



Old Oak Common Station public realm designs, HS2 Ltd

## Old Oak Common Station: public realm

The Old Oak Common Station Design Panel met in late July to discuss the public realm designs for Old Oak Common Station, and were impressed with what they saw. The meeting took place before a Schedule 17 submission is made to Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC), expected to be in autumn 2021.

The Balfour Beatty, Vinci and Systra design team presented designs that have been in development since summer 2019, when the panel gave its support to the Schedule 17 designs for Old Oak Common Station. The public realm at this station will be perhaps the most significant space on the entire HS2 Phase One route, the size of three Trafalgar Squares. As well as forming a station

approach for passengers, expected to be among the busiest in the country, it will also provide a valuable new facility for local people.

The Panel congratulated the design team on ambitious, detailed and exciting response to a complex site. It particularly enjoyed the Wetland Common landscape concept, which gives the landscaping both character and environmental value. The panel was also pleased the design approach is flexible, to allow it to respond when the adjacent site development comes forward.

Work will continue with OPDC to develop designs for aspects such as headhouses in the public realm, and the panel emphasised the importance of a long-term management and maintenance strategy. The quality of the public realm designs show the value of taking the time to design exceptional public spaces, that can deliver the ambition of the HS2 Design Vision.

## Design Panel activities June and July 2021

# 3

- Birmingham International Rail Station automated people mover stop
- Adelaide Road Headhouse (ventilation shaft)
- Old Oak Common Station - public realm

### Schedule 17 meetings

# 4

- Arts and Culture
- Walking and cycling
- Railway systems design integration handbook
- Fencing Design Approach

### Workshop meetings

# 3

- Euston Station
- Washwood Heath Depot
- Urban Growth Company multi-storey carpark

### Phase One meetings

# 5

- June and July monthly team meetings attended by the Design Panel chair, vice chair, secretariat and HS2 Ltd
- Governance Advisory Panel meeting attended by the Design Panel chair, vice chair, deputy chairs and secretariat
- HS2 Independent Design Panel refresh selection meeting
- Learning Legacy - topic selection

### Governance meetings

# Integrating Rail Systems

HS2 Ltd will begin procuring railway systems contractors over the course of the coming year. In anticipation of this, it is producing a 'Rail Systems Design Approach' document to help brief contractor teams and HS2 Ltd staff. The intention is that it will help guide the design approach that contractors are required to adopt.

At a meeting in July, the panel welcomed the work completed to date. The document presents an opportunity to drive a forward-thinking, high quality, and potentially even celebratory, approach to rail systems. To achieve this, the HS2 Design Vision should be at the heart of decision making, embracing the message that "everything we create is designed" (HS2 Design Vision, 2017). This will be essential to ensuring HS2 can go beyond standard practice and drive a step change in the industry, becoming an exemplar.

The panel suggested that the document should prescribe an approach to contractors, including showing how to define design priorities, reinforcing the need for a multi-disciplinary approach, and setting expectations for collaboration and integration with other parts of HS2. This will be essential to delivering the design quality expectations for HS2.

Learning from other HS2 documents and processes, for example procurement strategies, could also help provide valuable insights to address current challenges, and ensure the Rail Systems Design Approach can influence decision making.



Lexy Stevens  
Senior Architect, HS2 Ltd

## People's stories

Lexy is an architect with over thirty years of experience, and has specialised in rail since 2002, when she worked on St Pancras International Terminal.

*"I am committed to delivering people-centred design and creating distinctive, high-quality infrastructure driven by its use and local context. I am delighted to be working as Technical Lead for the HS2 Rail Systems Design Approach."*

*The design approach document will help Rail Systems contractors to embrace the HS2 Design Vision by guiding the integrated design development of rail systems assets. The document will help to ensure consistently high standards, whilst recognising that rail systems proposals must respond both to the complex technical specification of the railway, and their place in the landscape."*

## Design Panel refresh

As noted in the previous newsletter, we recently advertised for new panel members and received just over 100 applications from across the design and construction industries. Following a rigorous assessment of the candidates against the agreed selection criteria, a total of 16 professionals were selected to join the panel for seven of the areas of expertise sought.

A full list of the successful professionals is included in the Spring and Summer Chair's Report which is also available on the .Gov website.



Frame Projects  
Secretariat to the  
HS2 Independent  
Design Panel

**HS2 INDEPENDENT  
DESIGN PANEL**