

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC)

OPDC Planning Committee Member

Candidate Briefing Pack

Closing date for applications: **Sunday 04 September 2022 at 23.59**

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Dear Candidate

Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation Planning Committee Member

Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) was established by the Mayor of London to ensure that the £1.7bn government investment in HS2's Old Oak Common Station results in not just the largest new super-hub station ever to be built in the UK, but a renewed place, with the best possible benefits for local communities and newcomers alike, on a scale comparable to some of the largest regeneration locations of recent decades, such as Stratford, Kings Cross and Canary Wharf.

OPDC is uniquely placed, through its powers as a Mayoral Development Corporation, to coordinate regeneration at scale to capitalise on the area's full potential. Old Oak and Park Royal is the largest undeveloped regeneration site in London and the largest Opportunity Area in terms of targets for new homes and jobs. There is the potential to deliver over 12,000 homes by 2024, 25,000 over the longer term, and a million square metres of new commercial space, bringing 56,000 jobs and an estimated £7.5bn to the London and UK economy.

It is an incredibly exciting time for OPDC, with our Local Plan, a planning policy framework for the next 20 years and beyond, having recently been adopted in June 2022. We have already overseen 7,000 homes delivered on site or in the planning pipeline and are now working collaboratively with central government on a development strategy set to create a whole new urban district for West London, with the HS2 superhub station at its heart. Our planning committee will play a key role in supporting this ambition.

As a Planning Committee Member, you will help us shape this part of West London, delivering the Mayor's vision for Old Oak and Park Royal. This is a real opportunity for individuals who wish to contribute to improving the lives of all Londoners, supporting London's diverse communities and to play a major part in the UK's recovery.

Old Oak and Park Royal has some of the most diverse communities in the UK, and we are working to ensure that our organisation reflects this as closely as possible. We are therefore especially keen to hear from applicants whose lived experience and/or professional and voluntary work demonstrates a deep understanding of working in a multi-cultural, dynamic and diverse environment.

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I hope you share in our excitement for the changes that are coming to Old Oak and Park Royal and find the information here helpful.

We look forward to receiving your application.

Yours faithfully

Liz Peace CBE, Chair of the Board and William Hill, Chair of Planning Committee

Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation – Background

The Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) is a statutory regeneration and planning agency, spanning a London Plan Opportunity Area that includes three London boroughs (Ealing, Brent and Hammersmith & Fulham), the Park Royal industrial estate, the 190-acre Wormwood Scrubs open space and major development sites at Old Oak Common.

Established by the Mayor of London in April 2015 to drive the physical, social, economic and environmental regeneration at Old Oak and Park Royal, the catalyst for OPDC's plans is the new £1.7bn Old Oak Common interchange station that will connect High Speed 2, Crossrail and GWR services. The new station is currently under construction and together with extensive nearby development sites will enable over 25,000 new homes and 56,000 jobs to come forward over the coming years, alongside major new employment, leisure services and amenities. Together, this will create a new and revitalised urban district with unrivalled connectivity across London and beyond.

The OPDC will seek to achieve its goals by:

- Working with the Mayor of London, central government, the local boroughs, residents' organisations, businesses and other partners to establish the strong planning policy, co-ordinated approach to land and infrastructure, and a funding strategy that can achieve our goal
- Leveraging public assets to secure private investment for the development of the area
- Setting and maintaining standards for high quality urban planning, design and construction to ensure a sustainable and enduring legacy for the area.

Governance – the OPDC Board

OPDC's board is chaired by Liz Peace CBE, the former chief executive of the British Property Federation, and is accountable to the Mayor of London. Board Members are

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appointed by the Mayor and include the leaders of our three local boroughs of Brent, Ealing and Hammersmith & Fulham, and others who are recruited through an open competition process, with a wide range of experience in property, planning, community engagement, health and business. OPDC is committed to achieving an organisation that fully reflects the rich diversity of the communities we serve, and we aim to reflect this in our board membership also.

The board sets the strategic direction for the Corporation, approves its budget, business plan and other major and strategic issues, including significant expenditure and planning policy, and holds the executive team to account for performance.

OPDC Planning Committee

As a Local Planning Authority, the OPDC has delegated to its Planning Committee the powers to consider and determine planning applications within statutory timescales. The Planning Committee also advises the OPDC Board on its Local Plan, its Community Infrastructure Levy charging schedule, matters of planning policy, and any other planning related issues.

The Planning Committee has eight members, appointed by the Mayor of London:

- The Chair of the Planning Committee (who is also a Board Member)
- Four elected Councillors – one from each of the local Councils of Brent and Ealing two from Hammersmith & Fulham
- Three independent members.

Applicants can find out more about the OPDC planning process [here](#).

The Role

Planning Committee members must be able to operate in a high profile, publicly accountable environment, ideally will be qualified town planners, and need to have already proved themselves at a senior level in the housing, development, legal, planning or regeneration sectors.

The Planning Committee will be determining high profile, often very large, residential, commercial and industrial planning applications as well as informing OPDC's development of planning policies. Over the next year we expect the committee to be determining residential led mixed use developments on Scrubs Lane to the east of the OPDC area, residential applications for sites that sit around the HS2 works site industrial intensification applications for multi-level industrial in Park Royal and applications relating to details with regard to the HS2 Station and associated developments. These applications are likely to amount to approximately 2,500 residential units and several tens of thousands sq.m. of industrial intensification.

