

## Town Planning Review Special Issue Guidelines

*This note is aimed at those (considering) proposing a Special Issue to the Editors of Town Planning Review, and outlines what we expect of a Special Issue and the process for publishing a Special Issue.*

### What is a Special Issue of Town Planning Review?

A Special Issue is a collection of papers on a common topic. Recent examples include *Land Policy for Urban Densification*, *Rethinking Regulation* and *Public Valuation of Land and Development*. The Editors place no boundaries on potential topics for Special Issues, beyond those of the general scope of the journal, which can be found here: <https://www.liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk/journals/id/43>, but topics should be both of sufficient breadth to be of interest to our international readership and focussed enough to allow for in-depth exploration.

It is fairly common for proposals for Special Issues to be linked to an event such as a seminar, colloquium or conference, but this is by no means essential. We would usually expect there to be a cross-border element to a Special Issue – a proposal featuring papers exclusively focussed upon one jurisdiction is less likely to be accepted.

### What Quality Standard are Special Issue Papers Held To?

It is essential to the Editors that papers published in Special Issues meet the usual standards of scholarship for publication in *Town Planning Review*, and papers which do not will not be accepted for publication. The acceptance of a Special Issue proposal does not guarantee the acceptance of any individual papers within the Special Issue.

### What is the Process for Publication of a Special Issue?

Occasionally the Editors will issue a call for a Special Issue, but more commonly we act in response to proposals submitted by (a) potential Special Issue Guest Editor(s). A proposal should be of at least one page in length, and should include: The names and institutions of the Guest Editor(s); an introduction to the topic, appropriately referenced; a justification for its "fit" within *Town Planning Review*, including how it might relate to any Special Issues on similar topics which have previously been published in the journal; a list of the potential contributors and titles (where known) of their contributions. It is usually prudent for the latter to contain more papers than will be needed in a full issue (the length of which should be around 40,000 words, or five papers of around 8,000 words each), as it is common for one or two potential contributions to fall away during the publication process.

We welcome early discussion of potential Special Issues before a proposal has been worked up in full – please contact TPR's Editorial Assistant, Bertie Dockerill, who will pass on your enquiry to an Editor.

Once a proposal has been agreed between the Editors and Guest Editor(s), the latter will be asked to work with the Special Issue contributors to whatever extent is necessary to prepare their papers for submission. Papers submitted for a Special Issue should be at the same quality as any other submission to the journal. Once submitted, the papers will be assigned to an Editor who will work with the Guest Editor(s) to arrange blinded peer review of the papers, and the process follows a similar pattern to standard submissions to the journal. An Introduction, usually of up to 4,000 words, will be requested of the Guest Editors towards the end of the process of assembling the constituent papers of the Special Issue.

As noted above, the acceptance of a Special Issue proposal does not guarantee the acceptance of any individual papers within the Special Issue, and the Editors reserve the right to reject any contributions which do not meet the quality standards of the journal.