

# People, Places and Planet

## A+DS Briefing Paper

**‘People, Places and Planet’ aims to promote debate and to set out a clear basis for understanding how the principles of sustainability, applied to the process of place-making, can deliver improvements to our built environment.**

How places are created now and in the future is vital to addressing the challenges posed by climate change. Sustainable design is a necessity of high quality development – it influences not only the performance of our built environment but also its character. To create sustainable places, and sustainable buildings, designs must respond to myriad issues, including: transport connectivity, energy efficiency and spatial planning. We are all responsible for tackling climate change and our collective efforts are needed if a sustainable Scotland is to be realised. Working with the public, private and third sectors A+DS helps to guide the delivery of sustainable places for the communities of Scotland through a number of activities, projects and programmes A+DS:

- Champions the value of design quality as a key element of policy and procurement initiatives.
- Promotes the development of linkages with academic institutions to develop thematic research into design approaches, design standards.
- Develops practical methods of translating place potential into tangible planning and design policies.
- Sets an example through our own activities and operations.

Through our **Design Review programme** we:

- Provide a qualitative assessment of a selection of significant Scottish development projects each year at the pre-planning and planning stage.
- Positively influence the quality of these projects by engaging directly with design teams, clients, local authorities and other national bodies.
- Monitor this process to feedback ‘lessons learnt’ and make evidence-based recommendations to policy-makers and the place-making community on nationally significant trends.
- Work with the hierarchy of projects proposed in planning reform.
- Support local design review panels, established in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Inverness and being developed in Aberdeen and Stirling.

Through our **Urbanism programme** we:

- Develop strategies for ‘connected’ thinking about places, place design and place delivery, for example in our work with Inverness and Stirling Councils in envisioning the future of these places.
- Work with partner organisations to develop a number of pilot place-making initiatives and studies, including sustainable housing design, for both the private and public markets, as well as focusing on scenario planning, plan making, urban structure and urban form.
- Support training and skills initiatives with key partners.
- Work with the Scottish Government on specific programmes such as our Health and Schools programmes, to enable higher quality health and learning environments, and on emerging programmes such as the Scottish Sustainable Communities Initiative.

In the future A+DS will continue to advocate that to achieve a sustainable outcome designs must be approached in a holistic manner. If considered clearly from its inception, sustainable buildings and places need not cost considerably more. In terms of long-term value, good place-making can deliver positive social, economic and environmental outcomes.

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