



design
south-east

**supporting a better
built environment**

Recruitment Pack for the Ashford Design Panel

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1. An outline of the Ashford Design Panel

Ashford Borough Council (ABC) and Design South East recognise the value of great architecture and urban design, and their contribution to placemaking and regeneration. The Borough Council acknowledges Design Review as a key tool in helping to contribute to supporting the delivery of design quality.

As such ABC and DSE set up the Ashford Design Panel in 2011 to provide specialist knowledge and advise them when making decisions about the future development of the Borough.

The Ashford Design Panel brings together a multidisciplinary group of built environment experts to offer independent, impartial advice to ABC and developers to support better decision making around design, architecture and place making. The Design Review process, by offering a high level of expertise for a condensed period of time, is able to offer a very efficient means of accessing expert design advice.

Design South East is looking to appoint individuals to contribute their professional built environment expertise to assist in evaluating and promoting good design across our area.



THE OPERATION OF THE DESIGN PANEL

The ADP will review and advise across the whole range of development types which are being promoted in the Borough, from masterplans and individual buildings to design guidance and design codes.

The refreshed panel will be operational from December 2014.

The make-up of a typical Design Panel meeting will be a multidisciplinary group of five experts, whose expertise reflect the needs of the project. The Panel will be lead by an individual Chair who will be called upon to lead the Panel.

We are now seeking to recruit new Panel Members.

2. Person Specification: Panel Members

The application process is open to all suitably qualified practitioners and professionals. We would like to appoint a balanced membership reflecting the diversity of the area in terms of age, gender and cultural background.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate a high degree of expertise and experience in one or more of the following:

- Architecture
- Urban design
- Economic development
- Transport planning
- Landscape architecture
- Sustainability
- Planning
- Community development
- Heritage

All applicants must demonstrate the following **essential** criteria:

- A commitment to design quality of buildings, streets and places
- An understanding of the Ashford, its environment and planning context
- A talent for critical appraisal
- An ability to communicate complex design observations to a range of audiences both lay and professional
- A qualification in one of the built environment professions
- A proven track record for influencing better buildings and spaces

You must be able to offer a minimum of four days annually to attend panel meetings which will be held across the area.

A payment of up to £200+VAT will be paid per day, travel expenses associated with the Design Review process will be paid. Appointments will be made for a three year term.

Members and the Chair are appointed as individuals rather than as representatives of their company, organisation or other interests.

PANEL MEMBERS

Members of the ADP will be acknowledged experts in their field, with a demonstrable track record of working on projects of significant scale, sensitivity and complexity. Applicants must demonstrate their “added value” to the design of schemes they have been involved in, in the past.

Applications are invited from urban designers, town planners, architects, landscape architects, developers, engineers and others with a commitment to design quality and a talent for critical appraisal.

Existing members of the Ashford Design Panel who chose to will remain on the Panel.

PANEL INDUCTION

All successful candidates will be required to attend a Design Panel induction day and Launch in the first week of **December 2014**. The induction meeting will be hosted in Ashford.



3. Application and selection process

APPLICATION PROCESS

Recruitment of the Panel will be carried out through an open, objective process. Application for Panel Membership is by application form and supporting CV.

Please submit your application to Robert Offord at Design South East, Admiral's Offices, Historic Dockyard, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TZ

The deadline for applications will be **Sunday 16th November 2014**.

SELECTION PROCESS

Applications will be assessed by representatives of Design South East and Ashford Borough Council.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information on the work of the Panel can be obtained by emailing sarah@designsoutheast.org or telephoning 01634 401 166.

For an informal discussion about the roles, please contact **Robert Offord** at Design South East.

