



Strategic Vision

Creating places
for people



CSS - Our vision

For nearly 125 years, from its origins as the County Surveyors' Society, CSS has been providing the leadership and expertise required to tackle some of the country's most pressing issues.

Working at the strategic level of Local Government, members of the Society are committed to creating and regenerating places for people where they want to live and work. We are operating at the forefront of the sustainability challenge, finding ways to secure not only the quality of life that we aspire to today but also to protect the interests of future generations.

The Society represents an extensive range of local authority technical and professional specialists. CSS members play a leading role in transport, waste management, environment, planning, carbon management and economic development. We also have the experience as strategic leaders to comment on, and influence, a whole range of agendas

We use this knowledge and experience to advise and assist Government to improve the way we travel, manage our waste, reduce our carbon footprint, protect and improve our natural and built environments, and nurture a vibrant national economy.

This vision sets out the role of CSS in shaping the places in which we live and outlines our positions on key issues, providing a basis for dialogue with Government and key opinion formers.

Our role

CSS is a nationally respected, authoritative professional body that ...

Provides the first choice source of advice and expertise for Central and Local Government and stakeholders

Constantly works to anticipate challenges, and dedicates resources to identifying optimum solutions

Ensures maximum sharing of benefits by maintaining an inclusive, participative and responsive membership

Is committed to the promotion of excellence

Actively seeks to influence Government policy on behalf of our members and customers

Our approach

CSS is committed to working alongside the departments and agencies of Central Government, with other bodies, and within Local Government to develop best approaches to both policy and practice. We also work closely with professional bodies and in conjunction with organisations such as the Local Government Association.

We use the vast amount of technical and strategic expertise available in Local Government to address key issues and share the benefits of this knowledge with others.

Through active networking and participation in official consultations, CSS presses for early dialogue and shared intelligence between its members and with Government. We also commission innovative research in order to be able to anticipate, understand and contribute usefully to current and future agendas. Our broad positions on some of the day's major issues are outlined below.

Core activities

CSS pays close attention to the ongoing issues surrounding the core services provided by its members' employers, including economic development, the climate change agenda, the movement and processing of waste, the development of safe and sustainable transport networks, the condition and maintenance of our roads and lighting, the design of new communities, and managing the natural and built environment.

The Society draws on the vast depth of professional experience available within its membership to continually investigate ways of improving service delivery, developing and sharing best practice, and securing value for money.

A national framework for spatial development

CSS believes that regional and local planning needs to be conducted within a strong framework provided by a national spatial development strategy. The Government's Sustainable Communities Plan goes some way towards achieving this, but falls short of a comprehensive framework. The relationships between Growth Areas, Core Cities and the Northern Way are not strongly drawn and whole swathes of the country are not included in any meaningful way.



CSS is keen to work closely with Government and other stakeholders to help shape a national framework for spatial development, influencing the process for producing and cascading it to regional and local planning levels.