

# Neighbourhood Planning Design Coding Guidance

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the power of community



Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities

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Publication date: April 2024.

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# Summary

## Why is design quality important?

Creating well-designed and beautiful places can lift our spirits and instil a sense of belonging in the people who live in, work in, and visit them. Good design creates value in our lives. It creates worth for everyone involved in shaping, creating, occupying, and enjoying the buildings and spaces that give structure to our places. Design policies, codes and guides help to ensure that design proposals take into account what is important to those living in, visiting and working in the area and that existing places benefit from new development, including works to public spaces.

## What is a design code?

A design code is a tool used to improve the quality of places, buildings, and spaces, helping to ensure the design quality meets the expectations of the local community for the type, scale and location of the development. Design codes are clear design requirements for new developments, based on principles and priorities agreed upon with the local community. A neighbourhood plan design code is an optional tool that can be used if there are specific design issues or features in a neighbourhood plan area that are not covered by design codes produced by the local planning authority. They are supported by evidence and preferably adopted as part of a neighbourhood plan, with the full support of the local planning authority.

## Who is this guidance for?

This guidance is to be used by neighbourhood planning groups, including neighbourhood forums, town councils and parish councils, who want to prepare a design code to include in or alongside their neighbourhood plan. The design code will form or support the design policy

for new development proposals that can be included in neighbourhood plans, neighbourhood development orders or community right to build orders. Where the design code forms part of the neighbourhood plan, it will become part of the local development plan, and form the basis for decisions on individual planning applications.

## What is the appropriate scope and scale of development?

This guidance is relevant for neighbourhood plan-scale development, such as small-scale developments in rural or small settlements, improvements to spaces between buildings, extensions, additions, and infill between buildings, and, in some circumstances, larger developments that are part of a neighbourhood plan. The change to the area should be of sufficient scope and scale to justify the preparation of a design code.

## How is a design code prepared?

This guidance sets out a step-by-step process for producing a design code by neighbourhood planning groups, from preparation to implementation stages. It includes guidance on analysing and setting a vision for the place, developing a design code, and involving the community and other stakeholders in the process. It provides tools, templates and advice on the use of expertise from others to help develop a design code, and signposts to other available information.

## What should a design code address?

A design code should address issues and themes important to your local area and your community within your neighbourhood boundary. This guidance provides a summary of some common issues and themes that could be addressed through your design code. These

## Summary checklist

- Decide whether you need to produce a design code
- Make sure it includes clear requirements
- Keep it as simple as you can
- Don't repeat national or local guidance
- Only include things that are specific to your place or the site
- Engage the right people to support you
- Be clear about how it will be applied

include principles and parameters for buildings, streets, activities, public spaces, open spaces and landscapes. You can use the "Design Code Content" template provided at the end of this guidance to identify the priority issues your design code will address.

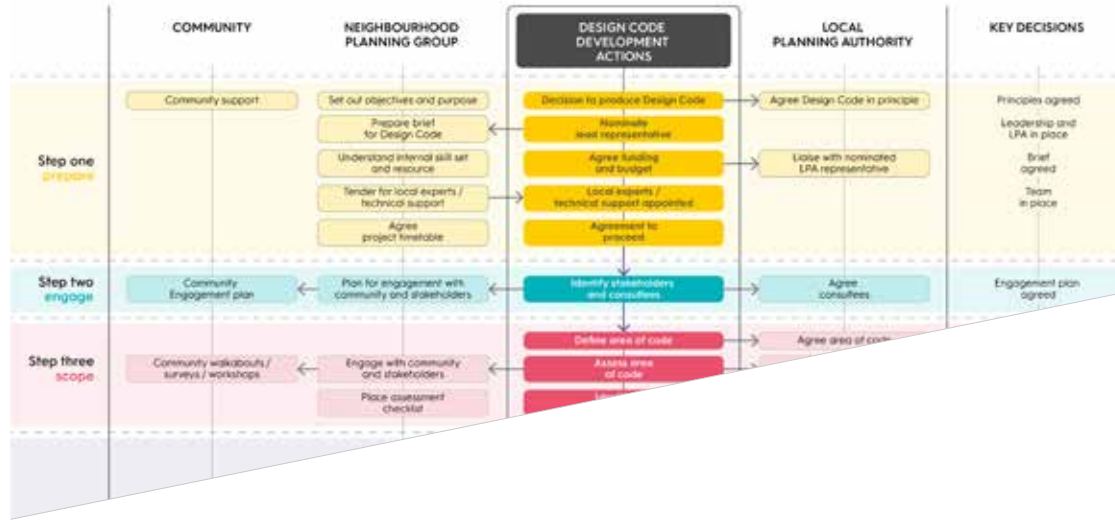
## What type of document is a design code?

