# Panel Newsletter February 2017

### **HS2** INDEPENDENT DESIGN PANEL

## Specimen designs set a benchmark

Specimen designs provide a benchmark for design quality for contractors. They also present an opportunity to contribute to the process of consultation and engagement.

In December the HS2 Independent Design Panel met to discuss the Colne Valley Viaduct Specimen Design. Martin Knight, of Knight Architects, presented the design setting out their response to the constraints and opportunities of the site.

The panel offered strong support to the specimen design and the principle of the approach. Whilst making suggestions for further refinement, the panel noted that Knight Architects had responded sensitively to the context of the Colne Valley Regional Park, and through dialogue with the Colne Valley Regional Park Panel (CVRPP). The CVRPP was established due to the nature of HS2 and its impacts in the Colne Valley. It has an independent chair, Jim Barclay, and includes all the planning authorities, Natural England, Environment Agency, Colne Valley Community Interest Company and wildlife trusts from near to the Colne Valley Regional Park.



With civil engineering contractors for the Phase One route due to be appointed in Summer 2017, HS2 Ltd has taken the positive step of expanding its specimen design work into a number of topics areas.

In February 2017 Knight Architects presented their work to develop bridge and viaduct specimen designs for the entire Phase One route. Overall, the panel were impressed with the positive approach taken and would welcome an opportunity to comment on the proposals as they are further refined.

## **Design Panel activities February 2017**

 Meeting to establish a design panel programme for Sustainbility, with HS2 Ltd Sustainability Manager, Laura Russell

Panel Programme meeting

Bridges and Viaducts Specimen Designs
Civil Common Design Elements

Vorkshops



· Euston Station Masterplan and Procurement · Old Oak Common Station Masterplan and Procurement

#### **Full reviews**



Monthly Design Panel Team Meeting - February
Meeting to discuss the HS2 Independent Design Panel programme and budget forecast

#### **Governance meetings**



## HS2 hoardings

Hoardings are temporary structures, but they will be constructed early, be highly visible, and may remain in place for many years. Because of this they will play an important role in defining public perceptions of HS2.

On Wednesday 25 January the HS2 Independent Design Panel met to discuss HS2 Ltd's approach to hoardings. The meeting opened with Christoph Brintrup, Landscape Technical Design Lead, setting the context before Diana Hare, Lead Architect, took the panel through HS2 Ltd's current approach and the emerging HS2 Hoarding Design Requirements.

With approximately 140 miles of track needing security protection along the Phase One route alone, innovative approaches to hoardings will be essential. From promoting and celebrating local contexts to engaging the creativity of artists, local communities and stakeholders, hoardings present a significant opportunity for HS2 Ltd to ensure it provides the best possible local environment during the construction phase.

The Design Panel found much to admire in the work presented by HS2 Ltd in setting Design Requirements. The panel recommended HS2 Ltd build on on the work already done and encouraged them to look beyond seeing hoardings as temporary structures and recognise their place making role.



Pauline Spetsioti HS2 Programme Design Sponsor Lead, Department for Transport (DfT)

## **People's stories**

Pauline Spetsioti is the HS2 Programme Design Sponsor Lead for the DfT and joined the team about 18 months ago. Prior to that she worked on energy, climate change and environmental policy in various Government departments across Whitehall.

Pauline is very supportive of artistic and creative solutions to problems. As part of her role within the DfT High Speed Rail Strategy Directorate, she is responsible for working with the HS2 Ltd design team and the panel's secretariat to ensure that there is a framework in place for the panel to advise and hold to account HS2 Ltd's leadership to make the right design choices.

She has worked closely with the HS2 Independent Design Panel through attending review meetings, workshops and presentations on a variety of topics as well as briefings with ministers and other Government departments on HS2 design approach and challenges. Ministers have been impressed by the HS2 Independent Design Panel's functionality and operational framework.

## HS2 Phase One Bill receives Royal Assent

On 23rd February the HS2 Phase One Bill received Royal Assent, marking the moment when HS2 moves from concept to reality. This presents HS2 Ltd with the opportunity to begin delivering on the promises made, whilst it seeks support and Royal Assent for future HS2 Phases.

Frame Projects Secretariat to the HS2 Independent Design Panel

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