

CAMBRIDGESHIRE HORIZONS

Agenda Item No: 12

Quality Panel

To: **Horizons Main Board**

Date: **1st July 2010**

From: **John Williamson, Director for Development**

Purpose: **For information (FI)**

To update Main Board on the Cambridgeshire Quality Panel.

Recommendation: **To note the members of the Quality Panel and the Terms of Reference for the Panel which have been agreed by the Quality Charter Steering Group.**

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Robin Nicholson (chair) is a senior member of Edward Cullinan Architects, which he joined in 1979. He is a Board Member of the NHBC and chairs NHBC Services Ltd. He is Convenor of the Construction Industry think-tank, The Edge Debates.

Previously he was a Vice-President of the RIBA (1992-94), Chairman of CIC (1998-2000) and founder member of the Movement for Innovation Board (1998-2001). He helped develop the Design Quality Indicator (1999-09). He sat on the DETR Urban Sounding Board (2001-03). He was a CABE Commissioner (2002-10) and Joint Deputy Chair (2008-10). He chaired the DCSF Zero Carbon Task Force whose recommendations were accepted by the Secretary of State in Jan 2010.

He was awarded a CBE for Services to Architecture in 1999 and an Honorary Fellowship of the Institution of Structural Engineers in 2002.

John Worthington (vice chair) is the co-Founder of DEGW, Director of The Academy of Urbanism, Patron and past Chair of the Urban Design Group and Chair of the Dublin Urbanism Advisory Panel. Recent appointments include Chair of CABE/RIBA Building Futures, Board member London Thames Gateway Development Corporation and the Graham Willis Professorship at the University of Sheffield.

David Birkbeck is chief executive of Design for Homes, which he helped set up in 2000 as a not-for-profit research vehicle to improve design, planning and construction.

David created the Building for Life assessment tool in September 2002, now the core tool for the public sector to assess the quality of development proposal in planning and grant bids. David later joined a team to develop a similar tool for Ireland which became its statutory preplanning assessment criteria on 31 December 2008. Both measure the quality of urban design and private and shared amenity in new-build applications. His publications include 'Car Parking: What Works Where' for English Partnerships.

Design for Homes also manages the UK government's Housing Design Awards and David is both a judge and the programme's rapporteur.

David is a board member of the Housing Forum, was a judge on the Design for Manufacture and Carbon Challenge competitions and in April 2009 he was appointed to a panel advising on design and sustainability standards at the Homes and Communities Agency. He is an NHBC councillor and an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Meredith Bowles is the director Mole Architects, a Cambridgeshire practice specialising in low energy sustainable buildings. He combines practice with teaching, and holds an Isaac Newton Teaching Fellowship at the University of Cambridge. He is past chair of the Cambridge Association of Architects, and has recently chaired awards judging panels for Suffolk CPRE and the RIBA.

Simon Carne is an Architect, Planner and Urban Designer. Simon's career has ranged from architect in private practices including the Peter Moro Partnership and Shephard Epstein and Hunter with experience on University, housing and mixed use projects. Following 8 years as a client at the City of Westminster Department of Planning, leading on public realm, parks, gardens and street design, Simon was a Director at Urban Initiatives with responsibility for a number of planning, public realm, urban design and master planning projects. Simon is a CABE enabler, a member of the Design Commission for Wales, the South West of England Design Panel and an RIBA Client Design advisor.

George Hazel is Chairman of MRC McLean Hazel Ltd. He has extensive experience in all aspects of transport and communications, both urban and rural. Professor Hazel has specific expertise in strategic planning and policy development, the integration of transport with other related areas, the prioritization of projects with respect to economic, environmental and social objectives and innovative funding of transport infrastructure around the world. He has studied all forms of transport policy around the world, both the successful and the unsuccessful and has gained a detailed insight into the key issues and influences in this field. Professor Hazel has worked in the public, private and academic sectors at a senior level and has acted as advisor to the Academy of Sustainable Communities, the Commission for Integrated Transport, Transport for London, the Queensland State Government, the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Region and the Cities of San Diego, Vienna, Dublin, Belfast and London.

Nick James trained as an architect and completed both Undergraduate and Masters degrees at the University of Bath. His career began working in architectural and masterplanning practices in London and the South of England before joining BioRegional Development Group in 2002 and co-founding BioRegional Consulting Ltd in 2004.(NEW PARA) Nick joined sustainable community developer BioRegional Quintain Ltd in 2005 and works specifically on integrating sustainability into development projects. BioRegional Quintain Ltd is an active developer in the UK and also provides strategic sustainability and development consultancy services to partners primarily in the property and energy sectors

His role within BQL includes working with stakeholders to define sustainability vision and strategy, identify and establish robust delivery mechanisms, and to ensure implementation. As well as working on specific design and project issues, Nick has a key role in developing and delivering pan-project initiatives such as Energy Service Companies and sustainable estate

management solutions. Nick is a registered assessor for BRE EcoHomes and Code for Sustainable Homes, and a director of Futureground Ltd design consultancy.

Stephen Platt is a social scientist with experience in urban planning, housing and energy use. His main interest is the relationship of people to design.