The design code may be an online document, in a digital format and/or printed. It should be concise, with clear requirements and guidance in non-technical language which can be understood by the local community, councils, landowners and the development industry. The design code is likely to be informed by other documents, including reports, evidence, and records of community engagement, for example. However, it is important that the design code is kept separate from these supporting documents, so that it is simple to use.

## How is a design code adopted and used?

A neighbourhood plan design code needs to be prepared with the support of the local planning authority as they will use it to assess planning applications for development within the design code area. The neighbourhood plan is subject to examination by an independent examiner and a referendum of all residents in the area. It should include the design code as a policy or include a design policy in the neighbourhood plan which supports the design code. After the neighbourhood plan and design code are adopted, the neighbourhood planning group is a statutory consultee for planning applications coming forward.

A step-by-step 'Activity Map' setting out the key steps and tasks is provided (see page 20).



**A step-by-step activity map**

A step-by-step diagram (see page 20) sets out the key stages and tasks from commencement to completion for the neighbourhood forum, or town or parish council to follow along with the involvement of the community and the local planning authority.

**Activity Map**

**A toolkit**

“Place Assessment”, “Place Codes” and “Design Code Content” templates are provided. These can be used to assess your place, develop a vision for its future and decide on the design code content.

**Templates**

“Place Assessment”, “Place Code” and “Design Code Content” templates are provided for your use as Word.docs.

**Place assessment template**

Typical questions you can use to assess your area or place.

Place assessment template		
Question	Assessment	Priority issues for coding
How would you describe your place urban / rural?	Rural village in predominantly farming context	Sensitive infill development, not standard housebuilder designs
How would you describe the character of your place?	Traditional buildings, close community	Maintaining character
What type of development is typical of your place?	Few new build developments, mostly extensions	
Are there special characteristics eg culture?	No	
What is special about your place, eg views, features?	Views to countryside	Maintain...
Are there conservation or character areas?	Yes	
Are there significant sites for development?	No...	
Are there areas in...		

**Place code template**

To be completed following the Place assessment template.

Place code template				
	Connections Movement Streets Activity Character	Built form Blocks Identity Sustainability Character	Nature Landscape Open spaces Sustainability Character	Activity Homes Uses Community
Challenges	- Extend footpaths and cycleways to improve connections - Resolve car parking issues - Improve public transport to local facilities	- Maintaining character of place - Use traditional building forms such as roofscape	- Improve natural environment in the centre - Improve green links to countryside and walks - Improve footpaths	- Increase diversity of housing size and tenures - Attract...
es	- Strengthen links to space...			

**Design code content template**

A checklist you can use to set out the agreed design code priorities.

Design code content checklist					
	Design code	Design code priority			Summary of code requirement (must, should, could)
		A	B	C	
Context Site setting area wide	Character areas				
	Conservation				
	Heritage		*		Heritage buildings near development sites should be enhanced
	Local features	*			New development must enhance existing character
	Centre of village	*			New development must strengthen character centre
	Street design				

# Background

Overview of planning policies including design policies, design codes and guides.

