



BARNET
LONDON BOROUGH

BARNET QUALITY REVIEW PANEL

Terms of reference 2025

FRAME PROJECTS

In partnership with
Barnet Council

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Cover image: Brent Cross Town Visitor Pavilion, Moxon Architects © Simon Kennedy



1. INTRODUCTION

Barnet is characterised by lively town centres, high-quality residential development and green spaces. A large area of the borough – 38 per cent – is undeveloped, and there are 200 parks as well as open land, green belt, allotments and playing fields.

Barnet is proud to be home to a mix of communities, including London's largest Jewish community, who play a significant role in the identity of an ethnically diverse borough. The Council aims to concentrate development in the borough's town centres and around transport nodes, to consolidate growth and enable the building of sustainable communities.

Developments in the borough are wide ranging and include mixed use town centre projects, neighbourhood master planning, high rise towers, low rise town housing and public realm works. The Council is committed to high quality, context responsive design which improves the lives of its residents. It sees a Quality Review Panel as a key initiative to help facilitate this.

In May 2022, the Council declared a climate and biodiversity emergency and is committed to becoming net zero by 2030, and to working with local people, communities and businesses across the borough to make BarNET ZERO by 2042.

The National Planning Policy Framework requires that 'development that is not well designed should be refused, especially where it fails to reflect local design policies and government

guidance on design, taking into account any local design guidance and supplementary planning documents such as design guides and codes' (Para. 139, NPPF, 2024).

The appointment of an independent Quality Review Panel is part of the Borough's process for ensuring effective testing of development proposals, and sits alongside wider local planning policy and committed investment in staff and support services. These policies need to be understood within the particular, unique context of Barnet so that the continuing process of development strengthens and enhances the existing sense of place.

The purpose of Barnet's Quality Review Panel is not to duplicate or replace existing mechanisms for securing high quality design, but to provide additional expert advice to inform the planning process, in line with Section 12 of the NPPF. This states that: 'Local planning authorities should ensure that they have access to... design advice and review arrangements... These are of most benefit if used as early as possible in the evolution of schemes, and are particularly important for significant projects such as large scale housing and mixed use developments.' (Para. 138, NPPF, 2024).

By offering advice to applicants during the pre-application process and by commenting on planning applications, the Quality Review Panel supports Barnet's planning officers and planning committee in securing high quality development.



Panel member site visit © Frame Projects



2. PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN REVIEW

Independent – it is conducted by people who are unconnected with the scheme’s promoters and decision makers, and it ensures that conflicts of interest do not arise.

Expert – the advice is delivered by suitably trained people who are experienced in design, who know how to criticise constructively and whose standing and expertise is widely acknowledged.

Multidisciplinary – the advice combines the different perspectives of architects, urban designers, town planners, landscape architects, engineers and other specialist experts to provide a complete, rounded assessment.

Accountable – the design review panel and its advice must be clearly seen to work for the benefit of the public. This should be ingrained within the panel’s terms of reference.

Transparent – the panel’s remit, membership, governance processes and funding should always be in the public domain.

Proportionate – it is used on projects whose significance, either at local or national level, warrants the investment needed to provide the service.

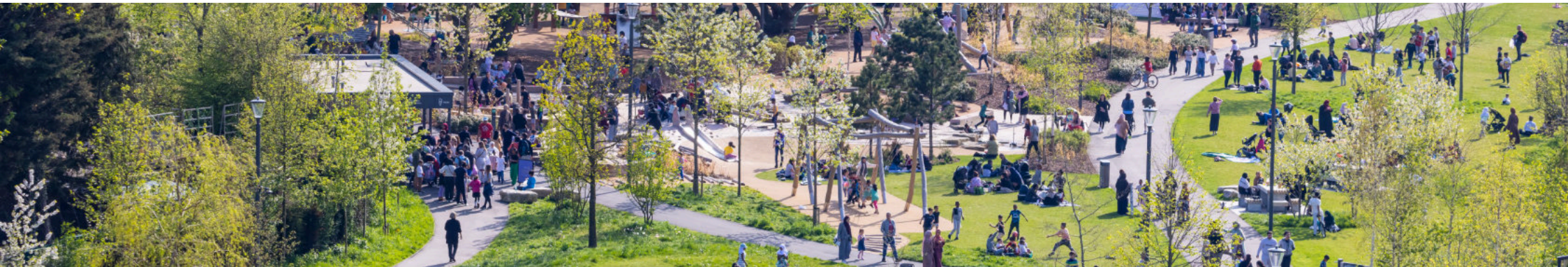
Timely – it takes place as early as possible in the design process, because this can avoid a great deal of wasted time. It also costs less to make changes at an early stage.

Advisory – a design review panel does not make decisions, but it offers impartial advice for the people who do.

