

URBAN DESIGN PANELS – AN OUTLINE

The Scottish Government is striving for high quality design in all new developments, which is apparent from publications such as Designing Places and Planning Advice Notes, together with emphasis on improving skills and the design quality of new development proposals.

In order to achieve these aims an increasing number of local authorities have sought to supplement their expertise by setting up advisory panels to give constructive advice which can be used by design teams, planners and or developers to develop their proposals in a positive way.

These panels are variously known as Urban Design Panels, Design Review Panels or Place and Design Panels, composed of experts in disciplines such as Architecture, Planning, Historic Buildings and Landscape Design. Some of the larger panels also invite interest and community groups to comment on selected projects.

In the main these panels consider selected projects at an early stage to give informal advice to developers on intended projects; advice to the local authority on proposals that have reached planning application stage, and to the local authority on major redevelopment proposals such as local plans or the setting up of conservation areas.

Each local authority has its own terms of reference and governance and membership of the panels may vary. In some cases the Panel is composed of permanent representatives from professional organisations including landscape with additional members invited depending on the nature of the project, while other panels retain details of a number of professionals and make a selection appropriate to the advice required

The procedures vary but in general for selected schemes where the local authority has advised a developer to seek advice at the earliest stage, or where the project has reached planning application stage, the developer is given the opportunity to attend the panel, explain its project and answer questions, following which advice is given after discussion. Where larger local authority projects are concerned attendance at the panel is usually composed of representatives from a number of local authority departments and a wider range of expertise from external contributors.

URBAN DESIGN PANELS IN SCOTLAND & LIS MEMBER CURRENT AND PAST SUPPORT

Landscape Institute Scotland provides representatives for urban design panels in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Inverness and West Dunbartonshire. LIS members act as appointed representatives on each panel:

1. Glasgow Urban Design Panel

Stephen Bacon, Duncan McLean, Richard East. Rotating with James Spence Watson on stand-by

2. Edinburgh Urban Design Panel

Emily Peel Yates, Sam Thomas, Members rotate with JSW and Karen Esslemont as stand-by

3. Inverness Design Review Panel

Roz MacLennan, Karen Esslemont

4. **Place and Design Panel – West Dunbartonshire Council**

James Spence Watson, Nick Bowen, John Farquhar, Jon Simmons, Marc van Grieken

5. **Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Design Review Panel** - **Note** the Council state that they are intending to close down the panel due to lack of suitable projects coming forward and that they have just appointed a Design Officer. *Past lead and stand-by members have been Dr. Susan McFadzean, Sarah Fletcher (nee Hutcheon), Janet Benton, Ujwala Fernandes & Stephen Bridge.*

New Panel Proposed - Aberdeenshire Design Panel

Aberdeenshire Council are currently working on the new guidelines and procedures and will call for new members.

LIS is keen to hear of any other panels that have commenced where landscape design could contribute to the raising of design standards generally. If you have any views or wish more details of the panels or are aware of any other panels where landscape can make a contribution, contact James Spence Watson, Secretary to Landscape Institute Scotland:
mail.scotland@landscapeinstitute.org

Please also see outline notes below and for past members of Urban Design Panels.

For more detailed guidance information Architecture and Design Scotland also offer guidance on Design Panels: https://www.ads.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/10965_design-forum-guidance-2014-with-appendix.pdf

PAST LIS LEAD AND STAND-BY MEMBERS ON URBAN DESIGN PANELS

Glasgow Urban Design Panel – Members since 2006 (just after panel commenced)

James Spence Watson, Nicola Garmory

Edinburgh Design and Review Panel – Members since inception in January 2009

James Spence Watson, Guy Walters, Andrew Furness, Emily Peel Yates – (EDC notified in 2009)

John Stuart Murray, Marc van Grieken, Peter McGowan, Mark Turnbull – (EDC notified 2011)

Marc van Grieken, Peter McGowan, Mark Turnbull, Bob Bainsfair, John Ramsay, Sitara Keppie – (EDC notified 2012)

Emily Peel Yates, Sam Thomas, Bob Bainsfair (from 2013 on)

Inverness Design Review Panel – Members since inception in 2016

Roz MacLennan, Karen Esslemont. Roz MacLennan is local but Karen Esslemont is based in Edinburgh and either attends or adds written comment for each panel

West Dunbartonshire Place and Design Panel – Members since inception in 2018

There are as yet no past members

Aberdeen City and Shire Panel – Members since inception in 2012 (disbanded 2018)

Dr. Susan McFadzean, Sarah Fletcher (nee Hutcheon), Janet Benton, Ujwala Fernandes & Stephen Bridge.