HARLOW AND GILSTON QUALITY REVIEW PANEL

Terms of reference 2025

FRAME PROJECTS

In partnership with
Harlow and Gilston
Garden Town

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Cover image: View of Harlow Town from Latton Priory © Frame Projects

1. INTRODUCTION

The Harlow and Gilston Garden Town project is being taken forward through a collaborative partnership between East Hertfordshire, Epping Forest and Harlow District Councils, and Essex and Hertfordshire County Councils: 'the partner authorities.'

Harlow and Gilston Garden Town will deliver transformational growth benefiting the immediate area, as well as Essex and Hertfordshire more broadly. The garden town will build on the area's key strengths – its human capital of a high-skilled tech and life sciences workforce; educational opportunities; and a high quality environment – as well as the aspirations of the community.

Located in the core area of the London Stansted Cambridge Corridor, Harlow and Gilston Garden Town will accommodate a wide range of new mixed tenure homes and locally accessible employment opportunities for all age groups – within an enhanced natural setting.

Harlow's legacy as a New Town, with a strong urban identity of 'green wedges' radiating out from the town centre and plentiful open spaces, provides a framework for extending and strengthening these green links to create a web of sustainable travel corridors linking new communities and employment opportunities.

the partner authorities are committed to ensuring the highest standards in the realisation of Harlow and Gilston Garden Town. It will be characterised by high quality design in its broadest sense; architecture, urban and landscape design, planning, transport, environment, and deliverability, will all be essential elements in creating the garden town.

This accords with the National Planning Policy Framework requirement: '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).

To help ensure that these aspirations are fulfilled, the partner authorities have established a Quality Review Panel – to provide 'critical friend' advice and design guidance to support the delivery of strategic sites in Harlow and Gilston Garden Town.

The purpose of Harlow and Gilston'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).

The panel plays an advisory role supporting the work of the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town project team. To date, this has included commenting on the Spatial Vision, Design Guide and plans for a Sustainable Transport Corridor, Gilston Area and Latton Priory. These resources will help guide development in the new garden town.

It also offers advice on development proposals being brought forward in the garden town area, to support the partner authorities' design quality aspirations.

Further information on the Quality Review Panel's role, remit, membership, and operation is provided in this terms of reference document.

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)

View from the Gibberd Garden, Harlow © Acabashi, Wikimedia

3. 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 the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town project, including:

- architecture
- conservation / heritage townscape
- landscape architecture
- social infrastructure
- stewardship
- sustainability
- transport infrastructure
- 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.

Panel site visit © Frame Projects

4. 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.

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 Council planning officers and the relevant application decision maker to decide what weight to place on the panel's comments, balanced with other planning considerations. Applicants should consult Council officers following a review to agree how to respond to the panel's advice.

If any points made by the 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).

Abode Newhall, Proctor and Matthews © Tim Crocker

5. PANEL REMIT

The Quality Review Panel provides independent, objective, expert advice on development proposals across the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town area. It provides advice to scheme promoters and the planning authorities as a 'critical friend' to support delivery of the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town.

Strategic design advice

Because of the strategic design work required to bring forward the garden town, the Quality Review Panel's remit includes the provision of advice to planning authorities on policy and design guidance documents.

Advice on development proposals

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 Council officers in negotiating design improvements and may support decision-making, including refusal of planning permission where design quality is not of a sufficiently high standard.

The panel considers significant development proposals in the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town area. 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
- policy and strategy documents

The Water Gardens © Steve Cadman

View of Parndon Mill © Dr Andrew Lewis

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 a 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.

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 application decision maker.

Harlow town centre © HGGT

6. INDEPENDENCE & PROBITY

The Harlow and Gilston Quality Review Panel is an independent and impartial service provided to the partner authorities 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 the partner authorities.

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 14.

7. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

As public authorities the partner authorities are subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act). All requests made to the partner authorities (Harlow Council, Epping Forest District Council and East Herts District Council) for information with regard to the Harlow and Gilston 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.

