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# THE FARRELL REVIEW

*of Architecture  
+ the Built  
Environment*

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"OUR FUTURE  
IN PLACE "

## PROGRESS REPORT

AUGUST 2014

01

# Introduction by Sir Terry Farrell

A little over three months ago, I concluded a broad and independent review of how we plan and design our future built environment. The Farrell Review of Architecture and the Built Environment (FAR) was over a year in the making and sought contributions from government, institutions, agencies, industry and the public. It made over 60 recommendations spanning early education in schools, professional education, adult outreach, skilling up decision makers, proactive planning and design quality, cultural heritage, economic benefits and built environment policy.



Sir Terry Farrell CBE  
© Richard Gleed

However, its publication was only the beginning. The Farrell Review was a call to action – for policy-makers, local government and industry. I have been overwhelmed with the energy and enthusiasm with which the Review has been welcomed and am greatly encouraged by the progress that has already been made.

This document is designed to keep you up to date with that progress, and is the first of what will be a series of regular progress updates on the implementation and evolution of the Farrell Review.

Thank you for reading it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Terry Farrell'.

## The 5 themes of the Review

**1.** EDUCATION,  
OUTREACH  
& SKILLS

Education from primary through to professional education; engaging with the public and skilling up decision makers

**2.** DESIGN  
QUALITY

Changing the culture of planning and improving the everyday environment by making the ordinary better

**3.** CULTURAL  
HERITAGE

Our built environment past, present and future

**4.** ECONOMIC  
BENEFITS

Global exchange and the value of good design

**5.** BUILT  
ENVIRONMENT  
POLICY

Leadership and place-based policies inside and outside of government

## Schools and Teaching

### RECOMMENDATION:

The best way to include architecture and the built environment in the education system at primary and secondary school level is through teacher training and introducing new content across the curriculum. Online resources should be developed for teachers and also for built environment professionals and students to reach out to schools.

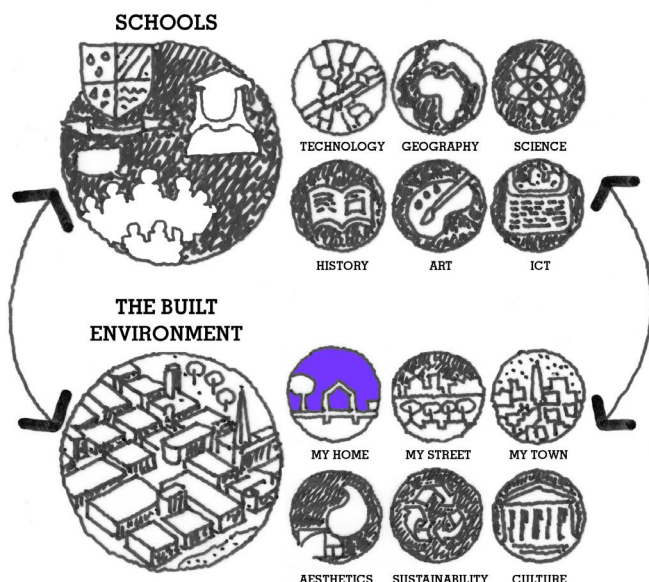
### UPDATES:

- Victoria Thornton OBE, founding director of Open City, is leading on implementation of the Review's recommendations relating to education, outreach and skills.
- Victoria is working with Charlie Peel to update and rebuild the [Engaging Places](#) website into a central national resource and repository of teacher toolkits and teaching plans.
- Hosted by Open City, Engaging Places is already a fantastic resource for teachers seeking to engage their students in their built environments and will, over time, become even more valuable.
- Organisations like [Vital Regeneration](#) (London), [Placed](#) (Liverpool), [PLACES](#) (Manchester), Universities like Kent and [Architecture Workshops Association](#) all have excellent programmes for teaching the built environment in schools. RIBA Regional branches are also doing good work in this area.

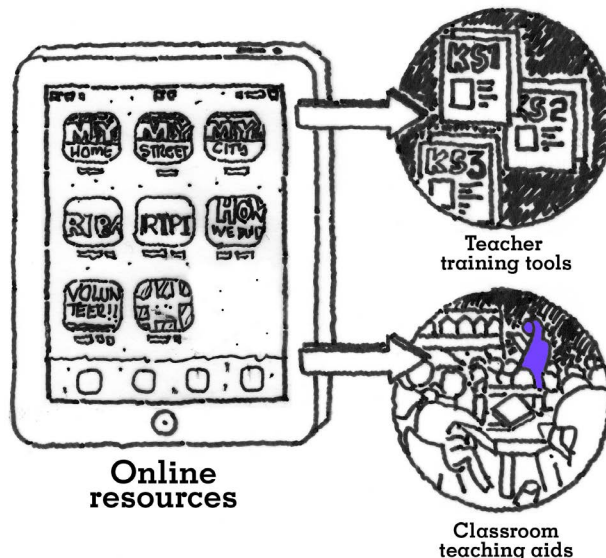
### ACTIONS:

- We will be working with Ed Vaizey MP, the Minister responsible for the Farrell Review, to engage the Department for Education in the Review recommendations and to ensure that this work is being supported and recognised.
- Meetings have been requested with David Laws, Minister of State for Schools and Tristram Hunt, Shadow Secretary of State for Education.
- We will be appealing to the built environment institutions and agencies to support the Engaging Places website and use it as a central and national resource.

### Teach the built environment across all subjects in schools



### Develop online resources for teachers in schools



## Urban Rooms

### RECOMMENDATION:

Every town and city without an architecture and built environment centre should have a physical or virtual “urban room” where the past, present and future of that place can be inspected.

### UPDATES:

- There has been great enthusiasm across local government and from organisations like the Academy of Urbanism for the introduction of urban rooms, and we have been thrilled to hear of examples of urban rooms already in development.
- These include a “City Gallery” in Liverpool being funded by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), an Urban Room at Goldfinger’s famous [Balfour Tower](#), a “City Room” in Sheffield created by Integreat Plus, a “City Workshop” in Leeds and a pop up [Urban Room in Blackburn](#).
- The FAR team have been in discussion with Assembly Studios about establishing a ‘PLACE Network with Virtual Urban Rooms’.
- The [Creative Assembly Network](#) have already established websites for cultural events and activities used by towns like Swindon and counties like Sussex and Somerset.

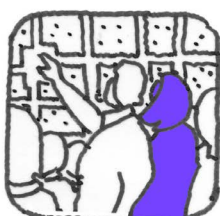
### ACTIONS:

- We have asked the Minister to publicly express his support for this idea and formally task the LGA, RIBA, Design Network, Academy of Urbanism, and ABECN to encourage and support it’s implementation.
- We will continue to liaise with these organisations and others across the UK to promote and encourage take up of this recommendation.
- There are many good things already going on in Bristol which are aligned to the FAR recommendations like the award winning website [‘Know Your Place’](#).
- Over the coming months, we will be working with Assembly Studios to develop their proposals for PLACE networks and virtual urban rooms.

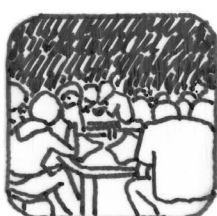
Every town and city should have an “URBAN ROOM”



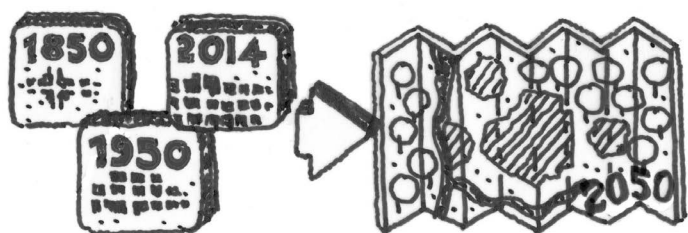
AN EXHIBITION SPACE



A LEARNING SPACE



A COMMUNITY SPACE



EXPLORING OUR PAST ...

... AND PLANNING THE FUTURE!!

## Professional Education

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

Education has to reflect the major shift towards two opposing tendencies – greater specialisation and diversified career paths on the one hand, and a greater need for integrating and joining things up on the other. This should be mirrored in education by a common foundation year, learning about all the built environment professions, followed by alternative pathways. All related courses should prepare for broader decision making, cross-disciplinary understanding and genuine leadership.

To widen accessibility into architecture and the built-environment professions, we need a diverse range of different courses and training routes to be made available including apprenticeships and sandwich courses.

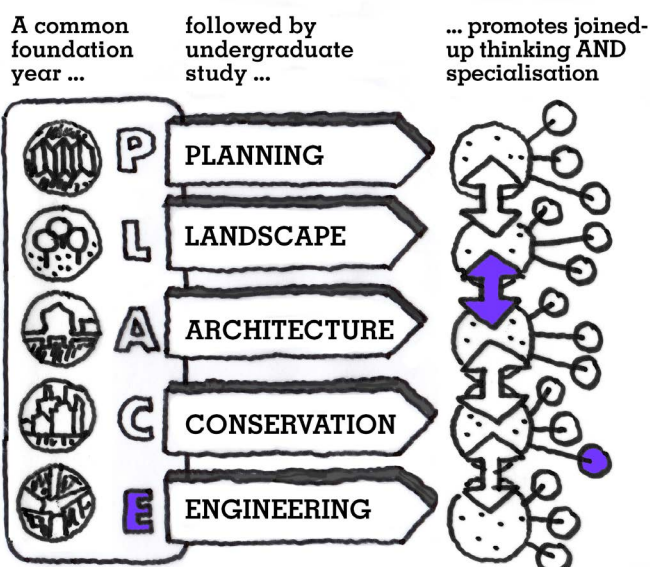
### UPDATES:

- Discussions are underway with Kent School of Architecture and the School of Architecture, Planning & Landscape at Newcastle University. They are among a number of architecture schools who are considering recommendations like introducing a common foundation year and introducing business, construction and retro-fitting into course content.
- Discussions are ongoing with Will Hunter, School Director at the recently launched [London School of Architecture](#), whose affordable approach to professional education is in line with a number of the Review's recommendations on accessibility.
- The DCLG consultation period has closed for their review of the regulation of architects and the Architects Registration Board (ARB).

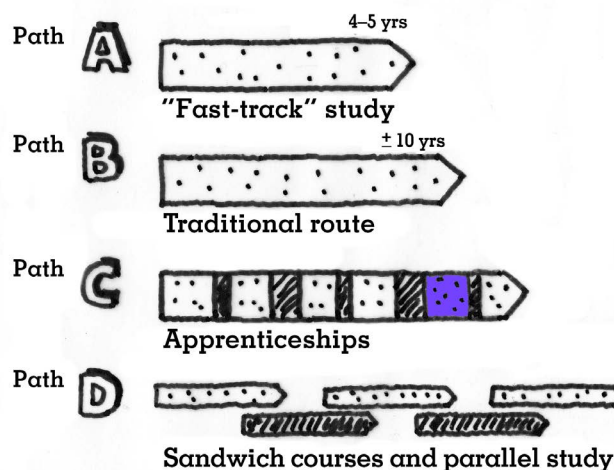
### ACTION:

- We will be working with the London School of Architecture and other universities over the coming year to coordinate things we have learnt with other educational institutions.
- We will publish the findings of the DCLG review of the ARB on the [Farrell Review](#) website and assess findings against recommendations in the review.

### A common foundation year for all built environment students



### Improve access to architectural training and qualification





## Skilling up decision-makers

### RECOMMENDATION:

Places would be greatly improved if the people who make decisions about our built environment, such as planning committee members and highway engineers, were empowered by training in design literacy. In order to achieve this, there needs to be a momentous sea change led by professionals to better inform and educate those who make the all-important decisions.

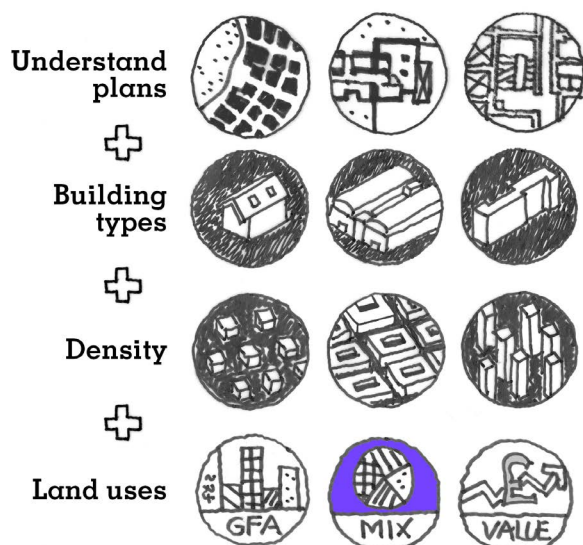
### UPDATES:

- Bristol has agreed to act as a 'test bed' for the review's recommendations under the leadership of Mayor and architect George Ferguson.
- Review recommendations that could be implemented here include training planning committee members and highway engineers in design literacy.
- The Local Government Association (LGA) is also in favour of skilling up decision makers like planning committee members, and some great programmes are already in place which seek to do this like Urban Design London and Design Council Cabe.
- Design training for elected officials was supported in House of Lords by Baroness Andrews and Lord Haworth who said it is "an idea whose time has surely come".

### ACTIONS:

- We look forward to working closely with Bristol over the coming months and to sharing their experiences.
- We will continue the dialogue with the LGA on how this can be implemented more widely.

## Decision makers should receive training in design literacy



## Champion the civic

### RECOMMENDATION:

The Local Government Association (LGA) and the Design Network could create a template for partnership agreements between built environment practices and neighbourhoods, villages and towns of an appropriate size and location to champion the civic through education and outreach. Practices could offer support through local schools, urban rooms and architecture and built environment centres.