Objective – it appraises schemes according to reasoned, objective criteria rather than the stylistic tastes of individual panel members.

Accessible – its findings and advice are clearly expressed in terms that design teams, decision makers and clients can all understand and make use of.

Design Review: Principles and Practice
Design Council CABE / Landscape Institute / RTPI / RIBA (2013)



Brent Cross Town Claremont Park, Townshend Landscape Architects © John Sturrock



3. LONDON DESIGN REVIEW CHARTER

The Barnet Quality Review Panel process is run in accordance with the London Design Review Charter.

High quality – delivered in a manner that accords with the Design Council CABI / Landscape Institute / RTPI / RIBA guide, which calls for reviews to be independent, expert, multidisciplinary, accountable, transparent, proportionate, timely, advisory, objective and available.

Representative and inclusive – reflecting London’s diverse population and seeking to promote inclusive buildings and places.

Based on clear review objectives – which provide terms of reference available to all parties, making clear the outcomes, priorities, challenges and objectives of the review, applicable to the given place and project constraints.

Allied to the decision making process – with the outputs of the design review being made available to the appropriate decision makers, with commitments sought that review outcomes will be taken into account by decision makers as part of a wider design management process.

Even handed, independent – informed by an understanding of the reality of the project, the views of the client, local authority, community and other relevant stakeholders, but providing independent advice.

Proportionate – recognising the need for different review formats and costs for larger or smaller schemes.

Consistent – with the same standards of delivery. On occasions when other reviews have taken place (including by other panels), panellists should be made aware of the previous advice.

Collaborative – with other quality review users and providers to promote best practice London wide, to maintain consistent standards, and if appropriate share resources such as a pool of panellists.

Regularly evaluated – with the aim of building a consistent process to monitor and evaluate the success of design review across London.

About the charter

The charter has been developed by the Greater London Authority (GLA) with input from those running and using panels, as well as from reviewers. Signatories agree to the principles that the charter sets out, and to provide or use design review in a manner that is consistent with its contents.

Full details of the London Charter for Design Review are available via the following link.

www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/ggbd_london_design_review_charter_jan22.pdf



Brent Cross Town Visitor Pavilion, Moxon Architects
© Simon Kennedy



4. PANEL COMPOSITION

The Quality Review Panel brings together professional experts from a variety of fields. Members are chosen to provide a broad range of expertise with particular relevance to Barnet, including:

- architecture
- development delivery
- environmental sustainability
- heritage / townscape
- transport planning
- landscape architecture
- urban design / town planning

Many of those appointed to the Quality Review Panel have expertise and experience in more than one of these areas. The composition of each panel meeting is chosen as far as possible to suit the scheme being reviewed, as well as considering gender balance and diversity.

Membership of the Quality Review Panel is reviewed regularly (at least once a year) to ensure that it provides all the necessary expertise, experience and diversity to undertake its work effectively.

From time to time, it may be of benefit for specialist advice to be provided beyond the Quality Review Panel membership. In such cases, a professional with the relevant expertise may be invited to attend a review meeting, participating in the discussion with the status of an adviser to the panel.



Edgewood Mews, Peter Barber Architects © Morley von Sternberg

5. ROLE OF THE PANEL

The Quality Review Panel provides independent and impartial advice on development proposals, at the request of planning officers, and plays an advisory role in the planning process. It is provided in addition to specialist advice from council officers.

Reviews can be arranged for schemes from RIBA Stage 2 (concept design) onwards, providing advice to the applicant and the planning authority.

It is for Barnet Council's planning officers and the planning committee to decide what weight to place on the panel's comments, balanced with other planning considerations. Applicants should consult Barnet officers following a review to agree how to respond to the panel's advice.

If any points made by the Quality Review Panel require clarification, it is the responsibility of the applicant and their design team to draw this to the attention of the chair of the panel (if during the meeting) or the panel manager, Frame Projects (if the report requires clarification).



The Henrietta Barnett School, Hopkins Architects © Richard Brine



6. PANEL REMIT

The Quality Review Panel provides independent, objective, expert advice on development proposals across Barnet. It provides advice to scheme promoters and the planning authority as a 'critical friend' to support delivery of high quality development.

Generally, schemes are referred to the panel by planning officers at an early stage to identify and consider the key assumptions of the proposed design. The independent advice given by the panel is likely to be most effective when given before a scheme becomes too fixed. Early engagement with the Quality Review Panel should reduce the risk of delay at application stage by ensuring that designs reach an acceptable standard. The planning authority may also request a review once an application is submitted.

The panel's advice may assist planning and design officers in negotiating design improvements and may support decision-making by the planning committee, including refusal of planning permission where design quality is not of a sufficiently high standard.

The panel considers significant development proposals in Barnet. Significance may fall into the following categories.

