

# EH Subgroup Minutes

<b>Meeting date</b>	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2024, 14:30 to 16:30
<b>Meeting location</b>	Microsoft Teams
<b>Meeting title</b>	Environmental Health (EH) Subgroup Meeting #51
<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

## Nominated Undertaker Attendees

Environment and Town Planning Director – HS2 Ltd

Environment Graduate – HS2 Ltd

Head of Carbon and Climate Change – HS2 Ltd

Head of Environment Technical Services – HS2 Ltd

Head of Noise Assessment – HS2 Ltd

Noise and Vibration Manager – HS2 Ltd

Phase One Town Planning Lead – 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 Ealing (LBE)

London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (LHF)

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC)

Staffordshire County Council (SCC)

Three Rivers District Council (TRDC)

**Apologies**

London Borough of Ealing (LBE)

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham (LHF)

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC)

### **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 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 February 2024 meeting minutes was undertaken. The Chair queried when a further update on pantograph noise would be made available. HS2’s Head of Noise Assessment confirmed that an update would be provided later in the year (Summer 2024). There were no further comments and the meeting minutes for February 2024 were agreed.

### **Item 3 – View from the Bridge**

HS2’s Environment and Town Planning Director was invited to give an overview of Environmental progress at HS2. An update was provided on the status of main works and stations, noting that rail systems will soon be implemented.

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

(Q) BC: Is there a fixed date for the handover from civil works to rail systems?

(A) HS2 Environment and Town Planning Director: There is no fixed date. It will be a progressive approach and will depend on the area of the route.

(Q) SMBC: Will information be provided on train schedule specifications and is this part of the Bringing into Use process?

(A) HS2 Environment and Town Planning Director: Specific train schedules will likely not be decided for some time.

### **Item 4 – Phase One Project Update**

An update on Phase One was provided by HS2’s Environment Graduate. A general update of Phase One works was provided, which included ongoing excavation, foundation, tunnelling, and utilities works. Highlights were given of the latest press releases across the HS2 programme.

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

The Chair requested that information could be shared on ground borne noise and vibration from tunnelling. HS2’s Head of Noise Assessment confirmed that the Align JV paper on managing the effects of ground-borne noise and vibration from tunnelling, which was presented at the ACOUSTICS 2023 conference, would be shared with the group.

## **Item 5 – Innovation Trials and Progress**

HS2's Head of Carbon and Climate Change provided an update on innovation trials and progress. Examples of innovation projects related to nature recovery and reducing carbon emissions were provided.

### **Questions/Comments:**

(Q) LBE: Does HS2 have any way to map community nature conservation initiatives?

(A) HS2 Head of Environment Technical Services: HS2 has a Green Corridor mapping tool (on HS2's website) that logs all of the nature recovery initiatives along the route.

(Q) Planning Forum Chair: How will HS2 generate zero carbon energy?

(A) HS2 Head of Carbon and Climate Change: HS2 will not generate energy to power the train, but rather use decarbonised grid electricity.

(Q) Chair: How does HS2 work with the wider industry to implement guidance and innovations?

(A) HS2 Head of Carbon and Climate Change: In addition to collaborating with industry partners and authorities, HS2's Learning Legacy programme is capturing best practices and lessons learnt from across the HS2 supply chain.

## **Item 6 – Other Updates**

HS2's Phase One Town Planning Lead provided a Phase One Planning Forum update. Standing items were discussed including planning consents performance and appeal outcomes. Planning Forum Notes around processes for additional details requests, part decisions, and principles of determination were discussed.

HS2's Head of Environment Technical Services provided an update on the last Joint Regulators Forum. Items discussed included Bringing into Use applications and Environment Agency inspections of HS2 sites.

## **Item 7 – Ongoing Construction and Section 61 Experience**

No discussion points were raised.

## **Item 8 – 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.

BC raised the action of further information being provided on rail systems handover and the associated extended hours justifications. The Chair raised the action of a full programme of works overview to be provided.

The Chair closed the meeting.