

Appendix 1 – Impact of HS2 works on Residents of affected blocks

Cabinet on 28th October 2020 heard that:

- HS2 Ltd's E23 Control of Construction Noise and Vibration Information Paper (E23 Scheme), which was developed to set the parameters for protecting residents most adversely affected by construction works by installing noise insulation and/or providing temporary rehousing or compensation, has not proved effective in dealing with the impact of construction.
- HS2 Ltd is able to manage the construction programme so that it does not breach the technical noise and disturbance thresholds that would trigger the use of the E23 scheme by residents.
- The noise and vibration thresholds are in any event set out at such a level as to still lead to significant noise and disruption to residents' lives.
- The Noise Insulation, solar blind and mechanical ventilation programme had not progressed in a satisfactory way and does not provide adequate mitigation for the noise and disturbance and was in any event only 13% complete in the affected properties at the time of the Cabinet report – and this meant that HS2 Ltd. would be in breach of the noise insulation assurance. This is currently standing at 42%.
- Residents were in contact with Camden via a community petition, contact with councillors and our Community Liaison Team (CLT). This feedback overwhelmingly demonstrated that living in these blocks had become increasingly unbearable and that residents are suffering the dual effects of prolonged construction.
- Covid-19 meant that a large proportion of Camden residents spent more time confined to their homes, particularly during construction hours. In addition, recent events have highlighted the disproportionate impacts of Covid-19 experienced by citizens from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds and a large number of residents from these backgrounds live in the affected areas.
- Throughout, Camden Council has maintained a close relationship with residents by escalating issues to HS2 Ltd. on their behalf. In addition to ensure residents have had enough support to cope with the impact on their lives, the Council has invested in further staffing to help provide more front-line staff to work on the ground with residents on HS2 related issues.

Additionally, residents continue to note the impact that HS2 is having on their quality of life. Some recent testimonials include:

- "I am a tolerant man and I can put up with a lot, but the noise and fumes are about to engulf us – it is going to finish me off. It's the first time in my life that I feel vulnerable. I already get breathless and I feel like I'm approaching the end."
- "My younger son suffers from a dust allergy. 7 months ago, he had an operation to take out a lump from his throat. The hospital consultant said that all his problems were due pollution and dust, my son is still under observation, he has to go every 3 months for check-ups."

- “My bedroom is next to the HS2 work and it gives me and family a lot of problems. Sleeping is very difficult. There is noise is all day. All the windows are closed all day. When they drill my bed shakes. My blood pressure has gone up. My older son suddenly has started getting skin problem, the doctors said it is caused by pollution and dust. We always have to wear masks. I complained so much but nothing has happened. I work nightshift and I can't rest during the day”-