

Design Panel annual meeting

On Tuesday 22 November the HS2 Independent Design Panel held its first annual meeting, to reflect on the panel's work over the past year.

The meeting was opened by Cavendish Elithorn, Strategy Director for High Speed Rail at the DfT. He emphasised the important role that the DfT sees the panel playing in achieving high quality design and maximising the regeneration benefits of HS2. Quarterly meetings at the DfT ensure the government is kept up to date with key issues identified by the panel.

Simon Kirby, Chief Executive of HS2 Ltd, also thanked the panel for the valuable contribution it has made to delivering the aspirations of the HS2 Design Vision. In particular, he noted the innovative way in which the panel was involved in advising on the Phase 1 civil engineering procurement process.

Kate Hall, Director of the Built Environment, HS2 Ltd, gave an update on the current stage of design work - with the Phase 2 route just announced and Phase 1 approaching Royal Assent. She thanked the panel for its participation in 58 meetings to date.



First HS2 Independent Design Panel annual meeting, held on Tuesday 22 November

Prof. Sadie Morgan, chair of the panel, gave a presentation reflecting on some of the successes, opportunities and challenges arising from the panel's first year of work with HS2 Ltd.

Frame Projects and HS2 Ltd then jointly provided an update on panel process, including the arrangements that have been put in place for station design panels, by agreement with local authorities.

The meeting also included feedback from HS2 Ltd staff who have sought advice on their projects, and from panel members on their experiences, and recommendations for next steps.

Design Panel activities November 2016

1

- First annual meeting of the HS2 Independent Design Panel:
- updating panel members on the current stage of design work
 - describing how panel processes have evolved over the first year, including governance structure and reporting
 - identifying key themes emerging from panel discussion
 - workshop discussion with the panel to agree next steps

Annual meeting

2

- Old Oak Common Station Design Panel: attended by members of both the OPDC Place Review Group and HS2 Independent Design Panel
- Euston Station Design Panel: attended by members of both the Camden Design Review Panel and HS2 Independent Design Panel

Full reviews

4

- Equality, diversity and inclusion
- Cuttings and embankments
- Railway systems including noise barriers
- Railway operations including the proxy operator strategy and rolling stock procurement

Workshops

2

- Meeting to select new members of the HS2 Independent Design Panel to provide sustainability expertise
- Monthly Design Panel Team Meeting, attended by the chair, vice-chair, secretariat and HS2 Ltd staff

Governance meetings



Generic cutting, from HS2 Landscape Design Approach



Christoph Brintrup
*Landscape Design Lead,
Technical Directorate, HS2 Ltd*

Panel comments on HS2 cuttings and embankments

In a workshop meeting on 15 November 2016, the panel was invited to comment on HS2 Ltd's approach to cuttings and embankments along the Phase 1 route.

The panel, having contributed extensively to the HS2 Landscape Design Approach, is keen to see it translated into the design approach taken to cuttings and embankments along the route.

While applauding the inter-disciplinary approach taken by HS2 Ltd, bringing together design, geotechnical and waste recovery disciplines, it believes more work is needed to ensure earthwork designs meet the ambitions set out for the project. The emphasis placed on mitigating the impact of the HS2 route risks leading to a default approach of 'hiding' the railway behind earthworks. This is currently resulting in a scheme that would provide views of landscape from the train for only 7 minutes of the 49 minute journey between London and Birmingham.

The panel has encouraged HS2 Ltd to develop earthworks designs responsive to local context, and maximising the enjoyment of travel by allowing views from the train across the landscape wherever possible.

People's stories

Christoph Brintrup is the Landscape Design Lead for HS2 Ltd, and joined the company more than two years ago. Before that he worked for LDA Design where he led a number of national and international schemes such as the London 2012 Olympic Park South Park, Battersea Power Station and Borisovsky Lakes (Moscow).

Christoph is a naturally creative person and passionate about good design. As part of his role within the Technical Directorate, he is now responsible for the integration of the HS2 railway into the surrounding landscape. His key objective is to deliver a design that creates social, economic and environmental benefits for the country. His daily tasks include the verification and promotion of good design that goes beyond business as usual and that creates a legacy for generations to come.

During the last 18 months, he has worked closely with the HS2 Independent Design Panel, giving presentations on a variety of topics including the HS2 Landscape Design Approach document, and earthwork design.

Phase 2b route announced

On 15 November 2016, the Secretary of State for Transport, Chris Grayling MP, announced the government's preferred route for HS2 lines from Crewe to Manchester and from the West Midlands to Leeds - known as Phase 2b. Further consultation will take place before confirming the route through South Yorkshire next year.



Frame Projects
Secretariat to the
HS2 Independent
Design Panel

**HS2 INDEPENDENT
DESIGN PANEL**