



The Design  
Review Panel™

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INDEPENDENT DESIGN REVIEW ACROSS ENGLAND

# A guide for local authorities

Independent design evidence for the decisions that shape places: a national pool of practitioners, assembled for each proposal and working under a published Code of Conduct. Book a review, or refer an applicant to book directly.

**400+**

projects across  
England

**124**

local authority  
areas

**9**

English  
regions

**140+**

practitioners in  
the national pool

September 2026  
[designreviewpanel.co.uk](http://designreviewpanel.co.uk)

# Better design begins with better conversations

**Planning authorities balance growth, stewardship, democratic accountability, viability and delivery. Design review creates a structured point at which those considerations can be explored together, before positions become fixed.**

The Panel brings an independent, multidisciplinary view to proposals across England. Each Panel is assembled for the project from a national pool of more than 140 practitioners, so the disciplines follow the questions the scheme raises rather than a fixed local list.

The process is constructive, proportionate and separate from the planning decision. The written feedback records a collective view of design quality and placemaking that the authority can use in pre-application dialogue, in officer reports and, where relevant, at appeal. Since 2013 the Panel has reviewed more than 400 projects in 124 local authority areas, and every review runs under a published Code of Conduct.

An authority can book and pay for a review, or refer an applicant to book and pay directly. The same terms and independence safeguards apply on either route (page 8).



Panel members, officers and a design team on site. Photograph: The Design Review Panel.

## Independent evidence, local judgement.

The Panel contributes a recorded design view. The authority weighs it and decides.

### DISCIPLINES DRAWN ON

- Architecture
- Landscape architecture
- Heritage and conservation
- Ecology
- Urban design
- Town planning
- Transport and movement
- Other relevant specialisms

Under the Code of Conduct the written feedback confirms the disciplines represented and that it records the Panel's collective view.

**400+**

projects across England

**600+**

review sessions since 2013

**124**

local authority areas

**140+**

practitioners in the national pool

**14**

working days after the session: when we aim to provide written feedback

# Challenge where it adds value

Independent review can assist where a proposal is strategically important, technically complex, locally sensitive or capable of setting a wider precedent, and where an authority's own design capacity is stretched.

## 01 Shared understanding

The site, the policy context and the design objectives are brought into one discussion, with the promoter, the design team and the authority hearing the same questions.

## 02 Connected disciplines

Planning, architecture, landscape, movement, heritage and other relevant matters are considered together rather than in sequence.

## 03 Timely scrutiny

Design questions are identified while meaningful change remains possible, before a submission fixes the scheme.

## 04 A citable record

The written feedback records independent professional observations and suggestions that officers can cite and members can read.

## 05 Constructive dialogue

The authority, the promoter and the design team gain a clearer basis for pre-application discussion and for the design narrative in the submission.

## 06 Design literacy

Officers and members who attend see how design questions are worked through by practitioners from several disciplines.



A review session. Photograph: The Design Review Panel.

### WHERE THE PANEL STOPS

The Panel does not redesign the proposal, determine the application, undertake the planning balance or advocate for or against development. It provides independent, multidisciplinary observations and suggestions on design quality and placemaking. The authority retains responsibility for the planning decision and for the weight it gives to the feedback.



Spine-street visualisation for the revised reserved-matters scheme, June 2022. Image: ECE Architecture / Taylor Wimpey.

## CASE STUDY · MAJOR HOUSING · WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

# Swingate Park, Hellingly: from refusal to approval in one design dialogue

Reserved matters for 351 homes, 35 per cent affordable, on an outline allocation west of Park Farm. Wealden refuses the first reserved-matters application under delegated powers on 6 January 2022, citing the lack of good architecture, a robust and legible layout and an effective landscape strategy.

The applicant then appoints an independent design review panel of six practitioners across architecture, urban design and landscape. Three sessions in 2022 bring the applicant, the Council and the Panel into one conversation, with separate applicant–Panel and applicant–Council meetings between them. The committee approves the revised scheme on 26 January 2023 and the decision issues on 31 January 2023.

## WHAT CHANGED IN THE REVISED SCHEME

As recorded in the officer report of 26 January 2023, following engagement with the Council and the Panel.

