

Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission –Terms of Reference

Purpose / role of the Commission:

The purpose of the 'Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission' is to tackle the challenge of poor quality design and build of homes and places, across the country and help ensure as we build for the future, we do so with popular consent. The Commission will gather evidence from both the public and private sector to develop practical policy solutions to ensure the design and style of new developments, including new settlements and the country's high streets, help to grow a sense of community and place, not undermine it.

Aims:

- **To gather evidence from stakeholders and other sources.** The Commission will gather evidence to understand the scale and nature of the challenge. Identify opportunities to tackle this, promoting improved quality and greater community consent.
- **To advocate for beauty in the built environment.** Act as champions and advocates for the Government's commitment to beauty in the built environment, with a focus on the opportunity to improve the quality of homes and places through establishing Garden Cities/Towns/Villages and the renewal of high streets.
- **To develop workable ideas to help renew high streets and inform the planning and design of new settlements.** Through the commissioning of appropriate activity, and the gathering of evidence, the Commission will challenge current practices, policies and behaviours to develop pragmatic solutions to the challenges identified.
- **To develop practical ideas for the identification and release of appropriate land and the new infrastructure need to support development.** Draw in evidence on the best ways to achieve community consent as land is brought forward for development and the role new technological enabled infrastructure helps to support this.
- **To inform the work of MHCLG and other Government Department policy teams.** Government policy development will be informed through the sharing of insight and workable ideas and solutions from the Commission.

Membership:

It is proposed that:

- There will be a core group of four commissioners, with a chair. They would be supported by a second tier group of around 8 advisors who they could call upon as required.
- Additional stakeholders, including representatives from the sector such as housebuilders, would be called upon to contribute to the work of the commission by the chair, as required.
- MHCLG officials will provide team of officials to provide support to the group including acting as a secretariat. The team of officials will report in directly to the Chief Planner.

Accountability:

The Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission will report to James Brokenshire, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Timing:

The provisional Building Better, Building beautiful Commission timetable will be as follows:

- November 2018: The chair is interviewed and appointed by the Secretary of State
- December 2018: The chair assembles commissioners.
- January 2019 to May 2019: The Commission gather evidence.
- July 2019: The Commission provide an interim report and initial recommendations to the Minister.
- August 2019 – October 2019 Further evidence gathering and commissioning of activity associated with developing solutions.
- December 2019 – final report from the Commission to the Secretary of State.

Meetings:

The Chair will be expected to hold quarterly meetings with Secretary of State James Brokenshire MP over the course of the 12 month programme, to initiate, update on and report back on progress. Other time and meetings spent on the strategy are at the discretion of the Chair.

Role of MHCLG:

MHCLG and Design Team policy officials will support the strategy and provide secretariat. They will share information and resources and will provide briefing to the Chair and members. In addition to this secretariat function, officials will provide analytical support and will help to showcase examples of good practice. MHCLG will provide a link to stakeholder organisations, including bodies who represent different aspects of the sector and other Government departments, and facilitate introductions.