

AT A GLANCE

Housing and Built Environment

Definition

The Egan Review states that in order to plan, deliver and maintain sustainable communities, a number of components need to be addressed, one of these components is identified as ‘a quality built and natural environment’.

A number of sub components are listed, giving a more detailed explanation of what needs to be addressed:

- Creating a sense of place (e.g. a place with a positive ‘feeling’ for people, and local distinctiveness)
- Well-maintained, local, user-friendly public and green spaces with facilities for everyone including children and older people
- Sufficient range, diversity and affordability of housing within a balanced housing market
- A high quality, well-designed built environment of appropriate size, scale, density, design and layout that complements the distinctive local character of the community
- High quality, mixed-use, durable, flexible and adaptable buildings

How is the Egan theme reflected in IGNITE?

Within the Housing and Built Environment theme there are 9 sub themes in IGNITE, as follows:

- **Architecture**
The practice of designing and building structures in the built environment and the development of innovative ways of creating new buildings and adapting existing ones. Architects may be involved in master planning and urban design (see below, Urban Design).
- **Regeneration**
To bring brownfield (previously developed) land and buildings back into effective use through site acquisition and assembly, land reclamation and remediation; the demolition, refurbishment or conversion of buildings; the provision of services, infrastructure and access; in order to facilitate the development of new commercial property (see below), housing (see below), social and recreational facilities and create a safe and attractive environment.
- **Commercial Property**
This comprises all non-residential or non-domestic real estate, such as shops, offices, industrial and leisure premises, and the variety of aspects and disciplines associated with

them, such as commercial property development, management, valuation, agency, regulation, investment and finance.

- **Building and Construction**

The construction of buildings or assembly of infrastructure on sites which may include project and construction management activities, building pathology, construction technology, building control, facilities management, maintenance and refurbishment.

- **Historic Buildings**

This includes listed buildings; buildings situated in conservation areas; buildings which are of local architectural or historical interest and which are referred to as a material consideration in a local authority's development plan; and buildings of architectural and historical interest within national parks, areas of outstanding natural beauty, and world heritage sites (English Heritage).

- **Housing**

Comprises domestic or residential accommodation, including owner occupier, private rented, not-for profit and public sectors, and the variety of aspects and disciplines associated with it, such as development, management, valuation, agency, regulation, investment and finance.

- **Planning**

This is the system by which the use and development of land is managed for the benefit of all the community. The overall aim of the system is to ensure a balance between enabling development to take place and conserving and protecting the environment and local amenities (RTPI).

- **Urban Design**

This is the process of shaping the physical setting for life in cities, towns and villages. It involves the design of buildings, groups of buildings, spaces and landscapes, and establishing the processes that make successful development possible.

- **Public Realm**

This includes publicly owned streets; paths; rights of ways; parks and other publicly accessible spaces, and public and civic buildings and facilities.

Other aspects of the Housing and Built Environment dealt with under different IGNITE themes and sub themes, as follows:

- Housing services in the Services theme
- Transport infrastructure in the Transport theme
- Utilities in the Services theme
- Energy and fuel (building services could be classified as this), land reclamation and waste management in the Environment theme
- Economy of land and property in the Economy theme

- Education and training in the Services theme

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