- The six three-storey flat blocks now sit within landscaped settings overlooking public open space, which the report says addresses officers' earlier concerns about their scale in the streetscape.
- Taller buildings and varied architectural treatments now mark gateways, key routes and nodes, in place of the homogeneous streetscape of the refused scheme.
- A clearly defined street hierarchy, tree-lined streets along the primary route and structural planting along the spine road.
- Distinct character areas using different combinations of materials, with officers asking for natural slate in place of grey tiles.

### 6 JANUARY 2022

First reserved-matters application refused under delegated powers.

### FEBRUARY TO JUNE 2022

Three Panel sessions with the applicant, the Council and the Panel in the room.

### 26 AND 31 JANUARY 2023

Committee approves the revised scheme; the decision issues.

# 351

homes in the reserved-matters scheme (outline: up to 370)

# 3

three-party Panel sessions in 2022

# 12

months from refusal to approval

Planning record  
WD/2022/2135/MRM  
[planning.wealden.gov.uk](http://planning.wealden.gov.uk)

# What the officer report shows

Two extracts from Wealden District Council’s report to its planning committee of 26 January 2023, quoted as written.

“ Since the refusal, the applicant has reviewed the scheme proposals, further engaged with the planning officer to address the Council’s concerns and appointed an Independent Design Review Panel (DRP) of leading design professionals from across the disciplines to facilitate the development of the scheme as now submitted. This has been a lengthy process, which included three lengthy meetings with representatives from all three parties (Applicant, DRP and the Council).

Wealden District Council officer report, WD/2022/2135/MRM, planning committee 26 January 2023

“ This revised Reserved Matters application has been developed and refined through extensive pre-application engagement with the Council and an independent Design Review Panel (comprising 6 design professionals from disciplines of Architecture, Urban Design and Landscaping) to overcome the previous reasons for refusal and provide an appropriate scheme that officers now consider to be supportable and addresses the previous reasons for refusal.

Wealden District Council officer report, WD/2022/2135/MRM, planning committee 26 January 2023

| WHAT AN AUTHORITY CAN TAKE FROM IT                                                                                                                     | WHO COMMISSIONED                                                                                                                                                                     | WHOSE JUDGEMENT                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A refusal became a structured dialogue. Three sessions in five months gave officers and the applicant a shared, recorded basis for the revised scheme. | The applicant appointed and paid for the Panel; the Council took part in the three-party sessions. The report attributes progress to engagement with both the Council and the Panel. | Officers reached their own conclusion that the scheme was supportable, and the committee decided. The Panel contributed design evidence to that judgement. |

6 practitioners: architecture, urban design and landscape

3 three-party sessions in 2022

Read the report and the decision: [planning.wealden.gov.uk](https://planning.wealden.gov.uk)

# Make the design process visible in policy

## DP1

National Planning  
Policy Framework,  
August 2026

Development plans should, at the most appropriate level, set out clear design expectations by:

**“Setting out in what circumstances design review and other design processes will be required.”**

Policy DP1(1)(d), A strategy for design. Published 17 August 2026. DP1(2): guidance on applying the policy is set out in the Design and Placemaking planning practice guidance.

### Proportionate referral criteria

Criteria can reflect scale, strategic importance, site sensitivity, design complexity or the potential to set a precedent. They identify where independent review is likely to add value; they need not require it for every proposal near a heritage asset or in a sensitive landscape. Published criteria let promoters plan for review and let members and the public see why a scheme is referred.

### A predictable pathway

A clear route states when independent review is expected, whether it sits within pre-application engagement or a planning performance agreement, and who books and pays: the authority, or the applicant on referral.

### Provider-neutral wording

DP1 does not prescribe a named provider, and policy wording should not. It describes the kind of review expected: independent, multidisciplinary and working under a published code of conduct.

### Where the Panel can help

The Panel gives an authority access to an established independent review service with published information about how it works: booking terms, review formats, the Code of Conduct and the process in this guide. Reviews have been completed in 124 authority areas, each commissioned individually.

### ILLUSTRATIVE POLICY WORDING

“Proposals for (strategic sites, major development and schemes seeking to demonstrate outstanding or innovative design), and other proposals where the council considers that independent review would assist, are expected to have been considered by an independent, multidisciplinary design review panel operating under a published code of conduct before submission. The council takes the panel’s written feedback into account as a material consideration; the weight given to it is a matter for the decision-maker.”

Illustrative only. A local plan policy sets expectations for proposals; a pre-application protocol or validation guidance describes procedure. The wording needs adapting to the instrument the authority chooses, its procedures and its legal and procurement requirements.

