

E-Newsletter

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**BuildingFutures**

A Hertfordshire guide to promoting sustainability in development

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## Hertfordshire Design Review Panel



We are delighted to announce the continuation of the 'Hertfordshire Design Review Panel,' for the period 2015-2017. A revitalised panel, including existing and new panel members, is set to provide independent and expert design review and enabling services to developers and Local Planning Authorities in Hertfordshire.

The new Panel takes an innovative multidisciplinary approach to the provision of its design review services. Members have been recruited due to their wealth of experience and expertise across a range of disciplines from architecture, urban design, and landscape. This fresh approach means that services can be tailored to an individual's requirements, and ensures the delivery of high quality specialist advice in response to the unique environmental constraints and opportunities of a scheme.

For more information about the Hertfordshire Design Review Panel, and how to engage with its services, please visit the Building Futures website or contact [hertsdesignreview@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:hertsdesignreview@hertfordshire.gov.uk).

Interested in becoming a design review panel member? The Panel requires members with expertise in Transport Planning and Engineering, the Historic Environment (archaeology, building and urban conservation) and the Natural Environment (ecology). If you are interested in applying, please contact [hertsdesignreview@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:hertsdesignreview@hertfordshire.gov.uk).

## Building Futures Awards 2015



The 'Building Futures Awards 2015' are approaching and provide a fantastic opportunity to promote the leaders of sustainable design in Hertfordshire.

The awards recognise and reward projects that demonstrate sustainability, innovation and high quality design in response to environmental challenges. Projects must be located in Hertfordshire, and have been constructed since 16<sup>th</sup> September 2013. They can

be entered under one or more award categories that include the most sustainable construction, design excellence, climate change adaptation, and retrofit for the future.

Further Award details will be released shortly. In the meantime if you have been involved with, or are aware of any schemes that are at the 'cutting edge' of sustainable design, we would like to hear from you at [building.futures@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:building.futures@hertfordshire.gov.uk).

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## Housing Standards Review

The Government has announced the conclusion to the Housing Standards Review. The review aimed to cut red tape for house builders, and simplify government regulations and standards into one key set, driven by Building Regulations.

As well as the amendments to the current regulations, there will be new dual level Building Regulations for access and water giving local authorities the choice to require developers to build to different standards than the minimum requirements. Local Authorities can also use the new space standards which make up the new national technical standards. There will also be a new mandatory security regulation.

The Government has also clarified the future of the Code for Sustainable Homes. In England the code has been revoked for all but 'legacy' developments. Legacy developments are legally contracted to apply the code such as affordable housing funded through the National Housing Programme. Another example is where a project has already been granted planning permission subject to a code rating.

Further information on the Government announcement can be found at [www.bre.co.uk/housing-standards-review](http://www.bre.co.uk/housing-standards-review).