

Manifesto for good design

“Good design should contribute positively to making places better for people” Planning Policy Statement 1



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Good planning and good design are two sides of the same coin. And planning now has a statutory purpose - the delivery of sustainable development. In a small and increasingly crowded island, a well designed and attractive environment can make a big difference to people's well-being as well as making sound economic sense.

Planning Policy Statement 1 sets out the Government's objectives for the planning system and this policy cornerstone emphasises that:

- High quality and inclusive design should be the aim of all those involved in the development process
- Design which is inappropriate in its context, or which fails to take the opportunities available for improving the character and quality of an area and the way that it functions, should not be accepted
- Good design is indivisible from good planning

We recognise that delivering good design is a challenge requiring skills and vision, but meeting this challenge is vital if planning is to deliver sustainable communities. **The National Planning Forum commits to the following:**

- Planning should be a positive force for creating well designed places for people
- Delivering high quality places is crucial to people's trust and respect for planning

- A well-designed place means a place that is easy, safe, and enjoyable to use as well as being good to look at. It should be robust, adaptable, well connected and a place which supports economic, social and environmental objectives.
- A well designed place will respond to local communities' aspirations for their area and, once completed, will be a place that they can be proud of.
- Design skills should be central to planners' education and continuing professional development - design is not a specialism but is at the heart of good planning. All planners should be given the opportunity of improving their design skills and employers have a duty to ensure their staff have relevant skills.
- The management of our built heritage has an important role in placemaking. We will create places that enhance the best of the past whilst creating a heritage that will be valued and loved by future generations.
- Planning should ensure development responds to the broad context of the local area. This will include social, economic and policy, as well as physical, context.
- Good design can have many architectural forms and planners should not impose their own subjective taste upon developments and the communities or users of the space. Good design transcends all styles.
- There should be no acceptance of schemes that do not enhance their locality and improve people's quality of life.



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The NPF has a membership drawn from:

- Not for profit and voluntary organisations
- Local government
- Government departments
- Government agencies
- Government regional offices
- Private sector
- Professional institutes
- Regional development agencies

The work of the Forum includes the preparation of and agreement to good practice notes to promote better outcomes for everyone seeking to develop or change the use of land or buildings in England.

For further information please visit our website at natplanforum.org.uk or contact the Secretary at secretary@natplanforum.org.uk

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