# Design quality through evolution, assessment and delivery

## DP3 Key principles for well-designed places

Proposals should respond to their context and reflect relevant aspects of seven principles, as appropriate to the development and its location:

- Liveability
- Nature
- Built form
- Identity
- Climate
- Movement
- Public space

DP3(3) states that proposals “should be refused if, without clear justification, they conflict with paragraph 1 of this policy or relevant aspects of the principles in paragraph 2, or with any explicit design standards set out in the development plan”, and gives substantial weight to compliance with relevant development plan policies. DP3(5) gives substantial weight to outstanding or innovative designs that promote high levels of sustainability or help raise design standards in an area, subject to their consistency with the overall form and layout of their surroundings.

### What the feedback is in a decision

Where the Panel’s feedback is relevant to the planning merits, it may form a material consideration. In an individual case an Inspector may give it greater weight, as at Mossie in 2022 (page 12). The weight in any case remains a matter for the decision-maker.



**Design review is an independent assessment of development proposals by a panel of multidisciplinary professionals and experts, which can inform and improve design quality in new development.**

Planning Practice Guidance, Design: process and tools, paragraph 017 (Reference ID 26-017-20191001)

## DP4 The design process

“Design quality should be considered throughout the evolution, assessment and delivery of development proposals, including through any pre-application engagement” (DP4(1)). The local planning authority should:



**Ensure that they have access to, and encourage the appropriate use of design review and other design tools and processes (especially for strategic sites and other significant projects), and take into account their outcomes, including any design recommendations made by design review panels.**

Policy DP4(2)(a), Achieving well-designed places, NPPF 17 August 2026

### What it is not

Booking a review does not establish compliance with DP3, prevent a refusal under DP3(3) or carry out the planning balance. It gives the authority and the applicant an independent, recorded view of connected design questions.

Sources: NPPF, 17 August 2026, [gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework); Planning Practice Guidance, [gov.uk/guidance/design](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/design). The Design and Placemaking guidance was in draft consultation in January 2026; Design: process and tools (2019) remains live.

# Two straightforward ways to access independent design review

Local planning authorities can commission a review directly or refer applicants to the Panel. In either case the Panel operates under the same published terms and independence safeguards.

## ROUTE 1

### The authority books and pays

An authority can book a review where an independent, multidisciplinary perspective may assist consideration of a proposal: a contested case, a strategic site, its own scheme, or where specialist capacity is needed. The commission remains subject to the authority's applicable purchasing arrangements.

## ROUTE 2

### The applicant books and pays

An authority can identify where independent review may be useful and refer the applicant to the Panel. The applicant then arranges and funds the review directly under the published terms. This route gives access to review where the authority is not funding the session; it is a normal way of working, not a fallback.

## OFFICERS AND THE PANEL

Officers are welcome to attend, explain the planning context and contribute to the discussion. The Panel retains responsibility for selecting its members, managing conflicts, chairing the review and issuing its collective written feedback. The commissioning party does not choose the conclusion.

## REGULAR USE

Authorities can make repeated bookings or referrals. Individual reviews are commissioned under the published booking terms, without a retainer or minimum-volume commitment. A pre-application process or planning performance agreement can be the context for a review, not a separate way of paying.

## REVIEW FORMATS

| REVIEW                                                                           | IN PERSON, WITH SITE VISIT                                                            | ONLINE, WITH 360° VIRTUAL SITE TOUR | WITHOUT A SITE VISIT                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Minor Project Review</b><br>1 to 4 dwellings                                  | 4-hour session                                                                        | 4-hour session                      | 2.5-hour session, online              |
| <b>Major Project Focused Review</b><br>all other proposals; a defined scope      | 4-hour session                                                                        | 4-hour session                      | 2.5-hour session, online or in person |
| <b>Major Project Comprehensive Review</b><br>large, complex or sensitive schemes | 7-hour session with site visit                                                        | Not offered                         | Not offered                           |
| <b>Remote Desktop Review</b><br>Minor or Major, limited scope                    | No meeting and no site visit: document-based written feedback within an agreed scope. |                                     |                                       |

Minor and Major are the Panel's service categories, not statutory definitions. The booking calendar shows the intended Panel size per format; the terms do not guarantee a minimum. Fees, VAT and inclusions: [designreviewpanel.co.uk/design-review-services](https://designreviewpanel.co.uk/design-review-services)

# How a review runs, from booking to written feedback

## 01 Scope and booking

Project stage, location, format and the principal questions set the scope. A booking is confirmed when the terms are accepted and cleared payment arrives, at least 14 days before the session.

