

Item No. 8.	Classification: Open	Date: 31 January 2012	Meeting Name: Planning Committee
Report title:		Southwark Design Review Panel Re-Advertising	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Head of Development Management	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To advise the planning committee that the council will shortly advertise for members for the 2012/14 Southwark design review panel to replace the panel that was in place since June 2010.
2. That the planning committee request that the details of shortlisted candidates for the 2012/14 Design Review Panel (DRP) be presented to the planning committee for information prior to appointment of members to the design review panel.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. On 11 January 2006, the planning committee agreed the establishment of a design review panel that would consider the architectural merits of major planning applications. Each panel would be established for a period of two years. At that committee the Members resolved:
 - 1) That the roles and responsibilities of the panel members are to be clearly stated;
 - 2) That the panel is subject to review every two years and report back to the planning committee.
4. On 3 February 2009 the planning committee reviewed the work of the DRP and requested among other things:
 - 1) A greater involvement in the decisions to appoint and renew the DRP membership
 - 2) Attendance by members of the planning committee at DRP provided that a protocol for Member attendance at DRP is agreed by the planning committee
5. Two years will have passed since the 2010/12 design review panel was established in June 2012. The purpose of this report is to request the committee's agreement to advertise for the new 2012/14 design review panel.
6. The Southwark DRP is an independent expert advisory panel to the council. The Panel's views, whilst of an advisory nature, will carry some weight in determining the architectural and urban design qualities of proposals.
7. Panel members selected to be on the panel offer their services on a voluntary basis and no remuneration has been offered to date.

8. Since its establishment in 2006 the Southwark DRP has introduced additional rigour to the assessment of architectural and urban design. In the last two years the panel has met 19 times and provided professional and consistent design reviews for 43 schemes.
9. As the first borough in London to establish a design review panel, the Southwark Design Review Panel has set a precedent that many boroughs have followed. The success of the Southwark DRP has been emulated elsewhere in London with at least three other boroughs establishing design review panels of their own since 2006.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

10. The design review panel is made up of external and internal advisors. External advisors are normally invited to come forward primarily through press advertisements in Southwark News and Building Design. Internal advisors can include officers of the development management unit. In addition, other teams such as the Aylesbury regeneration programme are invited to observe when applications within these areas are brought to the panel.
11. The council is proposing to place advertisements inviting expressions of interest in the Southwark DRP in the Southwark Press and Building Design in February/March 2012.
12. Candidates will be selected on their experience, reputation for designing high quality buildings, engagement with stakeholders, teaching/lecturing experience, special skills, their particular interest in Southwark and the range of expertise they bring to the panel. Built environment specialists who are based in Southwark or have designed buildings in Southwark will be welcomed.
13. The panel should not include just architects. It should be open to others with specialist knowledge of the built environment including urban designers, landscape architects, town planners, structural engineers and generalists with specialist knowledge of regeneration schemes within Southwark.
14. 2010/12 DRP members will not be excluded from applying for the 2012/14 design review panel.
15. Presentation of development proposals to the design review panel is encouraged at pre-application and application stage. Major cases that are of strategic importance are brought to the review panel.
16. All incoming panel members will be required to sign up to the DRP terms of reference approved by the director of regeneration & neighbourhoods which entrench the highest standards of professional and public life and include a requirement that panel members cannot take on commissions that they have reviewed for at least two years.

Policy implications

- 14 None

Community impact statement

17. The advertisement for the 2010-11 Southwark Design Review Panel has no implications in terms of the council's statement of community involvement.

Resource implications

18. The co-ordination of the Southwark Design Review Panel, preparation of the DRP reports will not result in significant additional resource implications for the staffing of the regeneration & neighbourhoods department. At the moment this is provided within the design & conservation team.
19. Other resource implications including the advertisement for new panel members can be met within the regeneration department's revenue budget.

Consultation

20. There is no statutory requirement to consult on proposals to advertise the 2012/14 design review panel and no further consultation is envisaged at this stage.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance

20. The constitution does not cover appointments to a panel of this nature. Part 3F(a) of the constitution states that all matters not reserved to planning committee are delegated to the appropriate chief officer, head of service or business unit manager within the internal scheme of management for their own department.
21. The scheme of delegation for planning and transport does not include any form of delegation that would cover the appointment of an advisory panel. In the absence of such a delegation it is therefore the chief officer that is responsible for the appointment of members to the Southwark Design Review Panel.
22. Once candidates for the new design review panel have been shortlisted for appointment, the shortlist will be brought to planning committee for members' information, however members may not make any comments on the choice of candidates as the appointment of candidates must be the decision of the chief officer/ head of service.

Finance Director

23. There are no significant resource implications, either revenue or capital, arising out of this request. The staffing requirement is provided by a part-time person from within the design and conservation team; there is a cost with respect to the advertisement for new panel members, but this can be met from within the regeneration department's revenue budget.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Planning Committee Minutes 11 January 2006, 9 February 2009 Southwark Constitution	Constitutional Team 2 nd Floor 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2TZ	Lesley John 020 7525 7228

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Gary Rice, Head of Development Management	
Report Author	Michael Tsoukaris, Group Manager Design & Conservation	
Version	Final	
Dated	16 January 2012	
Key Decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	Yes	Yes
Finance Director	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		20 January 2012