

## DESIGN QUALITY INDICATOR FACT SHEET

### May 2010

#### **What is Design Quality Indicator (DQI)?**

DQI is a web-based assessment tool that helps define and evaluate design quality at all key stages in the design and construction of new buildings and the refurbishment of existing buildings. It involves the people responsible for the design and construction and the building users and local community. DQI can be used at all stages of a building's development and can contribute to the improved quality of buildings.

The Design Quality Indicator is an initiative from the Construction Industry Council (CIC), which is a non-profit making body concerned with all aspects of the built environment.

#### **How does DQI work?**

There are two versions of the toolkit – one for buildings and one specifically for schools. The schools version is being used on all current school projects in the UK and forms part of the Department for Children, Schools and Families 'Minimum Design Standard' for new school buildings.

The Design Quality Indicator functions through a combination of structured workshops and online tools. An assessment group is formed from individuals involved throughout the design and build process. Workshops for the assessment group are facilitated by a dedicated and trained DQI facilitator. The online tools give the assessment group a structure through which to consider a series of important issues relating to their building – the tools take the form of questionnaires and provide instant results that generate discussion during each workshop. The workshops should take place at all stages of a building project.

The workshops and online tools are most effective in achieving outstanding design when introduced early on in a project. In a best-case scenario DQI is introduced at the preparation stage. However the benefits of DQI are clearly visible regardless of what stage it is introduced. The DQI process follows a clear structure that is linked to the industry phases of a building project. At each stage there is a workshop where the online tools are used. These workshops enable DQI to record what participants think about the building or design and present this information in a meaningful way. It is this output that helps inform the process of designing the building.

Through a proprietary algorithm, the tool converts individual subjective perceptions into objective measurable results. Clients, designers and building stakeholders rate aspects of a project on a simple six-point scale by completing a short questionnaire. The quantification of these 'design intangibles' is a unique feature of DQI. The spider diagram is the signature output of DQI. The 'slices' missing from the pie represent deficiencies in the building.

#### **DQI leader keys**

These are required to access the online DQI tools. A separate leader key is required each time you apply DQI to a project. If you intend to use DQI at each of the five stages of a building project you will need to buy five leader keys – it costs £603.75 for five buildings leader keys and £525 for five school buildings leader keys.

To purchase the leader keys see: [www.dqi.org.uk](http://www.dqi.org.uk)

### **Find a facilitator**

CIC maintains a register of facilitators who are trained in facilitating use of the Design Quality Indicator. Guidance on choosing a facilitator and the register is available here:

[www.dqi.org.uk/website/myprojects/facilitators/findafacilitator/default.aspx](http://www.dqi.org.uk/website/myprojects/facilitators/findafacilitator/default.aspx). Each facilitator on the register lists details of their preferred locations and their preferred sector of work.

### **How to become a DQI facilitator**

Facilitators are usually construction professionals with a proven ability of working with the different demand side and supply side groups within a building project. You need to apply to attend a course. The application process consists of two stages:

- Submit an application form
- Telephone interview

DQI facilitator training course consists of two stages:

- A full day event providing a thorough grounding in how, why and when to use the DQI process for a building project
- A second full day event reinforcing the theory of DQI and developing the skills needed to be an effective facilitator

Upon completion of the training courses, applicants are required to gain sufficient experience with DQI before full registration.

The fees for becoming a DQI facilitator in 2010 are £1,300 plus VAT. This covers the application assessment fee (£250), the two training events (£975), and one year's registration (£175).

Applications to become a DQI facilitator are managed in rounds – check the [DQI website](#) for information.

### **Further information**

For detailed information see: [www.dqi.org.uk](http://www.dqi.org.uk)