### UPDATE:

- Sir Merrick Cockell, the Chair of Local Government Association has endorsed in principle the idea of partnership agreements between local authorities and private practices to improve skills and capabilities within public planning teams.

### ACTION:

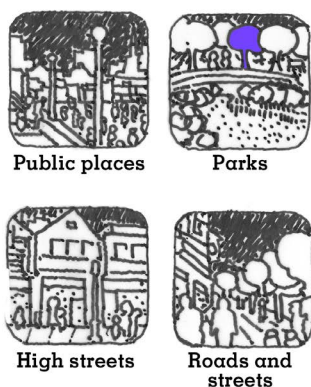
- We will be taking these discussions further over coming months to develop concrete proposals on partnership arrangements between local authorities and private practices.
- We will be publishing a list of 'asks' from the built environment professions which include more active engagement with local communities and schools on education and outreach.

## Practices should "champion the civic"

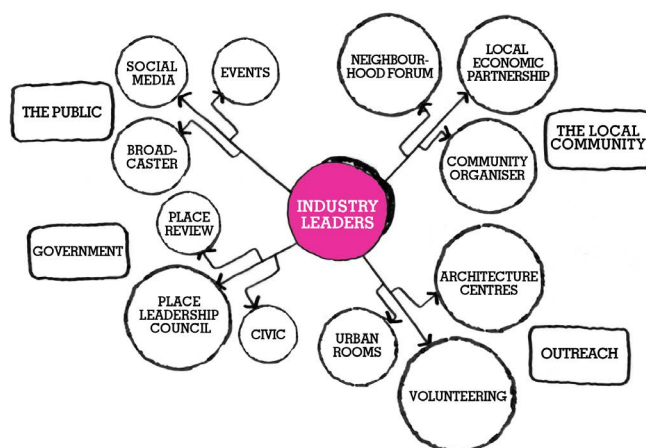
Form "place networks" ...



... to "champion the civic"!!



## Industry leaders to connect with everyday places



## The Role of the Arts

### RECOMMENDATION:

Arts Council England and the Crafts Council could research and reinforce the role of artists and the arts in contributing to the planning, design and animation of our public realm and architecture. The arts and artists are well placed to creatively engage individuals and communities and give voice to their sense of place, their concerns, and their aspirations for the areas they live, work and play in.

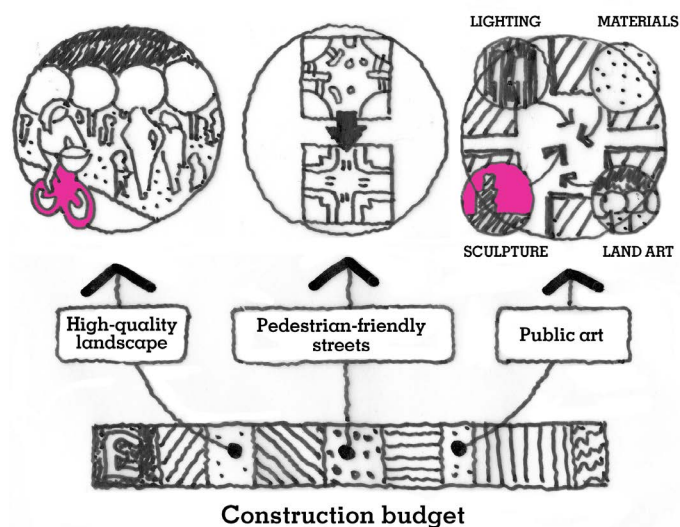
### UPDATE:

- Ed Vaizey is connecting the Farrell Architecture Review team with Arts Council England to explore opportunities for promoting the role of the arts and artists in placemaking and the built environment.

### ACTION:

- FAR Panel Member Robert Powell is organising event to focus on the implications for the arts and artists of the Farrell Review and vice versa.

## Strengthen the role of public realm in making great places





## Proactive Planning

### RECOMMENDATION:

**We must be more proactive when planning the future shape and form of our villages, towns and cities, and the government, institutions and professions should lead a revolution to make this happen.**

### UPDATES:

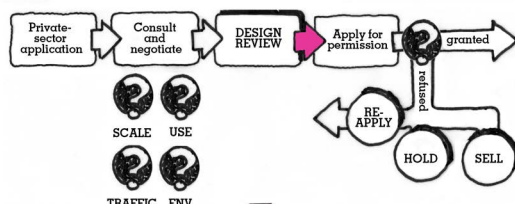
- In May, the Farrell Review submitted evidence to the Communities and Local Government Select Committee inquiry on the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the need for a revolution in favour of proactive planning.
- Sir Terry gave evidence to the Committee in June, where MPs explored the Review and its findings alongside Design Council, TCPA and others.
- Last month, Sir Terry met with Planning Minister Nick Boles to discuss the need for a radical step change in the way we approach planning our built environment. His response was overwhelmingly positive and a conference on proactive planning was discussed
- We are continuing a dialogue with London Borough of Croydon about their approach to placemaking which is transforming the way they work and we will share experiences.

