

Award sponsored by



Integration & Collaborative Working Winner 2018

Design Consortium

The Judges say...

This submission is an outstanding example of true collaboration. The partnership is based on development of trust, shared outcomes and a commitment to act on lessons learned.

The Design Consortium consists of 20 consultants across a variety of design disciplines and was established by Willmott Dixon's local construction office in Cobham. The aim of the Design Consortium is to: facilitate objective and early engagement on every project, allow design teams to gel, ensure prompt payment and encourage the sharing of lessons learned. Partnering companies were selected on the basis of common values, the ability to work together collaboratively and a joint commitment to develop the relationship. Commercial arrangements did not constitute part of the selection criteria.



Actions

- Rigorous selection process – over 200 PQQ responses, followed by interviews.
- Consortium Tuesdays – three Design Consortium Partners (DCPs) hot desk in the WD office on a weekly basis.
- 'One team' ethos – DCPs integrated into WD office activities/team meetings (peer & project reviews).
- Conferences and team building activities.
- Deeds of Appointments and Scope of Services allow for quick appointment and clear commercial arrangements.

Impact

- DCPs involvement at the tender stage provides expertise and strengthens bids.
- Hot desking gives accessibility to expertise and new ideas to all projects (not just the ones they are working on).

- Transparent allocation of projects has led to universal buy-in internally and from DCPs.
- Sustainable pipeline for partners.
- 11 out of 16 (73%) projects currently on site are with DCPs. Pre-construction influence is 68% rising to 85% with feasibilities taken into account.

Lessons learned

The benefits of early engagement, common understanding and familiarity have enabled all parties to operate collaboratively. The option to extend these types of relationships up and down the supply chain and with other companies holds the promise of yet more benefits, lower costs, smoother delivery and ultimately a better outcome for the end client.

