APPENDIX S1 TOWNSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: VISUAL REPRESENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

Introduction

New guidance published by the Landscape Guidance in October 2019, LI Technical Guidance Note 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals, recommends that not only TVIA Representative Viewpoints are agreed with the competent authority, Manchester City Council, (MCC) in this case, but also the methodology used in the Visual Representation of Development Proposals itself is agreed.

This advice note seeks to explain why, and seek agreement for, the need for specialist lens equipment in the preparation of Verified Views for tall buildings.

AVR TYPE

TYPE 4 PHOTOMONTAGE / PHOTOWIRE (SURVEY/ SCALE VERIFIABLE)

This is the most sophisticated form of visualization and judged to be the most appropriate level in these circumstances where the planning application is supported by a full EIA and the subject is a tall building.

As LI Technical Guidance note 06 / 19 states:

'*Type 4 photomontages and / or photowires require the use of equipment and processes which provide quantifiable verification data, such that they may be checked for accuracy (as per industry-standard 'AVRs' or 'Verified Views'). Precise survey of features and viewpoint / camera locations may be included where warranted. Type 4 visualisations represent the highest level of accuracy and verifiability for use in the most demanding of situations'*

and

'Type 4 visualisations are photomontages or photowires, produced using quantifiable data, with procedural transparency and appropriate levels of accuracy. This involves using a defined camera / lens combination and establishing the camera location with sufficient locational accuracy to enable accurate scaling and location of the 3D model within the view. In addition, the print presentation size can be determined to provide binocular image scaling when appropriate.'

The guidance states that a 50mm lens should be used 'unless there are exceptional circumstances' we believe that the assessment of a tall building in a townscape setting is an exceptional circumstance where a wide angle tilt shift lens is justified. This is because:

- The height of the building will inevitably mean that the top of the building is often cut off if a standard 50mm lens is used as the ridgeline is often more than 18˚from the horizontal
- Often close up views are necessary to assess the effect of the Proposed Development on the immediate streetscape, often in areas of tight urban grain

- Skylines and clusters of tall buildings are an important part of a TVIA where the insertion of a new tall building into an existing cluster or, as a new feature on the skyline or horizon, is an essential part of understanding its contextual fit.

For these reasons we are proposing to use a Canon EOS 5D Mark IV with sensor size 36 with 24mm to 35mm lens

This is not without precedent as most TVIAs produced as part of EIAs for Tall Buildings in Manchester to date have used this equipment effectively to demonstrate accurately and verifiably the visual and townscape effects of a tall building on the townscape and views. As Technical Guidance note 06 / 19 notes:

'If the site / setting cannot be captured with the 50mm lens (e.g. close, tall buildings), consider alternative lenses. If a 50mm FL lens cannot capture the view in landscape or portrait orientation (for example, if the highest point of the development is approaching 18° above horizontal) the use of wider-angled prime lenses should be considered, working through the following sequence of fixed lenses in this order: 35mm FL > 28mm FL > 24mm FL > 24mm FL Tilt-Shift'

PRESENTATION AND VIEWING DISTANCE

An equally important feature of the new guidance is how the images are presented and how they are viewed. Again, the guidance offers some useful advice which we propose to follow in this instance.

Research by the LI Working Group in the preparation of this guidance, carried out across several cities, suggests that, in mid- to smaller-scale landscapes / townscapes, an enlargement around halfway between 100% and 150% results in a binocular relationship between the presented image and reality…… notwithstanding the above, SNH considers that consistent use of 150% enlargement is beneficial

So, in these circumstances we propose to present each image, consisting of baseline, proposed and cumulative for each viewpoint is presented as an A3 PDF which then be viewed digitally or printed, if necessary, at A2 to obtain a 141% enlargement to achieve the recommended enlargement ratio. Each image when printed should be viewed, again as stated in the guidance, at a comfortable arm's length.

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