



**HS2 Regional Enterprise Board**

**Tuesday 12 April 2022 at 10.00am**

**Minutes**

**Present**

Councillor Ian Courts (Chair)	Portfolio Lead for Environment, Energy & HS2
Councillor Ian Ward	Birmingham City Council
Andrew Argyle	Chair WMCA HS2 Strategic Supply Chain Panel
Lynda Rawsthorne	Department for Transport
Paul Mountford	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Tremaine Herbert	HS2 Ltd
Julie King	HS2 Ltd
Mark Thurston	HS2 Ltd
Rebecca Young	HS2 Ltd
Mary Morrissey	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Michael Anderson	Transport for West Midlands
Rachael Phillips	Transport for West Midlands
Craig Wakeman	Transport for West Midlands
Jonathan Bretherton	Urban Growth Company
Chris Egan	Warwickshire County Council
Councillor Martin Watson	Warwickshire County Council
Dr Julie Nugent	West Midlands Combined Authority

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Patrick Harley, Ian MacLeod, Anne Shaw, Alan Over and Ed Watson.

**2. HS2 Ltd Strategic Programme of Works & Recent/Future Activities (inc. communications)**

The board received a presentation from Mark Thurston and Julie King which provided an update on overall activity since the last meeting.

Work was underway at 340 sites across the Phase One route, with contracts let for three of the four station sites with Mace Dragados appointed as the main contractor for Curzon Street who would be taking over the site in the coming months. Tenders had been received for the Interchange contractor with an appointment anticipated in the Summer. Mark Thurston offered board members the opportunity to attend a site visit to see the work being undertaken.

**ACTION: HS2-023 Regional Enterprise Board members to contact Craig Wakeman if they were interested in attending a site visit.**

Since December 2021 over 5,000 people were working on HS2 in the West Midlands, with 308 apprenticeship starts and 328 previously unemployed individuals securing employment on the project within the West Midlands.

A green corridor was created along the Phase One route with over 770,000 trees planted to date, with over 223,000 trees planted across the West Midlands by LMJV.

A skills academy had been established by BBV, based within South and City College's Bordesley Green Campus. Over 8,000 days of school engagement has taken place across the line of route including 49 STEM workshops with over 2,800 students attending from the West Midlands.

**ACTION: HS2-024 Mark Thurston / Julie King to share the presentation with Craig Wakeman for wider circulation after the meeting.**

Councillor Courts enquired about the initiative with schools, wondering how school had been approached and the level of engagement with local authorities. Julie King advised the main works contractors would reach out to local schools and invite them to participate in various activities as well as HS2 liaison with local authorities to connect with officers for specific areas. In addition to the data provided within the presentation, BBV had delivered 758 days of engagement with local schools and colleges in the last period.

Julie King was keen to ensure data was shared, if not being done so already on a more frequent basis and how it could be combined to include data from the contractors.

Councillor Watson referred to the 5,000 people working in the West Midlands and asked if that figure were people working in or employed from the West Midlands and Warwickshire. Julie King advised she would need to review the data to see how HS2 could demonstrate where people were employed from.

**ACTION: HS2-025 Julie King to review employment data to demonstrate where people were being employed from to answer Councillor Watson's question.**

The Chair thanked Mark Thurston and Julie King for their presentation and information shared.

### **3. HS2 Ltd / WMCA Jobs & Skills Quarterly Update**

The board received a presentation from Dr Julie Nugent and Rebecca Young which gave an overview of jobs and skills activity since the last meeting.

A joint statement of intent had been agreed between HS2 Ltd and WMCA, which would provide a framework for collaborative activity around jobs and skills with a focus on ensuring people in the West Midlands had the best access to job opportunities that contractors were providing.

BBV had a strategy to establish further academies across the West Midlands following the success of the Skills Academy based in Bordesley Green and were in conversation with various companies in Solihull, Coventry and Warwickshire and the Black Country.

A total of 828 residents from across the West Midlands were part of the HS2 Ltd workforce as of December 2021, with 328 residents employed who were previously not in work and had been in employment for more than 26 weeks.

WMCA were investing circa £5m over the next three years to support training linked to HS2 construction. A variety of training opportunities were being delivered across the West Midlands with a strong network of providers.

Lynda Rawsthorne referred to the data shared regarding 55% of participants moving into employment following training and wondered if any barriers had been identified. Dr Julie Nugent advised the WMCA had been working with job centres targeting unemployed people and that Covid-19 had an impact over the last two years, as well as transport which could often be a factor for getting out to sites with work being undertaken with transport colleagues to look at a joined approach to alleviate this issue.

#### 4. **HS2 Ltd / WMCA Update on HS2 E&L Activities**

Craig Wakeman had circulated a report ahead of the meeting which was an action from the board meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022. The report outlined work carried out since the launch of the HS2 Growth Strategy, including various initiatives that colleagues from all over the West Midlands were involved in, including a map which had been produced showing a sustainable travel route which used HS2 to bring everything together.