8. TYPES OF REVIEW

Three types of review are offered:

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

Workshop review - chair plus two panel members, typically 75 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.

Panel site visit © Frame Projects

WORKSHOP REVIEWS

Workshop reviews can be arranged for projects with localised impact that require a range of panel expertise. This type of review can also be appropriate at an early design stage, for example to provide advice on development strategy, or to provide focused advice, for example on a design code.

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.

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 workshop 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.

A typical workshop review will last 75 minutes: 10 minutes introductions and briefing by planning officers; 20 minutes presentation; 45 minutes discussion and summing up by the chair.

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 13).

Panel site visit © Frame Projects

9. 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.

10. 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:

- 17 January
- 28 February
- 14 March
- 25 April
- 23 May
- 20 June
- 18 July
- 1 August
- 26 September
- 17 October
- 28 November
- 12 December

Harlow town centre © HGGT

11. 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 Council planning 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 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.

12. 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 the partner authorities' planning policies in relation to expectations of high quality design.

The Quality Review Panel has an advisory role in the planning process, and the project team should consult Council 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 Council planning officers in reviewing the planning application. This may include suggesting planning conditions or refusal of planning permission if the placemaking and design quality is not of an acceptably high standard.

Quality Review Panel reports may be included in reports on planning application schemes – in which case Council 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 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.

At the end of each year, the Quality Review Panel manager will draft an annual report to evaluate panel process. This will be a brief document describing and reflecting on the panel's activities over the past year - ensuring that, where possible, a full range of panel members is used over the course of the year, and that the panel as a whole remains representative of the diversity of the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town area.

As part of this annual review process, a meeting will be held with key Council officers and the panel chair to discuss the report and consider any recommendations for the following year.

River Stort path © HGGT

13. PANEL CHARGES

The charges for Quality Review Panel meetings are benchmarked against comparable panels providing design review services in London and beyond, such as design review panels advising the London Boroughs of Camden, Haringey, Newham and Waltham Forest and Otterpool Park Garden Town in Kent.

Current charges for Harlow and Gilston Quality Review Panel meetings are:

- Full review £5,800 + VAT
- Workshop review £3,500 + VAT
- Chair's review £2,900 + VAT

Applicants are referred to the Quality Review Panel by the partner authorities as an external service and fees are paid by the applicant to Frame Projects for delivering this service. If required, the cost of venue hire, and transport from the nearest convenient station to the site visit, would be in addition to the charges above. However, where possible we will book meeting rooms at Council offices.

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 the scheduled review
- £800 + VAT : between two and four weeks before the review

Our Lady of Fatima Church © Frame Projects

14. CONFIDENTIALITY

The Harlow and Gilston 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, Council 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 the 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 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.

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.

15. 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 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	

Familial situation

If the panel member...

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

Informal situation

If the panel member...

is a friend of a member of the applicant team	

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.	

16. PANEL MEMBERSHIP

The Quality Review Panel brings together 24 professionals, covering a range of disciplines and expertise. For each review, members will be selected from the people listed below, according to the requirements of the project being reviewed.

Peter Maxwell (chair)

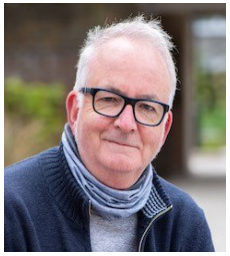
Architect and urban designer
Director of Design, London Legacy Development Corporation

Peter is a project director with experience leading the delivery of major design-led programmes. His extensive client-side experience includes design management, masterplanning and complex building projects. These have been within regeneration, housing, public transport, healthcare, education, arts, and cultural sectors for the private, local, and central government sectors over the last 20 years. He holds qualifications in architecture, town planning, real estate, management, and leadership.
www.queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk

