



## HS2 Regional Enterprise Board

Tuesday 10 January 2023 at 10.00am

### Minutes

#### Present

Councillor Ian Courts (Chair)	Portfolio Lead for Environment, Energy & HS2
Councillor Ian Ward	Birmingham City Council
Lynda Rawsthorne	Department for Transport
Damien Byrne	HS2 Ltd
Julie King	HS2 Ltd
Luke Nipen	HS2 Ltd
Mark Thurston	HS2 Ltd
Rebecca Young	HS2 Ltd
Tremaine Herbert	HS2 Ltd
Councillor Peter Hughes	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Jonathan Bretherton	Urban Growth Company
Nick Brown	Urban Growth Company
Councillor Martin Watson	Warwickshire County Council
Chris Egan	Warwickshire County Council
Carl Beet	West Midlands Combined Authority
Craig Wakeman	West Midlands Combined Authority
Dr Fiona Aldridge	West Midlands Combined Authority
Kirstie Blakeman	West Midlands Combined Authority
Paul Cobain	West Midlands Combined Authority
Sandeep Shingadia	West Midlands Combined Authority

#### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from K Hawkins, A Shaw, M Morrissey, S Maxey, D Ayton-Hill, P Mountford, A Over, C Hatton, J Nugent

#### Actions from the last meeting

**ACTION: HS2-031 HS2 Ltd to organise a site visit for Regional Enterprise Board members who wished to take part, following Board members advising of their availability.**

It was confirmed this had been deferred to a later date with a suggestion to review in April 2023. It was agreed that Luke Nipen would be the point of contact for any site visits members wished to arrange.

**ACTION: HS2-034 HS2 Ltd to present drone footage with commentary provided during the next meeting.**

It was confirmed a link would be circulated via Luke Nipen for members to view the footage.

**ACTION: HS2-035 HS2 Ltd to present at a future meeting on the blind auditioning model adopted throughout the organisation.**

It was suggested that members contact Luke Nipen with a specific interest for a specific briefing to be provided.

**ACTION: HS2-036 Craig Wakeman to liaise with HS2 Ltd and Local Authority colleagues to co-ordinate a press release.**

It was confirmed this had been completed, with a press release being issued by HS2 Ltd with supporting quotes from partner organisations.

**ACTION: HS2-037 HS2 Ltd to seek guidance and/or provide information regarding successful and unsuccessful bids from businesses in the West Midlands, to assist with the data gathering exercise in the 10-point action plan of the HS2 Strategic Supply Chain Panel.**

It was confirmed this would be covered during the meeting.

**ACTION: HS2-038 HS2 Ltd to share information produced by the Business Engagement team with Craig Wakeman to disseminate to Local Authorities for information and sharing within their networks.**

It was confirmed the engagement information had been shared on numerous occasions and it had been disseminated by colleagues.

**ACTION: HS2-039 A further update on the HS2 Strategic Supply Chain Panel to be presented at the next Regional Enterprise Board meeting.**

It was agreed this would be covered during the meeting.

**ACTION: HS2-040 HS2 Ltd to provide an artist impression of the Kingsbury Compound to Councillor Watson in order to share with residents.**

It was confirmed this would be provided once available.

**ACTION: HS2-041 HS2 Ltd to liaise with Alan Over with regard to getting a press release issued which could then be shared across the local authorities within the region.**

It was confirmed this had been completed.

**ACTION: HS2-042 TfWM to provide an update on the Regional Transport Strategy at the next Regional Enterprise Board meeting.**

It was confirmed this would be covered during the meeting.

**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.

HS2 Ltd has continued to grow with 30,000 employees across the whole programme with over 350 sites between London and Crewe and approached the enrolment of the one thousandth apprentice, against a target of 2,000.

A Select Committee has been appointed for Phase 2b West route and are starting to mobilise with preliminary meetings scheduled for the end of January, at present approximately 140 petitions had been received. Preliminary work is underway for HS2 East with the Department for Transport, which will be looking at the potential of high-speed trains running through the Delta Junction towards East Midlands Parkway.

HS2 Ltd were now five years into their extensive environment programme to create more than 33 square kilometres of new wildlife habitats, with approximately 850,000 trees and shrubs being planted across the line of route to date. Within the West Midlands, 43 habitats had been created plus 74 new ponds with BBV planning to plant 1,000 hectares of woodland, wildflower grassland and wetland across the region as part of HS2's Green Corridor.