## 02 Panel

Relevant disciplines are selected from the national pool and interests are screened. The commissioning party does not choose the panellists or the Chair; the Panel does.

## 03 Information

A concise document set is uploaded at least seven days before the session and shared with the whole Panel.

## 04 Site and context

Depending on the format booked, the Panel visits the site in person, views a 360° virtual tour prepared in advance, or works from the submitted material. The team presents and officers may describe the planning context.

## 05 Discussion and summary

In a live session the Panel explores the design matters with the team, deliberates privately and gives a verbal summary. A Remote Desktop Review has no meeting.

## 06 Written feedback

We aim to provide written feedback 14 working days after the session. For a Remote Desktop Review the 14 working days run from receipt of cleared payment and the information.

### Officer attendance is welcome

It is not a condition of a review. Officers who attend hear the discussion first-hand and can describe the planning context. The authority retains responsibility for its planning judgement whether or not its officers attend.

### OPTIONS AT BOOKING

Fast-track written feedback (seven working days) is priced in the booking calendar. Priority booking, continuity of Panel membership for a returning scheme and a limited written clarification after feedback (not a further review) may be available, subject to availability.

### VENUE AND INVITATIONS

In person, the booking party provides a meeting room near the site and refreshments, and invites the parties it wants present, including the authority. Online sessions are recorded.

### CONFIDENTIALITY AND INFORMATION

Under the booking terms the written feedback is confidential to the parties who booked the session; once a planning application is made it may be treated as a public document. Session discussion is confidential unless already public or disclosure is required by law. Uploaded material may be shared by the Panel with the Chair, panellists, local authorities and other third parties as the terms describe.

Feedback and material held by an authority are subject to its own statutory disclosure duties, including the Environmental Information Regulations where they apply. Public access is not determined solely by whether an application has been submitted or by a confidentiality clause. Full terms: [designreviewpanel.co.uk/bookingtermsconditions](https://designreviewpanel.co.uk/bookingtermsconditions)

# Independence is designed into the process

**The safeguards are the same whoever pays. The fee funds administration, Panel assembly, conflict checking, logistics, chairing and written feedback; it is not contingent on the conclusion.**

The Panel is assembled for each project from a national pool of more than 140 practitioners. Panellists give their time without an attendance fee; reasonable expenses are reimbursed and the Chair is paid for the responsibility of running the session and writing the feedback. No payment to any panellist or to the Chair depends on what the Panel concludes.

Panel members give a written undertaking to observe the Seven Principles of Public Life and the Code of Conduct. Actual, potential and perceived conflicts are declared before every session, and a panellist with a relevant conflict does not take part. The commissioning party does not choose the panellists or the Chair. The Panel operates under published booking terms and a Customer Charter.

## 01 Separate from both sides

The Panel remains separate from the promoter, the design team and the authority.

## 02 Selected for the project

Disciplines respond to the scale, setting, sensitivity and questions of the commission.

## 03 Conflicts managed

Actual, potential and perceived interests are declared and considered before participation.

## 04 Briefed as a whole

Briefing material reaches the whole Panel through the Panel manager; the commissioning party does not direct the conclusion.

## 05 One collective output

The written feedback is the Panel's collective view, signed off by the Chair. No individual comment, including the Chair's, stands in for it.

## A CODE OF CONDUCT THAT CAN BE SEEN AND TESTED

The Panel publishes an open-source, model-neutral Code of Conduct for Independent Design Review Panels, free to use or adapt, and every review it runs is conducted under it. The Code covers Panel composition, the commissioning relationship, management and chairing, quality and expertise, written feedback, timely and proportionate review, and independence and transparency, and it incorporates the Seven Principles of Public Life.

The Code does not create accreditation, certification or approved status, and it does not imply government endorsement or sector-wide adoption. It is the Panel's own document, distinct from any code referred to in national guidance. The Panel is an independent contributor to design and placemaking, not a decision-maker, regulator, project designer or advocate.