He has worked on many aspects of the built environment including six years urban and regional planning in Venezuela. His PhD research at the Martin Centre, University of Cambridge, was on the effect of the local environment on child development. (NEW PARA) He has been a director of Cambridge Architectural Research since 1990 and its Chairman since 2001. He ran the public consultation exercises for Cambridge Futures, on development and transport in the region and wrote Lessons from Cambourne. He produced a report on housing in the South East entitled Housing Futures for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and co-authored a study for CABI and the RIBA entitled Urban Futures.

He is also Associate Professor in the School of the Built Environment at Nottingham University.

David Prichard's particular interests are in master planning, urban design, housing and regeneration commissions as well as a range of civic and education building projects. He led the multi-disciplinary team on the Ballymun Regeneration Project in Dublin which won the Irish Planning Institute's Planning Achievement Award. That project has led to several other planning studies such as Metro North rail line Communities for 50,000 residents and the Liberties area plan for 225 hectares of Dublin City. Most recently he led the regional masterplan for 65km coastline of the Dead Sea for the Jordanian Government which won the MIPIM Masterplanning Commendation.

David built the Durham Cultural Quarter for the City Council, comprising a theatre, visitor centre, library and new square in this World Heritage city. He was responsible for Cable and Wireless College campus in Coventry, outright winner of the Building of the Year Award.

David chairs the national panel for the Civic Trust Awards. He has judged several international architectural competitions and other award schemes. He is an advisor to Galway, Cork, Dublin City Councils and is an academician of the Academy of Urbanism.

Canda Smith A Landscape Architect by profession Canda has focused her career on improving the interaction of people and place, and is currently an independent adviser.

She has worked for Central Government since 2002. Most recently as a Senior Civil Servant at the Department for Communities and Local Government, heading up the teams responsible for Land, Design and Industry. She had responsibility for Urban Design policies and the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment; as well as policy and delivery roles on the National Brownfield Strategy, Coalfield Programmes, Urban Regeneration Companies, Surplus Public Sector Land programmes and regeneration and property projects delivered by

the Homes and Communities Agency. She also led on a range of housing matters, including liaison with the private sector housebuilding industry.

Her early career was largely in the voluntary sector, where she worked for one of the initial Community Development Trusts. Canda then moved to work for a local authority planning department, as a landscape architect.

This was followed by a move to rural policy, first running a major environmental regeneration scheme around 12 English Cities, and then developing new community based grant schemes. This was followed by a move to head up the development of a new rural transport policy and its delivery, including community transport grant schemes, at the Countryside Agency.

Oliver Smith Founder Director of 5th Studio, a practice of 16 architects in two studios and a portfolio of challenging building, strategic masterplanning and public realm projects.

Recent work includes the Russell Street Hostel for St Catharine's College and the Creative Exchange in St Neots. Current projects include the re-invention of a Grade I Listed Building into Passivhaus student accommodation, and the design of zero-carbon housing developments in Bow and St Ives.

5th Studio are currently working on the implementation plans for the Lower Lea Park and on urban design projects for the City of St Albans, Crossrail, the A10 corridor and for Park Royal.

Oliver qualified in Cambridge in 1983, working with James Stirling on the Tate in the North and art galleries in Lugano and Milan and with MJP on projects for the LSE, the Ruskin Archive and Lancaster University.

Oliver was a founding Trustee, and chairs the Management Group, of Shape East - the architecture centre for the eastern region.

Lynne Sullivan is a practising Architect and founded sustainableBYdesign in 2009, following eighteen years specialising in low-energy building design at ECD and Broadway Malyan. Her practice is currently working on PassivHaus schools and housing design and was a finalist in the recent Welsh PassivHaus competition. Previously she was winner of the UK's first Zero CO2 housing competition and Architect for one of four finalists in the UK's first Carbon Challenge competition at Hanham Hall, Bristol.

Lynne has a unique reputation in her contribution to policy and strategy for a sustainable built environment, including being the only architect on the Government's 2004-5 Sustainable Buildings Taskgroup and the 2009 Zero Carbon Energy Efficiency Standard TaskGroup, and she chaired the Expert Panel for the Scottish Government whose report "A Low Carbon Building Standards Strategy for Scotland" was published in 2007.

Quality Panel Terms of Reference

Introduction

These Terms of Reference outline the background and purpose of the Cambridgeshire Quality Panel and explain how it is intended to work.

Origins

The Cambridgeshire Quality Panel is being established by Cambridgeshire Horizons to provide a quality review service for the major growth sites in Cambridgeshire which can give consistent and well-informed advice to the local planning authorities during each phase of the developments. The local authorities have high aspirations for the quality of the new developments that are being brought forward, as outlined in the *Cambridgeshire Quality Charter for Growth*, and quality review can play an important role in supporting and challenging the local planning authorities in their quest for high standards.

At its meeting on September 24, 2009, the Cambridgeshire Horizons Board agreed the establishment of a Cambridgeshire Quality Panel for an initial period of up to March 2011. Funding for the Panel beyond that date will be reviewed in the autumn of 2010 and further funding will need to be agreed before the end of March 2011.