Significance related to size or use, for example:

- large buildings or groups of buildings
- infrastructure projects, such as bridges or transport hubs
- large public realm proposals
- masterplans, design codes or design guidance

Significance related to site, for example:

- proposals affecting sensitive views
- developments with a major impact on their context
- schemes involving significant public investment

Projects may also be referred to the panel by the planning authority at its discretion, for example where it requires advice on:

- building typologies, for example single aspect dwellings
- environmental sustainability
- design for climate change adaptation and mitigation
- proposals likely to establish a precedent for future development
- developments out of the ordinary in their context
- schemes with significant impacts on the quality of everyday life
- landscape / public space design

When a proposal is at pre-application stage, the report is not made public and is only shared with the Council, the applicant and design team, and any other stakeholder bodies that the Council has consulted on the project.

If the proposal is reviewed at an application stage, the report will be a public document and published on the Council's website. Where the final review of a scheme takes place at a pre-application stage, the report of this meeting may also be made public once an application is submitted.

A diagram showing the role of the Barnet Quality Review Panel in the planning process is opposite.

QUALITY REVIEW IN THE PLANNING PROCESS

- Council pre-app process
- Quality Review Panel
- Planning submission

Design review advice is most effective when it is well-integrated into the local planning authority process. It is for planning officers to decide which schemes would benefit from the panel's advice, and refer them for a review. Frame Projects then takes responsibility for arranging the meeting, liaising with both the planning authority and applicant. A report on the panel's comments is

issued to all those attending, to inform continuing pre-application discussions. Officers may refer the scheme back to the panel for a follow up review, at the next stage of design development. Once the scheme is submitted for planning approval, the panel's analysis of design quality is intended to support the committee in its decision making.





Brent Cross Substation, IF_DO © Jason Hawke

7. INDEPENDENCE & PROBITY

Barnet's Quality Review Panel is an independent and impartial service provided to Barnet Council by Frame Projects, an external consultancy.

The processes for managing the Quality Review Panel, appointing members, including the selection of the chair, and the administration of meetings are agreed in partnership with Barnet Council.

Panel members shall keep confidential all information acquired in the course of their role on the panel, with the exception of reports that are in the public domain.

Further details are provided in the confidentiality procedure included in Section 15.

8. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

As a public authority, the London Borough of Barnet is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act). All requests made to Barnet Council for information with regard to the Quality Review Panel will be handled according to the provisions of the Act. Legal advice may be required on a case by case basis to establish whether any exemptions apply under the Act.



9. TYPES OF REVIEW

Two types of review are offered:

Full review - chair plus four panel members, typically 90 minutes.

Chair's review - chair plus one panel member, typically 60 minutes.

FULL REVIEWS

For schemes with significant impact, requiring a broad range of panel expertise, a full review can be arranged to provide advice on the quality of proposals.

In addition to planning officers, other relevant stakeholders, for example Historic England, may be invited to attend and asked to give their views as background to the review meeting.

Full reviews usually take place at a stage when an applicant and design team have decided their preferred option for development of a site, and have sufficient drawings and models to inform a comprehensive discussion.

In advance of the full review, panel members attend a 15 minute briefing with planning officers on the policy context, and issues arising from pre-application discussions.

At the start of the full review, planning officers will summarise their panel briefing. The scheme will then be presented by a member of the design team, normally the lead architect, following a brief introduction by the applicant.

Presentations may be made with drawings and / or pdf or PowerPoint and models, as appropriate.

At least one paper copy of the presentation should be provided, for ease of reference during the panel discussion.

Time allocated for full reviews will depend on the scale of the project but a typical full review will last 90 minutes: 10 minutes introductions and briefing by planning officers; 25 minutes presentation; 55 minutes discussion and summing up by the chair.

Large projects, for example schemes with several development plots, may be split into smaller elements, to ensure that each component receives adequate time for discussion.



Claremont Park, Townshend Landscape Architects © Townshend Landscape Architects

CHAIR'S REVIEWS

For schemes with more localised impact, or for some previously reviewed schemes, a chair's review may be arranged to provide advice on the quality of proposals.

Planning officers will be invited, but other stakeholders will not normally attend. However, the planning case officer may brief the panel on any comments made by other stakeholders.

For schemes that are the subject of a current planning application, the presentation should be based on the submitted drawings and documents, either as paper copies or as a pdf or PowerPoint. At least one paper copy of the presentation should be provided, for ease of reference during the panel discussion.

In advance of the review, panel members attend a 15 minute briefing with planning officers on the policy context, and issues arising from pre-application discussions.

At the start of the chair's review, planning officers will summarise their panel briefing. The scheme will then be presented by a member of the design team, normally the lead architect, following a brief introduction by the applicant.

