



## A quick guide to LABC standards and competency assessment

### **1. Robust standards and quality management**

Over the past four years, LABC has developed robust standards and invested in a dedicated quality management system (QMS). The vast majority of its public service building control teams have voluntarily signed up to the QMS – with the remainder expected to join shortly. With this comes an independent audit backed by UKAS accredited Alcumus ISOQAR. Part of the quality regime includes a competency assessment of surveyors – matching their skills to the complexity of the projects they work on – independently audited to make sure surveyors are not working outside the scope of this competence.

### **2. Award winning learning and qualifications**

Independently assessed standards also apply to LABC's building control learning and qualifications. These OFQUAL accredited qualifications cater for new entrants into the industry (level 3) all the way through to a levy funded degree (level 6) run in association with the University of Wolverhampton and accredited by CIOB, CABE and RICS. These qualifications are open to other disciplines and provide learning pathways for mid-career surveyors – now including those working in the private sector.

Earlier in the year LABC was delighted to win a silver award in the International Learning Awards (Public Sector People Development Programme) for its learning and development. The awards are presented for learning programmes that result in demonstrable performance improvement.

### **3. Impartial competency validation**

In 2018 LABC took on Dame Judith's challenge to prove the competency of building control professionals. Working with the Institution of Fire Engineers, LABC developed an assessment to validate competency for fire safety building regulations in higher risk buildings. To date LABC has accredited 550 surveyors. The scheme is now being extended to cover all levels of building control professionals and is open to both public and private sector building control professionals.

To ensure there is a truly robust and impartial validation of building control professionals' competence LABC is now developing this scheme under UKAS and ISO/IEC 17024 (conformity assessment for bodies operating the certification of persons). Professor Luke Bisby (Edinburgh University), Graham Watts (CIC Chief Executive), Francesca Berriman (CIAT Chief Executive) and David Snowball (Ex-Acting Chief Executive of HSE) will form part of the impartiality committee that will provide independent scrutiny of the LABC scheme.

### **4. Next steps**

Validation assessments for domestic, commercial and lower risk buildings will be rolled out over the next 12 months as will learning, qualifications and validation assessments on Regulatory Enforcement and safety at Sports Grounds.



## 5. LABC accreditation process map

