

EH Subgroup Minutes

Meeting date	Thursday 23 rd July 2026, 14:30 to 16:00
Meeting location	Microsoft Teams
Meeting title	Environmental Health (EH) Subgroup Meeting #65
HS2 contact or group	planning.forum@hs2.org.uk
Stakeholder	Environmental Health Subgroup to Planning Forum

External Attendees

Independent Chair

Planning Forum Chair

Nominated Undertaker Attendees

Air Quality Manager – HS2 Ltd

Environment and Town Planning Director – HS2 Ltd

Environment Graduate – HS2 Ltd

Head of Noise Assessment – HS2 Ltd

Noise and Vibration Manager – HS2 Ltd

EH Attendees

Buckinghamshire Council (BC)

Cherwell District Council (CDC)

London Borough of Camden (LBC)

London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (LBHF)

Westminster City Council (WCC)

Apologies

None Received

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. The Chair went through meeting etiquette. The meeting was recorded to aid with minute taking, attendees were notified.

Item 2 - Review of Minutes from Previous Meeting

A review of the May 2026 meeting minutes was undertaken.

There was a correction noted to BC’s question on Pantagraph noise which has now been amended in the May minutes. No further comments and the meeting minutes for May 2026 were agreed.

Item 3 – HS2 Reset update – HS2 Ltd.’s Environment and Town Planning Director

Reset: As requested at the previous meeting, the Chair had invited local authorities to submit any questions in advance. These were collated into four key questions for discussion. The Environment and Town Planning Director delivered a presentation on the HS2 Reset Programme and responded to these questions submitted by the Chair in advance of the meeting.

The presentation outlined the Reference Case announced in May 2026, highlighting two principal changes: a reduction in operating speeds to 320 kph that align with European rail standards and two new deliverable time ranges. Environment and Town Planning Director also provided an overview of the programme timeline, including contractor activity and the mobilisation of rail systems, stations and rolling stock. It was noted that the Reset Programme includes a dedicated workstream on community engagement, recognising that some communities will experience the presence of construction sites for longer than originally anticipated.

The Head of Noise Assessment clarified that the proposed changes are expected to result in beneficial noise effects in some locations where the railway operates at maximum speed. There are no plans to change currently proposed noise mitigation measures. It was also confirmed that there will be no changes to the scheduled train service pattern used in noise assessments because current assumptions are still representative.

Questions/Comments:

(Q) CC: Is Euston included within the reset? Will more information be provided on Euston later in the year?

(A) Environment and Town Planning Director: The full reset is set to be published in April 2027 and will be on the whole route; this will disclose more information about Euston.

(Q) BC: Will there be an interim caretaker or will rail systems take over sites from contractors?

(A) Environment and Town Planning Director: HS2 will have an interim maintenance contractor.

(Q) BC: Will Section 61 apply to the interim maintenance contractor? If not, how will local authorities manage noise from sites?

(A) Environment and Town Planning Director: The interim maintenance contractor will be required to comply with the relevant environmental controls implemented in line with the scope. The extent of these

controls will be determined during contract and scope development. Early market engagement, alongside other preparatory activities, will be undertaken to help define the contract scope and establish the technical standards and requirements to be applied.

It was agreed that there will be a presentation on maintenance contracts at a later date, when further information is available, to address the questions in more detail. This has been added to the action log.

(Q) The Planning Forum Chair: At the Planning Forum, HS2 Chief Executive referred to extended funding for community schemes. Is this what is meant by developing the baseline for the remaining works, including provisions for local communities?

(A) Environment and Town Planning Director: There is a dedicated workstream focused on community related matters. The workstream referenced by HS2 Chief Executive at the Planning Forum includes community focused activities and environment comes within that.

Environmental updates: HS2's Environmental Sustainability Progress Report 2025-26 has been published alongside the Annual Reporting Accounts within which environment has a section about our approach to climate change as part of the TCFD task force financial disclosure. HS2 and the EA are presenting to DEFRA about lessons learnt and Environment and Town Planning Director and The Planning Forum Chair provided an overview on the Bromford tunnel appeal.

Item 4 – Project Updates

Head of noise assessment provided an update to the new proposed way for presenting Project Updates going forward. A general update of Phase One construction was provided by HS2's Environment Graduate. The forum was signposted to HS2 official videos on HS2 Chief Executive's Project Updates, IPT updates and good news stories.

Item 5 – Other updates

The Planning Forum Chair provided a summary of the key topics discussed at the Planning Forum Subgroup meeting held on 16th June 2026. HS2 Chief Executive presented to the Planning Forum alongside the Project Manager Route Delivery presented on the review of the existing Service Level Agreements (SLAs). It was noted that all current agreements have been extended by a further 12 months. In April 2027, when they are set to expire, HS2 intends to implement a new SLA, which is expected to address and resolve challenges experienced in the past.

Item 6 - Ongoing Construction and Section 61 & Schedule 17 Experience

Independent Chair noted that CDC had received several requests for earlier starts for concreting activities because of the extreme high temperatures. These requests were considered reasonable and thus accepted.

Item 7 - 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 closed the meeting.