

EH Subgroup Minutes

Meeting date	Thursday 6 th February 2025, 14:30 to 16:00
Meeting location	Microsoft Teams
Meeting title	Environmental Health (EH) Subgroup Meeting #55
HS2 contact or group	planning.forum@hs2.org.uk
Stakeholder	Environmental Health Subgroup to Planning Forum

External Attendees

Independent Chair

Nominated Undertaker Attendees

Air Quality Manager – HS2 Ltd

Environment Graduate – HS2 Ltd

Funds Manager – HS2 Ltd

Head of Carbon and Climate Change – HS2 Ltd

Head of Noise Assessment – HS2 Ltd

Natural and Built Environment Director – HS2 Ltd

Noise and Vibration Manager – HS2 Ltd

EH Attendees

Birmingham City Council (BCC)

Buckinghamshire Council (BC)

Cherwell District Council (CDC)

London Borough of Camden (LBC)

London Borough of Camden (LBC)

London Borough of Ealing (LBE)

London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (LBHF)

London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (LBHF)

London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (LBHF)

London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (LBHF)

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC)

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC)

Staffordshire County Council (SCC)

Three Rivers District Council (TRDC)

Apologies

London Borough of Brent

London Borough of Ealing

Planning Forum Chair

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 December 2024 meeting minutes was undertaken.

There were no further comments and the meeting minutes for December 2024 were agreed.

Item 3 – CEF and BLEF overview

HS2’s Funds Manager gave an overview of CEF (Community and Environment Fund) and BLEF (Business and Local Economy Fund), highlighting the process and relevant case studies.

Item 4 – View from the Bridge

HS2’s Natural and Built Environment Director gave an overview of HS2’s construction and environmental progress to date.

Questions/Comments:

(Q) Chair: Will HS2’s new CEO be able to provide more certainty around programme completion dates and Euston station?

(A) HS2 Natural and Built Environment Director: The reset is being worked through across the HS2 leadership and politicians, but there continues to be a drive to open the railway as quickly as possible and in the most efficient way possible.

Item 5 – Project Updates

A general update of Phase One construction works and highlights of the latest press releases from across the programme were provided by HS2’s Environment Graduate.

Item 6 – Other Updates

LBE provided an update on the latest Joint Regulators Forum. Items discussed included Health, Safety and Environment risks, HS2’s management and governance approach to HSE risks, and HS2’s approach to managing and monitoring contractors’ HSE performance.

The Chair provided a Planning Forum update. Items discussed included Schedule 17 performance, the ongoing Judicial Review, and Planning Forum Note #7 which has been finalised.

HS2's Head of Carbon and Climate Change provided an update on the Independent Commissioners, noting that the Construction Commissioner and Residents' Commissioner roles are to be merged. The DfT is currently considering applications.

Item 7 – Ongoing Construction and Section 61 Experience

LBHF noted an improvement in on-time Section 61 dispensation applications. BC raised that this is still an issue in their area. HS2's Noise and Vibration Manager confirmed that this would be investigated.

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.

LBE noted the need to consider cumulative impacts on background emissions - particularly PM 2.5 - which are not decreasing and suggested a study to understand these impacts.

HS2 Head of Carbon and Climate Change: HS2 has adopted stricter emission standards for non-road mobile machinery which aligns with the GLA's updated standards. A study with the Energy Saving Trust is underway to assess the feasibility and implications of further tightening these standards to Stage V. Camden and Ealing are encouraged to share their insights on air quality controls and mitigations at a future subgroup.

The Chair closed the meeting.