






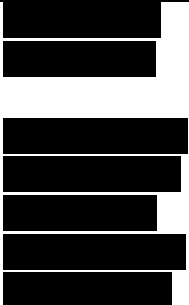


INDEPENDENT Phase 2b Planning FORUM FOR HS2

Title:	Planning Forum for HS2 Phase 2b	
Date & Time	<p>Wednesday 6th September 2023 10.30 – 11.39</p> <p>Hybrid Meeting  Microsoft Teams</p>	
Attendees in person		<p>Independent Chair</p> <p>HS2 Ltd –  HS2 Ltd –  HS2 Ltd –  HS2 Ltd –  HS2 Ltd – </p> <p>Independent Construction Commissioner</p> <p>Manchester City Council (MCC) Manchester City Council (MCC) Trafford Council (TC)</p> <p>Department for Transport (DfT)</p>
Attendees online		<p>HS2 Ltd – Head of Petition Management HS2 Ltd – Community Engagement Manager</p> <p>Cheshire East Council (CEC) Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWCC) Manchester City Council (MCC) Scottish Government (SG) Scottish Government (SG)</p>

Apologies:		
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Item		Action Owner
	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting and thanked ARUP for the use of their offices, acknowledging the hybrid meeting and welcoming those in person and online.</p>	
<p>1</p>	<p>Review of Actions Log</p> <p>1.1 HS2 Ltd provided an overview of the Actions Log, with Item 1 partly being addressed as MCC have provided a collective response from all LPAs on the General Principles EMR with HS2 Ltd to respond to this prior to the next Planning Forum Meeting.</p> <p>Action: HS2 Ltd to provide a response to the General Principles comments.</p> <p>1.2 TC reported regarding Item 1 they will be liaising with the other LPAs to provide a collective response on the Planning Memorandum.</p> <p>Action: LPAs to provide collective response to the Planning Memorandum prior to the next Planning Forum meeting.</p> <p>1.3 HS2 Ltd advised that since the July Planning Forum CWCC have requested that a meeting with a local community involved within Phase 1 be arranged, this has been raised with the Community Engagement team and an update will be provided in a future meeting.</p> <p>Action: HS2 Ltd to arrange a meeting with a local community within Phase 1.</p>	<p>HS2 Ltd</p> <p>LPAs</p> <p>HS2 Ltd</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>Review of Minutes from Previous meeting</p> <p>2.1 The July 2023 minutes were reviewed in which the Chair noted there have been some proposed amendments by MCC. HS2 agreed to the proposed minor changes.</p> <p>Action: HS2 to amend and upload the agreed July minutes to gov.uk.</p>	<p>HS2 Ltd</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Project Update: Hybrid Bill</p> <p>3.1 HS2 Ltd advised that the petitioning period for Additional Provision 2 (AP2) had now closed, with a total of 67 petitions being received.</p> <p>3.2 HS2 Ltd noted that Select Committee will be resuming on 11th September with CWCC/CEC to have a hearing date programmed for early/Mid-October. CWCC asked for clarification of this date as they had not been made aware. MCC stated they believe their hearings were scheduled for November. It was acknowledged that the timetabling of the Committee sessions is entirely within the Parliamentary Authority's</p>	

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	<p>remit, and the local planning authorities will be made aware as soon the hearing dates are confirmed.</p> <p>3.3 HS2 Ltd acknowledged the first Select Committee report was published on the 4th July 2023, and the Promoter’s response is due to be published shortly.</p>	
4	<p>Project Update: Community Engagement</p> <p>4.1 HS2 Ltd provided an outline on the community engagement that has occurred for AP2, particularly the ways that it has been advertised online with the amount of activity these advertisements have had (refer to slide pack).</p> <p>4.2 The recent engagement identified a number of harder to reach communities, which was addressed through local pop-up events and translation of documents into 4 other languages based on the ward profiles.</p> <p>4.3 The Chair sought clarification on the use of the word ‘impression’ in engagement terminology. It was advised an ‘impression’ is the number of people an advert is put out to, ‘reach’ equates to how many viewed the advert and ‘clicks’ refers to how many visit the website from the advert.</p>	
5	<p>Project Update: Sub-Groups</p> <p>5.1 HS2 Ltd advised there have been no sub-groups held since the previous meeting and the next round will all be meeting in September. The main agenda items for each meeting were highlighted with common themes arising (refer to slide pack). No further comment sheets have been circulated, however comment sheets for the Highways sub-group are expected to be circulated soon.</p>	
6	<p>Phase 1 and 2A Construction Commissioner, Sir Mark Worthington</p> <p>6.1 Sir Mark Worthington provided the forum with an overview into his role as the Construction Commissioner for Phase 1 and 2a, stating the role is independently appointed by the Secretary of State and Cabinet separate to both DfT and HS2 Ltd. The main purpose of the role being the final point of appeal where a party is not satisfied with the decisions or outcome of complaints procedures within HS2 Ltd.</p> <p>6.2 It was emphasised the role does not cover statutory matters such as planning, and Land and Property issues are the responsibility of the Residential Commissioner. Sir Mark Worthington advised the Forum</p>	

