

INDEPENDENT Phase 2b Planning FORUM FOR HS2

Title:	Planning Forum for HS2 Phase 2b	
Date & Time	Wednesday 10th May 2023 10:00 – 12:10 Microsoft Teams (Virtual meeting)	
Attendees	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>Independent Chair</p> <p>HS2 Ltd - Head of Town Planning</p> <p>HS2 Ltd- Senior Town Planning Manager</p> <p>HS2 Ltd- Technical Engagement Manager</p> <p>HS2 Ltd – Town Planning Manager</p> <p>HS2 Ltd- Head of Community Engagement</p> <p>HS2 Ltd- Senior Petition Manager</p> <p>Cheshire East Council (CEC)</p> <p>Cumbria County Council (CuCC)</p> <p>Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWCC)</p> <p>Trafford Council (TC)</p> <p>Trafford Council (TC)</p> <p>Cumbria County Council (CuCC)</p> <p>Manchester City Council</p> <p>DfT</p>

Apologies:		
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Item	Action	Owner
<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed those who were attending the Forum for the first time.</p>		

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1	<p>Review of Actions Log</p> <p>1.1 HS2 Ltd provided an overview of the Actions Log. Item 5 of the log concerned an action on Forum members to agree whether they would like to invite the Construction Commissioner for Phase One and Phase 2a to a future 2b Forum meeting. CWAC welcomed the principle of inviting the Construction Commissioner and recommended that the Forum prepare appropriately to ensure that there is a purpose to the discussion.</p> <p>Action: Construction Commissioner to be invited to a future meeting</p> <p>1.2 Item 9 of the Log concerned an action on LPAs to provide any further focussed written requests on the EMRs. MCC updated that collating the specific requests was still in progress, with an intention to provide comments by the time of the next LPA pre meet to enable discussion at the July Forum meeting.</p>	HS2 Ltd
2	<p>Review of Minutes from Previous meeting</p> <p>2.1 The March 2023 meeting minutes were discussed. The chair noted that the numbering within the minutes needed checking and amending prior to circulation of the final minutes.</p> <p>2.2 The chair also referenced comments on the minutes that had been made by MCC which focussed on three group of points. The first group related to the discussion at the meeting on the ES commitments and it was agreed that the proposed amendments to the minutes would be made. The second group of comments concerned the discussion at the meeting on a comments sheets for the Planning Memorandum. HS2 Ltd set out that this matter could be returned to but for the purposes of recording the discussion at the March meeting, the minutes would remain as circulated. MCC requested that the minutes to be resent for clarity. On the third point, the notice given to LPAs about AP changes, it was again not proposed that the minutes be changed but the point would be picked up within the wider agenda. The Forum agreed that following clarification with MCC, the meeting minutes can be agreed and published.</p> <p>Action: HS2 Ltd to send MCC an updated version of the March meeting minutes. Upon agreement, these would be taken as agreed and published.</p>	HS2 Ltd

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<p>3</p>	<p>Project Update – 9th March Statement on the HS2 project.</p> <p>3.1 DfT provided an overview of the written ministerial made to Parliament on 9th March concerning how DfT are responding to inflationary pressures across all transport projects, including HS2. The headline for Phase 2b was reported as the ongoing commitment to the Phase, with timescales remaining the same.</p> <p>3.2 MCC sought clarity on whether the timeframes for ground investigations works had been pushed back to end of 2023/early 2024. DfT responded that these were the likely intended timeframes.</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>Bill update</p> <p>4.1 Following the previous agenda item, HS2 Ltd set out that the select committee process continued, with petitioners being heard on a south to north basis.</p> <p>4.2 Updating on previous queries regarding the Undertakings and Assurances register, HS2 Ltd outlined that the latest version of the register had been published on 24th April, with the expectation that updates would be made three or four times a year. CWAC asked if there was a process for any 3rd party making any comments on the U&A's contained on the register. HS2 Ltd responded that the register is a factual record to capture U&A's that have been given, to be finalised once the Bill becomes an Act. It was confirmed that although assurances may change during the passage of the Bill there isn't a process to allow 3rd parties to shape the assurances captured on the register.</p> <p>4.3 With regard to discussions on AP briefings given to LPAs, HS2 Ltd recognised the value to LPAs of having awareness of proposed scheme changes coming through in APs. MCC reiterated that the concern raised at the last meeting was that members had been contacted without appropriate forewarning to officers. HS2 Ltd recognised the concerns, explaining the balance being sought to engage appropriately without causing issues with information dissemination.</p> <p>Action: HS2 Ltd will continue to seek to engage with LPA officers ahead of, and during the AP process.</p>	<p>HS2 Ltd</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Community Engagement Update</p>	

