

Architecture & Design Scotland

Ailtearachd is Dealbhadh na h-Alba

A&DS Biodiversity Report 2017 and beyond



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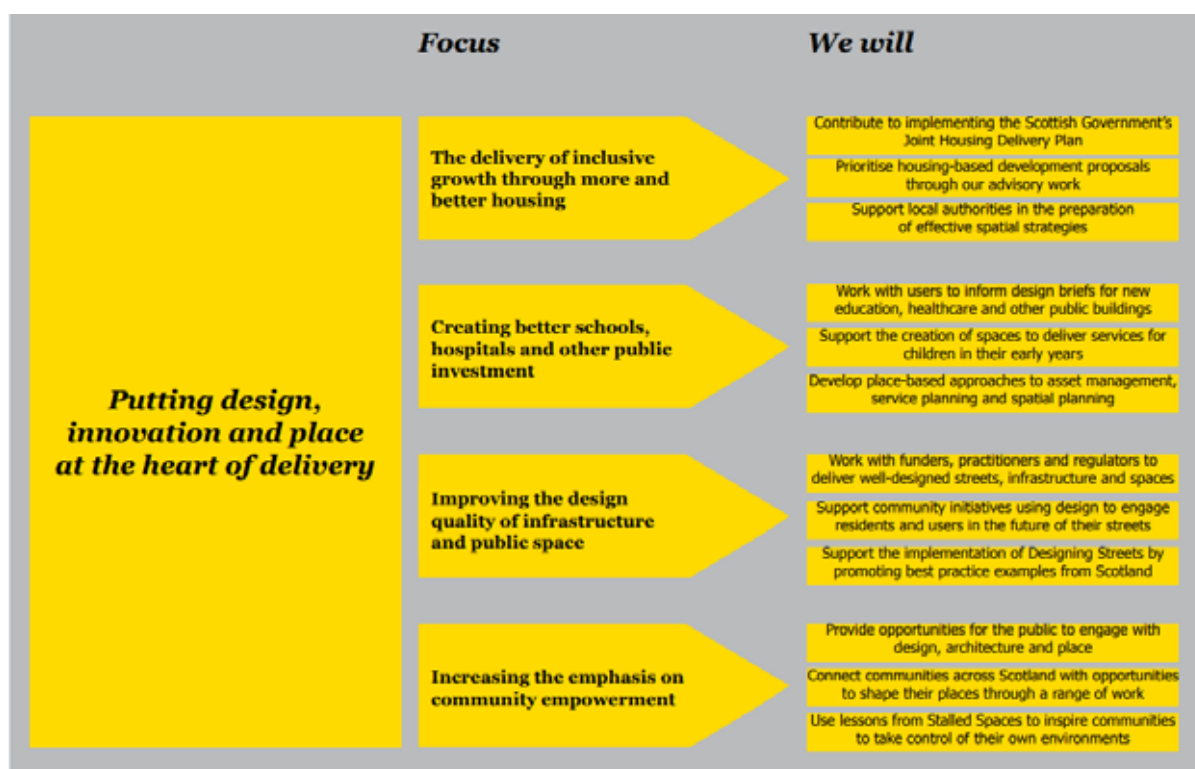
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A&DS Biodiversity Report to 2017 and beyond

About Us

Architecture and Design Scotland (A&DS) is an Executive Non-Departmental Public Body of the Scottish Government. Established in 2005 to promote good architecture and sustainable design, our work supports the delivery of the Scottish Government's objectives and outcomes. Our role, as set out in *Creating Places*, is to support and promote Scottish Ministers' policies and objectives for the built and natural environment. This role is intended to improve the quality of development in Scotland and to support and promote excellence in the delivery of good architecture, successful places and efficient processes. This role also requires us to work with other organisations to develop an effective focus on place, architecture and design across policies and working practices.

Our Strategic Plan for 2017 – 2020 sets out our focus areas to put design, innovation and place at the heart of delivery.



