



# BEFS

Strategy 2008-11

## Our Vision

Our vision is to achieve successful, sustainable place-making in Scotland that reflects the passion and skill of those caring for, and creating, good places for people.

## Our Mission

Our mission is to support organisations in pursuing excellence in place-making by providing a forum for understanding, promoting and influencing the dynamic relationship between the historic environment, new design and sustainable development.



**BEFS**  
Built Environment Forum Scotland

Places, Spaces and People

## Context for BEFS

Scotland's places are continually changing, adapting in response to the demands being made upon them. Good places are those that accommodate change whilst keeping the best of what already exists. The best places hold enduring value and this is complemented when new contributions respect this value and offer something extra. By understanding and responding to what people value in their surroundings, a place becomes a good place to be.

Good places impart a sense of belonging. They are safe, easy to navigate and use, and are attractive. By managing to achieve these qualities, social, economic and health benefits follow. Underlying the careful management and design of our built environment is the challenge of minimising harmful emissions that contribute to climate change.

This balancing and integration of the existing environment with demands for growth and change through sensitive, responsible design is a key challenge for those working with our built environment. It sits at the heart of what we call sustainable place-making.

## Our Principles

### What we stand for:

1. Scotland's places are part of our cultural identity, embodying local character and history, and inspiring personal emotions.
2. Places are characterised by the individual elements of our built and natural environment, the way these interrelate, and by the 'commonplace' as well as the iconic.
3. Places should be people-centred, well-designed and well-managed.
4. Our built environment is crucial to Scotland's sustainable development in addressing both the causes and impacts of climate change.

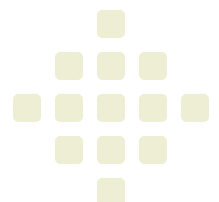
## Our Values

### What is special about how we work:

1. Encouraging trust and mutual respect for each other's activity.
2. Working collaboratively to add value to each other's work.
3. Gathering support around shared purposes and common goals.
4. Accommodating diverse interests and divergent views.

## Our Strategic Theme

BEFS focuses on the cross-connections between all elements of the built environment; on the inter-relationships between the parts that make the whole. This theme will be explored through the subject areas of the historic environment, designing places and sustainable development.



## Our Goals

### What we will accomplish:

1. Encourage constructive dialogue within the cross-disciplinary membership on areas where there is both consensus and difference.
2. Build capacity within and beyond the membership, collaborating on activities that secure successful places.
3. Be the focus for strategic issues to be addressed and developed.
4. Create, shape and champion policies and practices that will improve our care for and enjoyment of the built environment.
5. Represent the collective views of BEFS members on policy and practice issues to decision makers and influencers.

## Our Strategic Outcomes

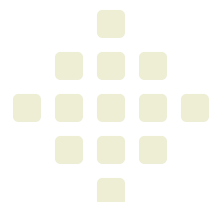
### What we want to achieve:

1. Better outcomes for Scotland's places by understanding and promoting the principles that are collectively held by the members of BEFS.
2. The sustainability of Scotland's places by securing improvements in effective policy development and good practice.
3. A built environment sector in Scotland which is well structured and effectively resourced.
4. A built environment which is understood and valued by the people who use it.

## Our Priorities

### In the next three years we will:

1. Facilitate the development of the place-making agenda.
2. Strengthen the cross-disciplinary input into all aspects of our work.
3. Expand the membership and draw more effectively on the expertise within the forum.
4. Develop the services that we provide as an intermediary body – to support, develop, co-ordinate, represent and promote the activities of the organisations that make up the forum.
5. Expand our influence.
6. Increase our resources to support the needs of the forum, with highest priority being to recruit additional policy staff.





9 Manor Place, Edinburgh, EH3 7DN  
Tel/Fax: 0131 220 6241 Email: [info@befs.org.uk](mailto:info@befs.org.uk) Web: [www.befs.org.uk](http://www.befs.org.uk)