

Design and High Buildings in the Royal Borough

Author: Richard Craig
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Background

In September 2005 the Royal Borough commissioned Urban Initiatives to carry out a design study of Kensington and Chelsea in preparation for specific design guidance and for the Local Development Framework. Urban initiatives completed the work, submitting their findings to the Royal Borough in draft in August 2006.

The consultants were asked to examine the physical, historical and functional context of Kensington and Chelsea, providing an analysis that included topography, patterns of historical development, urban form, transportation, areas of character, high buildings, open spaces and waterways. Based on this analysis, they prepared draft design guidance for the Council's consideration. These documents were not accepted as statements of Council policy. However, the analysis and draft guidance have informed the development of design policies within the Royal Borough, and is presented here as an evidence base for design policies within the Core strategy, notably policy CL2 on High Buildings.

Documents

The analysis prepared by the consultants is presented unabridged as 3 reports. In brief they are:

Background Report 01 - Audit and Analysis

The report provides an understanding of the urban structure, character and function of Kensington and Chelsea, and identifies key design issues faced by the Royal Borough.

Background Report 02 – Urban Design Strategy

Building upon report 01, this defines design concepts and key structural parameters for the Royal Borough, presented as a draft design strategy.

Background Report 03 – High Buildings Strategy

Building upon report 01, this assesses the implications of high buildings within the Royal Borough and neighbouring authorities and proposes draft guidelines.

Status of the Information

Much of the information and concepts contained within the documents have informed the consolidation or development of design policy contained within the Core Strategy, though they may not have been carried over directly. The reports are therefore released in their draft format for public information, as an evidence base only. They do not themselves represent Council policy. Statements of Council policy are contained in the Core Strategy, and in Supplementary Planning Documents on design matters, including “Building Heights in the Royal Borough”.

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