The report also suggested the reformation of the HS2 Environment and Landscape Board and for the board to put forward nominations for a chairperson to help bring together the right people with the knowledge and understanding to progress the work which had been started previously. Mark Thurston suggested someone from within one of the local authorities who had a knowledge of and a passion for the environment could be a suitable candidate.

**ACTION: HS2-026 All board members to give thought to potential candidates from within local authorities to take up the role of chairperson for the HS2 Environment and Landscape Board and advise Councillor Courts / Craig Wakeman.**

#### 5. **HS2 Ltd Carbon Reduction Proposals**

The board received a presentation from Mark Fenton titled HS2: Destination Net Zero which highlighted carbon reduction being fundamental to HS2's purpose, with HS2 playing a critical part of the net zero carbon transport system delivering zero carbon journeys to hundreds of thousands of passengers daily and would contribute to the decarbonisation of the wider transport sector through modal shift, passenger and freight journeys.

A net zero carbon plan was launched earlier in 2022 which explained work undertaken to date plus planned work for future years ahead on the journey to achieving a net zero carbon business from 2025. Birmingham Curzon Street Station has been forecast to achieve a 55% reduction in carbon emissions.

**ACTION: HS2-027 Mark Fenton to share a link to a video showing how HS2 are using low/zero emission alternatives on construction sites.**

**6. WMCA HS2 Strategic Supply Chain Activities & Proposed Mayoral Supply Chain Summit**

Craig Wakeman advised the mayor was planning to hold another Mayoral Supply Chain Summit on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022 between 15:00 – 17:00 hours with Mark Thurston and Councillor Courts in attendance. Businesses and stakeholders engaged with the delivery of HS2 will be invited to attend the event. Invitations to be issued in due course.

Craig Wakeman introduced Andrew Argyle to the board who would be taking on the role of Chair of the WMCA HS2 Strategic Supply Chain panel.

Councillor Watson raised the unintended consequences of the supply chain and the impact it had on getting raw materials for highway maintenance and other works and asked how this could be balanced. Craig Wakeman advised that within the report that had been circulated prior to the meeting, five key areas had been identified that required focus once the supply chain group had been established, these included materials, cost and availability.

Councillor Courts suggested this topic be discussed in greater detail at a future meeting and to see how the impact on the supply chain was being tackled.

**ACTION: HS2-028 Craig Wakeman to include the WMCA HS2 Strategic Supply Chain to a future agenda for discussion.**

**7. TfWM Metro Utilities Diversion Update**

Michael Anderson provided context on the utilities diversion advising there hadn't been sufficient engagement between HS2 Ltd and TfWM and a letter had been issued to Keith Lomas, HS2 Ltd outlining concerns. Collaboration between the two organisations has seen improvement with monthly meetings being held to review the utilities costs and split between TfWM Metro and HS2 Ltd. It is hoped a resolution can be sought in the coming months.

A shared view had been agreed between the two construction teams that it would be better for HS2 Ltd to deliver the Curzon Street viaduct and for Metro construction to commence afterwards. This would push the completion of delivery for Metro back by between two to two and a half years. An agreement had been made via Alan Over, DfT whereby HS2 Ltd would be funding the delay cost that Metro would be incurring.

**8. HS2 Ltd / WMCA Feedback Report on Viaducts**

Craig Wakeman advised a report had been produced in collaboration with HS2 Ltd following an action from the last meeting, which noted activities that had been undertaken to date and following further discussions with HS2 Ltd and BBV as the main works contractor, there were still opportunities where consultation with stakeholders needed to take place before any designs were finalised.

It was proposed that further progress on the activities be monitored by the HS2 Operational Board and escalated to the HS2 Regional Enterprise Board once completed or if there were formally agreed matters for escalation. Board members were keen to be involved in conversations on this subject.

**9. HS2 Ltd / WMCA Feedback Report on Consents**

Craig Wakeman reported the report had been produced following an action from Alan Over, DfT to look at the consents and highlight any specific issues. A meeting had been held whereby it was agreed that regional issues were aligned to national issues around the programme of HS2 and any potential changes, resources and resources availability, in particular within local authorities.

It was proposed that further meeting would take place with local authority partners and HS2 Ltd to see how issues could be addressed and a resolution sought on next steps.

**10. Actions from the Last Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

Action HS2-014 was reported as outstanding, Tremaine Herbert advised a briefing note had been received which she would circulate after the meeting and suggested this be added as an agenda item for discussion later in 2022.

**ACTION: HS2-029 Craig Wakeman to add HS2 Biodiversity Action Plan to a future agenda to discuss the no net loss element as raised in action HS2-014.**

**11. Any Other Business**

Councillor Watson highlighted that he was being advised by HS2 Ltd colleagues that the drone footage being taken within Warwickshire could not be shared and wondered if there was an opportunity to be given the footage. Julie King agreed to investigate and report back.

**ACTION: HS2-030 Julie King to investigate the release of drone footage to Councillor Watson and colleagues within Warwickshire County Council.**

Councillor Courts suggested future meetings be reduced to 1 hour and 30 minutes.

**12. Date of Next Meeting**  
Tuesday 12 July 2022

[The meeting ended at 11.56am]