



## Design Review Network

27/11/2019

- **Good design review process is key to good design outcomes.** How can we encourage consistency of process and compliance with the London Quality Review Charter. Case Studies could be a useful way to share best practice, support innovation, and highlight challenges.
- **Transparency** is aspired to by all panels but not always achieved. Only 18/28 London borough panels have their Terms of Reference on their websites. Is there the potential to help boroughs provide more information about their Design Review process using the UDL website?
- **Confidentiality** is part of the Pre-Application process because of commercial sensitivities, but design review is also in the public interest, how do we manage these conflicting objectives. Boroughs take different approaches to this which provides an opportunity for interrogating best practice.
- **Councillors:** Boroughs vary in their approach to councillors getting involved in design review. Some boroughs keep them separate emphasising the panel's independence. Some boroughs encourage contact between Chair of Panel and Planning Committee. Another way councillors get involved is to take them on site visits with Chair of Panel.
- **Process:** Panels share the same challenges in managing the process, particularly if they are running their own panels. There is great potential to share information between panels on how they are run, how to organise efficiently. The Network could share information about panel fees, room hire, site visits etc at future meetings.
- **Consistency:** Consistent practice could be helped by a Source Book and templates for boroughs to adapt for their purposes. Templates could cover everything from resourcing to scheduling.
- **Monitoring:** At what point you request feedback is a decision for each borough. But there is a lack of monitoring currently and clear recording and reporting creates a clear audit trail of what was achieved.