



June 2016

Welcome to the first BEPE Update from the CIC

If you have been following progress with implementing the Built Environment Professional Education Project (BEPE) you will know that it has now transferred to the Construction Industry Council (CIC). The CIC is managing its transition this year from a government driven project to an industry owned and led project.

BEPE was inspired by the accessibility and inclusivity achieved by the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games – ‘the most accessible Games ever’ - and by the subsequent transformation of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and its surroundings into one of the most accessible parks and neighbourhoods in the UK.

BEPE aims to increase the knowledge, skills and capacity of all built environment professionals so that the design, construction and management of all built environment projects - both large and small - can achieve a similar level of accessibility and inclusivity.

BEPE Project Objective

Inspiration for the project came from the Paralympic Legacy Advisory Group who set the following project objective:

‘To embed inclusive design as a core part of the required curriculum in the education of built environment professionals with student assessments and Assessments of Professional Competence that reflect this.’

Given the complexities of changing accreditation criteria and building capacity in educational institutions, it was expected to take at least 5 years to implement the project objective. Lasting change will take time and an inclusive environment can only be achieved with the full support and ownership of the wide range of organisations that make up the built environment industry. However two years into the project it has the support of the key built environment professional institutions and changes have been made. Progress made to date is set out in the BEPE Progress Report now published on the GOV.UK web site [here](#)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/built-environment-professional-education-project-progress-report>.

Subject Benchmark Statements for Land, Construction, Real Estate and Surveying

The Quality Assurance Agency has been reviewing a number of built environment related Subject Benchmark Statements. Architectural Technology, Town Planning and Landscape Architecture all now include a basic knowledge and understanding of inclusive design as a threshold standard. See the Town Planning SBS here <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/SBS-Town-and-Country-Planning-16.pdf>. The draft Subject Benchmark Statement for Land, Construction, Real Estate and Surveying also includes as a threshold, typical and excellent standard the need to acquire a basic knowledge and understanding of the principles and processes that deliver an inclusive environment . The need for undergraduate students to acquire inclusive design skills and knowledge and to learn how to put the needs of people of all ages and abilities at the heart of the construction process will help our future built environment professionals achieve a more accessible and inclusive environment.

Why civil engineers need to know about inclusive design

Also of interest is the Institute of Civil Engineers (ICE) webinar of 26 April 2016, by Jonathan Wright, Senior Programme Manager at Network Rail, who discussed the relevance of inclusive design to civil engineers – see <https://www.ice.org.uk/eventarchive/lunch-and-learn-inclusive-design-in-rail-industry>.

Disability Confident

Another initiative discussed at the Board meeting was the government's campaign to support more disabled people into employment and hence reduce the disability employment gap. Employers in the construction industry can make a significant difference to disabled people's lives by supporting disabled people into employment. More information on Disability Confident is on the GOV.UK web site here - <https://www.gov.uk/disability-confident>. The new scheme starts in mid July when employers will be able to sign up to start their Disability Confident journey.

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