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## **B:** Design Brief

The Design Brief provides an opportunity to test the client's requirements and to establish whether they are functionally, economically, socially and environmentally sustainable. This will involve assessing affordability, the relationship of client activities to potential users, and the relationship between building type, activity and site.

A number of options should be assessed. For a building project to take best advantage of the opportunities for environmental and social enhancement these aspects are best placed on the agenda at the outset. If necessary, specialist consultants should be sought.

This Work Stage should produce a brief for the building that fulfils the client's aims and objectives, including environmental performance.

## The Briefing Process

The brief is crucial. In addition to the usual briefing issues, the following may need special consideration:

- Use of an accepted design briefing guide or professional advisor to confirm procedures, schedules and budgets;
- Development controls and planning policies relating to biodiversity, travel and community needs;



## E: Technical Design

The scheme design should have been signed off by the client as a strategically binding agreement.

Work Stage E is the opportunity for consolidation to address all statutory requirements and to seek to meet and even exceed relevant targets. This would be a good time to revisit the original brief and the sustainable design policy, intentions and commitments. New team members may be appointed or there may be changes in responsibility. It is important to ensure that everyone involved understands the issues to date and is adequately trained to implement the requirements.

This is the point at which integration of structure, services, materials and site is essential, and robust means of consolidation and review are required between members of the design team. The team also needs to plan ahead for specification and buildability if environmental targets are to be achieved. Forward thinking about key elements for inclusion in tender documentation is required.

At this Work Stage, the following points should be considered:

 It will assist in the development of the project if a strategic approach is taken to assessment of environmental credentials of suppliers and contractors, including a pre-qualification