



# Trustee of Design South East

## About Design South East

We believe everyone deserves good design. It is fundamental to quality of life, and to the development of more resilient, healthy and sustainable communities. Working entirely in the public interest, we leverage the power of a network of around 200 experts from a variety of built environment disciplines, leading practitioners and thinkers in their fields, to advise and guide local authorities and their stakeholders; helping them create well designed places.

An independent, not-for-profit organisation we work across the south and east of England, delivering expert design advice, facilitation and training for local authorities, the development sector and communities. Through our expert panels we bring together outstanding design expertise from individuals of national, and often international, repute to enhance the quality of the built environment, and help communities learn about well-judged and practical design quality.

Over the past 25 years we have worked with many organisations, influencing the quality of numerous places and projects. Though well-established, we are an agile organisation, enhancing the quality of development in the present, while lobbying for better outcomes in future.

This is a great time to join Design South East. Our continued success means that DSE currently enjoys an annual turnover of around £1million, with healthy financial reserves. We are a thriving organisation, well-placed to take advantage of current market opportunities, including the those relating to sustainability, the government's growth agenda and changes to national planning policy.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.designsoutheast.org](http://www.designsoutheast.org).

## About the role of Trustee

Design South East, led by Director Chris Lamb, employs a team of 11 staff.

Design South East is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity. Board members are directors of the company and trustees of the charity. Our chair of the board and several trustees will come to the end their terms in 2025 and as a result we are looking to recruit a chair and, in addition, at least two but possibly three new trustees.

The principal responsibilities of the board are:

- Providing the governance and high-level strategic leadership of the charity.
- Preparing for and attending board meetings and contributing to board discussions (normally four meetings a year, plus an extended board awayday).
- Supporting and mentoring the charity's leadership team as required.
- Supporting the chair of trustees and the board through joining board sub-committees and task groups, and delegated governance work as and when required.
- Helping in business development when required, and networking with important clients and other stakeholders.
- Representing and championing the organisation and its work at events and in the media.

## Skills and Experience

We are looking for new trustees with a commitment to strengthening the planning and design of the build environment, and with skills and experience in at least one of the following specific areas:

- Planning, architecture and/or urban design.
- Sustainability.
- Leadership and management.
- Human Resources.

The following general skills and experience would also be valuable:

- A connection to, and understanding of the issues affecting development in, the South East (including London).
- Working with and/or influencing government and its agencies.
- Strong communication skills.
- Working in or with the public sector

- Understanding of the principles and practice of charity governance and the role and responsibilities of trustees.
- Understanding of the challenges and opportunities of running a small business.

## Terms of engagement

The role of trustee is unpaid and involves a minimum time commitment of one-half-day per month. All board meetings are in-person, and usually in London, but some committee meetings are held virtually. Reasonable expenses will be reimbursed.

## Term

Trustees are appointed for an initial three-year term of office which may be renewed up to a maximum of six years' service.

## Diversity

Design South East is absolutely committed to ensuring that we are a diverse organisation and that we reflect the communities we serve in terms of background, life experience and skills. We particularly welcome applications from groups traditionally under-represented within the built environment and positively encourage applications from eligible candidates regardless of age, disability, ethnicity, gender identification, marital status, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, or sexual orientation.

## How to apply

If you're as passionate about the environment and communities as we are and you want to join us on our journey and help shape our future, we want to hear from you.

If you would like to discuss the position further before making an application, please contact Chris Lamb [chris@designsoutheast.org](mailto:chris@designsoutheast.org)

To apply please submit your CV, a short covering letter explaining your interest in the position, and an outline of your relevant experience to Chris Lamb at the above email address.

## Deadline and interview

The deadline for applications is 17.00 on 17 February 2025. Interviews will be held in person in March.