

Experts chosen for HCA design panel

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The Homes and Communities Agency has appointed a team of six industry experts to advise it on the design quality and sustainability of its developments.

Dru Vesty, MBE, chair of the new design and sustainability advisory group, said: 'Good design is crucial to creating great places with communities sustainable over time. This high-calibre panel of experts can support and challenge the HCA and its partners as they work to deliver better homes and places to live.'

The news comes a week after a study by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment indicated that only 18 per cent of affordable housing built between 2004 and 2008 had good or very good design.

The six-strong team comprises:

- David Birkbeck, chief executive, Design for Homes
- Andrew Drury, managing director, HATC
- Tom Jestico, architect and founder, Jestico + Whiles
- Nick Johnson, deputy chief executive, Urban Splash
- James Pargeter, partner, Drivers Jonas LLP
- Neil Smith, group head of research and innovation, National House Building Council