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	<p>they may benefit from the Residential Commissioner coming to speak with them considering the current status of the Hybrid Bill.</p> <p>Action: LPAs to decide whether they wish to invite the Residential Commissioner to speak at Forum.</p> <p>6.3 Sir Mark highlighted there is a steering group made up of DfT, HS2 Ltd, Local Authority and Public Representatives which meets quarterly to raise issues and allows senior figures to exchange views. The report is made publicly available on the gov.uk website.</p> <p>6.4 Sir Mark highlighted the importance of engagement throughout the construction period and believes many contractors have worked well with the Local Authorities and community groups to resolve issues. It was noted that the decision of the Construction Commissioner is final and HS2 Ltd must adhere to this.</p> <p>6.5 CWCC asked for a specific example of where the initial scheme has been amended as a result of the Commissioner ruling. A scheme in Warwickshire which involved the closure of a major road was resolved with an alternative approach found that would not have as major impact on the local community.</p> <p>6.6 Sir Mark advised that the most important element in dispute resolution was often insufficient communication, with many issues arising from lack of information for those raising complaints. A specific example was identified where concerns about light pollution during construction had been addressed, by the Commissioner holding a meeting between the complainants and relevant technical experts who could provide a greater understanding about why certain methods of construction lighting were necessary and what steps had been taken to mitigate light pollution.</p> <p>6.7 HS2 Ltd directed forum members to the slide which has links to relevant information where they can find out more on the role of the Construction Commissioner, and access to the quarterly reports and the dedicated website (refer to slide pack).</p>	<p>LPAs</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>Phase 2B EMRs</p> <p>7.1 HS2 Ltd provided an update on the status of the 2b EMRs and noted that further comments are still awaited on the Planning Memorandum. It was requested that if there are any final comments that these be provided before the next Planning Forum.</p>	

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	<p>7.2 HS2 Ltd advised the Heritage Memorandum has been discussed at the sub-group and is now on final round of comments with minor changes, which will be presented to Planning Forum in the November meeting.</p> <p>7.3 HS2 Ltd advised that the CoCP had been discussed at various sub groups. Final discussions are on-going and the amended document will be brought back to Planning Forum for information.</p> <p>7.4 HS2 Ltd advised that the documents are close to being settled, and it is important to move on to other matters in the next meetings, as there are important issues that need to be brought to Forum in the coming months. The Chair commented the summary is helpful to understand the status of the documents. He noted that all parties appeared keen to resolve outstanding matters, with the next Local Authority pre-meeting providing a good opportunity to identify what can be resolved in the November Planning Forum.</p> <p>Environmental Memorandum</p> <p>7.5 HS2 Ltd thanked MCC for collating the responses from the Local Authorities on the Environmental Memorandum and advised that the responses from HS2 Ltd will be distributed to Local Authorities shortly. The majority of issues have been resolved or further clarification has been provided. Alternatively, some comments have created an action to be addressed at a future Planning Forum. Forum members have been asked to review these comments ahead of the next meeting.</p> <p>Action: HS2 Ltd to provide HS2’s full response to the Environmental Memorandum comments and circulate the actions table. LPAs are requested to review ahead of next meeting and provide any further comments.</p>	<p>HS2 Ltd/LPAs</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Local Authority Feedback and Matters</p> <p>8.1 The Chair noted the pre-meeting took place on the 14th August, with one matter raised being an update on the Select Committee report which has been addressed in the meeting.</p>	
<p>9</p>	<p>Overview of Content for Future Meetings</p> <p>9.1 HS2 Ltd reviewed the content for future meetings (refer to slide pack). It was highlighted that until the EMRs have been settled, the Statutory Guidance and Draft Class Approval cannot be brought to a future meeting.</p>	

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	<p>9.2 The Chair acknowledged the benefits of meeting in person, stating it would be beneficial to ensure a meeting in person at least once per year.</p>	
10	<p>Arrangements for next meeting</p> <p>10.1 The Chair advised the next meeting will be held online on Microsoft Teams on Wednesday 8th November 2023.</p> <p>10.2 HS2 Ltd stated the dates for meetings in 2024 will need be arranged.</p> <p>Action: HS2 Ltd to distribute dates for Planning Forum meetings in 2024.</p>	HS2 Ltd
11	<p>AOB</p> <p>11.1 HS2 Ltd advised the Topic Log in Sharepoint has been updated with all relevant links. It was also stated that IT are unable to extend the timeframe in which passwords will expire for users, however a reminder for users to log in will be distributed monthly.</p> <p>11.2 The site visit to the South Portal and Colne Valley Viaduct took place on Monday 4th September 2023. CWCC highlighted that this hugely beneficial with a well-managed site with attention to detail for Health and Safety, Security and management of wide range of contractors and businesses from a diverse range of backgrounds. It was noted this social inclusion is important in recruitment from local areas. This was reinforced by Sir Mark Worthington who encouraged site visits to understand the scale of the works and provide perspective.</p> <p>11.3The Chair noted that construction of Colne Valley Viaduct was sufficiently far advanced to be able to appreciate both the high quality of the design of the structure and how well the viaduct sat within the local landscape, both it in terms of its scale and visual impact. It was suggested that some images from the visit could be circulated with the minutes. HS2 Ltd proposed that a site visit to Old Oak Common station would be beneficial as it has a large community area. It was suggested that a Planning Forum meeting could take place in person at the Old Oak Common site which HS2 Ltd will look to arrange for early 2024.</p> <p>Action: HS2 Ltd to arrange site visit to Old Oak Common to coincide with an in-person Planning Forum meeting in 2024.</p> <p>Action: HS2 Ltd to circulate images from the site visit with the draft minutes.</p>	<p>HS2 Ltd</p> <p>HS2 Ltd</p>
	END	11.39

