provide high-speed services from West Midland to Leeds, which will be a collaboration between DfT, HS2 and Network Rail.</p> <p>On Phase 1, HS2 Ltd have now appointed the rolling stock contractor and will appoint the systems contractors in the coming two years. In addition, a new HS2 Chair will be appointed around Q3 2022. Part of the role of the Chair is to interface with political leaders along the route.</p> <p>MT (HS2) noted that HS2 is an increasing presence on the ground. There will be more work to do with civil contractors on design which drive both the</p>	

INDEPENDENT PHASE ONE PLANNING FORUM FOR HS2

	<p>construction and consents programmes. MT acknowledged the skills required by both HS2 and local authorities and thanked the efforts of all parties. MT (HS2) also highlighted the Service Level Agreements (SLA) as an ongoing challenge. HS2’s Julie King is undertaking a review of the current position with a view to improve the situation.</p> <p>DW (WNC) asked whether engagement with local authorities on the construction programme could be enhanced, particularly works that impact local residents the most such as temporary road closures. MT said that delivery leads in local areas work alongside HS2’s community engagement team to try to make sure local authority officers have the right level of visibility on the construction programme. SG (HS2) agreed to take the issue back to the team to review the current information provision and determine how communication on future construction activities might be improved. TA (Chair) added that the Phase 1 update slides do tend to focus on what has happened rather than what will happen, and suggested a forward look on the construction programme might be included in future Phase 1 updates.</p> <p>JF (HCC) commented that the HS2/ Align team have been a fantastic team to work with. MT (HS2) noted HS2’s priority to bring excellent relationships on a local level.</p>	<p>HS2</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Planning Consents Performance</p> <p>MD (HS2) presented charts showing the time taken to determine the main works Schedule 17 applications in the last six months. MD noted performance is broadly similar to previous months and highlighted a minor change to the charts in the presentation slides that went out to the PF members ahead of the meeting. [Post meeting note: the updated slides will be circulated alongside the draft minutes]. He also showed a chart summarising the time taken to determine Schedule 17 lorry route applications in the last six months. MD highlighted that the delayed determinations were generally not around lorry route applications as a key source of delay. TA (Chair) highlighted that many appeals are lorry route related.</p> <p>MD (HS2) also presented charts showing Schedule 17 applications currently awaiting determination. These show a significantly better position since the March Planning Forum. PG (HS2) added that many of the live submissions that are under 8 weeks are those recently submitted in May.</p> <p>MD (HS2) also shared a chart showing actual numbers of Schedule 17 submissions vs. planned submissions shown in quarterly forward plans. MD (HS2) noted more applications were submitted in May than predicted. There has been a significant uplift in applications.</p> <p>MD (HS2) presented an update on the status of appeals, with 4 live appeals.</p> <p>TA (Chair) mentioned some key points from the Local Planning Authorities</p>	<p>HS2</p>

INDEPENDENT PHASE ONE PLANNING FORUM FOR HS2

	<p>(LPAs) pre-meeting, where he took an action to write to the LPAs asking them to produce a process which takes through an S17 submission to an 8-week determination incorporating all stages that the LPAs need to go through. This will fulfil the Planning Memorandum requirement on qualifying authorities to put in place such arrangements.</p> <p>TA also presented a table of individual LPAs’ performance in determining Schedule 17 applications. SA (LDC) asked if there was any value in identifying those submissions over 16 weeks which had an extension of time agreed by HS2 Ltd. PG (HS2) said that this would be unlikely to be of significance because HS2 generally, at the request of local authorities, agree to extensions of time regardless of the reasons, in order that authorities have confidence that HS2 is not going to appeal.</p> <p>JF (HCC) noted that Sch 17 applications are not normal planning applications but a request for approval of conditions. TA (Chair) expressed his request to LPAs for preparing a process of handling S17 applications might be an opportunity for officers to remind Members or other officers about the nature of the Sch 17 applications.</p> <p>GK (Bucks C) said that local authorities are experiencing some technical design issues recently, which are slightly different from previous challenges two years ago. GK said that HS2 had not wanted to participate in a ‘lesson learned’ workshop. [Post Meeting Note] A series of 5 ‘Smarter Ways of Working’ meetings took place between November 2021 and January 2022. A further session has been scheduled for July 2022.</p> <p>EL (NWBC) shared her experience that the local authorities will have an improving dialogue with the contractors about the expectations of what the authorities want to see to accompany the S17 submissions as a result of better resourced.</p> <p>DW (WNC) referenced a specific submission with a detailed technical issue (Package 5) relates to a road overbridge. The package has been submitted with details of parapets greyed out reflecting the fact that the Planning Forum Design Group is still to determine the parapet design. This poses an issue for WNC of how to determine a submission pack with some detail provided and some greyed out. HS2 to discuss the issue with the Design Group. DW (WNC) also noted that WNC are struggling with Lead Local Flood Authority resource and that details of drainage within Sch17 submission, while not required, is useful for making determinations on the applciaitons.</p> <p>TH (DfT) welcomed the Chair’s proposal to ask the local authorities define a Sch 17 determination process and suggested that local authorities could compare notes and share some best practices.</p>	<p>Chair</p> <p>Chair</p> <p>HS2</p> <p>HS2</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Local Authority Feedback and Issues Arising</p> <p>JF (TDRC) and DW (WNC) requested a date in the diary for an SLA update from</p>	<p>HS2</p>

