



New Sustainable Design Toolkit materials published

By simply working through and completing the questions within the interactive PDFs you can create your own Sustainable Design Statement to explain the rationale and merits of your scheme in terms of energy and climate change, design and place making, landscape and biodiversity, water and other aspects of sustainable design and construction required by planning policy.



You can edit and save your draft Sustainable Design Statement within the PDF before submitting it alongside your planning application or pre-application submission. The PDFs also allow you to use the Sustainable Design Toolkit to

inform or work in conjunction with design frameworks and site briefs, and to refer to when discussing proposals with clients and stakeholders away from the computer.

Additional 3D visual guidance is now available within the interactive 3D models for Householder extensions, Multi-residential development and Education & Health development. Further visual guidance within the Commercial & Industrial and Large & Mixed Use 3D models is to be published shortly, so watch this space.

Click [here](#) to access the Sustainable Design Toolkit.



Design Review Service for Hertfordshire

The NPPF and national planning practice guidance support the use of Design Review as a tried and tested method of promoting good design and improving the design quality of schemes.

The Hertfordshire Design Review Panel operates to help planning authorities,

project teams and their clients realise the full potential of development schemes in Hertfordshire.



Recent design review of scheme in Hertford

Design Review is impartial, practical, site and scheme specific and relates to national and international standards of good practice as well as local planning and contextual issues. It is most effective if done at the early stages of design and planning to enable applicants to take positive action based on the advice provided via the review process. Design review is not an end in itself but a valuable addition to existing planning mechanisms, helping to achieve better outcomes.

The Hertfordshire Design Review Panel has been in operation since 2011 as a practical addition to the Building Futures initiative. It is multi-disciplinary in its composition and can therefore review schemes of various scales, types and contexts and provide advice across a wide range of issues: architecture, urban design, master planning, planning, landscape, sustainability, transport, ecology, historic environment and engineering.

Updated information on design review and the Hertfordshire Design review Panel is now available on the Building Futures website, including a new pro-forma should you wish to bring a scheme before the Panel.

Click [here](#) to learn about the design review process, the Panel, how to submit schemes and to download the pro-forma.

Centre for the Built Environment: new seminar dates

The Centre for the Built Environment are pleased to announce the latest programme of exciting and informative seminars, tours and workshops based around the design, build and post occupancy of the Enterprise Centre building.



Designed to Passivhaus and BREEAM Outstanding and to achieve a positive impact on the environment using renewable building materials, the 3,400m² building offers a bold vision of the future. Work is now underway and we are giving local businesses the exclusive chance to get on site and observe the building during construction, as well as the valuable opportunity to speak to the design team at one of our regular site tours.

The seminars are FREE to eligible businesses in the East of England. Places are limited to 15 places, so book early to ensure a place. Details of our seminars for March to May 2014 can be found [here](#).