

BRIEFING

Bartlett school of planning is to undertake a national review of housing design quality

University College London's Bartlett School of Planning is to carry out an audit funded by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) and the Place Alliance, a non-profit network whose supporters include the Planning Officers Society, Civic Voice, and the Local Government Information Unit.

Between 2005 and 2007 CABE conducted three regional audits covering the whole of England. CPRE says the new audit will use CABE's methodology to assess at least 100 large residential projects across England and is intended to provide data to allow comparisons between regions and different approaches to development.

External residential environments of developments will be assessed against 17 criteria including housing types, community facilities, public transport, highways, parking, environmental impact, landscape, character, and architectural quality.

The Bartlett will be supported by professional advisers from consultancies Arup, JTP, Spawforths and URBED, and volunteers. Matthew Carmona, professor at the Bartlett, is leading the research. He told *BDonline*: "We know much about the numbers of houses we are delivering nationally, but almost nothing about their quality. A housing design audit aims to address that gap and provide a baseline from which to make more informed judgements about the standard of housing design that we should be expecting nationally and locally."

An advisory group includes the Home Builders Federation, the Urban Design Group, the Academy of Urbanism, the Design Council, the UK Green Building Council, and the Institute for Highways and Transportation.

The work is expected to be completed in the autumn and the results will be submitted to the government's *Building Better, Building Beautiful* Commission. ■

Foster + Partners to design only carbon-neutral buildings by 2030

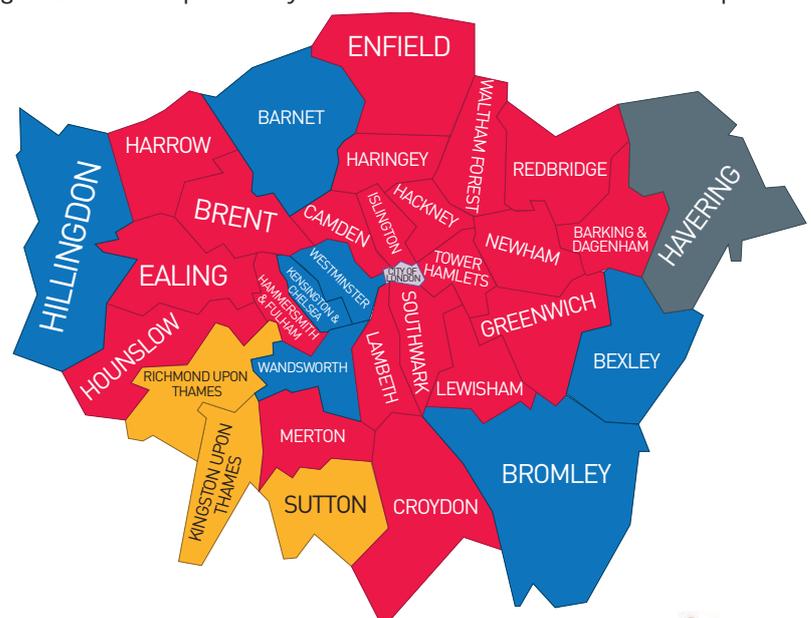
Foster + Partners is the first architecture practice to sign up to the Net Zero Carbon Buildings Commitment, meaning that by 2030 all buildings created by the practice will be carbon neutral.

The firm has joined 23 cities, including New York, London and Tokyo, in signing the commitment, which aims to reduce the built environment's contribution to climate change. "We are proud to be the first architecture practice to sign up to the Net Zero Carbon Buildings Commitment, and welcome the Advancing Net Zero Status Report 2019 by the World

Green Building Council as a collection of market leadership," said Chris Trott, partner at Foster + Partners and head of sustainability for the practice, reports *Dezeen*.

Signatories to the Net Zero Carbon Buildings Commitment have promised to make all new buildings net zero carbon for 2030, and do the same for their existing buildings by 2050. Construction is a particularly carbon-intensive industry.

Carbon neutral buildings reduce or offset the carbon emissions produced in their construction and over their life cycle. They are energy efficient structures that integrate passive strategies and often include renewable energy strategies to offset the carbon released in their construction process. ■



© newgatecomms.com

LONDONBOROUGHS