Aim, purpose and role

The Panel will be expected to give impartial advice to the local planning authorities, both supportive and challenging, in order to ensure that the best possible outcomes are achieved; and assist the planning authorities in upholding and reinforcing the high quality aspirations set out in the Cambridgeshire Quality Charter for Growth and adopted planning policies. It may also support local authorities in their own procurement and development processes, for instance on the design of schools or community facilities.

Quality review does not just cover aesthetics; it should also be reflected in the wider sustainability and functionality of a project. For this reason the Cambridgeshire Quality Panel will assess schemes against all four 'C's of the Quality Charter: community, connectivity, climate and character, within the context of the adopted planning policy framework.

Within Cambridge City the Panel will only normally review sites covered by the City Fringes Joint Development Control Committee, and for the rest of the County schemes of an indicative scale of approximately 500 or more houses.

These major sites will pass through three distinct planning phases, and quality review by the Panel will be relevant to all of them:

at outline planning stage, where quality review can play an important role in assessing the quality of the overall vision for major developments as expressed in strategic Master Plans, Parameters Plans and Design and Access Statements;

at the Design Coding stage, where more detailed strategies for the public realm and Neighbourhood Plans are being drawn up; and

at Reserved Matters stage, where final details of the new neighbourhoods and local centres are being designed.

In undertaking its advisory role, the Panel seeks to give guidance that is:

- independent
- expert
- objective
- constructive
- balanced
- wide ranging

Status of the Panel

The Panel will be an independent group managed and supported by Cambridgeshire Horizons, giving guidance in its own name. The local authorities in Cambridgeshire will not be held responsible for the Panel's views. However, the Panel's views may be taken into account as a material consideration by the local planning authority in determining a planning application.

Schemes will normally be submitted to the Panel on the recommendation of the relevant Planning Director. However, schemes may also be submitted on the request of individual developers or promoters.

A Steering Group will guide the forward work programme of the Panel, reporting to the Growth Partnership Board. An annual review of Panel's work will be reported to the Horizons Board.

Panel Members

The Panel will consist of a Chair, a Vice Chair and up to ten further members.

The Panel's membership will possess expertise across the full range of the Cambridgeshire Quality Charter's four 'C's:

Community – Building a sense of community by providing a greater choice of housing along with community facilities which assist active participation of people in their neighbourhoods

Connectivity – Locating new developments where they can benefit from high connectivity to jobs and services and provision of sustainable infrastructure to match the pace of the development

Climate – Tackling climate change through imaginative landscaping that treats water as a friend not an enemy and through innovative approaches to energy, transport and waste

Character - Creating places of character with distinctive neighbourhoods and public realm that encouraged people to walk and cycle

The Chair and Vice Chair will be selected from the twelve member Panel.

The Panel will be recruited through a selection process based on stated criteria in the Quality Charter this can be viewed at www.cambridgeshirehorizons.co.uk/qualitycharter

Cambridgeshire Horizons will co-ordinate the appointment of Panel members in consultation with local authority members and key officers. Panel member's fees will be paid at a rate of £400 per day plus expenses.

The Panel will be supported by a Panel Secretary, who will prepare detailed notes of the meeting and a draft response for the Chair's approval.

Panel membership will be reviewed annually and new members sought from time to time.

Appointments will be made by a selection committee comprising elected member representatives from each of the six Cambridgeshire authorities. The committee will be advised by the steering group referred to above.

Conflict of Interest

It is imperative that the Panel is open and transparent about conflicts of interest. Successful panel members will be required to sign a confidentiality agreement and conflict of interest declaration as part of the appointment process. Panel members will not be able to attend the review of schemes that either they or their firm may be involved in or linked to.

Panel meetings

Full meetings

The Panel will meet four to six times a year for a whole day. Sessions would normally include a site visit. Meetings will normally be held in Cambridge except where the scheme being reviewed is within one of the market towns, in which case the review will be held at a location in the town, particularly if a site visit is also involved.

Review of each case will entail the following steps:

the developer gives an overview of the scheme, describing the aspiration and concept for the project and the brief;

the developer's professional team presents the project covering the nature of the intended development and its context and moving on to a broad description of the design proposal;

local planning authority officers will be invited to comment;

questions and discussion of the proposal between the Panel, the developer and his team, and the representatives of the local authorities;

others withdraw and the Panel discusses the proposals *in closed session*.

A report of the meeting will be drafted by the Panel Secretary and agreed with the Chair.

Occasionally, a special meeting, in addition to the meetings noted above, may be held at the discretion of the Panel.

Panel meetings will not be public meetings and attendance is by invitation only. Members of relevant authorities will be informed of meeting dates and agenda items and may attend the open section of the meetings as observers but should notify the Panel Secretary in advance.

Guidance

The Panel will issue a formal response to the local planning authority, copied to the developer of the scheme in the form of a letter, detailing the views of the Panel, within two weeks of the meeting. It will focus on how well the scheme relates to the principles in the Cambridgeshire Quality Charter within the context of adopted planning policies and make suggestions for improvement.