

Panel Newsletter April and May 2019

HS2 INDEPENDENT
DESIGN PANEL



Photos from a site visit Crewe North rolling stock depot, HS2 Ltd

Phase 2b - Crewe North

In April the Design Panel met the Phase 2b team to discuss emerging proposals for an area to the north of Crewe, which include proposals for a rolling stock depot.

The panel thanked the team for a well organised site visit and open discussion. Overall, it felt the right questions are being asked, and welcomed the focus on developing a thorough understanding of the landscape to set the tone for future design work. The panel suggested the design team explore how emerging landscape ideas could also support existing local and neighbourhood

plans, as well as the ambition to deliver a HS2 'green corridor'. Critical to this will be positive engagement with stakeholders and communities.

The panel highlighted the importance of learning lessons from Phase One, for example, how could the information submitted as part of the Phase 2b Hybrid Bill best support high quality design outcomes. Other lessons could include considering how the supply chain procurement process could evolve in the future, such as, utilising 'design challenges', as used on Phase One to test the capability of design teams', to also provide additional creative insight into particularly challenging assets.

Design Panel activities April and May 2019

4

Phase One meetings

- Colne Valley Viaduct: noise barriers - workshop session
- Curzon Street Station - mentoring session
- Burton Green cut and cover tunnel - site visit and full review
- Interchange Station - mentoring session

4

Thematic sessions

- Hybrid Bill petitioning management - workshop session
- Chair's Review meeting to discuss panel recommendations 'not accepted' by HS2 Ltd
- Track security and counter terrorism - workshop session
- Catenary - workshop session

5

Phase Two reviews

- Phase 2b East Midlands Hub station - workshop session
- Phase 2b Crewe North Connection, rolling stock depot, and Shopshire Union Canal crossing - full review
- Phase 2b Manchester Piccadilly Station - workshop session
- Phase 2b Manchester Airport Station - workshop session
- Phase 2b Manchester Approaches - workshop session

4

Governance meetings

- April and May Design Panel monthly team meetings attended by the Design Panel chair, vice chair, secretariat and HS2 Ltd staff
- Meeting to discuss the appointment of two art and culture specialists to the Design Panel
- Quarterly Governance Advisory Group meeting attended by the Design Panel chair, vice chair, and two deputy chairs

East Midlands Hub

In April, HS2 Ltd provided the panel with an overview of the progress being made to develop a design for East Midlands Hub, a station on the Phase 2b eastern leg route between Derby and Nottingham.

Overall, the panel were supportive of the changes, and welcomed the creative thinking being applied to unpick challenges such as budget and programme constraints and the ambition for significant regeneration around the station. It feels a stronger strategy is now in place to take the project forward.

As an advocate of HS2's sustainability ambitions, the panel warmly supports the intention for these to be the driving force for the station's design. It urges the team to explore how this concept could inform a holistic design approach, including the form of the building, surrounding public realm, and the wider development of the area.

While there is an ambition for significant change to the surrounding landscape, the timing for this is less certain. Therefore, the panel urges the team to create a high quality place that will work well in the short term without requiring future development and funding, and will benefit local communities, as well as station users. The station site has the potential to create a gateway to local open space and amenities and should be embedded within HS2's green corridor strategy and emerging urban integration studies.



People's stories

Simon Knight is a former Department for Transport senior civil servant with unrivalled experience of Hybrid Bills for major railway schemes. He has worked on all previous such Bills over the last 30 years: Channel Tunnel, HS1, Crossrail, HS2 Phase One and HS2 Phase 2a.

Simon leads the team responsible for engaging and negotiating with petitioners to the Bill - and for delivering the engineering and environmental input required to support that engagement, the development of changes to the scheme, and the evidence required to defend the proposals during the passage of the Bill.

The Bill process sets an expectation for what impact the railway will have. This is crucial to guiding design development after Bill authorisation. Simon welcomes the challenge and guidance from the Design Panel - this supports HS2 Ltd in gaining the right powers and project envelope to ensure HS2 delivers the design outcomes that will bring real benefits to communities along the route.

Hybrid Bill petitioning

In April, the panel received a briefing on the Hybrid Bill petitioning process, focusing on Phase 2a, and the approach taken by HS2 Ltd to engaging and negotiating with petitioners. The panel was grateful for this insight from Simon into HS2 Ltd's approach to this complex process, in particular to understand how the consequences for design are understood and responded to, and how lessons from Phase One are being learned.



Frame Projects
Secretariat to the
HS2 Independent
Design Panel

**HS2 INDEPENDENT
DESIGN PANEL**