

Future of Building Control Implementation Plan

The government has completed a pre-consultation paper on the Future of Building control in 2007, and followed this with a full consultation in March 2008. 18 months later we have finally received the implementation plan.

The plan sets out the governments' vision for building control as follows:

“Our vision is for a building control system which ensures buildings are safe, healthy, accessible and sustainable for current and future generations.”

To deliver this vision the Building Control Alliance and Communities and Local Government want to see a building control system which:

- is based on objective and fair standards developed through consultation and supported by clear guidance to aid compliance in common building situations
- works with the customer to help them achieve a building project which meets both their expectations and building standards designed for the public good
- works hand-in-hand with other regulatory systems to provide a coherent service to customers
- ensures that the level of inspection is appropriate to the risk and need
- gives local authorities the powers needed to enforce building standards
- ensures all building control bodies regularly assess and continually improve their own performance and effectiveness
- is served by a professional, well-trained and managed building control service which uses resources effectively and efficiently
- offers an effective means of resolving disputes about compliance
- includes communication and awareness raising in respect of both its purpose and the roles, responsibilities and expectations of its stakeholders
- monitors building performance and compliance levels to demonstrate its impact on the delivery of compliant buildings.

The plan is set out in 7 sections which cover:

1. A new future for Building Control
2. A Better approach to regulations and guidance
3. Modernising Inspection and Enforcement
4. Reform of disputes and complaints
5. Alternative Ways to comply
6. Strengthening Performance Management
7. Evidence of Compliance

The government are continuing to develop the package of procedural changes that were originally put forward in the Future of Building Control consultation. This work will culminate in further consultations on new and extended enforcement powers and on building control procedures in 2010 which will be detailed enough to allow for full implementation.