



planning advisory service



PAS Planning Peer Review

July 2022

www.pas.gov.uk

This session

- What is a peer review
 - Who does them?
 - Receiving one
 - Delivering one
 - Join the team
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What is a Planning Peer Review?

- Managed and delivered by the sector for the sector
 - Officers and members ('peers') spend time with another council
 - Provide challenge and share learning
 - Works on two levels:
 - The planning service / rest of the council
 - The service itself
 - Proportionate approach – minimise burden /maximise benefits.
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It is not...

- a sector-owned form of inspection
 - a scored assessment
 - driven by external requirements or standards
 - reported to Government
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- But we do expect local authorities to publish the final report (usually on their website) so it is made publicly available
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The Peer Team

- The heart of process, the USP
 - Experience from across the sector and beyond
 - Recruited to reflect need / focus of the review
 - Agreed council, 3-4 senior officers and an experienced councillors.
 - PAS / LGA peer review manager
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What does a Peer do?

- Practitioner perspective, critical friend', knowledge sharing
 - Build capacity, confidence and sustainability through challenge
 - In practice this means:
 - Preparation
 - On site work
 - Feedback
 - Report
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Why become a planning peer?

You give:

- You understand, you have 'lived it'
- Credibility, trust and mutual respect
- Team approach - engage & listen, explore & question, share ideas & innovation

You get:

- All councils have something to teach us
 - The peer team have things to teach us
 - A change of perspective often unlocks issues we face
 - Friends for life!
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What is the criteria?

- 5 years' planning, 3 years' local government
 - Delivered a major site or a local plan
 - Working with/within the senior leadership team
 - Experience of working closely with elected members.
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What is the criteria? Continued....

It is **desirable** that you can demonstrate one or more of the following:

- have been involved in the improvement of planning services in a local government setting.
 - have advised members in either a committee setting or a local plan working group arrangement.
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Peer Skills

We need those with a range:

- Building Control
 - Developer contributions (CIL and S106)
 - Development Delivery
 - Development Management (including mentoring and advice)
 - Enforcement
 - General Management and Leadership
 - Local Plan production
 - Neighbourhood Planning
 - Working with Planning Committees
 - Service improvement
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We also need specialists

- Infrastructure funding model
 - Housing delivery action plan
 - Design codes
 - Climate action plan
 - Environmental strategy.
 - Strategic working - two or more councils, joint working, or shared planning services.
 - Planning enforcement.
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What does it feel like?

- To be a peer...
 - Helen Martin
 - Director of Regeneration & Enterprise, Dudley Council
 - To receive a peer review...
 - Jonathan Palmer
 - Head of Planning Milton Keynes
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To become a peer/request a peer review...

To express your interest contact pas@local.gov.uk

For more information

- Email us on pas@local.gov.uk
 - See our website <https://www.local.gov.uk/latest-news-pas>
 - Engage over Twitter @pas_team
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