A typical chair's review will last 60 minutes: 10 minutes introductions and briefing by planning officers; 15 minutes presentation; 35 minutes discussion and summing up by the chair.

RETURNING SCHEMES

Planning officers may determine that more than one review is required at pre-application stage. For example, a first review may take place at a strategic design stage, with a further review once more detailed designs are available.

For masterplan scale schemes including several development plots, we recommend a discussion between the planning authority, applicant and panel manager to agree how best to structure the review process. Different types of review may be appropriate at different stages in the evolution of the project. Bespoke full day reviews can be offered for large scale / complex schemes.

Subsequent reviews will be charged for at the applicable rate (detailed in Section 14).



New Ground Cohousing, Pollard Thomas Edwards
© Galit Seligmann



Grahame Park, Peter Barber Architects © Morley von Sternberg

10. SITE VISITS

Wherever possible, a site visit will be arranged for review meetings (unless a site visit has already taken place before an earlier review of the scheme). All panel members participating in the review are required to attend. Unless informed otherwise, Frame Projects assumes consent for photographs taken on site or at review meetings to be used on its website and in other publications.

Panel members, representatives of the local planning authority and members of the applicant team should maintain care and awareness of potential hazards for themselves and other attendees during site visits. All those involved should take appropriate action to alert the party of potential risks so that the visit can be paused or terminated if necessary. It is the responsibility of applicant teams to notify Frame Projects in advance of a review meeting if PPE is required on site.

11. MEETING DATES

One Quality Review Panel meeting date is provisionally arranged for each month. Exceptionally, additional meetings may be required to accommodate the number of schemes requiring a review and / or to meet key dates for specific schemes.

The following dates are currently set for Quality Review Panel meetings during 2025:

- 8 January
- 5 February
- 5 March
- 2 April
- 7 May
- 4 June
- 2 July
- 6 August
- 3 September
- 1 October
- 5 November
- 3 December



Colindale Offices, HawkinsBrown © Barnet Council

12. REVIEW AGENDAS

Agendas will be issued to panel members in advance of each review.

For each review meeting, a detailed agenda will be provided that includes notes on the planning context, details of the scheme(s) to be considered, applicant and consultant team.

Information provided by the planning case officer will include relevant planning history and planning policies that officers consider essential for assessing the scheme. Advice may be specifically sought on design quality assessed against these policies.

A scheme description provided by the design team will set out factual information about the project. Selected plans and images of the project will also be provided to help to give a sense of the scope and nature of the project under review.

Where a scheme returns for a second or subsequent review, the report of the previous review will be provided with the agenda.



13. PANEL REPORTS

During the Quality Review Panel meeting the panel manager will take notes of the discussion - these form the basis of panel reports. Reports will be drafted, agreed with the chair, and issued within 10 working days.

At pre-application stage, reports will provide clear, independent advice on ways in which the quality of development proposals could be improved, referring where appropriate to Barnet's planning policies in relation to expectations of high quality design.

The Quality Review Panel has an advisory role in Barnet's planning process. The project team should consult planning and design officers following a review to agree how to respond to points raised in the report.

Once planning applications are submitted, the report may provide guidance to Barnet's planning committee in determining the planning application. This may include suggesting planning conditions or refusal of planning permission if the design quality is not of an acceptably high standard.

Quality Review Panel reports may be included in committee reports on planning application schemes – in which case Barnet planning officers will place these in the context of other planning matters, which the panel's advice neither replaces nor overrules.

If the proposal is reviewed at an application stage the report will be a public document kept within the proposal's case file and published on Barnet Council's website. Where the final review of a scheme takes place at a pre-application stage, the report of this meeting may also be made public once an application is submitted.



The Henrietta Barnett School, Hopkins Architects © Richard Brine

14. PANEL CHARGES

The charges for Quality Review Panel meetings are benchmarked against comparable panels providing design review services in London, such as design review panels in the London Boroughs of Greenwich, Newham and Waltham Forest, and the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation.

Current charges for Barnet Quality Review Panel meetings are:

- Full review £5,975 + VAT
- Chair's review £3,275 + VAT

Applicants are referred to the Quality Review Panel by the London Borough of Barnet as an external service and fees are paid by the applicant to Frame Projects for delivering this service. The cost of venue hire, if required, would be in addition to the charges above.

Payment should be made in advance of the review, and the review may be cancelled if payment is not received five days before the meeting. Full details will be provided when an invitation to the Quality Review Panel is confirmed.

Where a scheduled review is subsequently cancelled or postponed by the applicant, an administrative charge will be applied:

- 50% of full cost : less than two weeks before scheduled review
- £800 + VAT : between two and four weeks before scheduled review



Brent Cross Town © Allies & Morrison



15. CONFIDENTIALITY

The Barnet Quality Review Panel provides a constructive and reliable forum for applicants and their design teams to seek guidance at an early stage, when the panel's advice can have the most impact. It is therefore essential that appropriate levels of confidentiality are maintained. The following procedure shall apply.