### A PUBLISHED CODE OF CONDUCT

**Read, use or adapt the Code: an authority reviewing its own arrangement can adopt it as published or adapt it**

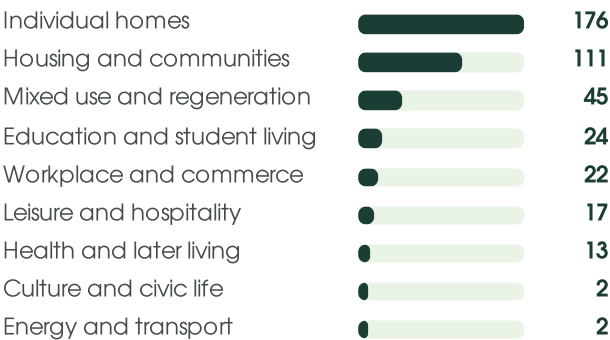
[designreviewpanel.co.uk/code-of-conduct](https://designreviewpanel.co.uk/code-of-conduct)

# Assembled for the place

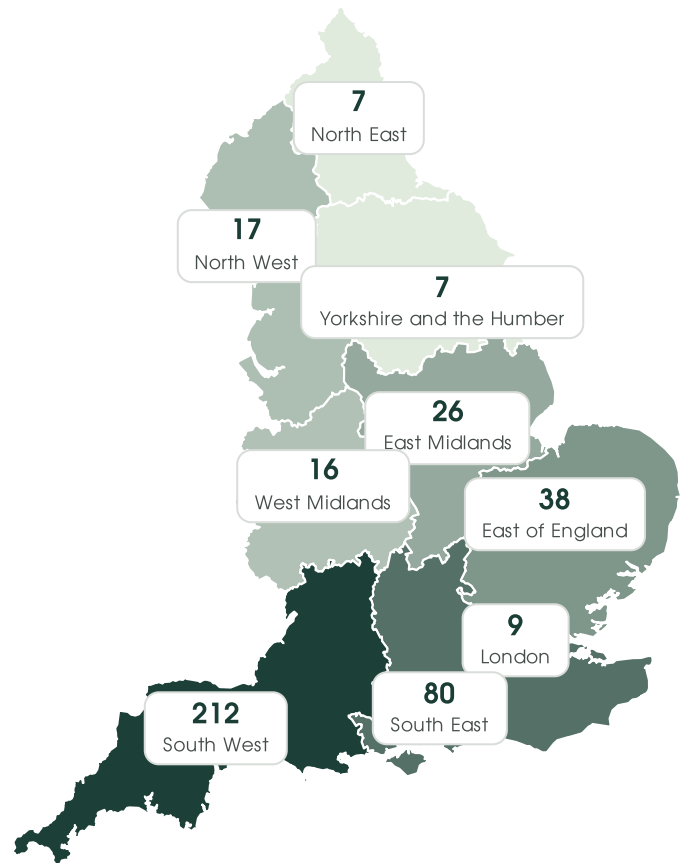
The national pool allows the Panel to select disciplines for the proposal without relying on a fixed local cast. Reviews have been completed in every English region and in 124 local authority areas, in person and online, with the same process wherever the site is.

Scale ranges from individual homes to strategic neighbourhoods, major workplaces and nationally significant infrastructure at pre-application stage.

## PROJECTS BY SECTOR



Project register, checked 11 September 2026. General locations only; some projects are shown as map pins without further detail.



Projects reviewed by region, October 2013 to August 2026; register checked 11 September 2026. Boundaries: Office for National Statistics, Open Government Licence v3.0; contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2024.

### Explore the Panel's coverage

An interactive map of general project locations and published case studies: [designreviewpanel.co.uk/panelcoverage](https://designreviewpanel.co.uk/panelcoverage)

## HOW THE PANEL WORKS NATIONALLY

### In person, anywhere in England

The Panel travels to the site. The 4-hour and 7-hour in-person formats include a site visit; a 2.5-hour Major Focused session can also be held in person without one.

### Online, with a 360° virtual site tour

Where travel adds little, a virtual tour of the site is photographed in advance and the session runs online with the same structure.

### Familiarity through repeat reviews

Repeat reviews in one authority area build familiarity with its policies and places. In the Plymouth City Council area the Panel has reviewed 31 projects over 46 sessions, each commissioned individually.

# Two Inspectors, two ways the Panel's work is treated

The weight given to independent design review is decided case by case. One decision shows an Inspector explaining why the Panel's findings carried weight; the other records how a scheme evolved through the Panel's comments. One review sequence was commissioned by the applicant, the other by the authority.

