

## INDEPENDENT PHASE ONE PLANNING FORUM FOR HS2

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Independent Phase One Planning Forum for HS2 - #81</b>	
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	Thursday 18 September 2025 Microsoft Teams meeting 13:00 – 14:00	
<b>Chair:</b>	[REDACTED]	Independent Chair
<b>Promoter Attendees:</b>	[REDACTED]	HS2 Ltd (Town Planning Manager) HS2 Ltd (Head of Town Planning) HS2 Ltd (Phase 1 Town Planning Lead) HS2 Ltd (Town Planning Manager) HS2 Ltd (Team Administrator) Align Align BBV BBV BBV EKFB MDJV SCS SCS
<b>Planning Authority Attendees:</b>	[REDACTED]	Birmingham City Council (BCC) Buckinghamshire Council (BC) London Borough of Camden (LBC) North Warwickshire Borough Council (NWBC) Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) Staffordshire County Council (SCC) Three Rivers District Council (TRDC) Warwick District Council (WDC) Warwickshire County Council (WCC) West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) West Northamptonshire Council (WNC)
<b>Other Attendees:</b>	[REDACTED]	DfT

Item		Action Owner
1.	Introductions – were made.	

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<p><b>2.</b></p>	<p><b>Review of the minutes of the last meeting and outstanding actions.</b></p> <p>Minutes from the July 2025 Planning Forum meeting were agreed.</p> <p>Outstanding actions were reviewed:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="349 409 1291 1449"> <tr> <td data-bbox="349 409 527 478">Nov 23 (3)</td> <td data-bbox="527 409 1052 478">PG to arrange a visit to train mock-up site w/c 13 and 20 October</td> <td data-bbox="1052 409 1291 478"><b>Action open</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="349 478 527 583">Jan 25 (10)</td> <td data-bbox="527 478 1052 583">PG to explore November Planning Forum being a hybrid meeting held on site at Curzon Street.</td> <td data-bbox="1052 478 1291 583"><b>Action open</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="349 583 527 871">Mar 25 (8)</td> <td data-bbox="527 583 1052 871">TA to approach National Audit Office for further information. TA wrote to the NAO on 15 May and their response on 12 June referred him back to HS2 Ltd. TA has met with [REDACTED] who will present to the November Forum. [REDACTED] has also agreed to meet with the Chair.</td> <td data-bbox="1052 583 1291 871"><b>Action CLOSED</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="349 871 527 976">May 25 (7)</td> <td data-bbox="527 871 1052 976">HS2 to circulate draft PFN – Bringing into Use Principles for Determination and arrange a workshop.</td> <td data-bbox="1052 871 1291 976"><b>Action open</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="349 976 527 1050">Jul 25 (6)</td> <td data-bbox="527 976 1052 1050">Organise workshop on BIU and mitigation schemes</td> <td data-bbox="1052 976 1291 1050"><b>Action open</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="349 1050 527 1192">Jul 25 (7)</td> <td data-bbox="527 1050 1052 1192">Rising from discussions in the Highways Subgroup, a special meeting on the New Burdens assessment is to be organised.</td> <td data-bbox="1052 1050 1291 1192"><b>Meeting held 11 September. Action CLOSED</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="349 1192 527 1375">Sep (5)</td> <td data-bbox="527 1192 1052 1375">PG to investigate who would be the most appropriate HS2 colleague to discuss the SLA funding agreements for HS2 funded posts within the Council and associated uplift issues.</td> <td data-bbox="1052 1192 1291 1375"><b>Action open</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="349 1375 527 1449">Sep (6)</td> <td data-bbox="527 1375 1052 1449">HS2 to circulate a proposed list of Planning Forum dates for 2026.</td> <td data-bbox="1052 1375 1291 1449"><b>Action open</b></td> </tr> </table>	Nov 23 (3)	PG to arrange a visit to train mock-up site w/c 13 and 20 October	<b>Action open</b>	Jan 25 (10)	PG to explore November Planning Forum being a hybrid meeting held on site at Curzon Street.	<b>Action open</b>	Mar 25 (8)	TA to approach National Audit Office for further information. TA wrote to the NAO on 15 May and their response on 12 June referred him back to HS2 Ltd. TA has met with [REDACTED] who will present to the November Forum. [REDACTED] has also agreed to meet with the Chair.	<b>Action CLOSED</b>	May 25 (7)	HS2 to circulate draft PFN – Bringing into Use Principles for Determination and arrange a workshop.	<b>Action open</b>	Jul 25 (6)	Organise workshop on BIU and mitigation schemes	<b>Action open</b>	Jul 25 (7)	Rising from discussions in the Highways Subgroup, a special meeting on the New Burdens assessment is to be organised.	<b>Meeting held 11 September. Action CLOSED</b>	Sep (5)	PG to investigate who would be the most appropriate HS2 colleague to discuss the SLA funding agreements for HS2 funded posts within the Council and associated uplift issues.	<b>Action open</b>	Sep (6)	HS2 to circulate a proposed list of Planning Forum dates for 2026.	<b>Action open</b>	
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<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b>Project Update</b></p> <p>PG gave a project update including an overview on specific assets.</p>																									
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Planning Consents Performance &amp; Appeals and Judicial Reviews Update</b></p> <p>SA presented the planning consents performance and appeals update. He also advised that the construction progress updates are not available due to an internal reporting change, however they will hopefully be available for November’s meeting.</p>																									

