



PRIDE OF PLACE - A MANIFESTO FOR THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Members of the Built Environment Forum Scotland seek a Scotland in which our enjoyment of the built environment is enhanced by successful place-making, combining the best of our historic and contemporary surroundings to benefit our economy and communities.

Our Ambition for Scotland's Places...

The places in which we live and work are **good places** to be. Our built environment is widely regarded as an asset which provides the physical backdrop for our daily lives. Our surroundings are safe, healthy, attract investors and visitors and above all foster local pride amongst residents.

Scotland's places look Scottish. In both materials and form, a Scottish style, and indeed regional styles give a strong sense of locality and **identity**.

We **understand** and appreciate the values associated with our heritage. Playing a fundamental part in Scotland's cultural distinctiveness – we can reach informed decisions on its protection and scope for change.

There is a focus on area – landscapes and townscapes - as well as an individual building or site. **Context** and layout are factors that do more than the sum of the parts in generating and maintaining successful places.

The **countryside** is managed in a holistic way – to accommodate issues relating to the historic environment, cultural landscapes, design in the rural setting.

New developments sit well with and **enhance** that which is existing. We back the skills of good architects and designers who are sensitive to the impact of their developments.

Processes of procurement are driven by **quality** as well as cost.

Communities are better able to **engage** with design and planning processes – are able to have input into change that is happening within their local area.

People - the public at large, as well as built environment professionals, politicians, clients, decision-makers – have a better understanding and appreciation of their local built environment.

The built environment is repaired and **maintained** with the appropriate materials and skills.

A coherent approach is adopted in the management of **urban spaces**.

From design to delivery of new projects – a **sustainable** approach is adopted to help develop places that enable people to adopt sustainable lifestyles.

An element of **cross-disciplinary** training is common - professionals working with the built environment have a broader understanding of the perspectives of colleagues from other disciplines.

The built environment is integrated into other **policy** areas of government, is afforded strong political leadership and policy delivered effectively on the ground.

The **infrastructure** of the built environment sector is strong, with organisations at all levels operating in an integrated fashion with sufficient capacity to provide and receive support as required.

More specific needs are identified as follows:

The Built Environment and our Health: We must focus efforts on promoting the link between the physical environment, health benefits and well-being; highlighting the fact that poorly designed, poorly managed, poorly maintained environments impoverish communities and are inherently unsustainable.

Sustainable Development: We must promote higher density living and diversity of landuse. Whole life costing must become mainstreamed, along with design for longer life, design for reuse, upgrade and ultimately deconstruction with low environmental impact / minimal waste. Sustainability Statements should be a standard requirement. Enabling the availability and supply of appropriate, locally sourced materials must be prioritised.

Design Quality: We need stronger inter-disciplinary support for the Executive's aims for improving the quality of Scotland's built environment through its statement on Designing Places and its Architecture Policy. Design Statements should be required in the procurement of all building or public realm projects – we also need to examine the inhibitors to good design, and the processes that delivery good design. Key challenges relate to design in the rural setting and edge of settlement development.

Historic Environment: We need more information on the state of the Historic Environment. The ball is rolling with the establishment of the Audit of the Historic Environment – this good work must continue and expand. We need to improve understanding of the significance of aspects of the historic environment - of listed buildings, scheduled monuments, conservation areas, designed landscapes, battlefields etc. to protect and to manage change in an informed way. The appropriate provisions of the Planning, Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas legislation require amendment urgently.

Public Awareness, Education and Training: Centres for Architecture and the Built Environment should be established in Scotland's cities as bases for training and awareness-raising, for the public, for clients, designers, planners, planning committee members – and all other stakeholders working within the sector. Locally held, accessible records on the historic environment should be made widely available to the public and professionals alike, to nurture local interest and inform decision-making.

Town Centres and Urban Realm: Strategies are required for high quality, fully integrated management of neighbourhoods, town and city centres as the foci of community, business, cultural life and tourism. There is a need to bring together the varied interests responsible (traffic engineering, public transport, health and safety, crime prevention, urban design, leisure provision, biodiversity, cleansing, public art and entertainment, archaeology, public utilities) – to achieve high quality outcomes.

The Built Environment Forum Scotland (BEFS) is a forum that brings together 24 non-governmental organisations that work within the built environment sector. A unique aspect about the membership is that it includes both voluntary sector organisations and professional institutes. In addition, BEFS is aiming to bring together in one forum representative organisations from both the contemporary and historic built environment sectors. The purpose of BEFS is to raise awareness of policy issues within the sector, encourage debate and share information, with a view to influencing policy and legislation.