### ACTIONS:

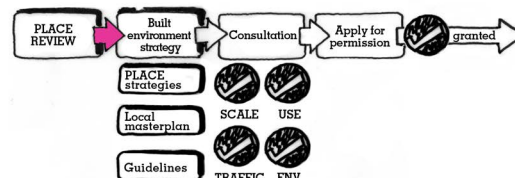
- The Select Committee will report its findings in due course, and we will continue to brief all Members on the progress of the Review over the coming months.
- We will be meeting with the new Minister for Housing and Planning, Brandon Lewis shortly to brief him on the Review and to continue the momentum that had already been achieved by his predecessor.
- Finn Williams, Regeneration Area Manager at the GLA and former Deputy Team Leader of Placemaking at Croydon is drafting a discussion paper on attracting the best students into local authority planning departments. He is exploring options for a 'Plan First' programme that, in the style of the 'Teach First' initiative, seeks to place newly qualified planners into local authority planning teams.

### Make the planning system more proactive!

#### FROM A REACTIVE SYSTEM...

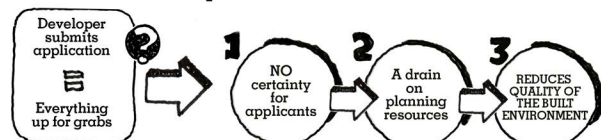


#### TO PROACTIVE PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE!!

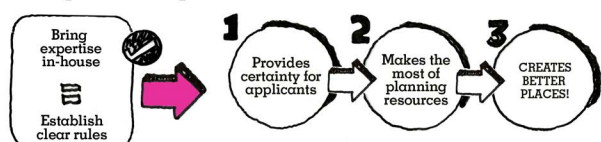


### Free up resources by deciding more in advance

#### From the current system...



#### To a proactive system!!



## PLACE Review

### RECOMMENDATION:

Design Review Panels should become PLACE Review Panels (Planning, Landscape, Architecture, Conservation and Engineering) and include professionals from each of these fields. At the same time, they should become less like a crit at architecture school with peers passing judgement, and more enabling and collaborative.

Every public body should have access to a PLACE Review Panel to ensure that all aspects of the built environment are given equal consideration. There should be PLACE Reviews of new developments in the public sector such as national infrastructure applications and other significant rail, aviation and road improvements. There should be PLACE Reviews of existing places such as high streets, hospitals and housing estates.

### UPDATES:

- The FAR team discussed changing the reference to design review in the NPPF to PLACE review with the former Planning Minister Nick Boles.
- The Design Network have confirmed their intention to rebrand design review to PLACE Review to ensure this service is more collaborative and broader in scope.
- The GLA are interested in the acronym PLACE to better describe the multidisciplinary and collaborative nature of the built environment.
- Leeds City Council are considering how this recommendation can influence their Design Review Panel which meets twice monthly.

### ACTIONS:

- The FAR team will work closely with these organisations and bodies over the coming months and to share experiences and publicise outcomes.
- The Design Network will be organising a conference towards the end of the year on the theme of PLACE Review.

### We should usher in a new era of PLACE Review

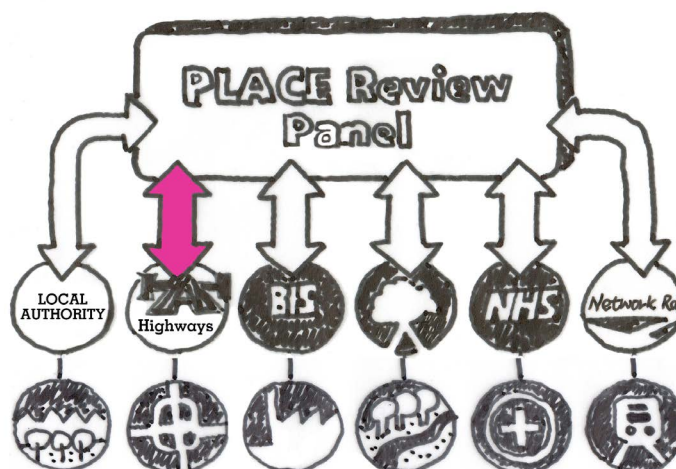
Replace Design Review Panels



... with PLACE Review Panels!!



