



Planning and Economic Development Cabinet Member Update – Additional Information

1.1 Westminster Design Review Panel

Following a recruitment process, a Design Review Panel for Westminster is now in place. The panel has a pool of 32 members, including three chairs drawn from various fields of expertise including architecture, ecology, sustainability, transport, inclusive design, landscape architecture, heritage, and urban design.

An in-person induction event for the Design Review panel was held on 13th September, involving a bus tour and presentations on Westminster strategy and policy, and panel operation. A Terms of Reference document which includes biographies of all panel have been published on the website and the first panel is due to meet in late Autumn.

1.2 Retrofit Task Force

Over the course of this year we have developed 5 key workstream areas:

1. Developing an archetype approach and exploring the effectiveness of an archetype procurement club to support retrofit;
2. Developing pilot projects with partner organisations and assembling case studies which will demonstrate pathways to good retrofit;
3. Support the development of retrofit planning policy and explore the opportunities within existing planning processes to enable retrofit, such as the use of Local Listed Building Consent Orders, Heritage Partnership Agreements; and Local Development Orders;
4. Contribute towards improved communication, guidance and training relating retrofit;
5. Support a neutral and collaborative stewardship vehicle, complementing existing work in the field of retrofit.

We successfully made a bid to Innovate UK's Net Zero Living Fast Followers programme and received a grant offer of £300,000 which will support the work of the task force. The grant-funded project commenced on 1 July 2023.

The funding has allowed us to recruit an officer for 2 years to solely support the work priorities of the task force and to contribute to Innovate UK's programme. The recruitment for our Lead Retrofit Innovation & Delivery Officer is nearing completion; interviews were held in week beginning 11 September 2023; and a conditional offer has been made; the successful candidate should be in post by mid-late October 2023.

A draft project plan has been prepared but this will be refined once the officer is in place. Items within the workstreams that are already being developed are:

1. Preparing a draft Heritage Partnership Agreement (HPA) with one of the Great Estates which will include retrofit measures;
2. Initial discussion has been had with Historic England about the potential use of Local Listed Building Consent Orders (LLBCOs) for retrofit measures;
3. Early discussion with colleagues in Housing about the use of an LLBCO or HPA to enable retrofit of one of Council's housing estates;
4. Aim to investigate the potential use of Local Development Orders for replacement double-glazed windows;
5. Working with policy colleagues on retrofit policy.