

30 June 2011

Design Council  
34 Bow Street  
London  
WC2E 7DL

Dear Peter Bishop,

## GreenLINK response to the review of Design Council CABE

GreenLINK is a forum, which brings together at a national level, organisations that are active in the green space sector. It provides an open forum where knowledge can be shared, duplication can be avoided and robust and effective responses to challenges that impact on the sector can be jointly developed.

Participating organisations include charities, social enterprises and other non-governmental bodies. Government Agencies and non-departmental public bodies attend as observers, expanding access to information and resources and making useful connections across different government departments, agendas and initiatives.

CABE Space's legacy has been significant and their work has taken the green space sector forward immeasurably in the fields of research, baseline data and advocacy material. They provided a new outlook for the green space sector and encouraged, through its leaders programme and support for other initiatives such as 'towards an excellent service', the idea that green space managers should be better leaders and advocates for their service.

We feel that particularly by the end of their existence CABE Space had built a robust case for green spaces and arguing strongly for their value and role at the heart of sustainable towns and cities.

We will miss their connections into and across government and their ability to open doors that other organisations within the sector would find difficult. Alongside this, their outreach to other sectors, such as, design, planning, nature conservation and health and their ability to have meaningful conversations with developers is a loss to the sector.

The creation of the enabler network allowed CABE to provide specialist advice across the country in a cost effective and targeted manner.

In summary, key to the green space sector has been their research, advocacy, creation of an information base, governmental reach and their ability to coordinate for example, the Skills to Grow programme.

Going forward we anticipate that the Design Council CABE will continue to champion the benefits to society of well-considered participatory design processes, producing high quality environments.

However, we feel that the sustainability of these environments is crucial and would encourage Design Council CABE to continue to support the following key areas:

1. Continuing to champion the benefits of well managed high quality green space to government
2. Continuing to recognise the importance of green infrastructure and the holistic nature of green space systems in urban and peri-urban areas and how their links to the wider countryside can be strengthened
3. Providing support in key areas of training and skills to meet the rapidly changing sectorial needs
4. Supporting the green space sector in researching contemporary issues, particularly around new structures for green space delivery
5. Continuing support for green space enablers
6. Supporting the collection of key data as part of an on-going advocacy portfolio

We acknowledge that the Design Council has secure funding for only two years and a wide portfolio of work. However, we would encourage you to set aside some of your DCLG funding to ensure the legacy of CABE Space and support for organisations and partnerships in continuing their work into the future.

Retaining high quality standards and good access is the key to ensuring that green spaces deliver all of their beneficial outcomes for individuals, communities and places. Whilst high quality green space is amongst the most valuable and treasured of community assets, the converse is often true of neglected or derelict land.

We thank you for the opportunity to meet with you and look forward to working with the Design Council in the future.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Bramhill

Chair of GreenLINK