

EH Subgroup Minutes

Meeting date	September 27 th September 2023, 14:30 to 16:30
Meeting location	Microsoft Teams
Meeting title	Environmental Health (EH) Subgroup Meeting #48
HS2 contact or group	planning.forum@hs2.org.uk
Stakeholder	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 Noise Assessment – HS2 Ltd

Head of Environmental Sciences – HS2 Ltd

Noise and Vibration Manager – HS2 Ltd

EH Attendees

Buckinghamshire Council (BC)

Cherwell District Council (CDC)

London Borough of Brent (LBB)

London Borough of Camden (LBC)

London Borough of Ealing (LBE)

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham (LHF)

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham (LHF)

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC)

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC)

Staffordshire County Council (SCC)

Stratford-on-Avon District Council (SADC)

Apologies

Buckinghamshire Council (BC)

Westminster City Council (WCC)

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 noted that Planning Forum Note 18 was circulated along with the July 2023 minutes to attendees. The Chair queried if there was an update on the EKFB-Align handover. The Hs2 Head of Environmental Sciences noted there was a stakeholder engagement plan in development, and the team would ensure affected Local Authorities were engaged. A query from the July 2023 meeting on haul roads was raised and HS2 Air Quality Manager (Construction) agreed to follow up on this. This was added to the action log. There were no other comments and the meeting minutes for July 2023 were agreed.

Item 3 – Site Visit Summary and Comments

The HS2 Head of Environmental Sciences shared a video showing an overview of the Old Oak Common Site (OOC) which was presented as part of the site visit earlier in the day. The Planning Forum Chair highlighted the importance of getting out onto site. HS2 Head of Environmental Sciences recognised the media focus on the Phase2 and the Euston areas of the route, highlighting that unfortunately there were no further updates to share with attendees.

Questions/Comments:

(Q) Chair: Has there been a re-design as OOC will now be acting as a temporary terminus?

(A) LBE: This was discussed earlier in the site visit. There have been some minor design changes to accommodate more facilities to service trains.

(Q) LBE: Are London overground trains going to be stopping at OOC?

(A) HS2 Head of Environmental Sciences: The overground lines here will be the Elizabeth Line and the Great Western Main Line.

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.

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

- HS2 completes first giant pier for Water Orton Viaducts
- HS2 welcomes planning approval for Balsall Common Viaduct
- New training programme to help more women access careers on HS2
- HS2 trains first to be recognised for reduced carbon impacts

Questions/Comments:

(C) Chair: Interested in low carbon rolling stock. I think this would be a good future agenda item and something of interest for the group.

(Q) LHF: On the Interchange Station Slide there is mention of looking at parking options. What does this mean?

(A) HS2 Environmental Sciences: There is a multi-storey car park and there are some design reviews taking place of this. This is for when the station is operational. It was agreed to add a future agenda item around this topic.

Item 5 – Noise Update

HS2's Noise and Vibration Manager was introduced to provide a noise update. An update was provided on the prolonged disruption compensation scheme (PDCS). The final report is with the HS2 team for formal approval. An update was also provided for the Imperial College London Health Impact Study. Following a review of findings, a presentation will be provided at a future meeting. Data was presented on applications made in July, August, and September 2023. A forward look for the next two months was also presented for S61 and Sol applications for each contractor and area.

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 31st August 2023 for both light duty vehicles and heavy goods vehicles, for each contractor. NRMM compliance figures were also presented for this period.

HS2's Head of Environmental Sciences noted that trials for Clean Air Gas Engines (CAGE) have won funding through the Red Diesel Replacement Competition. The list of all funded projects can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/red-diesel-replacement-competition-successful-projects/red-diesel-replacement-competition-phase-2-successful-projects>

Item 7 – Planning Forum Feedback

The HS2 Phase 1 Town Planning Lead was introduced to provide a Phase 1 Planning Forum update. Standing items were discussed including HS2 project update. An update was provided on the SLA review which will be discussed further at future Planning Forum meetings. Updates were also provided on planning consents and appeals, noting Schedule 17 performance for both contractors and local authorities. There are two live Schedule 17 appeals currently. A future agenda item proposed was the Schedule 17 approach to partial and spilt decisions. A presentation was also provided on overbridge parapets and on HS2's approach to concrete.

Item 8 – Ongoing Construction and Section 61 Experience

The Chair raised the PRA Blockade works and invited BC to comment. BC shared their experience of the PRA blockade, noting it has been generally positive and faced only a few complaints and queries in the first few days. BC highlighted the importance of face-to-face engagement in helping to reduce complaints. LBE echoed the importance of early direct engagement by the contractor with local residents.

Item 9 – 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 future agenda items including a presentation by BC on S61 issues, a presentation on rolling stock, and inviting the Construction Commissioner.

HS2 Head of Environmental Sciences shared the results from the EH Subgroup feedback survey. It was noted that the frequency of meetings will remain with a preference for continuing online meeting. It was proposed to shorten regular updates in favour of technical and knowledge sharing presentations from attendees. It was also proposed to keep meeting times flexible to reflect the content needed to be covered.

The Chair also asked to be sent the proposed Planning Forum proposed dates for 2024 to review those ahead of the next meeting.

The Chair closed the meeting and thanked HS2 for organising the site visit.

