

# EH Subgroup Minutes

<b>Meeting date</b>	Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2023, 14:30 to 16:30
<b>Meeting location</b>	Microsoft Teams
<b>Meeting title</b>	Environmental Health (EH) Subgroup Meeting #49
<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

Environment Advisor (Calvert) - EKFB

## Nominated Undertaker Attendees

Air Quality Manager (Construction) – HS2 Ltd

Community Engagement Manager – HS2 Ltd

Environment Advisor– HS2 Ltd

Head of Environmental Sciences – HS2 Ltd

Head of Noise Assessment – HS2 Ltd

Noise and Vibration Manager – HS2 Ltd

Phase1 Town Planning Lead – HS2 Ltd

Senior Environment Manager (EKFB) – HS2 Ltd

## EH Attendees

Buckinghamshire Council (BC)

Cherwell District Council (CDC)

London Borough of Brent (LBB)

London Borough of Camden (LBC)

London Borough of Camden (LBC)

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)

Staffordshire County Council (SCC)

Three Rivers District Council (TRDC)

Westminster City Council (WCC)

**Apologies**

Buckinghamshire Council (BC)

London Borough of Ealing (LBE)

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC)

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 September 2023 meeting minutes was undertaken. The Chair asked for a rolling stock update to be captured in the action log as a future agenda item. There were no other comments and the meeting minutes for September 2023 were agreed.

### **Item 3 – Programme Updates**

The HS2 Head of Environmental Sciences recognised the media focus around the Phase 2 and Euston areas following government announcement. It was noted that there are a number discussions ongoing regarding next steps. HS2’s Head of Environmental Sciences provided the latest position following the announcement. It was recognised that there is still uncertainty and further updates will be shared with attendees when available. It was highlighted that HS2 Ltd’s Executive Chair Sir Jon Thompson appeared at the Transport Select Committee. As part of this appearance, it was mentioned that HS2 is undergoing internal re-organisation to best address the organisation’s responsibilities.

### **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 adopts hi-tech digital concrete testing to cut carbon on project.
- New HS2 exhibition space opens at Birmingham’s Thinktank museum.
- Lichfield Canal restoration reaches next chapter thanks to HS2 funding.
- HS2 achieves inclusive environments recognition from the CIC.

### **Questions/Comments:**

(Q) LBE: Would you be able to provide more information on the dewatering strategy at Curzon Street?

(A) Head of Environment HS2: There has been a lot of engagement with the Environment Agency on this along with other sites. This includes winter readiness and around Chromium VI workshops.

### **Item 5 – 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 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023 for both light duty vehicles and heavy goods vehicles, for each contractor. NRMM compliance figures were also presented for this period.

Information was shared regarding work being carried for dust mitigation on haul roads, which included regular inspections and enforcement of speed limits. A summary of HS2's Air Quality Report for 2022 was discussed, noting this is available at [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/651ff3e02548ca0014ddee8f/Air\\_Quality\\_Annual\\_Report\\_2022.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/651ff3e02548ca0014ddee8f/Air_Quality_Annual_Report_2022.pdf)

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

(Q) Chair: Does this latest report refer to ongoing Covid impacts?

(A) Air Quality Manager (Construction) HS2: There has been a decrease in exceedances, with greater policy awareness and moving to cleaner technology.

(Q) LBC: Have you compared sites with HS2 traffic and those without to understand HS2's impact?

(A) Air Quality Manager (Construction) HS2: That has not been done but I can look at the modelling that was undertaken and use that as a basis to compare.

#### **Item 6 – 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) review. The report is with the Department for Transport for publication. The Residents and Construction Commissioner have also been briefed on the proposed changes to the policy following the recommendation of the review. An update was also provided for Service Level Agreements (SLAs). It was noted that several workshops are being held to improve the process and attendees were invited to share their experiences.

A lookback of applications submitted in 2023 was shared, which included consent applications, appeals and noise insulation and temporary re-housing offers to date. Data was presented on applications made in October and November 2023. A forward look for the next two months was also presented for S61 and Sol applications for each contractor and area.

#### **Item 7 – Buckinghamshire Presentation on S61**

Representative from Buckinghamshire Council and Environment Advisor from EKFB were invited to share the S61 process and their experience. It was set out that there were several issues in the current S61 process within Buckinghamshire Council such as the time taken between draft to final applications and the volume and distribution of applications throughout the year. Through collaboration between Buckinghamshire and EKFB, a new process is currently being used with shorter consenting periods and regular reviews at three-month intervals. This is being done along with a S61 programme and lookahead. The benefits of this new process and next steps were also shared.

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

(Q) WCC: Will the use of AI and machine learning be used at HS2?

(A) Noise and Vibration Manager HS2: Yes, we are. Align use a system called NORA. This was presented at previous meeting.

(Q) SMBC: We face lots of utility diversions at the minute. How do you manage interface with utilities and exchange information?

(A) EKFB: We install the utilities, and these are part of our consents.

### **Item 8 – Ongoing Construction and Section 61 Experience**

The Chair invited Buckinghamshire Council to discuss the PRA works which were completed on time. It was noted that complaints and queries fell over time, and this was helped by the focus on face-to-face engagement. It was suggested that HS2 review the lessons learnt in this to share.

A representative for LBE discussed works on Mandeville Road Vent Shaft. It is a constrained site with residents nearby, where SCS were required to work for 24hrs. LBE noted that SCS were able to identify impacted residents and undertook community engagement and support packages. Despite initial challenges, this has gone down well with residents with complaints falling. The chair agreed that lessons learnt around positive examples of engagement should be shared.

### **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 consents performance and appeals. There are two live Schedule 17 appeals currently, with a new submission just made. Updates were provided on various Planning Forum Notes, including PFN4 and PFN 5 and a new PFN being drafted on part decisions. A presentation as also provided by HS2 Phase One Ecology Lead and HS2 Landscape Design Lead.

### **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. It was noted that the PDCS review would be circulated to attendees when available. The Chair suggested a future agenda item covering Bringing into Use.

LBE raised the action on haul roads and noted issues remain, especially around particulate matter. It was agreed that HS2 Air Quality Manager (Construction) would discuss this outside the meeting and this action could be closed.

Following feedback from the survey shared at the previous meeting, the Chair shared a new proposed future agenda, with a smaller project update section and a slot for technical and strategic presentations. Attendees were asked to provide comments following the meeting.

The Chair closed the meeting.