Hanna Afolabi

Stewardship expert
Managing Director and Founder, Mood and Space

Hanna Afolabi is a regeneration specialist and founder of Mood and Space, a development company that supports the delivery of community focussed buildings and places. With a background in planning, Hanna has 10 years' experience in the industry and has worked across a number of large-scale regeneration projects in inner London involving public and private partnerships. Hanna provides key input on development strategies, masterplan optimisation and viability testing, to successfully achieve planning consent and routes to market.
www.moodandspace.co.uk



Phil Askew

Landscape and green infrastructure expert
Director of Landscape & Placemaking, Peabody

With a background in urban design, landscape architecture and horticulture, Phil Askew has worked on major regeneration and green infrastructure projects, leading the design and delivery of the London 2012 Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. At Peabody he is leading on the regeneration of Thamesmead, with a green infrastructure strategy ('Living in the Landscape') that sets out an approach to maximise Thamesmead's green and blue assets, ensuring landscape underpins the regeneration taking place and responds to a post-covid world and the climate crisis.
www.peabody.org.uk

Kamlesh Bava

Architect
Director, K Bava Architects

Kamlesh Bava's professional work has a strong emphasis on the existing fabric of the built environment. He abides by the idea that the most sustainable building is the one that already exists. All projects designed by K Bava Architects aim to understand the deep structure of a building or piece of city, believing change must occur, but in a thoughtful and considered way.
www.kbava.com

Andrew Beharrell

Architect

Andrew Beharrell designed and delivered many award-winning projects during 35 years with Pollard Thomas Edwards until he retired from a practice leadership role in 2020. Andrew's architectural and masterplanning experience ranges from urban regeneration to new rural settlements, and across the housing spectrum to embrace education and town centre mixed-use projects, including PTE's own property developments. He is a regular industry commentator and has co-authored a series of influential publications on housing, planning and regeneration issues.
www.pollardthomasedwards.co.uk

Valerie Beirne

Landscape architect
Founder, Where Pathways Meet

Valerie Beirne is a landscape architect and founder of Where Pathways Meet, a creative placemaking consultancy. Her work focuses on the meeting point of cities, nature, and communities across the fields of strategic placemaking, green infrastructure, landscape strategy, urbanism, active travel, and economic development. Valerie previously worked at Better Bankside, collaborating with local and regional agencies, design practices and communities to shape and deliver a variety of public space and urban greening projects.
www.wherepathwaysmeet.co.uk

Jas Bhalla

Architect

Founding Director, Jas Bhalla Architects

Jas Bhalla is a qualified architect, urban designer, and town planner. His practice undertakes a range of projects, from intimate refurbishments to strategic masterplans. JBA recently won the William Sutton Prize for Affordable Housing Design and the Housing for a Better World Competition, established by Brick by Brick and the Stephen Lawrence Trust. Jas was recognised as one of the Architects' Journal's "40 under 40" in 2020.
www.jasbhallaarchitects.com

Janinder Bhatti

Architect

Associate, Threefold Architects

Janinder Bhatti is a chartered Architect and with broad experience across many sectors and at many scales including transport, commercial workspace and housing schemes. In addition to leading and running projects at Threefold, Janinder values the importance of research and innovation. She has led events for the London Festival of Architecture.
www.threefoldarchitects.com

Georgina Bignold

Architect

Director, Proctor and Matthews Architects

As Director at Proctor and Matthews Architects, Georgina Bignold has overseen large-scale, award-winning residential and placemaking projects, including Abode at Great Kneighton, a major new community in the Cambridge Southern Fringe growth area, and Inholm, a sustainable urban neighbourhood of 400 homes for the wider new town of Northstowe, Cambridge. Georgina has also written design guidance for 'The Design for Ebbsfleet Study' and 'The Strategic Sites Design Guidance' for large urban extensions and new settlements in Hertfordshire.
www.proctorandmatthews.com