£4,296,103 had been awarded in the West Midlands (Warwickshire, Solihull and Birmingham) from HS2's Community and Environment Fund (CEF) and Business and Local Economy Fund (BLEF). 81 local projects in the West Midlands had received funding since 2017.

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

The board received a presentation from Rebecca Young and Dr Fiona Aldridge which reported on the HS2 skills, employment, and education outputs in the West Midlands region since the last meeting.

As of September 2022, there were 849 West Midlands residents working on the project, with the majority having a Birmingham post code, which represents approximately 47% of the workforce.

There were 729 workless job starts within the West Midlands, with the majority of unemployed residents living in Birmingham and Solihull who had gained employment on the project, this was an increase of 100 people from the last quarter. There were 399 apprenticeship starts during the last quarter.

To date, the WMCA had supported 4,487 residents with training in programmes associated with HS2 since 2019 with 897 residents being supported during 1<sup>st</sup> August to 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022. There are currently eighteen training providers across the WMCA area supporting a variety of residents.

The WMCA will continue to review the overall workforce planning for the next five years with partners such as BBV and their supply chain as the lead regional project delivery partners, to produce a clear road map of jobs and related training needed in advance, as well as providing additional training to the offer aligned to emerging workforce requirements.

The board were asked to assist with the communication of the training available to residents within the WMCA region, to ensure residents were aware and could engage.

#### **4. Regional Transport Strategy**

The board received a presentation from Carl Beet which provided an update on the Regional Transport Strategy, which focussed on the HS2 connectivity package and the ongoing work to start delivering the package as part of wider transport improvements.

A study had been carried out on the East Birmingham North Solihull corridor which highlighted the need for a range of localised interventions that reflect some of the mainly short trip making in the area, in a sustainable way. It also confirmed the need for strategic connectivity across the corridor, not just east/west but also north/south in order to support access to emerging economic opportunities for residents (eg. UKC Area, Curzon HS2, etc.).

Nick Brown welcomed the presentation and felt that although some of the schemes had been around for ten years, they were the right things to do for the region in terms of connectivity within the conurbation. It was felt the next challenge would be with HS2 and highlighting what was being done for citizens of the region. A suggestion was made to consider building the Metro from Birmingham Airport and Birmingham International Station towards Birmingham to connect where people live with job opportunities sooner, addressing some of the wider social issues.

#### **5. Developing an Active Travel Network**

Paul Cobain provided a presentation on the work undertaken to date on the of an active travel network at both the Delta Junction site in Warwickshire and the 'Wider Curzon Area' which covers the areas surrounding the proposed HS2 Curzon Street Station.

The presentation outlined the work to date and outlined what the next steps in the work would be to achieve as greater connectivity as possible both in and around both of these key sites.

#### **6. Washwood Heath Update**

Damian Byrne (HS2 Ltd) gave REB an update on the current position of Washwood Heath Masterplan outlining key dates for delivery. The presentation outlined some of the key development sites that would become available within the Washwood Heath site but also gave an indication of some of the potential opportunities with Saltley Business Park. DB also explained how the 'green corridor' ran across the entire site (East to West) and how this would link in to other initiatives that had been discussed like the work done following the 'Urban Integration Study' and the Active & Sustainable transport network.

#### **7. HS2 Investment Strategy Update**

Linda Rawsthorne gave a brief update on the progress being made on the creation of the HS2 Investment brochure. Work is continuing in the development of the document and members of the Bioard were asked to encourage their respective teams to engage with this process so as to ensure it encapsulated some of the key outcome & objectives that they and the region are seeking to achieve from HS2.

**8. Levelling Up Zones**

Craig Wakeman gave an update on the potential opportunities to explore opportunities for the development of a wider regional HS2 investment strategy given the work that had been undertaken on the previous Government initiative of 'Investment Zones' and the potential changes in current policy to HS2 Ltd land release, in light of the work undertaken at the Interchange site. CW also outlined that there were also synergies with work being undertaken with the CWG Legacy funds that might lend itself to be included in these discussions as they progress.

**Action HS2-043** CW to initiate discussions with key partners about potential opportunities around the development of a regional HS2 investment strategy.

**9. Revised Communications Strategy**

The revised strategy had been shared with members of both REB and HS2 operations board and Kirstie Blakeman asked if there were any further additions or amendments before this was published and activities begun. All members were happy with this document to be now made public and the respective actions to begin.

**10. Any Other Business**

N/A

**11. Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 11 April 2023

[The meeting ended at 11:51 pm]