

HS2 commits to design review for all stations ...

HS2 has committed to put its station and line designs through a full design review process after northern local authorities called for "iconic" stations to be built in their cities, writes *Vern Pitt*.

The commitment comes as Crossrail, which is due to finish construction as HS2 ramps up, is embroiled in a controversy for shunning the use of design review on 27 of its outer London stations.

Architect Richard Rogers has said poor quality station design could "scar communities" for "a century".

In the last week, Nottinghamshire and Leeds councils, both set for

major HS2 station developments, have said the design quality of the stations will be a key component in HS2 gaining their full support.

The South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive, the key public body overseeing the development of the Sheffield station, said it also had "similar ambitions" to its neighbouring authorities.

Ben Ruse, HS2 spokesperson, said the £43bn project had a "unique opportunity" to design the line and stations in a way that demonstrated "architectural integrity and aspiration".

He said: "To help us to achieve this we are commissioning an

independent design review panel to act as an advisory and critical body in achieving the design vision for HS2.

"The panel will review all aspects of HS2's design, including the stations for phase one and two of the scheme."

RIBA President Stephen Hodder, who has criticised Crossrail's decision not to go through a design review of its outer stations, welcomed HS2's commitment, while Lord Rogers said the process would mean the stations "should work better and should look better and we all [can] enjoy something that looks good".

... and names boss

HS2 has appointed Simon Kirby chief executive, construction, on a salary of £750,000, around six times the level of current chief executive, Alison Munro.

Kirby joins HS2 from Network Rail where he is managing director of infrastructure projects. He will take up his new role in June, and will receive a £300,000 loyalty bonus from Network Rail in April.

Munro, whose salary is around £115,000, will remain in her role until September, when she becomes HS2's managing director of development.

Keltbray approached about demolishing Pinnacle tower 'stump'

Demolition contractor Keltbray has been sounded out on the potential demolition of London's stalled Pinnacle 'stump', the firm's owner Brendan Kerr has revealed.

Demolishing the seven storeys of concrete core on site - abandoned since 2012, earning the development the 'stump' nickname - would enable a substantial redesign of the project.

The Saudi Arabian owners of the Pinnacle are currently marketing the skyscraper to potential investors via property agent CBRE to try to revive the

scheme, which has been lying dormant since the beginning of 2012 after finance dried up.

Interested parties have been asked to work with a revised version of the existing design drawn up by Kohn Pedersen Fox, but Building understands rival teams are considering more significant design changes, which could necessitate demolishing existing work on site.

Kerr said: "There's an amount that has been built that will probably have to be reconfigured and which could involve some demolition of what was recently built, and

we have been giving some advice to potential developers and cost consultants. We have been giving advice, but I couldn't say who we're talking to."

CBRE confirmed it was "in discussion with interested parties", adding that "there has been very strong interest globally", but declined to confirm the number or identities of the parties.

For the full interview with Brendan Kerr see P28



Economic growth

Cost consultant Deloitte Real Estate, structural engineer AKT II and services engineer ChapmanBDSP have won roles on a prestigious £90m building for the London School of Economics (LSE). The Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners-designed building will be the LSE's global centre for social sciences in Aldwych, central London. The scheme will involve the demolition and redevelopment of several existing LSE buildings. Rogers won a RIBA design competition for the job in November, beating rivals Hopkins Architects, OMA, Grafton Architects and Heneghan Peng. The LSE is aiming to submit a planning application this autumn, to start on site in summer 2015 and complete by 2018.

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