INDEPENDENT PHASE ONE PLANNING FORUM FOR HS2

	<p>HS2 before the summer holiday. HS2 to follow up with some proposed meeting dates.</p>	
6.	<p>Common Design Elements and Design Approaches Update</p> <p>MS (HS2) noted that Common Design Elements (CDE) become available for use but are not mandated.</p> <p>MS (HS2) indicated that the Design Group met on 4th May & 11th May 2022 to discuss the draft PFN for Lineside Noise Barriers. Some principles agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Must describe a common design, and streamline consents. 2. Planting as mitigation is possible but must be convincing. 3. The two options (concealed and exposed post options) are close to being agreed. <p>MS (HS2) aimed to focus on both the HS2 and Local Planning Authorities' obligations to get the options agreed for contractors' testing. HS2 to set up a meeting with the Design Group and target to reach a decision on the PFN by the next Planning Forum.</p> <p>MS (HS2) indicated that the Design Group met on 13th April 2022 to discuss the parapets for road overbridges. A change to traffic-face profile standards was circulated on 10th May 2022. The current parapet CDE remains available for use on overbridges where applicable. HS2 to target to reach a decision on the PFN by the next Planning Forum. MS (HS2) also picked up DW (WNC)'s concerns regarding parapet and agreed to speak with the contractors and HS2's Tom Podd.</p> <p>MS (HS2) said that HS2 have now developed a signage strategy and HS2 will present the strategy in Planning Forum in September 2022.</p> <p>MS (HS2) offered to provide a presentation regarding the fencing design approach to the Design Group at a suitable time.</p> <p>JF (TDRC) questioned an example of a noise barrier from a site visit with Align. MS (HS2) clarified that the example JF referenced could be a noise barrier on Colne Valley Viaduct, which is a Key Design Element (KDE), not a CDE. The whole Coln Valley Viaduct is a KDE and has not followed the CDE.</p> <p>DW (WNC) queried the highway specifications for bridges. MS (HS2) advised that certain footbridges may use that existing design. In general, any bridge that carries vehicular traffic should have a new parapet.</p>	<p>HS2</p> <p>HS2</p> <p>HS2</p> <p>HS2</p> <p>HS2</p>
8.	<p>Appeals and Judicial Reviews Update</p> <p>MD (HS2) noted a hearing for the Bromford Tunnel East Portal appeal (APP/HS2/18) was held on 27/04/22. HS2 will provide some additional</p>	

INDEPENDENT PHASE ONE PLANNING FORUM FOR HS2

	<p>drawings and the PINS will determine the appeal. There are three other live appeals (APP/HS2/19 Balsall Common (Waste Lane) Lorry Route, APP/HS2/20 WCC Borrow Pit No.2, APP/HS2/21 WCC Borrow Pit No.1).</p> <p>There are three live Judicial Reviews (APP/HS2/14 A422 Brackley Road, APP/HS2/16 Wendover Green Lorry Route, APP/HS2/10-13 A413 Lorry Routes). The applications have been rolled into a single JR hearing to be held on 8-9th June 2022.</p> <p>Details of all appeals and JR decisions are available on the Planning Forum gov.uk website.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-phase-one-planning-forum-planning-appeal-decisions</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>Forward Plan / AOB</p> <p>Dates for future 2022 Planning Forums were proposed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28th July – proposed presentations: SME involvement; landowner agreements framework update (HS2) • 29th September – proposed presentations: Signage Strategy (HS2) • 24th November. <p>JF (HCC) requested an update from Construction Commissioner. MD to determine dates when the Construction Commissioner would be available to attend Planning Forum.</p> <p>JF (HCC) requested an update from the highway sub-group, specifically on the spending of various funds. TH (DfT) advised that Deborah Kazan has stood down and been replaced by Stuart Jackson as the Resident Commissioner last month. TA (Chair) added that the new Residents Commissioners will need some time to get himself up to speed, and perhaps he will be invited to the Planning Forum to provide an update after September 2022.</p> <p>TA (Chair) will keep the need for face-to-face planning forums under observation.</p>	<p>HS2</p> <p>HS2</p>
	<p>End</p>	