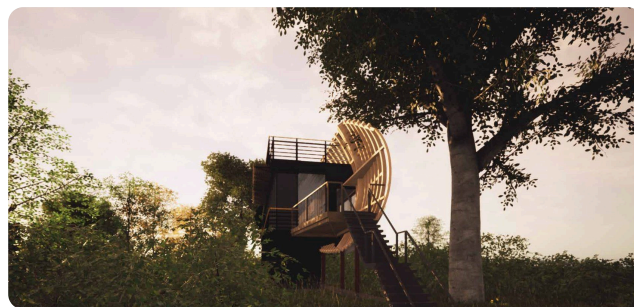
## MOSSIE, CASTLE CAMPS, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

A new dwelling of exceptional quality and innovative design in open countryside. The applicant commissions three reviews in 2020 and 2021; South Cambridgeshire District Council refuses the application on 12 January 2022; the Inspector allows the appeal on 21 November 2022.



**Regardless of whether using a national DRP or the local DEP, paragraph 133 of the Framework states local planning authorities should have regard to the outcomes and recommendations of a DRP. Whilst weight to be given to such recommendations is for the decision-maker to apportion, the Council's case provides no rebuttal directly against the listed DRP recommendations and conclusions. I give greater weight to the DRP findings as a result.**

Planning Inspector, appeal decision APP/W0530/W/22/3302832, 21 November 2022, paragraph 9 in full. DEP: the Council's design enabling panel; paragraph 133 of the Framework then in force.



Mossie, external perspective, March 2021. Image: © Hawkes Architecture Ltd.

## THE KNOWLE, SIDMOUTH, EAST DEVON

An assisted-living community on a sensitive town site. East Devon District Council uses the Panel, then trading as the Devon Design Review Panel, during the application; the scheme is refused in December 2016 and the appeal is allowed on 22 January 2018 after an inquiry.



**This includes extensive comments from the Devon Design Review Panel, used by the Council to provide professional advice on design matters. The proposed development has clearly evolved to take such views into account.**

Planning Inspector, appeal decision APP/U1105/W/17/3177340, 22 January 2018, paragraph 9. The Devon Design Review Panel is a trading name of Design Review Ltd, the company behind The Design Review Panel.

### WEIGHT AT MOSSIE

The Inspector explains that the absence of a direct rebuttal to the Panel's findings contributes to the weight given to them.

### COMMISSIONED EITHER WAY

At Mossie the applicant commissioned the reviews; at The Knowle the Council did. Both records treat the Panel as independent.

### THE JUDGEMENT IS THE INSPECTOR'S

Each Inspector reaches an independent planning judgement; the Panel's feedback is part of the evidence.

# Water Eaton, North Oxford: a new neighbourhood considered at the scale of place



Illustrative masterplan, April 2023. Image: Savills Urban Design Studio for Bellway Homes Limited and Christ Church, Oxford.

Two reviews, in August 2021 and March 2022, consider the relationship between the new homes, the existing communities, movement routes and the landscape of a strategic allocation north of Oxford. The second review includes a site visit.

The review-stage brief covers 700 homes. Cherwell District Council's register records a later outline application for up to 800 homes, a primary school and a local centre, permitted on 7 April 2026. The two figures describe different stages of the same project.

## WHY STRATEGIC SCALE SUITS EARLY REVIEW

- Structure before detail: the Panel can test the movement network, the landscape framework and the relationship to existing settlement while these remain open.
- One conversation for several disciplines: urban design, landscape, transport and planning consider the same plan together.
- A recorded basis for the authority's later assessment of layout, density and infrastructure.

## REVIEWED AT THE RIGHT MOMENT

Both sessions take place before the outline application is made in May 2023, when the masterplan can still change.

## WHAT THE RECORD SHOWS

The Panel's record gives the review dates and brief; Cherwell's register gives the application and the decision. The decision is Cherwell's own.

## THE SAME PROCESS AT ANY SCALE

A strategic site, a town-centre scheme and an individual home go through the same Code-governed process.

700

homes in the review-stage brief

2

Panel reviews, 2021 and 2022

800

homes in the outline permitted in April 2026

Planning record 23/01233/OUT  
Cherwell planning register

# An independent look at the system behind design review

For an authority or public body setting up, renewing or testing a design review arrangement, whichever provider or internal model it uses. The Governance Review examines the framework behind a panel and asks whether its published procedures are supported by operating evidence. It is separate from project review and does not lead to the Panel running the arrangement it examines.

01

## Purpose and accountability

Mandate, roles, oversight and decision rights.

