

<b>Item No.</b> 6.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 29 April 2014	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Planning Committee
<b>Report title:</b>		Southwark Design Review Panel and Conservation Areas Advisory Group advertising	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Director of Planning	

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To note that the council will shortly advertise for members for the 2014/16 Southwark Design Review Panel (DRP).
2. To note that the council will shortly advertise for members for the 2014/16 Southwark Conservation Areas Advisory Group (CAAG).

## 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 meeting the committee resolved:
  - a) That the roles and responsibilities of the panel members are to be clearly stated.
  - b) That the panel is subject to review every two years and must report back to the planning committee.
4. Two years will have passed since the 2012/2014 DRP was established in June 2012. The purpose of this report is to request the committee's agreement to advertise for the new 2014/2016 DRP.
5. Southwark's 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.
6. Those selected to be on the panel offer their services on a voluntary basis and no remuneration has been offered to date.
7. Since its establishment in 2006 the DRP has introduced additional rigour to the assessment of architectural and urban design. In the last two years the panel has met 22 times and provided professional and consistent design reviews for 52 schemes.
8. As the first borough in London to establish a DRP, the panel has set a precedent that many boroughs have followed. The success of Southwark's DRP has been emulated elsewhere in London with at least three other boroughs establishing design review panels of their own since 2006.

9. Southwark CAAG was initially set up on an informal basis and managed with minimum oversight by the council with loosely defined terms of reference. Over the years it has met as a body to review planning applications affecting conservation areas, listed buildings and their settings.

## **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

10. The DRP 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 newspapers. Internal advisors can include officers of the Development Management team. 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 to join Southwark's DRP in the Southwark Press and Building Design April/May 2014 publications.
12. Candidates for the DRP 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 could bring to the panel. Built environment specialists who are based in Southwark or have designed buildings in Southwark will be welcomed.
13. Membership of the DRP is not restricted to architects. It is 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. Existing DRP members will be encouraged to apply to join the 2014/2016 DRP with a view to providing continuity and to support new panel members.
15. Presentation of development proposals to the DRP is encouraged at pre-application and application stage. Major cases that are of strategic importance are brought to the DRP's attention.
16. In a similar way the council will advertise for new members to join the CAAG. This opportunity will be open to those who live or work within one of the 45 Southwark conservation areas and who have a special interest in conservation of the historic environment.
17. The selection of candidates for CAAG will be based on their conservation knowledge, reputation for designing in a historic context, engagement with stakeholders, teaching/lecturing experience, special skills, their particular interest in Southwark's built heritage and the range of expertise they could bring to the group. Built environment specialists who are based in Southwark or have worked on conservation schemes in Southwark will be welcomed.
18. Membership of CAAG is not restricted to conservation architects and can include other professionals such as landscape architects, planners and surveyors with an interest in the historic environment or laypersons such as Tenants' and Residents' Association representatives within conservation areas.

19. CAAG advises the council on planning applications and council-owned developments affecting conservation areas or listed buildings in Southwark.
20. All members of the DRP and CAAG will be required to sign up to terms of reference and a code of conduct approved by the Director of Planning (Appendices 1 and 2) which expect members to adhere to the highest standards of professional and public life and includes a requirement that members of advisory panels and groups cannot take on commissions that they have reviewed for at least two years.

### **Policy implications**

14. There are none.

### **Community impact statement**

17. The advertisement for the 2014/2016 DRP and the 2014/2016 CAAG has no implications in terms of the council's statement of community involvement.

### **Resource implications**

18. The co-ordination of the DRP, preparation of DRP reports and the work of the CAAG will not result in significant additional resource implications for the staffing of the planning department. At the moment this resource is provided by the design and conservation team.
19. Other resource implications, including the advertisement for new panel members, can be met within the planning department's revenue budget.

### **Consultation**

20. There is no statutory requirement to consult on proposals to advertise the 2014/2016 DRP and 2014/2016 CAAG and no further consultation is envisaged at this stage.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS**

### **Director of Legal Services**

20. The constitution does not cover appointments to a panel or advisory group 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 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 director of planning that is responsible for the appointment of members to the DRP and CAAG.
22. Once candidates for the 2014/2016 DRP and the 2014/2016 CAAG have been shortlisted for appointment, the shortlist can be brought to planning committee for members' information; however members have no role in the choice of candidates as the decision to appoint candidates falls to the director of planning.

## Strategic director of finance and corporate services

23. There are no significant resource implications, either revenue or capital, arising out of this request. The staffing requirement is provided by 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 planning division's revenue budget.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Planning committee report 12 January 2010	<a href="http://lbsth-dtr01/documents/s7022/Report.pdf">http://lbsth-dtr01/documents/s7022/Report.pdf</a> Southwark Design Review Panel Re-Advertising	Michael Tsoukaris 020 7525 5392
Planning committee report January 2012	<a href="http://lbsth-dtr01/documents/s25921/Report.pdf">http://lbsth-dtr01/documents/s25921/Report.pdf</a> Southwark Design Review Panel Re-Advertising	Michael Tsoukaris 020 7525 5392

## APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	CAAG Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct
Appendix 2	Draft Advertisement for Southwark DRP 2014-2016
Appendix 3	Draft Advertisement for Southwark CAAG 2014-2016

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Simon Bevan, Director of Planning	
<b>Report Author</b>	Michael Tsoukaris, Group Manager Design & Conservation	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	9 April 2014	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	Yes	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
	<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments sought</b>
	Director of Legal Services	Yes
	Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services	Yes
	<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No
	<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>	11 April 2014