### Every public body should have access to a PLACE Review Panel



## Placemaking and Infrastructure

### RECOMMENDATION:

All government reviews and decision-making panels for major infrastructure proposals should have planning and design professionals represented. Department for Transport funds for built environment projects could be conditional on those bidding producing a masterplan, instigating early PLACE Review and agreeing the three-dimensional "design envelope" for the built environment – particularly for the public realm affected by new or changed infrastructure.

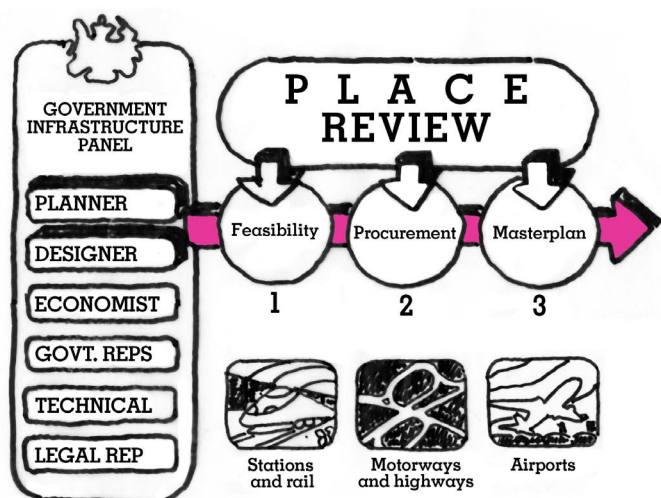
### UPDATES:

- The new Planning Minister Brandon Lewis is responsible for planning and infrastructure and the House of Lords debate suggested he is interested in these aspects of the review.
- Professor Kathryn Moore of Birmingham University has been leading on the relationship between landscape, existing communities and new development for HS2 stations and rail lines in Birmingham.
- Design Council has led an enquiry into what makes a great design client on behalf of HS2 and supported the Department of Transport on their HS2 Cycleway strategy. Using their '[A design-led approach to infrastructure](#)' Guidance, Design Council is providing design support and review on a range of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) across England.

### ACTIONS:

- Ed Vaizey is arranging a meeting with Brandon Lewis to discuss placemaking and infrastructure recommendations within the review.
- Kathryn Moore will be speaking at the Urban Land Institute conference on growth and connectivity in September. The intention is to form a working group on how these recommendations can be taken forward.

### Infrastructure panels to have design professionals



## Heritage & Future Cities

### RECOMMENDATION:

The separation of traditional vs modern does not exist for this generation in the same way it did throughout the 20th century. Our culture has slowly but radically shifted to one now that understands and sees the potential in what is already there, the value of place, identity and sustainability, and the recognition of this most importantly leads to a completely different mindset. It's not "either/or" any more, and we must address what this means going forwards.

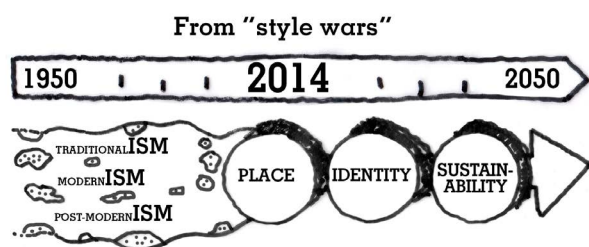
### UPDATE:

- The Academy of Urbanism have expressed an interest in working with English Heritage and championing non-historic towns alongside Heritage Towns as "it's not either/or any more"
- Design Council and English Heritage are working together to update their joint 'Guidance on tall buildings, 2007'.

### ACTION:

- Panel Member Hank Dittmar is drafting a discussion paper on the way forward for recommendations relating to future cities and heritage.

## English Heritage and the Design Council to speak with ONE VOICE



... TO SPEAKING WITH ONE VOICE!!



It's not "EITHER/OR" any more!!

