

Tall buildings and the South East:

Small, medium, large and extra large

Regional workshop

Introduction:

- Date: 26 May 2004
- Venue: The Old Ship Hotel, Brighton

Taller Building proposals are coming forward in increasing numbers, in areas not previously considered likely to develop them and raises the question of their place in the South East context.

In the right place, tall buildings can make a positive contribution to urban life and can affect the image and identity of an area as a whole. Yet, by their very scale, tall buildings can have far wider impact than intended and can also harm the qualities that people value about a place. In many cases, one of the principal failings is that many were designed with a lack of appreciation or understanding of the context in which they were to sit.

March 2003 saw the publication of the CABE and EH Guidance on Tall Buildings that provided advice on general approaches and principles. In response a small number of SE local authorities have produced their own guidance to meet their specific needs.

This conference provided an opportunity for local authority politicians and policy makers to learn from the experiences of others who are already meeting these challenges, and in particular asked these questions:

- Is taller better in the SE context?
- How do we avoid repeating the mistakes of the past?
- How should we assess these important and complex proposals in the finer grained SE context?

The proceedings of this conference will contribute to a publication being prepared by the **architecture centre** as part of the Building in Context Toolkit, an English Heritage South East regionally funded programme supporting delivery of better design solutions in historic areas across the South East. The conference was delivered in partnership with SEEDA and the South East Regional Design Panel, with support from Brighton and Hove Council.

Agenda

- 10.15 **Welcome and introduction**
Chair: Barry Shaw MBE
Chief Executive Kent Architecture Centre
- Bill Startin
Regional Director English Heritage South East Region
- 10.30 **Tall Building perspectives**
Anne Boddington
University of Brighton
- 10.50 **View from the Street**
Richard Simmons
Medway Council
- 11.10 **Tall Buildings Guidance and accurate visual representations**
Esther Kurland
CABE
- 11.30 Refreshments
- 11.50 **View Cone and building height responses to tall building proposals: Case Study 1**
Nicholas Worledge
Oxford City Council
- 12.10 **Tall and bulky building study response to tall building proposals: Case Study 2**
Geoff Baker
Gravesham Borough Council
- 12.30 Discussion
- 12.45 Lunch
- 13.35 **Brighton and Hove Tall Buildings Study and Supplementary Planning Guidance: Case Study 3**
Martin Randall
Brighton & Hove Council
James Tuma
Gillespies
- 14.05 **Assessing a tall buildings proposal**
Graham King
Westminster City Council
- 14.45 Discussion
- 1530 Finish