

The Plymouth Design Panel was established in June 2004 to promote the highest possible quality of design in the city and ensure that development proposals contribute positively to the urban renaissance in Plymouth. It has been set up in consultation with the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) to ensure it meets with national best practice.

The Plymouth Panel is chaired by David Mackay, an architect of international repute based in Barcelona and also the co-author of the 'Vision for Plymouth'.

## Role

The Design Panel's role is in an advisory capacity to the City Council. It has no statutory function. The advice given by the panel will be a material consideration in the City Council's statutory planning function in determining planning applications and adopting planning policy.

## What does the Plymouth Design Panel do?

The Panel considers development proposals of strategic importance to the city as well as emerging design policy. The Panel will review development proposals and plans against planning policy, emerging policy and the Vision for Plymouth.

The most productive use for the Panel is to view projects when they are at a very early stage so that the Panel is able to provide positive input into the evolution of the development proposals.

## Who sits on the panel?

There are between five and seven panel members including the chair – David Mackay. Over time the members of the panel may change but the aim is to have distinguished professionals from areas of expertise including architecture, urban design, historic environment as well as the commercial environment.

## When and how is panel advice sought?

The Panel sits every 6 weeks. Applicants can request that the Design Panel considers a proposal; however the decision as to whether the item goes to the panel is at the discretion of the chair of the panel in consultation with the Head of Planning and Regeneration Service at Plymouth City Council.

## Who attends the Panel?

The following people attend panel meetings:

- The chair and panel members
- Head of Planning and Regeneration/Design Manager (Plymouth City Council)
- Development Consents officer/Design officer (Plymouth City Council)
- Scheme Architect and Applicant
- Observers – who have a particular interest in the scheme

## What happens during a panel?

The Panel will have received a week or more prior to the panel, information from the applicant describing the scheme, together with a critique from the City Council's Design Team.

Site visits normally take place at the beginning of the day if required. The applicant/architect is invited to present the scheme to the panel members when appropriate.

The City Council Officers identify the key issues that the City Council have particular concerns about and the panel then leads a discussion.

At the end of the Panel meeting the Panel chair closes the open part of the meeting and the panel members retire to compile their written report.

Whilst many issues will have been discussed at the panel meeting, it is the final written report that will be considered as a material consideration in the statutory planning process.

## How is the Panels advice given?

The panel's comments will be sent in written form to the City Council approximately 1 week after the panel meeting. The City Council will then circulate the report to the project architect/ designer.

This information will then be published on our website [www.plymouth.gov.uk/vision](http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/vision) unless the information is confidential due, for example to issues of commercial confidentiality. If this is the case a reason for confidentiality will be stated on the web.

## Further information

If you would like to know more about the panel or to see the terms of reference for the panel please contact:

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