
Farrell Review of Architecture and the Built Environment

Call for Evidence Questions

NOTE: You can use this form to draft and save your answers to the Call for Evidence questions as you go along. When you are finished, you can then copy and paste each answer into the relevant answer box on the online form and submit your response.

The online form can be found at www.farrellreview.co.uk "Submit your views"

Introduction

This Call for Evidence is to inform the independent Farrell Review of Architecture and the Built Environment, which relates to England.

As announced at its launch on 25 March, the purpose of the review is to inform the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's approach to its role within government of promoting high standards of design in the built environment. This is so that DCMS can continue to influence and shape policy across government, not least because the public sector is a major client/funder of buildings.

The expert panel headed by Sir Terry Farrell welcomes submissions from any interested parties on the following themes within the scope of this review. Included are some suggested questions to help guide your responses. Please ensure these stay within the four themes as outlined below.

Notes:

- You do not need to respond to all the questions.
- Short and concise responses are requested per question; if they are longer than 1000 words they should include a headline summary.
- The online submission form cannot be saved as you go; you must complete it in one sitting.
- Downloadable PDF and Word versions of the questions are available at www.farrellreview.co.uk
- We suggest you draft your responses in Word and then copy and paste answers into relevant question boxes on the online form.
- Please make clear reference to any existing research or publications relating to your response, and the parts or page numbers within it that are relevant.
- You will be requested to fill out some information about yourself or your organisation at the start of the survey.
- All submissions will be acknowledged.
- All submissions are for the use of this review alone.

- The Review will not publish all responses; however, some responses may be quoted in print or online. By responding to the Call for Evidence you consent to us using your evidence.

1. Understanding the role for Government in promoting design quality in architecture and the built environment

The review will look at lessons that can be learnt nationally and internationally about the role for Government in promoting and achieving design quality. The role of built environment bodies and other organisations that promote the appreciation and better understanding of design quality in the built environment will also be considered.

1.1 Britain has some of the best architects and designers in the world but that does not automatically mean that standards of architectural design in England are as good as they could be. Why is this?

Your text here

1.2 How can the "everyday" quality of our housing, public spaces and buildings be significantly improved?

Your text here

1.3 Would having a formal architecture policy (as some European countries do) help to achieve improved outcomes? What might be the potential aims of such a policy? What might the benefits be and how they could be measured?

Your text here

1.4 What can local and national bodies do to promote design quality? What policy infrastructure would assist them in this important task?

Your text here

1.5 What other recommendations would you like to make relating to this particular theme?

Your text here

2. The economic benefits of architecture and design, and maximising the UK's growth potential

The review will consider the contribution of architecture to the UK's economy, how the economic value of good built environment design can be demonstrated, and how it can be maximised in the future.

2.1 In what ways does architecture and built environment design contribute to the UK economy?

Your text here

2.2 It is claimed that high standards of architectural and built environment design add economic value. Can this be demonstrated and, if so, how?

Your text here

2.3 What is the commercial value of our historic built environment for the UK brand and for local economies and tourism?

See under question 3.1.

2.4 How do we ensure the culture of architectural and built environment design excellence is part of a perceived national brand identity that can be exported and how can our expertise (such as place-making and sustainability) be offered to a rapidly urbanising world?

Your text here

2.5 To enhance market leadership in built environment design how can we ensure that the UK is leading and responding to innovations in technology, sustainability and communications in an era of rapid globalisation?

Your text here

2.6 What other recommendations would you like to make relating to this particular theme?

Your text here

3. Cultural heritage and the built environment

The review will look at how to encourage good new architecture whilst retaining the best of the past, and the value of our historic built environment as a cultural asset and in successful place-making.

3.1 How does architecture and the built environment contribute to our society and its identity and how should we evaluate this?

