

### Panel highlights design impact of railway systems

The HS2 Independent Design Panel has recently attended a number of meetings to discuss railway systems - including train maintenance depots, catenary and track. The panel has highlighted the importance of these elements being well designed, as they will have a significant visual presence along the route. Depots will be some of the largest structures built to support the operation of HS2. Other elements such as masts supporting catenary may be smaller in scale, but will be delivered in large numbers.

In October the panel met to discuss Calvert Infrastructure Maintenance Depot (IMD), located approximately half way along the Phase One route. The panel welcomed the way that the design team has interrogated the functional design of the IMD. As design work continues, it will be essential to draw inspiration from the character and features of the depot's setting, as well as meeting the projects technical requirements. Delivering benefits to surrounding communities should also be part of the design process. The panel also noted that the Calvert IMD offers enormous potential to embrace sustainable design. Opportunities include embedding circular economy thinking, as well as more standard sustainability best practice such as rainwater harvesting.



Visit to the site of Calvert Infrastructure Maintenance Depot

Critical to HS2 Ltd achieving its design quality ambitions, including to be 'the most sustainable high speed railway of its kind in the world' (HS2 Sustainability Approach 2017) will be the procurement of the railway systems contractor. The procurement process needs to take into account: cross-contractor collaboration; a multi-disciplinary approach and team; the use of small and medium enterprises (SMEs); and having mechanisms in place to hold contractors to account. HS2 Ltd's brief should ensure that the railway systems contract delivers high quality design for large scale structures such as depots, and smaller ones such as catenary masts.

### Design Panel activities October 2019

# 1

- Calvert Infrastructure Maintenance Depot - site visit and full review meeting

#### Railway systems meeting

# 2

- Euston Station workshop meeting - focussed on aspects of emerging public realm proposals
- Euston Station workshop meeting - focussed on ideas for over station development

#### Phase One station meetings

# 1

- Interchange Station - Schedule 17 stage review

#### Schedule 17 stage meetings

# 3

- Design Panel monthly team meeting attended by the Design Panel chair, vice chair, secretariat and HS2 Ltd staff
- Quarterly Governance Advisory Group meeting attended by the Design Panel chair, vice chair and two deputy chairs
- Introductory meeting with new Design Director, Kay Hughes

#### Governance meetings

## Panel welcomes HS2 Ltd's new Design Director

Each quarter, the Governance Advisory Group meets to discuss key issues emerging from design panel meetings. The group includes the panel's chair, vice chair and two deputy chairs.

These meetings identify the issues to be considered at the panel's quarterly meeting with the HS2 Ltd senior executive team and the Department for Transport. This allows HS2 Ltd senior management to benefit from the panel's unique perspective, sharing intelligence gathered from across the route and highlighting cross-cutting issues.

In October HS2 Ltd appointed a new Design Director, Kay Hughes. The Governance Advisory Group focused on identifying priorities for the Design Director as she assumes her new role. These include a broad range of issues, such as: the design of temporary elements of HS2; the use of SMEs; design quality on aspects of railway systems; the critical importance of sustainability to the HS2 business case; and how HS2 Ltd communicates and engages with people and communities.

The panel welcomes Kay Hughes' appointment, and offers its continuing support in advocating the value of design quality across the HS2 project.



Kay Hughes  
Design Director,  
HS2 Ltd

## People's stories

Kay began her career as an architect which led her to developing a role as an informed design client. She has wide ranging experience from brief writing through to the delivery of complex multidisciplinary projects, including working as Head of Design on London 2012.

"I am proud to be part of a project that will be advancing economic regeneration throughout Britain, working across professions, collaborating to deliver a long term legacy. Design's role is integral to resolving competing objectives, solving problems and achieving the very best solutions to deliver the next generation of rail travel. I am passionate about introducing design talent to improve how we do things and what we deliver, ensuring that we embrace innovation and sustainability. The HS2 Independent Design Panel has been inspirational in setting the standard and championing high design quality across the programme that ongoing relationship will be critical to our success."

## Interchange Station

In October the panel met HS2 Ltd to comment on the Schedule 17 stage designs for Interchange Station. It commended the quality of the proposals - which promise, in particular, an inspiring and uplifting station entrance. The panel feels some challenges remain, such as, the quantum and design of parking provision, and the design of a link road. It is also important that the Schedule 17 submission provides sufficient information to gauge and safeguard design quality.



Interchange Station © HS2 Ltd



Frame Projects  
Secretariat to the  
HS2 Independent  
Design Panel

**HS2 INDEPENDENT  
DESIGN PANEL**