Jayne Bird

Architect
Consultant, NIcholas Hare Architects

Among Jayne Bird's broad spectrum of experience are education, arts and commercial projects. Jane has contributed to complex and sensitive sites, developing architecture that is appropriate to its setting. She was responsible for the award winning Golden Lane Campus in Islington and has worked on many DfE procured school projects. Jayne stood down as a partner from Nicholas Hare Architects in 2021 to become a consultant.
www.nicholashare.co.uk

Garry Colligan

Architect and transport expert
Founding director, Think Place

An architect and urban designer, Garry Colligan founded Think Place in 2006, a consultancy specialising in sustainable transport and forms of development. He provides strategic advice on placemaking, urban design, housing, infrastructure and landscape, and has advised TfL on the design of public spaces and streets around Victoria, Kings Cross, Waterloo and Vauxhall stations, and the Oxford Street district, to promote sustainable, active travel. Garry is an expert advisor to the High Street Task Force, a Design Council Expert and sits on the board of the East Midlands Development Corporation.
www.think-place.co.uk

Angela Crowther

Engineering and sustainable expert
Director, Arup

Angela Crowther is a design leader and Director at Arup. She has significant experience leading multidisciplinary teams to collaboratively define wider opportunities for projects and places, creating shared visions that become embedded in decision making. With a belief for urgent transition to a regenerative environment, Angela's approach to design is focussed on delivering positive outcomes for people and the planet, underpinned by creativity, curiosity and rigour. This translates into sustainable design innovation, as she works across disciplines to articulate, integrate and balance complex needs.
www.arup.com

Neil Davidson

Landscape architect
Partner, J & L Gibbons

Neil Davidson is a Partner at J & L Gibbons, having joined in 1999. He is a Director of the social enterprise Landscape Learn and a research partner of Urban Mind. Neil trained in Landscape Architecture at Edinburgh College of Art. His expertise includes sub-regional strategies, public realm frameworks, museums, heritage and cultural landscapes and public parks. Neil has worked and lectured in Europe and the US and maintains strong links with education. Neil also sits on the Camden Design Review Panel and the LLDC Quality Review Panel.
www.jlg-london.com

Giulio Ferrini

Transport expert
Head of Design & Engineering, Sustrans

Giulio Ferrini is an industry leader in the delivery of people-friendly cities. With experience across the public, private and third sector, he has delivered schemes ranging from long-term transport strategies to protected cycle routes and liveable neighbourhoods. Giulio played a key role in setting up Active Travel England's statutory role in the development management regime, has published best practice guidance documents, and runs training courses for built environment professionals. He is also a member of the Urban Design London and Transport for London design review panels.
www.sustrans.org.uk

Kirsten Henson

Sustainability expert
Director, KLH Sustainability

Kirsten Henson is the founding director of KLH Sustainability, a multidisciplinary consultancy specialising in sustainable development. She has extensive experience in development, integration and delivery of challenging sustainability objectives on complex construction projects. She also lectures at Cambridge University, and recently curated the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership Sustainable Real Estate short course.
www.klhsustainability.com

Roland Karthaus

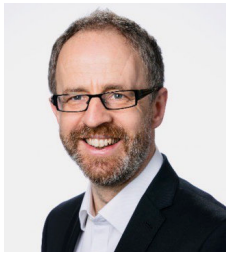
Architect
Managing Consultant, Inner Circle Consulting
Associate Professor, University of East London

Roland Karthaus is an architect, educator and researcher with a great breadth of built environment experience. At Inner Circle Consulting he supports public sector organisations to help create prosperous places for people. Roland is also part-time Associate Professor in Architecture at the University of East London. In 2018 he won an RIBA President's award for research in ethics and sustainability and he is a member of the RIBA research advisory group.
www.innercircleconsulting.co.uk

Dr Jan Kattein

Social infrastructure expert
Founder, Jan Kattein Architects

Dr Jan Kattein has 15 years' experience working on regeneration, housing, and urban design projects. His work has helped to redefine how social and environmental policy is implemented. Jan Kattein Architects is an award winning design studio that advocates socially engaged working methods.
www.jankattein.com



