

LEWISHAM DESIGN REVIEW PANEL

Terms of Reference

Purpose

The purpose of the Lewisham Design Review Panel (the Panel) is to provide expert, independent design advice and guidance to developers and their design teams, Planning case officers and the Planning Committees on significant development and public realm proposals, as well as other planning documents within the borough. The Panel's advice is meant to assist and encourage developers and their design teams to achieve and deliver high quality design in their development proposals.

Agenda

The Panel will evaluate developments throughout the borough, excluding those allocated to separate site-specific panels.

The Panel will review planning applications and pre-application proposals for both major new developments and significant alterations to existing property/ buildings that impact the Borough's townscape. It is expected that the Panel will review all important major development proposals within the borough, however smaller development proposals that officers consider would benefit from independent design advice may also be referred to the Panel. Illustrative criteria for selecting proposals for design review are set out in **Appendix A**.

It is expected that the Panel will work most effectively by considering actual designs and building proposals. However, both masterplans and/or neighbourhood plans that make definite design proposals in terms of building massing and spatial layout may also be reviewed. Likewise, the Panel may advise on other proposals that will affect the borough's built character and appearance, such as development frameworks or strategies, as well as transportation, public realm or environmental proposals.

Following a first review, a scheme may be brought back to the panel, especially if the original review was negative. In such cases where a proposal is looked at more than once, an attempt should be made to have as many Panel members from the original Panel meeting on the second review.

Panel Membership

Each Panel meeting will comprise a group of recognised experts in the field of built environment and design, invited from a pool of 20-30 persons appointed following a competitive application process run by Lewisham and any other relevant partners. The Panel will have a permanent Chair, who will preside over all meetings.

Panel members should be experts in architecture, urban design, landscape architecture, environmental sustainability, public art and design, engineering, and / or any other field within the built environment. As the quality of the advice given by the Panel is directly related to the

quality of its members, our aspiration is to attract members of highest calibre in their respective fields and this is reflected in the financial commitment to the Panel.

Generally, but not exclusively, Panel members will be drawn from outside Lewisham to ensure an independent and objective view and to minimise potential conflict of interest. However, some Panel members will be selected locally to provide their knowledge on the area.

Panel members will submit a CV indicating their experience and other relevant information prior to appointment. Appointment would be for a period of two years, with the possibility of renewal.

In order to ensure a professional and independent service, all Panel members will be expected to abide by standards in regards to both confidentiality and conflicts of interest. These standards will be outlined to Panel members when they are appointed.

Panel operations

The operations of the Panel will follow the processes and procedures outlined in the Panel's Method of Operations. The Method of Operations will be reviewed annually to ensure that the Panel is working effectively.

Due to the amount of time needed to organise meetings, liaise with multiple applicants and Panel members, prepare applicant materials and compose accurate session reports, an officer with qualifications/background in architecture and/or urban design will coordinate the Panel, as a significant part of their workload.

Appendix A

Indicative Criteria for Development Proposals considered by the Design Review Panel

- Development of 0.5 hectares or greater in area
- Development involving 20 or more residential units
- Development of 500 square metres floorspace or greater
- Development significantly affecting the Town Centres
- Development in a historically or environmentally sensitive area
- Development with special architectural or environmental qualities
- Development that has significant importance to an area or community