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	<p><u>Performance on determinations within last six months</u>          Latest performance shows an improving picture, with half of the applications being determined within 8 weeks. HS2 appreciate everyone’s involvement with implementation of the Schedule 17 regime and the work of the Planning Forum.</p> <p><u>Applications awaiting decision</u>          Latest performance shows an improving picture. However, there are some longstanding applications which have undergone significant design changes post submission, with some other applications subject to requests for further information. Overall, the number of applications awaiting decision is reducing, which reflects the current stage of the project, where significant progress has been made with plans and specifications consents (largely design of civils work) and the project is at an earlier stage of preparing consents for bringing into use and restoration.</p> <p><u>Application performance</u>          Contractors have improved submissions rates, with actual submissions made close to aligning with forecasted submissions. As demonstrated in July 2025, it was forecast that ten applications were to be submitted and the actual submissions made were eight. In August 2025, five applications were forecast to be submitted and four applications were submitted. Overall, the forecasts have substantially improved over recent months.</p> <p><u>Appeals</u>          There are no live appeals awaiting determination.</p> <p>Bromford Tunnel East Portal - North Warwickshire Borough Council has applied to the Court of Appeal (CoA) and to challenge the High Court judgment. Still awaiting a decision from the CoA if this application is accepted.</p> <p>Given the similarities of issues, the decision on the later application for judicial review of the Bromford Tunnel East Portal Building appeal decision has been stayed until the Bromford Tunnel East Portal judicial review has concluded.</p>	
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Local Authority Feedback</b></p> <p><b>Feedback 1</b>          TB (Bucks) queried the potential for changes to approved mitigation schemes after approval of the associated Bringing into Use (BIU) consent. PG advised that the BIU can only be approved once, however there are opportunities to amend Mitigation Schemes if required. The fundamental elements of scheduled works are unlikely to alter at this stage of the project based on current design maturity, with applications to seek approval to BIU the railway not planned anytime soon. SA clarified majority of the works that are largely being brought forward will be Mitigation Schemes for non-railway scheduled</p>	

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	<p>works such as roads and bridges. If there is a change to an approved Mitigation Scheme, there is mechanism within the Act to do, which can be discussed in the workshop. Furthermore, it was advised that BIU is a two stage process and the approval of the scheme of mitigation is one of two stages with the BIU the second approval.</p> <p><b>Feedback 2</b> EL (NWBC) queried issues related to the SLA agreement regarding uplift costs related to personnel directly recruited by the Council for HS2 purposes and why this was not included in the funding agreement. PG advised that the town planning team is not responsible for the SLA/funding agreements, however he will refer this to HS2 colleagues who would be best placed to address this.</p> <p><b>Action: PG to investigate who would be the most appropriate HS2 colleague to discuss the SLA funding agreements for HS2 funded posts within the Council and associated uplift issues.</b></p>	HS2
6.	<p><b>Forward Plan/ AOB</b></p> <p>20 November</p> <p><b>Action: Circulate a proposed list of Planning Forum dates for 2026.</b></p>	HS2
	End	