## Future Heritage

### RECOMMENDATION:

**Our existing buildings are a valuable resource, and retrofitting should lead the carbon emissions and climate change agenda. Government should legislate to address the disproportionate VAT on retrofit and redistribute it to new build if necessary.**

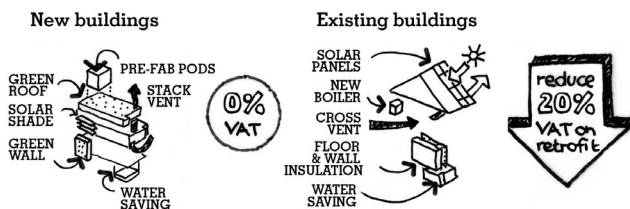
### UPDATE:

- **Lloyd Grossman, Chair of the Heritage Alliance, has reignited the debate on addressing the difference between full VAT on retrofitting and no VAT on new build.**
- **In the House of Lords debate on the Farrell Review, Lord Cormack highlighted the need for new buildings to be adaptable and for retrofitting to be part of professional education for architects.**

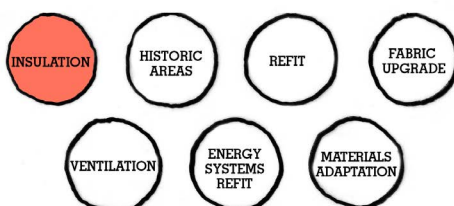
### ACTION:

- The FAR team will continue to campaign for a change of Government policy on VAT for retrofit and support the work of the Heritage Alliance in this area.

## Governments should legislate to address VAT on retrofit



### Include refurbishment and low-carbon retrofit in the curriculum





## Promoting our Built Environment Professionals Globally

### RECOMMENDATION:

An International Festival of Architecture and City Making, led by the sector and supported by Ministers and the Mayor, should be organised to showcase the UK's built environment professions to an international audience.

### UPDATES:

- Patricia Brown, Chair of London Festival of Architecture, is leading on this recommendation, and working with Paul Finch, Programme Director of the World Architecture Festival, to develop an International Forum for next year, to coincide with the London Festival of Architecture.
- We are in discussion with RIBA on how regional events can take place in parallel building on the success of their Love Architecture festivals.

### ACTION:

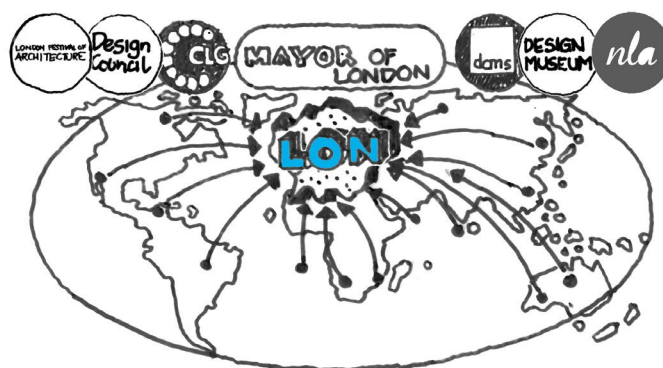
- Pat Brown will issue a discussion paper before the end of the summer on how this recommendation is being taken forward.

### Promote our built environment professionals globally



Ministerial endorsement

### An International Festival of Architecture in London



## Valuing Design Quality

### RECOMMENDATION:

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), the Construction Industry Council and PLACE institutions should work together to establish industry standards for defining, measuring and valuing the quality of architecture and place, informing a new method of property valuation that is fit for purpose.

### UPDATES:

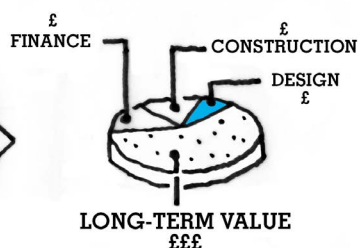
- RIBA are having discussions with the RICS about reviewing their valuation methods and standards.
- Alison Brooks, FAR Panel Member, is leading on this theme and recently joined a round table with Sir Michael Lyons and the Labour Party to discuss this subject.
- The Housing Forum is developing Home Performance Labelling which will assess design quality for new and second hand homes with performance parameters like space, storage, energy, carbon and daylight. It will compare different products with a benchmark in a consumer-friendly and interactive digital format.

### ACTIONS:

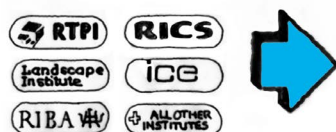
- Panel member Alison Brooks will issue a discussion paper on how this recommendation is being taken forward.
- The Housing Forum are due to launch a pilot of their Home Performance Labelling in October. A meeting is being arranged with Alison Brooks and Ben Derbyshire, Chair of the Housing Forum, before then.

## PLACE institutions to define standards for valuing quality

Government to make policy supporting long-term value



PLACE institutions to measure and value the quality of place



## Looking ahead: A question of policy

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

Policies should be developed which are enabled by government but led independently by the industry. These policies should be developed and monitored by a newly formed PLACE Leadership Council.

Government should appoint a Chief Architectural Advisor.

