

Inclusive Environments

Built Environment Industry Action Plan



Partners



Department for
Communities and
Local Government



Department
for Work &
Pensions



Building Control Alliance

BIFM[®]

ADVANCING OUR PROFESSION



THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF BUILDING



ENGLISH
HERITAGE

**Landscape
Institute**

Inspiring great places

National Register  Access Consultants



RIBA 

Royal Institute of
British Architects



RTPI

mediation of space · making of place



The
Access
Association

Foreword

The Government is committed to improving life choices and opportunities for disabled people in their private lives, in their communities and in employment.

Ensuring that the principles of inclusive design are fully integrated into construction industry practice is key to making our environment more inclusive and accessible for all. We have seen significant improvements in design of the built environment over recent decades, but I believe that it is the initiative and leadership of the industry itself that will make the real difference.

The challenge that we set for the construction industry was to identify how to work more collaboratively across disciplines, and within professions, to drive up awareness; improve skills and deliver long term improvement in the quality of inclusion whenever we construct or renew our built environment.

The Construction Industry's Commitment and Action Plan that the key professional institutions present here is a great start in making a more inclusive built environment a reality. Our construction industry is full of committed highly skilled professionals who rightly have a world leading reputation – and we want to see them lead the way in building the best most accessible most inclusive country in the World.

Stephen Williams
Minister for Communities

There are 12 million disabled people in Britain. They and their households have an estimated spending power of over £200bn. I believe that the economic, social and moral imperative of achieving an accessible environment for disabled people, their families and friends cannot be understated.

Yet the reality is that many disabled people still face barriers in their everyday lives that prevent them from being full and active members of their community. Removing the obstacles that disabled people face is the responsibility of all of us. Inclusive design is at the heart of this.

So I am delighted that the construction industry has come together to act. Committing to champion inclusive design at the highest levels, rewarding excellence and raising awareness will help to maintain the profile of this important issue.

I am particularly pleased to see that all the professional bodies signed up to the action plan are committed to improving inclusive design education. This will help to implement the Built Environment Professional Education Project – a key legacy objective of the Paralympic Games. Working to increase inclusive design skills and knowledge of built environment professionals from the outset of their education will help to ensure that our future towns and cities will be inclusive for all.

Mark Harper
Minister for Disabled People

Commitment to an Inclusive Built Environment

The built environment can contribute to a more equal, inclusive and cohesive society if places, facilities and neighbourhoods are designed to be accessible and inclusive for all. Inclusive design aims to remove the barriers that create undue effort and separation. It enables everyone to participate confidently and independently in everyday activities.

The Olympic park set a benchmark for quality of inclusion which was rightly lauded worldwide, and the construction industry is committed to its own process of continual improvement in ensuring every environment strives to be equally inclusive.

Industry partners who have worked to develop this action plan have made specific commitments to promote the planning, design, construction, development and management of inclusive environments by:

- Reviewing competencies including vocational courses, to ensure inclusive environments are properly supported
- Collaborating on industry wide and sectoral Continuing Professional Development
- Rewarding excellence and celebrate success
- Championing inclusive design through leadership and promote awareness
- Collaborating on research, innovation and continual improvement across industry
- Communicate best practice to members and encourage knowledge sharing between professional Institutions via Inclusive Environments Hub

Signatories to this action plan will prepare a report on the progress that has been made, and their plans to update the Action Plan, and present this to the Minister for Building Regulations and the Minister for Disabled People in February 2016.

The Construction Industry Council (CIC) commitment on behalf of the built environment professions

CIC is the representative forum for the professional bodies, research organisations and specialist business associations in the construction industry. The CIC provides a single voice for professionals in all sectors of the built environment through its collective membership of 500,000 individual professionals and more than 25,000 firms of construction consultants.

CIC has committed to extending the principles of the Action Plan across its entire membership to ensure the widest possible impact among the built environment professionals.

The Action plan

Actions / Professional Body	Review competencies including vocational courses, to ensure inclusive environments are properly supported	Collaborate on industry wide and sectorial Continuing Professional Development	Reward excellence and celebrate success	Champion inclusive design through leadership and promote awareness	Collaborate on research, innovation and continual improvement across industry	Communicate best practice to members and encourage knowledge sharing between professional Institutions via Inclusive Environments Hub
Building Control Alliance (BCA)	●	●	●	●	●	●
British Institute of Facilities Management	●	●	●	●	●	●
Cabe at Design Council	●	●	●	●	●	●
Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists (CIAT)	●	●	●	●	●	●
Construction Industry Council		●	●	●	●	●
Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB)	●	●	●	●	●	●
English Heritage		●		●	●	●
Landscape Institute ⁱ	●	●	●	●		●
National Register of Access Consultants (NRAC)	●	●	●	●		●
Planning Officers Society (POS)		●	●	●	●	●
Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)	●	●	●	●	●	●
Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)	●	●	●	●	●	●
Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI)	●	●	●	●	●	●
The Access Association ⁱⁱ	●	●	●	●	●	●

i The Landscape Institute is currently reviewing the training of its members. Inclusive design is at the heart of this review.

ii The Access Association is not a competency based organisation, however are happy to assist other bodies in reviewing relevant competencies.