

EH Subgroup Minutes

Meeting date	Thursday 22 nd May 2025, 14:30 to 16:00
Meeting location	Microsoft Teams
Meeting title	Environmental Health (EH) Subgroup Meeting #57
HS2 contact or group	planning.forum@hs2.org.uk
Stakeholder	Environmental Health Subgroup to Planning Forum

External Attendees

Independent Chair

Planning Forum Chair

Project Manager – Environment Agency (EA)

Nominated Undertaker Attendees

Air Quality Manager – HS2 Ltd

Environment Graduate – HS2 Ltd

Head of Noise Assessment – HS2 Ltd

Noise and Vibration Manager – HS2 Ltd

EH Attendees

Birmingham City Council (BCC)

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 (LBHF)

London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (LBHF)

London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (LBHF)

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC)

Staffordshire County Council (SCC)

Stratford-on-Avon District Council (SoADC)

Westminster City Council (WCC)

Apologies

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

Three Rivers District Council

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 March 2025 meeting minutes was undertaken.

The Chair requested that the Camden Health Impact Report be shared with the group once available.

There were no further comments and the meeting minutes for March 2025 were agreed.

Item 3 – Summer Readiness

Environment Agency’s Project Manager provided an overview of summer readiness measures on HS2 construction sites.

Questions/Comments:

(Q) Planning Forum Chair: How do you determine the water abstraction rate, is it per watercourse or per site?

(A) EA: It is one abstraction per watercourse catchment.

(Q) BC: What happens on sites if water is restricted in drought conditions?

(A) EA: Contractors all have Water Resource Plans which should factor in dry weather conditions. In extreme circumstances, certain works may need to be paused if the site’s water supplies have been exhausted.

(Q) LBE: Have any contractors introduced vegetation on sites to combat the effects of low rainfall?

(A) EA: Contractors typically start hydroseeding in the spring, although the success of this might vary due to unprecedented dry conditions.

Item 4 – 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 5 – Hs2 Reset

HS2's Head of Noise Assessment provided an update on the ongoing HS2 programme reset, which is working to deliver the railway at the lowest feasible cost with a clear schedule.

Questions/Comments:

BC noted that although some works are being rescheduled, they have been receiving more requests for out of hours work than usual.

(Q)LBE: Will any of the community projects and funds such as CEF/BLEF or PDCS be affected by the reset?

(A) HS2 Noise and Vibration Manager: The PDCS budget is ring-fenced so will not be affected.

HS2 confirmed that an update would be provided on the status of community funds.

Post meeting note: CEF/BLEF funds are also ring-fenced. Alternative uses of these funds would require sign off by DfT and the Treasury.

Item 6 – Other Updates

The Planning Forum Chair provided a Planning Forum update. Items discussed included the revised Planning Forum Note on restoration, a proposal for a Planning Forum Note on the principles for determination of Bringing into Use, and a report on the review of the SLA.

Item 7 – Ongoing Construction and Section 61 Experience

LBE and LBHF noted an increase in requests for out of hours working. LBHF suggested a joint meeting with the relevant authorities and HS2 to coordinate Section 61 applications and out of hours working requests.

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.

The Chair requested that future agenda items include Camden's Clean Air Action Plan, an update from the Construction Commissioner, and an update on pantograph noise and source terms.

The Chair closed the meeting.