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Our bases in Scotland

Edinburgh – we occupy a two storey building at Bakehouse Close, just off the Canongate. This is a leased property with a small outdoor space, and we are responsible for maintenance of the building. Our Glasgow office is contained on level 2 of The Lighthouse, Mitchell Lane. This is a leased office space and Glasgow City Council are responsible for the maintenance of the building.

Across the two offices we have 24 FTE staff, and being a small organisation we have a relatively low carbon footprint. Travel is our biggest footprint and we are trying to reduce travelling by investing in technology.

Managing the strategy and our public reporting duties – in 2017 and beyond

We are keen to ensure we use our grant from Scottish Government responsibly and help to reduce Scotland's overall carbon emissions.

Our overall Environmental Strategy is led by our Corporate Services Manager and we encourage all of our staff to take the lead to help ensure A&DS achieves and maintains its targets set out in our strategy, in line with the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

Biodiversity

We are keen to ensure that A&DS has an impact on the surroundings it occupies. Our biodiversity targets are set out in our overall environmental strategy below.

Objectives, achievements and success measures

Objective	Achievements so far – to end 2017	2018 – 2020 measures of success
Set up and maintain outdoor wildlife garden, with bird boxes.	We have a small outdoor space which we maintain, using the guidelines from RSPB to encourage birds and wildlife into the garden area.	We will add additional bird boxes yearly to encourage more birdlife into the garden.

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<p>We provide bushy hedges provide excellent wildlife habitat.</p>	<p>We have maintained our shrubbery to allow wildlife to nest throughout the year – we have blue tits and great tits nesting.</p>	<p>We will plant wild flowers in the grass area to attract insets and bees into the garden.</p>
<p>Plant native shrubs, flowers and grasses whenever possible Encourage birds by e.g. rowan, hawthorn, and cherry; and replaced ornamental planting with native species; diversify your woodland areas by creating glades and sun spots.</p>	<p>We have planted native shrubs and bushes.</p>	<p>We have a rolling plan to plant both native and non-native plants to encourage a wider range of wildlife into our garden.</p>
<p>Cut grass areas – cut once in spring and once in autumn to encourage flowers to grow and set seed.</p>	<p>We maintain our grass area – cutting 4 times per year.</p>	<p>In 2018 we will be planting wild flowers in the grass bed to encourage insects, butterflies and bees.</p>
<p>Share outside space with local community eg local infant school.</p>	<p>Initial ideas being written up.</p>	<p>Looking at developing small rear garden into a space for local city infant school to use – we will work with school to create useable learning space, and set up staff volunteering days to transform space.</p>
<p>Use recycled paper.</p>	<p>We are part of the Government.</p>	<p>Continue to source recycled paper and products.</p>

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Low energy lightbulbs.	Where possible we use low energy bulbs.	Continue to source low energy products and replace existing when necessary with lower energy options.
Recycle and re-use as much as you can so that you produce less waste.	We recycle whenever possible, donate items to charity and other good causes.	Continue to recycle and repurpose items.
Encourage staff to cycle or walk to work more - provide safe bike storage and a bike to work scheme.	We provide bicycle racks in both offices and participate in the Government's bike to work scheme.	Continue to encourage staff to use alternative forms of transport to and from work and when travelling to meetings.
Use technology for meetings to keep carbon footprint low.	<p>We are investing in technology to allow meetings to happen remotely ie less travel involved.</p> <p>We also actively encourage our flexible working policy which allows staff to work from home.</p>	Develop staff policies around flexible working, encourage remote attendance at meetings, use public transport where possible and embrace new technology advances.

Indicators of Success over next 3 years

- Reduce our business travel and increases our levels of sustainable travel;
- Increase our use of Microsoft 365 products for video and teleconferencing facilities, Skype etc;
- Implementation of Staff Volunteering Policy;
- Local school and child community groups using outdoor space.