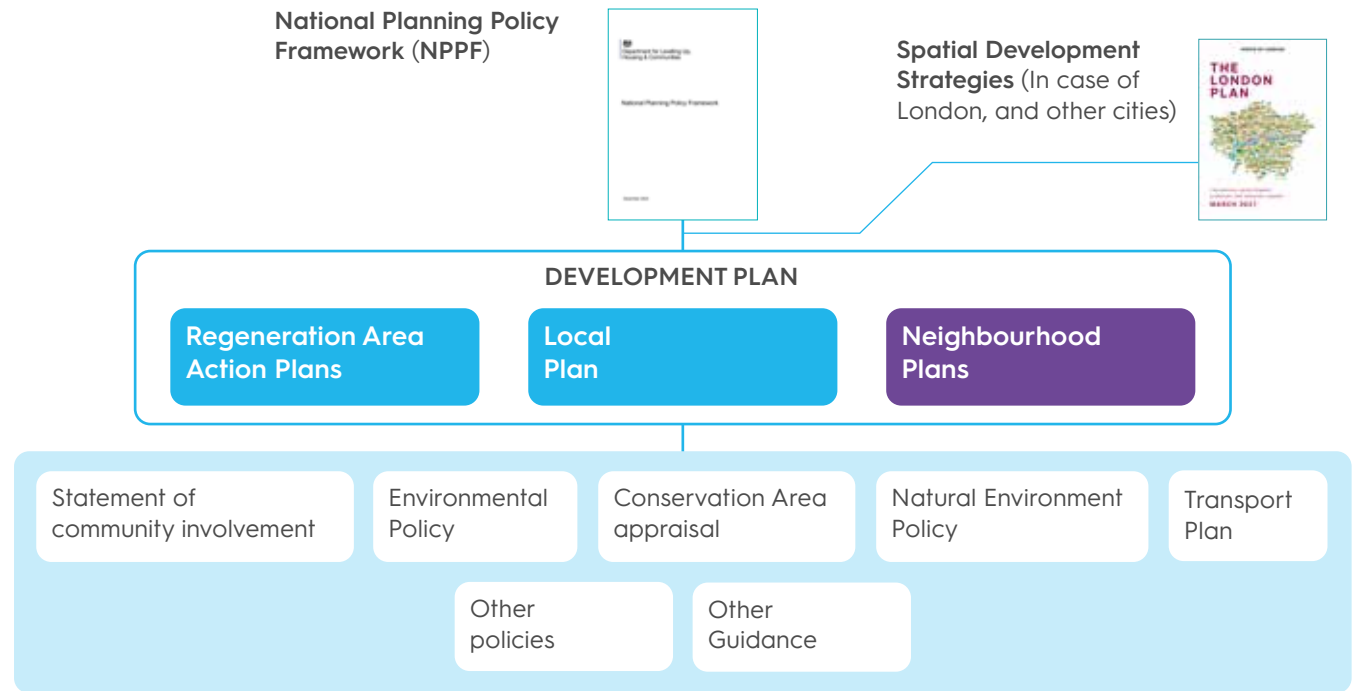
## National and local planning policies

1. The **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)** sets out the Government’s planning policies for England and how these should be applied. The NPPF Chapter 12, “Achieving Well-Designed and Beautiful Places”, states the importance of design quality. It refers to the processes, tools and supporting government guidance for councils to follow to ensure design quality is achieved. It also notes the potential role of neighbourhood planning groups in identifying the special qualities of their areas and explaining how they should be preserved, enhanced or reflected in new design proposals. Some urban areas, such as London and Manchester, have spatial development strategies that include relevant policies that need to be taken into account.

2. All local planning authorities are required to produce a **local plan**, which sets out the plans for the development of a local area and forms part of an area’s development plan. Local plans should include supporting design policies and can include design codes, or these can be adopted separately.

3. A **neighbourhood plan** sets out planning policies for the neighbourhood area and is prepared by a local community. It forms part of the development plan and sits alongside the local plan prepared by the local planning authority. Decisions on planning applications will be made using both the local plan and the neighbourhood plan, and any other material considerations.

4. The neighbourhood plan needs to be in conformity with the NPPF, the local plan and, if applicable, the wider spatial development strategy. It will be used by the local planning authority to decide whether to approve planning



(i) Typical relationship between neighbourhood plans, the local plan and typical policies

applications for that area. A local community can also set out design policies, design codes and design guides in neighbourhood plans for development at the neighbourhood scale. This also applies to **neighbourhood development orders** and **community right to build orders**.