02

## Structural independence

Funding, briefing control and routes of influence.

03

## People and conflicts

Competence, appointments, declarations, recusals and records.

04

## Evidence and reporting

Attendance, written output, confidentiality, publication and retention.

05

## Learning and change

Corrections, complaints, periodic review and change control.

### SELF-SERVICE

#### Governance Health Check

An online, evidence-led self-assessment of one arrangement, with a risk picture and an action plan. Self-assessment, not independent assurance.

### INDEPENDENT REVIEW

#### Governance Review

A fixed-scope review of one organisation and one arrangement: core documents, an evidence meeting, a concise findings report, a senior read-out and a factual-correction round.

### WIDER ASSURANCE

#### Enhanced Assurance Review

For shared, sensitive, high-profile or multi-party arrangements: a lead reviewer and an independent peer reviewer, stakeholder evidence conversations and a facilitated senior workshop.

### CONFLICTS AND INDEPENDENCE, AS PUBLISHED

The service is provided by Design Review Ltd, the company behind the Panel; that relationship is disclosed as provenance. Design Review Ltd separately provides design review that is typically commissioned and funded by applicants. Its published policy states that this interest is disclosed and assessed before appointment; that an assignment-specific conflicts check precedes every appointment; that an arrangement run by another commercial provider is led by a reviewer other than the Panel's founder; that Design Review Ltd does not enter framework agreements with parties whose arrangements it reviews; and that an assignment is declined where independence cannot be protected. Policy: [governance.designreviewpanel.co.uk/conflicts-and-independence](https://governance.designreviewpanel.co.uk/conflicts-and-independence)



Current scope, fees and reviewers: [governance.designreviewpanel.co.uk](https://governance.designreviewpanel.co.uk). The Governance Review is model-neutral and non-statutory; it does not confer accreditation, certification, a compliance mark or approved status, and it is not a legal or procurement opinion.

# Two heads of planning on the process



The design review process has now become an established and well regarded part of the negotiation process for many planning proposals ... The cost of design review is now factored into all large scale major development proposals at the pre-application stage and is regularly included as part of planning performance agreements.

Peter Ford, former Head of Development Management, Strategic Planning and Infrastructure, Plymouth City Council



The Design Review Panel provides a valuable opportunity for independent evaluation of development schemes, particularly during their evolution. A particular strength of the Panel is access to multidisciplinary professionals.

Jenny Clifford, former Head of Planning, Economy and Regeneration, Mid Devon District Council

Comments first published in the Panel's 2024 guides.

## NEXT STEP

# Book a review, or refer an applicant

### AS AN AUTHORITY

#### Book and pay for a project review

Send the site, the project stage and the principal design questions. The Panel team suggests a proportionate format and dates; the booking is confirmed on accepted terms and cleared payment, subject to the authority's purchasing arrangements.

### ON REFERRAL

#### Refer an applicant to book and pay directly

Point the applicant to the booking page and, if useful, say which questions the authority would like considered. The applicant books under the published terms; officers are welcome to attend. Regular use works the same way, one review at a time.

### TALK IT THROUGH

**01395 265768**

**contact@designreviewpanel.co.uk**

designreviewpanel.co.uk

A separate Governance Review enquiry:  
governance@designreviewpanel.co.uk

A guide for developers, consultants and designers is also available: [designreviewpanel.co.uk/design-review-panel-guides](https://designreviewpanel.co.uk/design-review-panel-guides)

Book online: [designreviewpanel.co.uk/panelcoverage/bookingform](https://designreviewpanel.co.uk/panelcoverage/bookingform). Booking terms: [designreviewpanel.co.uk/bookingtermsconditions](https://designreviewpanel.co.uk/bookingtermsconditions)



### BOOK ONLINE

Check dates and request a review



### FORMATS AND FEES

Formats, fees, VAT and inclusions



### GOVERNANCE REVIEW · SEPARATE SERVICE

Scope, fees and reviewers



The Design  
Review Panel™

[www.designreviewpanel.co.uk](http://www.designreviewpanel.co.uk)

# Independent design review across England

A national pool of expertise, assembled for the proposal and kept separate from the planning judgement.

TELEPHONE

**01395 265768**

EMAIL

**[contact@designreviewpanel.co.uk](mailto:contact@designreviewpanel.co.uk)**

WEB

**[designreviewpanel.co.uk](http://designreviewpanel.co.uk)**

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