1. Panel meetings are only to be attended by panel members, Barnet officers, and officers from stakeholder organisations involved in the project, for example statutory consultees, as well as the applicant and their design team. If any additional individual is to attend, it should be approved by the Quality Review Panel manager.
2. At all times panel members shall keep strictly confidential all information acquired during the course of their role on the panel and shall not use that information for their own benefit, nor disclose it to any third party (with the exception of reports that are in the public domain – see points 5 and 6).
3. The panel's advice is provided in the form of a report written by the Quality Review Panel manager, containing key points arrived at in discussion by the panel. If any applicant, architect or agent approaches a panel member for advice on a scheme subject to review (before, during or after), they should decline to comment and refer the inquiry to the panel manager.
4. Following the meeting, the Quality Review Panel manager will write a draft report, circulate it to the chair for comments and then make any amendments. The final report will then be distributed to all relevant stakeholders.
5. If the proposal is at a pre-application stage, the report is not made public and is only shared with Barnet Council, the applicant and design team, and any other stakeholder bodies that the Council has consulted on the project.
6. If the proposal is reviewed at an application stage, the report will be a public document kept within the proposal's case file and published on Barnet Council's website. Where the final review of a scheme takes place at a pre-application stage, the report of this meeting may also be made public once an application is submitted.
7. If a panel member wishes to share any Quality Review Panel report with a third party, they must seek approval from the Quality Review Panel manager, who will confirm whether or not the report is public.



16. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

To ensure the integrity and impartiality of advice given by the Quality Review Panel, potential conflicts of interest will be checked before each review meeting. The following process will apply.

1. All panel members will be required to declare any conflicts of interest.
2. Panel members are notified of the schemes coming before the panel at least a week in advance. It is expected that at this time panel members should declare any possible interest in a project to the Quality Review Panel manager.
3. The Quality Review Panel manager, in collaboration with the panel chair and Barnet Council staff, will determine if the conflict of interest requires the panel member to step down from the meeting, or if a declaration of interest would be sufficient.
4. In general, a panel member should not attend a review meeting if they have:
 - a financial, commercial or professional interest in a project that will be reviewed, its client and / or its site;
 - a financial, commercial or professional interest in a project, its client and / or a site that is adjacent to the project that will be reviewed or upon which the project being reviewed will have a material impact;
 - a personal relationship with an individual or group involved in the project, or a related project, where that relationship prevents the panel member from being objective.
5. Specific examples include: current work with the client for the project being reviewed; current design work on a neighbouring site; previous involvement in a procurement process to appoint a design team for the project.
6. Personal interests that should be declared, but which would not normally prevent a panel member participating in a review, might include current work with a member of the consultant team for a project that will be reviewed. In this situation, the interest will be noted at the beginning of the review, discussed with the presenting design teams and formally recorded in the review report.
7. If, subsequent to a review of a scheme in which a panel member has participated, they are approached by any applicant, architect or agent to ascertain a potential interest in contributing to the project team for that scheme, they must decline. Professional work in a scheme previously reviewed by a panel member is not permitted, either directly by the panel member or by any organisation that employs them, or that they own.
8. Panel members are not restricted from professionally working on projects within the area. However, if such a scheme comes up for review, that panel member should not be involved and must declare a conflict of interest.
9. Councillors and council employees are not eligible to be members of their own authority's panel.

The table on the following page provides a guide to assessing whether or not a Quality Review Panel member has a conflict of interest.



Current commercial situation

If the panel member is currently working...

for the client on a different project	●
through a direct appointment to a member of the presenting team	●
with a member of the presenting team, but not appointed by them	●
on the site in a competing bid, or has a business connection to the site	●
on a neighbouring site where the two projects have a bearing on each other	●
in the near vicinity if the projects have a bearing on each other	●
for the local authority on another project	●

Past commercial situation

If the panel member has had previous involvement...

with the project (same client and brief)	●
with the site (different client and brief)	●
on a neighbouring site where the two projects have a bearing on each other	●
with the client	●
with a consultant on the project	●

Future commercial situation

If the panel member is...

involved in a procurement process for the client or the site	●
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Familial situation

If the panel member...

has a familial relationship with the client, consultants or site owners	●
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Informal situation

If the panel member...

is a friend of a member of the applicant team	●
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Formal situation

If the panel member...

presents their own scheme to other panel members	●
previously worked for a company that is part of the presenting team, more than one year ago	●
holds an elected position, or is a member of a society, that is impacted by the project – whether paid or unpaid.	●
has a home or business directly affected by a project	●

Key

Conflict of interest - meaning the panel member must be stood down from the review.	●
Declaration of interest - there is the potential for others to incorrectly perceive that a conflict exists. A declaration should be made at the start of the review meeting, and included in the meeting report.	●
No conflict of interest - either real or perceived, and the panel member is free to take part in the review.	●



17. PANEL MEMBERSHIP

The Quality Review Panel brings together 28 professionals, covering a range of disciplines and expertise. For each review, members will be selected from among the people listed below, according to the requirements of the project being reviewed.



