

Birmingham Curzon Street

As is the case for all HS2 Phase One Stations, a special location specific Design Panel has been set up for Birmingham Curzon Street Station. The membership of this panel has been jointly agreed by Birmingham City Council and HS2 Ltd, with Les Sparks as its chair.

On 19 April, the Curzon Street Station Design Panel met to discuss design work commissioned by both HS2 Ltd and Birmingham City Council for the station and wider regeneration plans.

Birmingham City Council is looking at creating a new public square and improved pedestrian environment around the station. Masterplanning studies are also under way, to explore the development potential of land close to the station in the Digbeth Canal Corridor area.

Parallel to this work, HS2 Ltd is investigating the potential for commercial development in and around the station. HS2 Ltd also gave an update on proposals to bring the historic Grade I listed Curzon Street Station back into use - to provide office space for Historic England and Birmingham City University, as well as exhibition space for HS2 Ltd.



Grade I listed historic Curzon Street Station
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The panel welcomed the work HS2 Ltd has commissioned to explore commercial potential associated with the station. As this progresses it will be essential that it is integrated with Birmingham City Council's urban design and regeneration aims. The panel recommended partnership working by HS2 Ltd with the City Council to develop a masterplan for the station and wider area, to achieve a cohesive plan driven by place making.

In this context, the panel praised the work of HS2 Ltd and others in bringing the Grade I listed former Curzon Street Station back into use. The collaborative working apparent in this project should now be extended to the station, commercial development and public realm.

Design Panel activities April 2017

2

- Chair's review of HS2 Ltd responses to Design Panel recommendations, with Prof. Sadie Morgan
- Chair's review of HS2 Ltd responses to Design Panel recommendations, with Tony Burton

Chair's reviews

4

- Station design procurement - ITT
- Station contractor procurement - PQQ
- Scoping meeting to discuss customer experience
- Review of proposed 'design challenge' element of the station design procurement process

Workshop reviews

2

- Birmingham Curzon Street Station - meeting to discuss: the potential for commercial development; conversion of the historic Grade I listed Curzon Street Station; and regeneration studies commissioned by the City Council
- Birmingham Interchange Station - meeting to discuss masterplanning work commissioned by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, and HS2 station design procurement

Full reviews

3

- Quarterly HS2 Design Leadership Update meeting with the Department for Transport
- Monthly Design Panel Team Meeting, attended by the chair, vice chair, secretariat and HS2 Ltd staff
- Panel member tour of the proposed Phase 2b route parallel to the M18 motorway

Governance meetings



HS2 Independent Design Panel members on a tour of the proposed Phase 2b route parallel to the M18 motorway

Phase 2b M18 route tour

In April 2017 a group of HS2 Independent Design Panel members took part in a tour of the proposed Phase 2b route parallel to the M18 motorway. The tour was led by Alasdair Hassan, HS2 Ltd Head of Route Engineering, and attended by vice chair Tony Burton, and deputy chairs Martin Stockley and Annie Coombs.

The first proposed route for Phase 2b was published in January 2013 and a consultation ran from July 2013 to January 2014. An alternative route to the east of Sheffield, initially parallel to the M18, is now recommended by HS2 Ltd, with a link taking high speed trains into Sheffield, while the main HS2 line continues to carry trains serving Leeds and further north. This route addresses wider consultation responses, as well as the panel's concerns about the suitability of Meadowhall, which was previously proposed as the location for an HS2 station.

The purpose of the route tour was to help identify site specific and thematic elements of this section of the HS2 route that would benefit from future Design Panel input.

The next step will be to arrange a workshop meeting, attended by panel members and HS2 Ltd staff, to agree where civil engineering structures, environmental or social impacts may create significant design challenges.



Gary Woodward
Development Planning
Manager, Birmingham City
Council

People's stories

Gary Woodward is a Development Planning Manager for Birmingham City Council; he is responsible for ensuring that the regeneration opportunities around Curzon Street Station are maximised as the design of the station emerges.

He has been involved with the HS2 proposals for Birmingham since the announcement of the project, and led the production of the Curzon Masterplan which establishes clear design principles for the station, its integration with its immediate surroundings and critical connectivity to the wider city centre regeneration areas.

Gary works with the Curzon Street Station Design Panel to ensure that the masterplan principles are incorporated into discussions. He is passionate about securing the highest quality station design, and promoting the exciting development opportunities around it, particularly in the historic Digbeth creative and hi-tech quarter. He sees HS2 as the centrepiece for the next phase of Birmingham's transformation.

New chair's reviews

HS2 Ltd has put in place a system to track how continuing design work responds to recommendations made by the HS2 Independent Design Panel. It has been agreed that monthly chair's reviews should be arranged to allow feedback from the panel on whether it considers that HS2 Ltd's responses are successful.



Frame Projects
Secretariat to the
HS2 Independent
Design Panel

**HS2 INDEPENDENT
DESIGN PANEL**