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OPDC recently adopted its Local Plan and is now working on a number of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) to support the delivery of the Plan and its ambitions.

The Section 106 SPD was recently agreed by Planning Committee to go out for consultation in September. The Industrial and Public Realm SPD's will be coming to Planning Committee in the Autumn. Perhaps most significantly, we are now beginning work on the Old Oak West SPD. The Old Oak West SPD will cover an area including the public land around Old Oak Common Station, for which we have in principle Outline Business Case agreed with government. This will build on the site allocations in the Local Plan, including Acton Wells East and West, the ASD site and the Channel Gate Site. The committee will play an important role in shaping these SPD's.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Personal Qualities

- A genuine interest in the planning and development of Old Oak and Park Royal
- A conceptual and practical understanding of the principles of successful urban planning and place making
- An understanding of the highest standards in planning and design
- Vision and ambition for how Old Oak and Park Royal could develop
- Independence of thought and an ability and desire to engage in open and honest debate
- The personal stature and credibility to contribute to a high calibre Planning Committee and to operate as an ambassador for the Development Corporation
- An ability to understand and take account of the views of a mix of stakeholders, including community stakeholders
- A commitment to achieving inclusive outcomes for the full range of diverse interests and characteristics of both our local and wider London communities
- The highest standards of personal integrity, responsibility and accountability

Skills and Experience

In addition to the personal qualities set out above, candidates should ideally be able to demonstrate experience in some or all of the following areas:

- Considerable experience of Planning in a Planning, Regeneration, Housing or Legal context
- Direct experience or a close understanding of the communities and socioeconomics of West London
- Experience of engagement with diverse communities
- Ability to assimilate and interpret a wide range of information and the ability to reason logically and objectively

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- Experience of major regeneration projects
- Excellent communication and advocacy skills with the ability to act as an ambassador for the OPDC

Appointment details

For appointees to the Planning Committee who are not already members of the OPDC Board, the Mayor of London will make appointments to the OPDC Planning Committee. Shortlisted applicants will be interviewed by a selection panel that will include the Chair of the Planning Committee, OPDC's Director of Planning, a senior member of GLA staff and a representative from Human Resources. The appointment will be made, based on the recommendation of the Panel, by OPDC's Chair – subject to consent from the Mayor of London.

The GLA promotes an equal opportunities policy. Appointments are made on merit, following a fair and transparent process, and these appointments are governed by Nolan principles and the Mayor of London's protocol on appointments. Please view: <https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/governance-and-spending/good-governance/how-city-hall-works>

Managing Conflicts of Interest

Candidates should state any potential for conflicts of interest in their application, and this will be explored with short-listed candidates at interview. This includes details of business, financial or other interests or any personal connections, memberships or associations which, if you are appointed to the OPDC Planning Committee, could be misconstrued or cause embarrassment to the Mayor of London or the OPDC.

Eligibility

Applications are welcomed regardless of gender, age, marital status, disability, religion, ethnic origin, political opinion, sexual orientation or whether or not you have dependents.

Time Commitment

The time commitment for this appointment is expected to be approximately one meeting of the Planning Committee per month and one pre-briefing meeting per month, plus additional time as required, including site visits, committee member training and induction. Currently the briefings are taking place at 4pm the week before Planning Committee with the Planning committee starting at 5.30 pm (times are currently under review).

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Location of Meetings

Committee briefing is taking place virtually on Teams and Planning Committee meetings are currently taking place in Brent Civic Centre.

Term of Appointment

Planning Committee Members are appointed for a term of up to four years, at the Mayor's discretion. Members usually serve not more than two terms.

Remuneration

Remuneration for Planning Committee Members is £2,000 pa in line with existing OPDC Planning Committee Members.

Expenses

Planning Committee Members will receive legitimate expenses, in line with the Corporation's Expenses & Benefits Framework.

Start Date

The Appointees are expected to be available to take up their role ideally in November 2022. Planning Committee dates are currently being reviewed but will be provided during the recruitment process.

There will be the need to attend a briefing session in advance of your first meeting.

How to Apply

Candidates are invited to apply for this role, by providing the following documents:

- An up-to-date CV including:
 - Your contact details
 - Employment, public appointments, and qualifications history
 - Names and details of two references who are willing to provide a reference
 - Information regarding any Directorships you hold
- A supporting statement (maximum 2 pages) outlining the contribution you can make to the Planning Committee and how this contribution would be seen in action, as well as your fit against the essential experience criteria set out in the Person Specification.
- Diversity Monitoring Form. If you do not wish to declare any particular characteristics you can choose 'prefer not to say'.

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All three documents should be submitted to the OPDC HR department on opdchumanresources@opdc.london.gov.uk. Please note that without all three documents, we cannot consider your submission as a complete application.

Please also advise of your contact details, eligibility, interview availability and if any OPDC or GLA employees are known to you.

The closing date is Sunday 04 September 2022 at 23.59

For further information regarding this role please contact OPDC's Director of Planning Emma Williamson, emma.williamson@opdc.london.gov.uk

If you have a disability which may cause difficulty in completing an online application form or have any queries regarding the application process, or if you require this recruitment pack in an alternative format, please contact [OPDC HR](#).

Thank you for taking the time and effort to apply for this role. All data is processed in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act.