

CONSTITUTION OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOL OF DESIGN

PURPOSE

The school exists to strengthen the capability, status and value of public design in government. The school supports the creation of public value through the design of public policies, services and spaces.

CONSTITUTIONAL PRINCIPLES

- Public design is a distinct field of professional practice concerned with the design of public policies, services and spaces.
- Public design capability contributes to public value, including both financial efficiency and citizen wellbeing.
- Public design capability operates at professional, organisational and systemic levels, and these levels cannot be reduced to one another. The school must support capability across all three levels.
- The school must teach design as a practical, work-based discipline rather than as a purely theory-based body of knowledge.
- The school must support capability that is portable across professions, departments and public bodies.
- The school must operate in the interests of the wider public sector and the public value it creates, rather than any individual organisation.
- The school must operate impartially and transparently.
- The school must act as a platform for both research and practice in public design.

FUNCTIONS

- Maintain a framework for professional public design capability.
- Support the development and recognition of professional public design capability.
- Support organisational capability to commission, integrate and sustain design.
- Support systemic capability through shared standards, evidence and coordination across government.
- Maintain work-based learning and assessment linked to real projects.
- Maintain arrangements for portfolio-based assessment and professional recognition.
- Maintain routes into accreditation and chartership.
- Maintain evidence on the contribution of public design to public value.
- Maintain arrangements for quality assurance, financial oversight and risk management.

GOVERNANCE

- The Policy Design Community Board determines the constitution and strategy of the school.
- The School Assurance Committee is a sub-group of the Policy Design Community Board; it provides objective assurance on finance, constitutional compliance, risks and outcomes.
- The host organisation remains responsible for expenditure, contracts and compliance with corporate rules.

FINANCIAL PRINCIPLES

- The school must operate on a full-cost recovery basis.
- The school must minimise financial and administrative burden on its host organisation.
- Any surplus generated by the school must be reinvested in the purposes of the school; unspent funds will be gifted to the host organisation.
- The school must comply with the financial rules of the host organisation.

AMMENDMENT AND DISSOLUTION

- Amendments to the constitution must be approved by the Policy Design Community Board.
- Dissolution, merger or relocation of the school must be approved by the Policy Design Community Board.