Richard Lewis MRTPI MTPS

Planner and transport planner
Founder, ActivePlanning

Richard Lewis MRTPI MTPS is a strategic town and transport planner with over 30 years experience in the public and private sectors. Working at the 'junction' of planning, urban design and engineering in his own consultancy, Active Planning. He specialises in planning and design for active travel, drawing on his wealth of amassed knowledge and the delivery of active travel schemes mainly in London.
www.activeplanning.co.uk

Prachi Rampuria

Urban and architectural designer, engagement and co-design expert
Director, EcoResponsive Environments

Prachi Rampuria is cofounding director at EcoResponsive Environments, an award-winning architectural and urban design practice with a focus on innovation in low carbon design. She has led two international RIBA competition-winning projects, including a strategic masterplan north of Letchworth Garden City and a feasibility masterplan for Heath Business and Technical Park in Runcorn which one a Golden Pineapple in the Future Place Category of Pineapple Awards 2022 and a National Urban Design Award in 2023. She is also co-writing a book titled 'EcoResponsive Environments'.
www.ecoresponsiveenvironments.com

Vivienne Ramsey

Urban designer
Consultant

Vivienne Ramsey has over 40 years' experience as a town planner. As Director of Planning, Policy and Decisions at the London Legacy Development Corporation, she established and led it as a local planning authority, and was involved in the development of its Local Plan. She had previously been the Head of Development and Building Control at the London Borough of Newham. Vivienne is also a member of the Somerset West & Taunton Quality Review Panel.

Chris Snow

Architect
Niall McLaughlin Architects

Chris has been a director of his own practice and has held senior positions in design-led practices including Jonathan Woolf, Tony Fretton Architects and Allies and Morrison. He currently works for Niall McLaughlin Architects. He has lived in Harlow for over 15 years and is a trustee of Harlow Art Trust. He has taught in schools of architecture at Kingston and Nottingham universities.

Peter Studdert

Town planner
Director, Peter Studdert Planning

Peter Studdert is an independent adviser on city planning and design, based in Cambridge. Qualified as an architect as well as a town planner, he was formerly Director of Planning at Cambridge City Council. He is an adviser to Historic England and chairs a number of design review panels in London and the wider southeast of England.
www.peterstuddertplanning.co.uk

Judith Sykes

Sustainability expert
Director, Expedition Engineering

Judith Sykes is a civil engineer with expertise in the design and delivery of smart and sustainable built environments. She has a background in major infrastructure projects, including Heathrow Terminal 5 and the London 2012 Olympic Park. Her work includes infrastructure planning for sustainable regeneration projects.
www.expedition.uk.com

Richard Wilson

Urban designer and heritage expert
Head of Design and Place, London Borough of Camden

Richard Wilson is a planner and urban designer who has worked on projects in most major UK cities, as well as on sustainable urban extensions in the south east. He is currently Head of Design and Place at the London Borough of Camden, where he leads a multi-disciplinary team of planners, urban designers and architects, advising the Council as a planning authority, transport authority and land owner. Richard was previously strategic lead for heritage.
www.camden.gov.uk

17. KEY REFERENCES

Harlow and Gilston Garden Town

Reference documents

www.hggt.co.uk

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East Hertfordshire District Council

District Plan

www.eastherts.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/east-herts-district-plan-2018

Hertfordshire County Council

Local Transport Plan

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/recycling-waste-and-environment/planning-in-hertfordshire/transport-planning/local-transport-plan.aspx

Epping Forest District Council

Local Plan

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www.essexdesignguide.co.uk

Town and Country Planning Association

Garden city guidance

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www.designcouncil.org.uk/fileadmin/uploads/dc/Documents/Design%2520Review_Principles%2520and%2520Practice_May2019.pdf