



planning advisory service



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Resourcing Design Codes

Lessons from the Phase 1 pilot LPAs

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Skills & Resourcing Design Codes: Lessons from the pilot authorities

- **Diverse multi-disciplinary knowledge and skills – urban design led**
 - **Internal partnerships with highways, planning policy and DM.**
- Director level overview, political support, project & consultant management**
- **Most local authorities without in-house urban design capacity - reliant on consultants**

Skills requirements: urban design, graphic presentation and communication, viability and digital engagement

- **The time required depends on scope, size and complexity of coded area - pilots to range from 60 to over 200 days of professional input**
- **Codes part of a larger policy-making or project-shaping effort**
expects this to be drawn from existing work areas (plan making) - not an 'additional' cost, hopecost off-set by streamlined DM process

Challenges of Authority wide codes

Pilot authorities looking at authority-wide code doing so for practical reasons

- targets issues that crop up regularly
- area wide codes resemble previously produced design guides
- challenging doing detailed code due to the size of the district, the vast diversity and geography, settlement patterns and materials, and vernacular architecture
- challenge to turn generic discretionary guidance into specific non-negotiable codes without compromising the flexibility to adapt to diverse and distinctive local conditions.
- authority-wide coding can tackle common authority-wide design problems and can be added to on a site-specific approach.

Resourcing Design Codes: Lessons from the pilot authorities

• Knowledge & Skills to Code

Primary knowledge	Secondary knowledge	Technical skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban design • Landscape / public realm • Architecture • Highways / infrastructure / transport • Planning (policy and development management) • Viability and delivery (marketability) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecology / SUDs / arboriculture • Engineering • Heritage and conservation • Energy (zero-carbon) • Construction • Access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graphics and visualisation (2D and 3D) • Communications (traditional and digital) • Engagement • Analytical • Political awareness • Multi-disciplinary working • GIS • Project management