



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

# Introduction to National Design Guide

October 2019

**Presentation to Design Network**



### Housing White Paper, 2017

Good design is fundamental to creating healthy and attractive places where people genuinely want to live, and which can cater for all members of the community, young or old.

### NPPF, 2018

Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, creates better places in which to live and work and helps make development acceptable to communities.

### Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities, and Local Government, 2019

“In terms of housing over the coming weeks, we will... Emphasise the need to build beautiful homes that people want to live in, being sensitive to local concerns and the environment.”

### Evidence of the importance of design quality

**73%** of people say they would support the building of more homes if well designed and in keeping with their local area.

(National Housing and Planning Advice Unit, 2010)

**57%** of people support the delivery of new housing in their local area, up from 28% in 2010.

(British Social Attitudes Survey, 2018)

**68%** of Civic Voice survey respondents agreed that if the aesthetic appeal of a new development was given more prominence in the planning process, it would make it easier for new developments to win community support.

(Civic Voice, 2019)

**84%** of respondents thought better quality buildings and public spaces improved people's quality of life.

(Policy Exchange, 2018)



# Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

## Examples of good quality design



Functions well & adds to quality of the area  
*Goldsmith Street, Norwich*



Sympathetic to local character and history  
*Trowse Newton, Norfolk*



Visually attractive as a result of good architecture  
*Portobello Square, London*



Integrated with nature  
*The Avenue, Saffron Walden*



Accommodate a mix of development  
*Dickens Yard, Ealing*



Safe, inclusive and promote health & wellbeing  
*Derwenthorpe, York*



## Planning practice guidance for design

### NPPF and Design guidance

#### Planning Practice Guidance

Updated planning practice guidance on Design guidance has been issued to support the policies in the NPPF.

#### PPG Design: Process and tools

PPG sets out the use of tools techniques and processes that help deliver quality design, such as Design Review, design assessment tools, Design Codes and how communities can be effectively engaged on design.

#### PPG Design: National Design Guide

An easy guide for LPAs to inform Local Plan Documents including Local Design Guides.

The Design Guide is linked directly from the updated design PPG on GOV.UK.

Both the Design PPG and Design Guide are a material consideration in the planning process.

#### National Design Guide

Planning practice guidance for beautiful, enduring and successful places



  
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**This guide illustrates how well-designed places can be achieved in practice, and forms part of the Government's collection of planning practice guidance. It should be read alongside the separate planning practice guidance on design process and tools.**



### PPG Design: Process and tools

The Design: Process and tools planning practice guidance covers four key areas:

#### **Planning for well-designed places**

- Plan vision, strategic and non-strategic policies; Local design guides; Masterplans; Design codes; Use of supplementary planning documents.

#### **Making decisions about design**

- Pre-application discussions; Outline planning applications; Parameter plans; Design and Access Statements; Use of conditions; Engaging planning committees; Ensuring quality is not diminished between permission and completion.

#### **Tools for assessing and improving design quality**

- National Design Guide; Local design guides and codes; Design Review; Assessment frameworks.

#### **Effective community engagement on design**

- How local communities can be effectively engaged early in the design process; Effective community engagement tools.



## Production of National Design Guide



### Consultation and workshops

**Consultants:**

Tibbalds Planning and Urban Design and Design Council

**Consultees:**

Developers;

Architects, urban designers, landscape architects, engineers;

Specialists in environment, nature, highways, community, small business, health;

Other Government Departments, BEIS, DEFRA, DfT, DHSC;

Professional bodies.

**Road testing:**

Homes England

HBF

Local Planning Authority

Planning consultants

PINs

Community consultation expert



## National Design Guide Parts 1, 2 and 3

### Part 1

Introduction and purpose and status of the guide and the components of good design.

### Part 2

The ten characteristics of well designed places that work together to create **Character**, nurture a sense of **Community** and positively address **Climate**.