The contribution of the historic environment to society is well documented. It has been recognised in successive versions of planning policy culminating in the National Planning Policy Framework (2012). The Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide (2010) (which is still extant although drafted originally to accompany PPS 5) makes this clear:

'The historic environment provides a tangible link with our past and contributes to our sense of national, local and community identity. It also provides the character and distinctiveness that is so important to a positive sense of place. It can support the regeneration and sustainable economic and social development of our communities. It can assist in the delivery of housing, education and community cohesion aims. It is a key part of England's tourism offer. Through all this it enhances the quality of our daily lives.'

This is elaborated in guides and reports such as *Heritage Works: The use of historic buildings in regeneration* (2013) produced by English Heritage, BPF, Deloitte and RICS and *Investing in Success: Heritage and the UK Tourism Economy* (2010) produced by HLF and Visit Britain. Reports such as *Investing in Success* provide estimates of the economic benefits of heritage (which are considerable), but any attempt to evaluate the contribution of architecture and the built environment to our society and its identity must also take account of social and other non-economic benefits, such as the contribution to well-being (see, for instance, *Values and Benefits of Heritage: A research view* (2012) HLF.

3.2 Do we value heritage, whether historic or recent, evenly throughout the country?

The universal use of conservation principles (such as English Heritage's *Conservation Principles: Policies and Guidance* (2008)) and professional standards (such as IfA's Standards and Guidance: <http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa>) in the assessment of the historic environment and its significance should lead to greater consistency. Increasing access to information about the historic environment through the maintenance and, where necessary, improvement of Historic Environment Records (HERs) will also help in this respect. However, the value placed on heritage by members of the public is always likely to vary.

3.3 How do we make sure that new architecture understands and responds to its cultural and historic context?

In order to ensure that new architecture understands and responds to its cultural and historic context it is necessary for work to be informed by a thorough assessment of its relationship with and impact upon the historic environment carried out by appropriately accredited experts in accordance with professional standards (including archaeological input in accordance with IfA Standards and guidance: see <http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa>). Training and CPD for architects should embrace a wider understanding of the historic environment and current approaches to its management and protection.

Public engagement is also important in this regard. The Southport Group, a working party of historic environment practitioners, in its report, *'Realising the Benefits of Planning-Led Investigation in the Historic Environment: a Framework for Delivery'* (2011) (<http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/SouthportreportA4.pdf>), although in a different context, envisaged the future management of the historic environment 'as a

partnership ... where decisions proactively, confidently and genuinely take account of public values and concerns.' Such an approach should be reflected in architectural work.

3.4 Are there characteristics in older buildings and places that are valued which are lacking in new buildings and places? What should the design of new places learn from the best of the past?

Your text here

3.5 What is the role for new technologies in conservation to enable older buildings to meet modern needs and to be adapted with less impact on their historic features?

Your text here

3.6 What other recommendations would you like to make relating to this particular theme?

Your text here

4. Promoting education, outreach and skills

The review will consider the potential contributions of built environment education to a broad and balanced education both as a cultural subject in its own right and as a way of teaching other subjects. Public outreach and skilling-up will also be considered.

4.1 What is the potential contribution of built environment education at primary and secondary school level, both as a cultural subject in its own right and as a way of teaching STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) and other subjects?

Your text here

4.2 What is the role of architecture and the built environment in enabling a better public understanding of issues related to sustainability and the environment?

Your text here

4.3 How can high standards of design be achieved and promoted through neighbourhood plans?

Your text here

4.4 How can we better ensure that awareness and support of high standards of design are shared among all the professions concerned with architecture, the built environment, and quality places?

Through membership of professional bodies, accreditation of competence, consistent adherence to professional standards, training and CPD.

4.5 How can we ensure fair representation (gender, ethnicity, class, etc) and better preparation for those wishing to enter into higher education and the built environment professions?

Your text here

4.6 What other recommendations would you like to make relating to this particular theme?

Your text here

Please **submit your responses via the online form** that can be found at: www.farrellreview.co.uk . We regret that emailed attachments of this document will not be considered as evidence.

Please respond by **5pm, Friday 19th July 2013** (six weeks from the opening of the call). Replies after that time may not be taken into consideration.