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Press Release

Expert reviews of proposed built environment schemes in East of England to continue

The quality of design in the built environment in the East of England has received a boost, following the announcement by The Design Council CABE that it will provide financial support for the continuation of the region's 'design review panel', which helps ensure proposed developments are of high quality.

The [East of England design review panel at Shape East](#) will receive a grant of £65,000 for 2011-12 to enable it to continue running the system of local design reviews, which complement CABE's national design review service. These local reviews provide expert advice to local authorities, community groups, clients and design teams so that they can achieve high quality design in developments.

The announcement of the grants secures the continuation of the panels, whose future was in doubt following the withdrawal of almost all government funding for the service in March 2011.

Each of the affiliated panels will receive £65,000, which will cover a proportion of its running costs for the current financial year (to March 2012). The grants will enable the delivery of 250 design reviews of schemes across England in the next year.

Design review is a tried and tested method of upholding design quality in the built environment. The affiliated panels' local knowledge will be of particular significance in the context of the localism agenda and the evolving planning system; The panels will be expected to use planning and urban design experts to review neighbourhood plans as well as conduct reviews involving the local community.

Diane Haigh, Director of Design Council CABE, comments: 'CABE and the vibrant network of affiliated panels share a commitment to ensuring high quality design in the built environment. We have always worked closely with the eight panels; this grant is an important milestone in reinforcing that network and will strengthen our collective design review offer to local authorities, community groups and clients.'

Department of Communities and Local Government is providing the funding for the continuation of key CABE services including Local and National Design Review.

The network of panels has had a long standing relationship with CABE, which supported the set-up of many of the panels and since 2009, have been affiliated to its Design Review service. The grant will be divided equally between: Creating Excellence, Kent Architecture Centre, Shape East, OPUN, MADE, NE design review service, Integreat Plus and Places Matter.

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