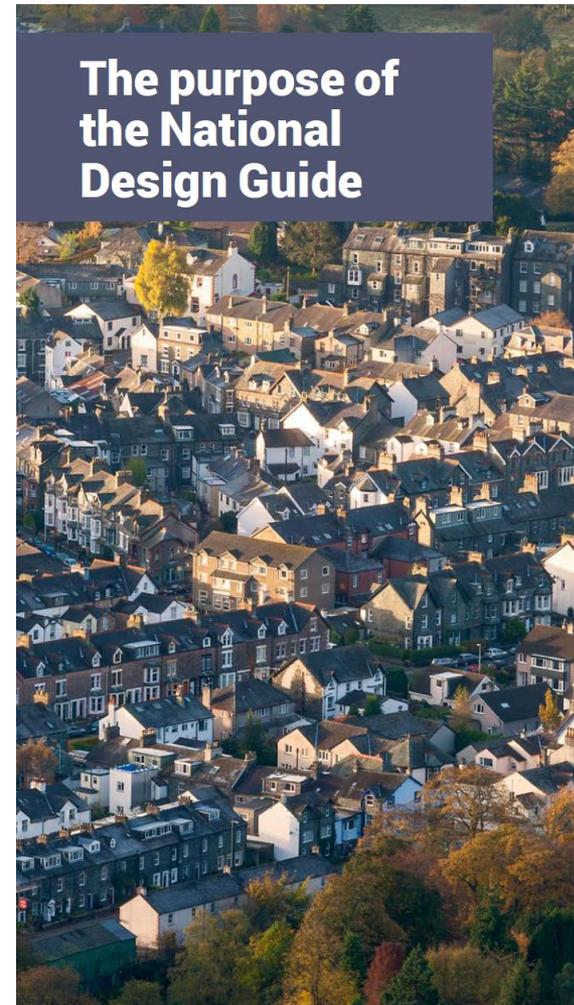
### Part 3

A page holder for a **National Model Design Code** to be published in 2020 following input from the BBBBC and industry consultation. The Code will be used to set a baseline standard of quality to be applied by LPAs.

### Part 4

References and credits

The guide is underpinned by a **Written Ministerial Statement**





## Characteristics of well-designed places

### 10 Characteristics

#### Character, Community, Climate – 3 C's

- **Context** – enhances the surroundings.
- **Identity** – attractive and distinctive.
- **Built form** – a coherent pattern of development.
- **Movement** – accessible and easy to move around.
- **Nature** – enhance and optimise .
- **Public spaces** – safe, social and inclusive.
- **Uses** – mixed and integrated.
- **Homes and buildings** – functional, healthy and sustainable.
- **Resources** – efficient and resilient.
- **Lifespan** – made to last.





**Identity** – *Attractive and distinctive*

Source: *National Design Guide 2019.*

© *Tim Crocker*

## Characteristics of well-designed places

### **Context** - *Enhances the surroundings*

- Understand and relate well to the site, its local and wider context
- Value heritage, local history and culture

### **Identity**- *Attractive and distinctive*

- Respond to existing local character and identity
- Well-designed, high-quality and attractive
- Create character and identity

### **Built form** - *A coherent pattern of development*

- Compact form of development
- Appropriate building types and forms
- Facilities, open spaces and other destinations



**Nature** – *Enhanced and optimised.*  
Source: National Design Guide. 2019  
© Will Wiesner

## Characteristics of well-designed places

### **Movement** - *Accessible and easy to move around*

- An integrated network of routes for all transport modes
- A clear structure and hierarchy of connected streets
- Well-considered parking, servicing and utilities

### **Nature** - *Enhances and optimises nature*

- Provide high-quality, green open spaces with a variety of landscapes and activities, including play
- Improve and enhance water management
- Support rich and varied biodiversity

### **Public spaces** - *Safe, social and inclusive*

- Create well-located, high-quality and attractive public spaces
- Provide well-designed spaces that are safe
- Make sure public spaces support social interaction



**Resources** – *Efficient and resilient*

Source: *National Design Guide*

© *Richard Mullane/Stride Treglown*

## Characteristics of well-designed places

### **Uses** - *mixed and integrated*

- A mix of uses
- A mix of home tenures, types and sizes
- Socially inclusive

### **Homes & buildings** - *Functional, healthy and sustainable*

- Comfortable and safe internal and external environment
- Well-related to external amenity and public spaces
- Attention to detail: storage, waste, servicing and utilities

### **Resources** - *Efficient and future-proofed*

- Maximise resilience through mitigation and adaptation
- Selection of materials and construction techniques
- Follow the energy hierarchy

### **Lifespan** - *Made to last*

- A sense of ownership
- Adaptable to changing needs and evolving technologies
- Well-managed and maintained



### AI & Data Economy

We will put the UK at the forefront of the artificial intelligence and data revolution



### Future of Mobility

We will become a world leader in the way people, goods and services move



### Clean Growth

We will maximise the advantages for UK industry from the global shift to clean growth



### Ageing Society

We will harness the power of innovation to help meet the needs of an ageing society



## Looking forward

The Design Guide has been prepared in the context of social economic, environmental and technical change, and the need to consider new and emerging issues such as;

### Climate change

- extreme weather events, higher temperatures

### Demographics

- addressing needs of an ageing society

### Social

- changing expectations of younger people

### Ownership models

- more renting for property, cars and commodities

### Technological

- changing production and manufacturing methods

### AI

- A digital future and machine led processes

### Construction technology

- increase in offsite production methods

### Mobility

- Move towards electric and autonomous car usage



## Application of design guidance

### Users

Users of the Design Manual might include:

#### **Local Planning Authorities**

To help inform LPAs Visions, Design Guides, Codes, Quality Charters and other tools for setting and evaluating quality.