Russell Curtis (chair)
Architect
Founding Director, RCKa

Russell Curtis is a founding director of RCKa, an architectural practice specialising in housing, community buildings, mixed-use and complex infill development. The practice has an interest in delivering social value, twice winning Social Value Architect of the Year. Russell is a Barnet resident. He is also a Mayor's Design Adviser and Architecture Foundation trustee.
www.rcka.co.uk



Selina Mason (vice chair)
Architect and development expert
Director of Masterplanning, Lendlease

A masterplanner and architect, Selina Mason has delivered complex urban masterplans. She now drives high quality design and masterplanning across Lendlease's urban regeneration portfolio. She previously led LDA Design's urban regeneration masterplanning team in London, and the design and delivery of the post Olympic Games masterplan.
www.lendlease.com



Archie Bashford
Landscape
Senior Urban Designer / Landscape Architect,
Levitt Bernstein

Archie Bashford is a landscape architect and urban designer, experienced in educational, housing, extra care, public realm and masterplanning sectors. A particular focus is the design and delivery of sensitive and imaginative urban landscapes in social housing contexts, working in both the private and the public sectors as a designer and a client. He has worked at Barking and Dagenham Council, and was a Public Practice Associate at Thurrock Council.
www.levittbernstein.co.uk





Michál Cohen

Architect

Director, Walters & Cohen Architects

Michál Cohen has worked on many award-winning, innovative education, residential and cultural projects. She is a member of several design review panels, as well as being a university lecturer and examiner. She has lived and worked in Camden for more than twenty years and takes a keen interest in her local environment.

www.waltersandcohen.com



Nicole Collomb

Landscape architect

Principal Policy and Programme Officer, Green Infrastructure, Greater London Authority

A chartered landscape architect with over 30 years' experience in the public, private and voluntary sectors, Nicole Collomb is an influential advocate for high quality, landscape led development. She is currently working for the Greater London Authority as a senior policy and programme officer focusing on green infrastructure, to help deliver a greener, healthier and more climate resilient city.



Julian de Metz

Architect and heritage expert

Founding Director, dMFK Architects

Born and raised in Barnet, Julian de Metz is the founding director of dMFK Architects, a multi award-winning London based AJ100 architectural practice. With over 20 years' experience working in private practice, Julian specialises in flexible workspace, multi home residential schemes, community and religious buildings, retrofit and historic buildings with a focus on up front concept design, planning and placemaking, and community consultation. He has been an external examiner in Architecture at Manchester School of Art and Westminster University and lectures regularly on architectural practice matters.

www.dmfk.co.uk





Russ Edwards
Development expert
Project Director, Clarion Housing Group

Russ Edwards is an architect and development professional with over 15 years of experience in award winning architectural practice, and a further 10 years in development roles with London based regeneration specialists. He is currently Project Director for the Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community project, realising his ambition of taking direct responsibility for the design and delivery of an entirely new settlement. Previous roles include leading dRMM's residential studio, Head of Design at Pocket Living, and Head of Residential Design & Technical for Lendlease (Europe).
www.clarionhg.com



Gavin Finnan
Architect
Associate Director, Maccreanor Lavington

Gavin Finnan is an active member of the Senior Management Team at Maccreanor Lavington, leading work on masterplans, large-scale regeneration projects, residential and mixed-use projects, tight urban sites, and historic environments. He has designed in the student housing, co-living, higher education, health, commercial, and industrial sectors. Gavin led the delivery of the Stirling Prize-winning Accordia development in Cambridge, and has run a master's unit at Cardiff University.
www.maccreanorlavington.com



Mike Harris
Landscape architect
Director, Greengage

Mike Harris has over 20 years' experience, and a track record of delivering pragmatic and innovative environmental solutions. His specialism is the delivery of ecology and green infrastructure on complex, strategic projects. Mike leads an award-winning team with expertise across the full spectrum of sustainability, including energy and carbon management, natural capital, social sustainability, biodiversity, green infrastructure and urban greening.
www.greengage-env.com