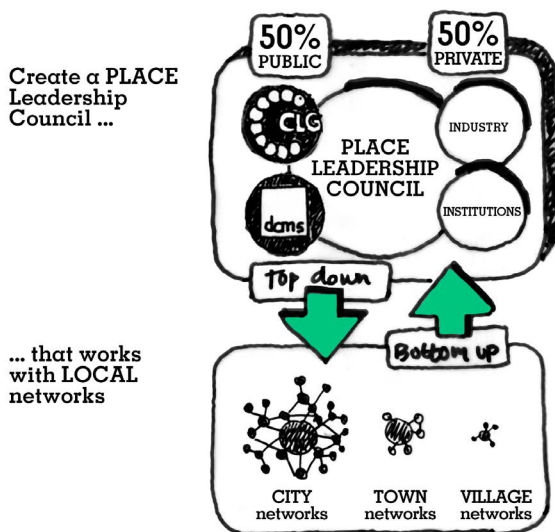
### UPDATES:

- Professor Matthew Carmona of UCL Bartlett is leading on the establishment of a [PLACE Alliance](#).
- In July his team brought together over 80 institutions, public bodies, local authorities and built environment professionals to discuss its form and structure.
- Ed Vaizey, Culture Minister, and Brandon Lewis, Planning and Housing Minister, are meeting to discuss the idea of a PLACE Leadership Council and appointment of a Chief Architectural Advisor.
- At the [House of Lords debate on the FAR](#) a Built Environment Select Committee was proposed.

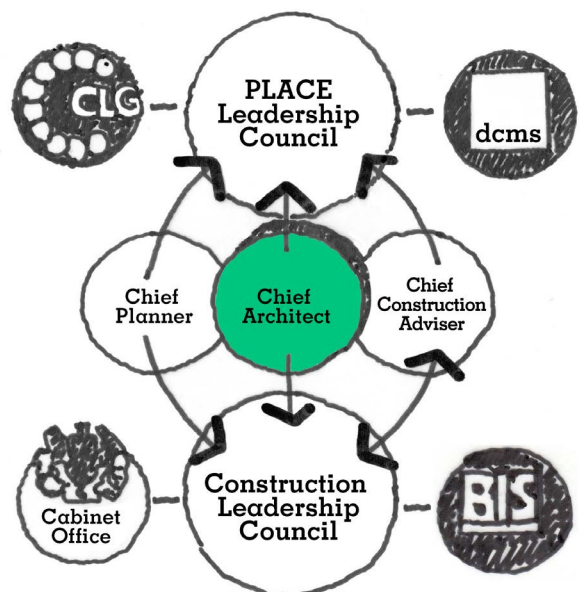
### ACTIONS:

- Professor Carmona is now working on a discussion paper to underpin the activity of a PLACE Alliance, and we look forward to sharing further details of this initiative in due course.
- Ed Vaizey is looking into the Construction Industry Council model for the Government's Chief Construction Advisor as a possible template to follow for a Chief Architectural Advisor.
- We are meeting Baroness Whitaker to discuss the proposal for a Built Environment Select Committee which she supports.

### Form a PLACE Leadership Council



### Appoint a Chief Architect



## **Policy and Governance**

Whilst many of the recommendations of the Farrell Review were for industry to action, there were a number of recommendations specifically for Government. We are grateful for the ongoing input of Ed Vaizey MP, Minister of State with responsibility for architecture, and for his promise to work with other Government Ministers to implement aspects of the Review. We are also grateful for the support given by Helen Goodman MP, Shadow Culture Minister, and for her contribution to the recent Farrell Review event hosted by Northern Architecture and the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art.

The recent debate on the Farrell Review in the House of Lords was very positive and we are grateful to Baroness Whitaker for tabling it. Among the highlights was a motion to form a new Built Environment Select Committee whose remit would be to monitor implementation of the FAR recommendations. A number of peers touched on issues ranging from skilling up decision makers and education in schools to heritage, retrofitting and the adaptability of building stock. The government confirmed that discussions are still taking place across departments for an official response to the review and highlighted the 'unanimous support' from the trade press. The full transcript of this debate can be downloaded [here](#).

## **What's Happening Next?**

To ensure that the Farrell Review remains on the Government agenda we will, jointly with RIBA and Cabe, host fringe events at both Labour and Conservative Party Conferences in September to discuss implementation of the Farrell Review. A meeting of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Excellence in the Built Environment is also being arranged for September, and we are very grateful to the Chair and Vice-Chair of that APPG, Oliver Colvile MP and Lord Lytton for the support they have shown for the Review to date. We are also preparing targeted lists of 'asks' and priorities for different professions and organisations which has been requested by many and already provided to the Government.

The Farrell Review website will soon have a new section which charts progress on all of the review's recommendations under each of the five themes.