#### **Councillors & Planning Committees**

Easy guide to best practice in user friendly language.

#### **Communities**

Accessible and informative guide in user friendly language.

#### **Developers & consultants**

Best practice expectations, design review list.

#### **Planning Inspectors**

Hooks for evaluating quality.





## Application of National Design Guide

### Application of National Design Guide in the planning system;

Local plan and policy making;

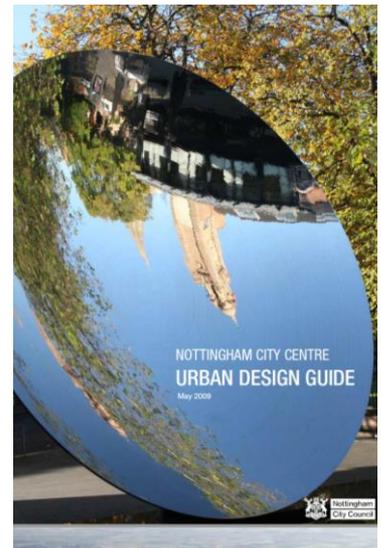
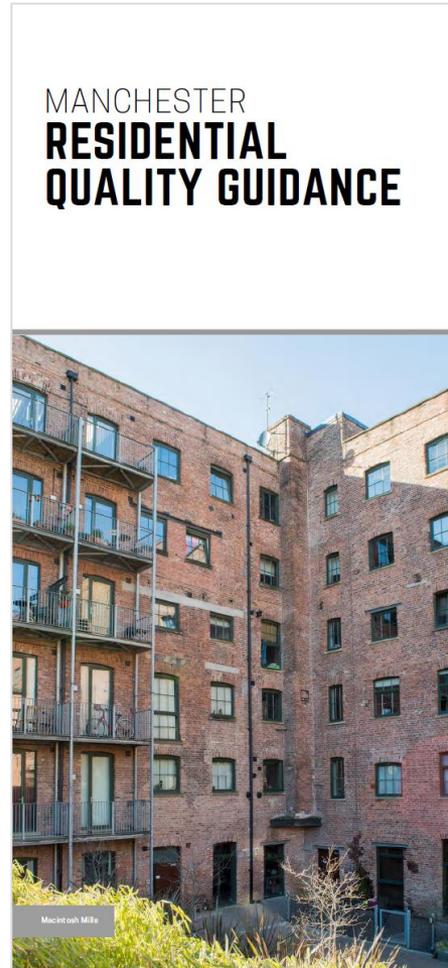
- Development plan vision, objectives, and overarching strategic policies;
- Supplementary Planning Documents, such as local design guides, site specific development briefs, masterplans or design codes, which provide further detail on specific design matters;

Informing Quality Charters, Design Codes, Neighbourhood Plans;

Importance of a narrative or 'story' for design development expressed in Design and Access Statements;

Supporting use of assessment frameworks such as Building for Life 12;

Supporting Design Review.





## Community engagement



### Planning practice guidance: community engagement

How can local communities be effectively engaged early in the design process;

- Co-design and co-production techniques
- Setting clear parameters
- Being diverse and inclusive
- Accessibly
- Timely
- Socially valuable

Effective community engagement tools such as:

- design workshops including charrettes
- design review
- community panels or forums
- exhibitions
- digital methods

Site visits and walking audits;

Effective use of social media to target hard to reach groups.



## Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission

### Purpose of the Commission

The Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission was convened by the previous Secretary of State to develop ideas to improve quality and beauty in the built environment.

It is co-chaired by Nicholas Boys Smith and Sir Roger Scruton, has 5 Commissioners and 9 advisors.

The Commission submitted their interim report in July 2019. It is convening working groups on a series of themes following the interim report. It will contribute ideas for a **National Model Design Code**.

The final report is due to be submitted to the Secretary of State in **December 2019**.