Steve Jones
Sustainability expert
Director, Coffey Architects

Steve Jones is an architect and certified Passivhaus designer, with over 25 years' experience working for award-winning design practices. Steve is a thoughtful, creative leader and confident communicator. For the past 9 years, he has worked at Coffey Architects where he is a Director, and the practice's sustainability champion, leading research, review and best practice across projects. Steve has lectured and taught at Sheffield, Bath, Leicester De Montford, Lincoln and Cardiff Universities and served as judge for industry design awards over the years. www.coffeyarchitects.com



Dushyant Karnik
Sustainability expert
Technical Director – Sustainability and Building Physics, etch Associates

Dushyant Karnik is an experienced sustainability professional with a strong background in architecture, renewable building services, and building physics. He has led numerous low-energy and Passivhaus projects across the UK, advocating a fabric-first approach to achieve NZC developments while prioritising energy efficiency, occupant comfort, and wellbeing. Specialising in the decarbonisation of historic buildings, Dushyant also develops sustainability and net zero strategies for new builds. His diverse portfolio spans residential, education, commercial, and heritage sectors. Dushyant is a certified Passivhaus Designer and an AECB Building and Retrofit Certifier. www.etchassociates.com



Esther Kurland
Transport expert
Director, Urban Design London

Esther Kurland is a planner and urban designer by background, who has developed a unique position as a key influencer and educator within the built environment and placemaking sectors. She has worked in local authorities, on the first London Plan at the GLA, and lead on planning issues at CABE. Esther has been Director of UDL since 2005, working closely with many partners to support good built environment design. Esther has also sat on many design review panels, steering groups and advisory committees, and is a non-executive director of the Office for Place. www.urbandesignlearning.com





Sarah La Touche
Architect
Director, Allies and Morrison

Educated in the US and UK, Sarah La Touche is passionate about delivering high-quality, sustainable places that serve the new and existing communities they touch. Sarah has been integral to the design and delivery of major masterplans across London, such as Canada Water Masterplan and Brent Cross Town. She works closely with key stakeholders and local communities to balance their needs and aspirations in the creation of inclusive, democratic, resilient spaces.
www.alliesandmorrison.com



Julian Lewis
Architect and public realm designer
Director, East

Julian Lewis is a co-founding director of East and has extensive experience in designing award-winning building, landscape and urban design projects, many of which are located along the Thames. He is a Mayor's Design Advocate, and a member of the Ebbsfleet, Newham, Harrow and Hounslow Design Review Panels. Julian has taught architecture and urbanism in London and Switzerland, is an Honorary Fellow at Nottingham, and has acted as external examiner at Kingston and Cambridge Schools of Architecture.
www.east.uk.com



Alex Lifschutz
Architect
Director, Lifschutz Davidson Sandilands

Alex Lifschutz founded Lifschutz Davidson Sandilands in 1986. He has worked for community-developer clients Coin Street Community Builders on London's South Bank since 1989, designing interlinked projects that have helped transform it from twilight zone into thriving place. He is an innovator in the field of building resilience, and past-president of the Architectural Association.
www.lds-uk.com





Matthew Lloyd

Architect

Founding Partner, Matthew Lloyd Architects

Matthew Lloyd Architects is an award-winning practice, that has won recognition for sensitive, innovative, contextual architecture in urban settings, most often in mixed-use housing development. The practice's Bourne Estate scheme for Camden Council won a 2017 Camden Design Award, and was Overall Winner of the Housing Design Awards 2018. Matthew has acted widely as an architectural critic and writer. He also has particular knowledge and expertise with church rehabilitation schemes in London and beyond.

www.matthewlloyd.co.uk



Phyllida Mills

Architect

Director, Mills Power Architects

Phyllida Mills is an architect with experience of designing housing, health, education and community buildings. She works directly with clients on feasibility, design, planning and construction to create places that inspire and welcome. Before setting up Mills Power Architecture, she was a partner with Penoyre & Prasad, responsible for projects ranging from £0.5m to £20m.

www.millspower.com



Anne Ogundiya

Urban planner

Head of Planning and Transformation,
London Legacy Development Corporation

Anne Ogundiya has over 30 years of urban planning, regeneration and development experience in London. Prior to joining LLDC she held senior roles in Development Management at the Olympic Delivery Authority, London Borough of Havering and Sevenoaks District Council. She is a highly committed and passionate town planner, with experience in managing large-scale masterplans and major brownfield development projects, including the transformation of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and its new neighbourhoods. Anne is also an Independent Member of the OPDC Planning Committee.

www.queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk





Paddy Pugh
Heritage expert
Consultant

Paddy Pugh runs his own consultancy, offering conservation advice to the architectural and development sectors. Previous positions include Director at John McAslan+ Partners and as English Heritage's Director of Planning and Conservation for London where he worked on some of the most significant developments in the capital including the transformation of Kings Cross/St Pancras.