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	<p>5.1. In terms of AP2 deposit, HS2 Ltd outlined that community engagement activity for AP2 would take the same form as that which had taken place for AP1 deposit. This would include a leaflet going out to all properties within 1km of the centreline of the line of route, webinars explaining changes, writing to affected parties and also launching consultation on the supplementary environmental statement and the AP environmental statement. It was reported that the relevant documents will be available to view at various public locations as well as on-line. There will be a focus on engagement with communities that haven't previously engaged on the project.</p> <p>5.2. HS2 Ltd also updated that engagement continues the LIQ process.</p> <p>5.3. MCC asked about the timing of letters being delivered. HS2 Ltd clarified that this would occur shortly after formal AP deposit.</p> <p>5.4. MCC also asked when AP2 would be submitted. HS2 Ltd outlined that this was likely to be prior to the parliamentary summer recess, with the timing of the subsequent Environmental Statement consultation process being a matter for parliament.</p>	
6	<p>Forum sub group update</p> <p>6.1 HS2 Ltd provided an overview of recent activity at the Planning Forum sub groups (refer to slide pack). Four sub group meetings took place in March with upcoming meetings also scheduled across 2023. It was highlighted that thirteen comment sheets have circulated to date. MCC commented that they had found the sharing of technical documents very useful in providing context and comfort to colleagues on specific matters.</p>	
7	<p>Environmental Minimum Requirements update</p> <p>7.1 HS2 Ltd provided an update on progress with the EMR documents and proposed next steps (refer to slide pack). Acknowledging that different documents had reached different stages or comments and responses, HS2 Ltd proposed to seek Forum consensus on the documents by Autumn 2023. It was proposed by the Chair that the separate documents should be brought back to Forum and dealt with in turn.</p>	

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	<p>7.1 CWAC commented that it was important that the Forum maintains progress whilst recognising that these are important documents to scrutinise effectively. CWAC asked what the consequences may be if consensus was reached later than Autumn 2023. HS2 Ltd responded that that there are no hard deadlines and that it will be Parliament who agree the final documents at Royal Assent. However, getting consensus by the Forum will enable the Forum to move on to other important matters such as Planning Forum Notes and secondary legislation. In addition, getting consensus will allow for a consolidated set of comments to be collated by the time the Bill reaches the House of Lords.</p>	
<p>8</p>	<p>Environment Memorandum</p> <p>8.1 HS2 Ltd provided an overview of progress and timelines for responding comments to the Environmental Memorandum (refer to slide pack). It was outlined that 12 changes are to be incorporated into the memorandum. In responding to comments, HS2 Ltd talked through a summary table of changes and reported that a detailed table of responses would be circulated after the meeting.</p> <p>8.2 MCC questioned the role of the NEF in potentially changing HS2 Ltd policy. HS2 clarified that the NEF is concerned with taking forward and implementing the commitments made in the EMRs, it can't alter the commitments themselves.</p> <p>Action: HS2 Ltd to circulate table responding to the comments made.</p> <p>8.3 The chair proposed that LPAs consider the response document and look at the potential to develop a collective view at the next LPA pre meet scheduled for 14th June.</p> <p>Action: LPAs to explore views and any further comment at the next LPA pre meet, scheduled for 14th June.</p>	<p>HS2 Ltd</p> <p>LPAs</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Planning Forum Notes</p>	

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	<p>9.1 HS2 Ltd provided an overview of Planning Forum Notes, providing further detail about their role and also providing context to comments previously made on the Planning Memorandum (refer to slide pack). Specific agreed PFNs on Phase 2a were highlighted that responded to the comments previously raised on the Planning Memorandum.</p> <p>9.2 The chair commented on the value of having the context of PFNs when returning to comments made on Planning Memorandum.</p>	
10	<p>Local Authority Feedback and Matters</p> <p>10.1 The chair reported that the pre meeting with Local Authorities had taken place on 19th April. The only matter which had not been picked up by the Forum agenda was that LPA colleagues had reported difficulties in accessing Sharepoint.</p> <p>10.2 HS2 Ltd agreed to recirculate the link and then follow up with all those who continued to experience difficulties with access.</p> <p>Action: HS2 Ltd to recirculate Sharepoint link and address any difficulties in access.</p>	
11	<p>Future Meeting Content</p> <p>11.1 An overview of the content for future meetings was presented (refer to slide pack).</p>	
12	<p>Arrangements for next meeting</p> <p>12.1 The Chair advised that the intention was to hold the next forum meeting in person, with the option to also join via teams.</p>	

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13	AOB 13.1 HS2 Ltd advised that a further Key Design Element had been added to the list contained in Information Paper D1. This relates to the Middlewich Vent Shaft and was in response to a petitioning issue. 13.2 Further to previous discussions, Forum members welcomed the proposed site visit. The discussion noted that care would need to be taken with dates given the need to accommodate travelling requirements, parliamentary recess and also the timing of the deposit for Additional Provision 2 and consultations. ACTION – HS2 Ltd to propose a date and schedule for a visit in Summer 2023	HS2 Ltd
END		12:10