

18 May 2016 by Michael Donnelly

The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) and a raft of other professional bodies have written to the communities secretary urging him to accept key recommendations made in a House of Lords report, including measures to strengthen spatial planning.



Parliament: Lords committee published report in February

The RTPI has joined a number of key built environment organisations - including the Academy of Urbanism, Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation, Design Council-CABE, Institute of Historic Buildings Conservation, Landscape Institute, Royal Institute of British Architects, Urban Design Group, and the Place Alliance - to urge Greg Clark to implement a number of recommendations made by the House of Lords Select Committee on National Policy for the Built Environment.

The committee's report, *Building Better Places*, was published on 19 February and contained over 60 conclusions and recommendations.

A statement issued by the RTPI said that the group had singled out eight of the most important recommendations for the government to consider. They are:

- Give further encouragement to joint spatial frameworks and cross-boundary cooperation on 'larger than local' planning

- Promote the health and well-being impacts of the built environment in a more integrated way across local authorities
- The new process of permission in principle should give due regard to design quality and the key components of place-making
- The National Infrastructure Commission should publicise its approach to local design impacts and local engagement
- Incentivise decision makers to more systematically use Design Review for major developments
- Encourage the adoption of Manual for Streets by highways authorities
- Appoint a chief built environment advisor within government to help co-ordinate policy, to act as a champion for design and to promote good practice beyond government
- Establish a high level architecture and place policy for England.

The government has yet to respond to the committee's report.

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