Prachi Rampuria
Town planner and urban designer
Director, EcoResponsive Environments

Prachi Rampuria is director and co-founder at EcoResponsive Environments, an award-winning architectural and urban design practice. With a focus on innovation in low carbon design, Prachi has led two international RIBA competition winning projects, including a strategic masterplan to the north of Letchworth Garden City and a feasibility masterplan for Heath Business and Technical Park in Runcorn, which won a Golden Pineapple in the Future Place Category of the Pineapple Awards 2022 and a National Urban Design Award 2023 in the Small/Midscale Masterplan Category.
www.ecoresponsiveenvironments.com



Caspar Rogers
Architect and sustainability expert
Director, alma-nac

Caspar Rogers is an architect, co-founder and director of alma-nac, a London-based, award-winning practice with a wide-ranging portfolio across residential, education, commercial and cultural sectors. Sustainability is a non-negotiable principle for the practice, which specialises in retrofit and low-carbon projects. alma-nac has won the AJ Retrofit Award, and RIBA National and Regional Awards, and has exhibited its competition winning research proposals at the Royal Academy. In 2020, the practice was included in the Architects Journal 40 Under 40.
www.alma-nac.com





Lorna Sewell

Transport expert

Streets and Places Director, Urban Flow

Lorna Sewell is an experienced movement specialist and transport planner with particular expertise in the design of streets and places, station access, bus network improvements, pedestrian and cyclist schemes, and movement planning for masterplans and major development schemes. She has worked on national strategies and design guidance and is passionate about creating sustainable places for people, ensuring transport and movement choices are healthy, safe and accessible to all. Lorna's experience also includes spatial planning, high-profile placemaking and public realm projects. www.urban-flow.co.uk



Gurmeet Sian

Architect and community engagement expert

Director, Office Sian Architecture + Design

Gurmeet Sian is an architect and Director of Office Sian Architecture + Design. Most of his commissions have been for clients from the community and charity sectors. He has been involved in community education projects throughout his career, in particular in partnership with the Victoria and Albert Museum and Open City. Gurmeet runs architecture workshops for SPID Youth Theatre in Kensal House, and building visits for Open House, in London. He also chairs the Old Kent Road Community Review Panel for Frame Projects. www.officesian.com



Kuljeet Sibia

Town planner and urban designer

Senior Design Manager, London Legacy Development Corporation

Kuljeet Sibia is an architect working at the London Legacy Development Corporation, advising on design quality and inclusive design, to guide a variety of urban sites in East London. She also tutors a BA Architecture design studio at Central Saint Martins focusing on social justice and climate action. Kuljeet champions places for women and girls through her position on the LLDC's Women's Safety Project Board, working on an upcoming handbook, and the design and delivery of new public realm in QEOP, commissioned to meet the needs of teenage girls. www.queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk





Mark Skelly
Sustainability expert
Founding Director, Skelly and Couch

Mark Skelly is a multidisciplinary building environment and services engineer with over 30 years' experience. He leads work at the award-winning practice, Skelly & Couch, on design innovation, sustainability, decarbonisation masterplans and net zero carbon design. Mark has acted as a technical advisor for a number of clients, including the Design Council, and tutors at the University of Bath as Royal Academy of Engineering Visiting Teaching Fellow. He was awarded the IMechE Construction and Building Services Division Prize in 2015.
www.skellyandcouch.com



Carla Smyth
Architect and urban designer
Head of Design, Peabody

Carla Smyth has a particular focus on urban design, housing and public realm. She is responsible for overseeing the design and delivery of new homes and neighbourhoods across Peabody's portfolio. Prior to joining Peabody, Carla was Head of Design at London Legacy Development Corporation, leading new neighbourhoods at Pudding Mill Lane and Bridgewater. Carla is a qualified Architect, working at Maccreevor Lavington, Allies and Morrison and Sergison Bates.
www.peabody.org.uk



Simon Tucker
Architect and heritage expert
Director, Cottrell & Vermeulen Architecture

Simon Tucker is a director at Cottrell and Vermeulen Architecture. The practice specialises in public sector work, and in the design of education buildings. Simon has delivered many award-winning projects, including Churchill, Clare and St Catharine's Colleges in Cambridge, City of London School for Girls, and several projects for Brentwood School. Simon is a member of the Havering, Bromley and Redbridge Design Review Panels.
www.cv-arch.co.uk





Ramsey Yassa

Architect

Director, NOOMA Studio

Ramsey Yassa is an architect and educator. He has roots across north-west London and Brent, and plays an active role in shaping London's urban regeneration through his work in practice. His focus is on addressing the climate emergency, housing crisis and social justice of the built environment. NOOMA Studio has been recognised by multiple awards, including the Architects' Journal's '40 under 40'.

www.nooma.studio

18. KEY REFERENCES

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