



**Building Schools
for the Future**
Introducing the CABE
schools design quality
programme

Building CABE schools design quality programme

Building Schools for the Future (BSF) is a £45 billion programme that will see 3,500 state secondary schools rebuilt or renewed over the next 15 years. The aim is to create 21st-century environments that will inspire new ways of learning and provide excellent facilities to benefit the whole community. To take advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) has asked CABE to provide extra support and guidance to local authorities to help them get the excellent designs for schools that they deserve. Evidence shows that better-designed schools lead to higher motivation and educational attainment.

CABE's schools design quality programme

The new CABE schools design quality programme, funded by the DfES, will provide free advice and support for local authorities commissioning BSF projects. The programme integrates specialist guidance from CABE's enabling service with the new CABE schools design assessment panel process. CABE will be working in partnership with DfES, Partnerships for Schools and 4ps to provide a coherent, joined-up package of advice to enable local authorities to become expert clients.

CABE's enabling services

CABE's enabling work will support local authorities in developing their aspirations for design quality, promoting the highest standards in architecture, urban design, landscape and regeneration – with the aim of achieving better designed schools that will encourage the transformation of teaching and learning.

CABE's involvement will begin during the pre-procurement process, before the appointment of a design team or a developer. The enabling service will be provided by leading professionals working as consultants for CABE, as well as CABE staff.

The schools design assessment panel

CABE's new schools design assessment panel will help local authorities evaluate the design quality of projects, support bidders in meeting brief requirements and refining their proposals and ensure that design quality remains consistently high for all BSF schools.

The panel will provide expert advice and assessment of project schemes both at competitive stage and after a local education partnership (LEP) or alternative arrangement is secured.

The panel will be drawn from a pool of around 20 expert advisors from England's architectural and built environment community. Each panel will include specialist schools experts. The panel is supported by a CABE staff team.

Key stages in the CABE schools design quality programme

- Setting a unique local project vision
- Supporting appointment of expert project team advisors
- Understanding the benefits of design quality and value for money
- Assessing options appraisals and feasibility studies
- Securing a shared stakeholder and local authority brief
- Discussing evaluation methodologies and selection criteria

- Informal mid-design workshops with competing design teams
- Formal schools design assessments and follow-up support to bidders and local authorities
- Further design assessments for established local education partnerships.

Direct CABE support

CABE will help local authorities by offering direct advice on critical areas of their BSF project. Key issues include project vision, client resources, briefing and competitive selection of design and developer teams. Through this work, CABE will help local authorities to secure design quality and value for money while delivering new schools on time and to budget.

Additional CABE support

In addition to the support offered through the CABE schools design quality programme, CABE will:

- Provide free training days for design champions and client design advisors
- Publish free guidance on creating successful buildings, school design, roles and responsibilities of key players which are available in hard copy or downloadable from the CABE website
- Conduct research into learning environments and other building types.

For further information and advice about the CABE schools design quality programme, please contact Karen Corkery on 020 7070 7736, email kcorkery@cabe.org.uk. Or visit www.cabe.org.uk/enabling.



CABE will help local authorities to secure design quality and value for money while delivering new schools on time and to budget

This leaflet is an initial introduction to CABE's new schools design quality programme, which is supporting the £45 billion Building Schools for the Future (BSF) initiative. It summarises CABE's involvement from the pre-procurement process onwards and the key issues on which CABE will advise local authorities. It outlines the key stages in the design quality programme, and additional help that is available from CABE.

1 Kemble Street
London WC2B 4AN
T 020 7070 6700
F 020 7070 6777
E enquiries@cabe.org.uk
www.cabe.org.uk

Commission for Architecture
and the Built Environment

The government's advisor
on architecture, urban design
and public space



Published in 2007 by
the Commission for
Architecture and the
Built Environment

Graphic design by Duffy
Printed by HPS on
Starfine environmentally
friendly paper.

All rights reserved.
No part of this
publication may be
reproduced, stored in a
retrieval system, copied
or transmitted without
the prior written consent
of the publisher except
that the material may be
photocopied for non-
commercial purposes
without permission from
the publisher.

As a public body,
CABE encourages
policymakers to create
places that work for
people. We help local
planners apply national
design policy and offer
expert advice to
developers and
architects. We show
public sector clients how
to commission buildings
that meet the needs of
their users. And we seek
to inspire the public to
demand more from their
buildings and spaces.
Advising, influencing and
inspiring, we work to
create well-designed,
welcoming places.