



TSS Neighbourhood Forum Management Committee
2nd October 2019
HS2 Group

Recent News about HS2

On 3rd Sept 2019 Gwyn Topham in the Guardian wrote about budget costs spiralling to £88 billion and said that the transport secretary, Grant Shapps had told parliament completion of the full northern section of HS2, to Manchester and Leeds, would probably be pushed back by seven years to 2040.

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/sep/03/hs2-to-be-delayed-by-up-to-five-years>

The hybrid Bill for Phase 2b is currently being prepared to be put before parliament but on **6th Sept 2019** Tim Clark in the New Civil Engineer wrote

'The independent review into High Speed 2 (HS2) could recommend scrapping Phase 2b of the new line and allocating the £24.8bn budget to Northern Powerhouse Rail project, New Civil Engineer has learned.'...

'Sources close to the government-ordered Oakervee review of the high speed line told New Civil Engineer that funds for Phase 2b, valued at £24.8bn at 2015 prices, could be ring fenced and handed to a regional delivery body such as Transport for the North to deliver regional upgrades rather than the northern legs of the new line'.....

'The review is due to present its recommendations in the autumn. The independent review is being conducted alongside an internal review of HS2 by it's current chair Allan Cook as well as a third review into HS2 by former chancellor George Osborne's Northern Powerhouse Partnership, which is expected to make a renewed case for the project.'

<https://www.newcivilengineer.com/latest/hs2-review-could-hand-phase-2b-budget-to-northern-powerhouse-rail-06-09-2019/>

On 9th Sept 2019 ITV reported that Phase 2b, running from Birmingham to Leeds and Manchester is now expected to take as long as 2040 to complete, seven years later than the previous delivery date of 2033.

New proposals for HS2 route between East and West Midlands were also revealed: Plans have been submitted to the Government and the independent HS2 review panel by regional transport organisation, Midlands Connect who have said its proposals to alter the Toton East Midlands Hub station in Nottinghamshire, on the planned Leeds branch of HS2, could be less expensive and current train journey times between major Midlands cities and Leeds could be slashed.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-independent-review-terms-of-reference/terms-of-reference-for-the-independent-review-of-hs2>

<https://www.itv.com/news/central/2019-09-09/hs2-new-proposals-for-hs2-route-between-east-and-west-midlands-revealed/>

HS2 Working Group news

Following the last Forum management meeting, an email was sent to the Chief Executive of Ashfield District Council regarding our ongoing concerns about Council support re HS2 in our area. This was in turn forwarded to Neil Oxby of the Forward Planning Dept. who replied confirming that officers meet with HS operational team members and their consultants on various aspects including ecology, environmental health, landscape and the historic environment.

Neil informed us that these meetings take place on an irregular pattern as it depends on the stage that HS2 or their consultants have arrived at on these aspects.

He suggested that if the Forum has specific concerns relating to these matters, officers can raise them at future meetings and that we should contact Melanie Wheelwright or him if we had any issues that required raising with the various HS2 groups so that they could take them up with the officers who attend the meetings.

He asked that, should the Forum identify specific local concerns, we raise these matters with the Council so they can be considered and taken into account by the Council in any response (to HS2). He assured us that, as part of the consultation on the HS2 draft environmental report, officers had considered HS2 information on the LA10 Tibshelf to Shuttlewood area but acknowledged that this did not come across in the report and promised to ensure that any future report would make it clear that the countryside area to the north of Sutton in Ashfield falls within LA10 and HS2 proposals will have an impact on this area.

Lis has responded to this on our behalf suggesting that we meet with them so that we can work collaboratively to ensure that adverse impacts are as low as possible.

Richard Goad has also received a response from Neil Oxby giving information about the key points of the current independent review.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-independent-review-terms-of-reference/terms-of-reference-for-the-independent-review-of-hs2>