## Design codes

5. Put simply, a **design code** is a set of illustrated design principles that provide specific, detailed, and, where appropriate, measurable requirements and guidance for the physical development of a site or area. It reflects the local community’s vision for the future of the site or area and its design priorities. It is typically illustrated with drawings, and often numerical values, expressing the requirements for a design proposal. The written element of the design code must be expressed in language that makes it clear what is a code requirement (a must-have),

what is code guidance (a should-have) and what is an aspiration (a could-have). A **design guide** provides guidance on good design practice and principles, and does not include specific requirements.

6. Design codes can be prepared at different scales. All local planning authorities are required to produce an **authority-wide design code** for their area to cover design issues commonly found across the whole authority area, including the neighbourhood plan area.

7. Local planning authorities can set design codes at other scales, for example, for specific sites allocated in their local plan, or for alterations to single homes. By being included in local plans or other supporting plans, these codes have full weight in making planning decisions on development. It is important they consider existing national local design policy and guidance set out in existing local plans, neighbourhood plans and other local design codes that are already in place in order to avoid repetition and conflict.



The ten characteristics of well-designed places (Image from page 3 of NMDC Part 1)

National Model Design Code (NMDC) Parts 1 & 2 / National Design Guide / Achieving well-designed places

### Design codes for neighbourhood plans

8. Although not a requirement, design codes can be produced by neighbourhood planning groups across the parish or town council, or neighbourhood forum planning area or for specific sites, and can form part of the neighbourhood plan. They can include design requirements that neighbourhood planning groups wish to address.

9. Neighbourhood plan design codes must have regard to codes that have been adopted by the local planning authority, including authority-wide design codes and other site-based design codes to which they relate, to avoid conflicting or overlapping requirements. Neighbourhood plan design codes are likely to be much shorter and more concise than those codes produced by a local planning authority, with fewer detailed requirements, and guidance that is specific for the neighbourhood area.

### References

#### National Design Guide

This illustrates how well-designed places that are beautiful, healthy, greener, enduring and successful can be achieved in practice.

#### National Model Design Code Parts 1 & 2

This provides detailed guidance on the production of design codes and guides with emphasis on setting detailed design principles for the physical development of a site.

#### Planning system guidance. Design: process and tools

This provides guidance on the processes that can be put in place to deliver well-designed places.

#### Achieving Well-Designed Places through Neighbourhood Planning

This provides guidance on key principles of good design and the tools and processes to use to better shape design through your neighbourhood plan.

### Checklist

- Is a Neighbourhood Plan being prepared?
- Is a Local Plan and supporting plans or policies in place?
- Is there an authority wide or other local design code in place or being developed?
- If so, is a neighbourhood plan design code required?

# Step one – prepare

Sets out how neighbourhood planning groups should prepare to produce a design code.



Design coding with the community

## 1.1 Setting up the project

### Relationship of a design code with neighbourhood plan activity

10. The purpose of a **neighbourhood plan** is to enable communities to shape and influence the development and growth of their areas. **Neighbourhood plans** are led and coordinated by a neighbourhood forum, or town or parish council.

11. A **design code** provides detailed design requirements to support policies and development proposals set out in a neighbourhood plan. The design code can be produced as part of your neighbourhood planning activity and will be used by all decision-makers, including local planning authorities, to make decisions on planning applications covered by the neighbourhood plan.

### Understanding your neighbourhood and its priorities

12. Define the area and boundary to which the neighbourhood plan policies and design code will apply. You must have a full understanding of the defined area, its community and their priorities for buildings and the spaces between buildings, and have regard to the surrounding landscape. In most cases, the defined area for the design code will be the neighbourhood plan area itself or a site or sites within it. It is very important to be clear at the outset about the purpose and objective of your design code, and the priority issues and themes you require your design code to address.

### Leading your project

13. Nominate a lead representative or small team from your neighbourhood planning group who will take responsibility for and lead on the production of the design code on behalf of the group. This should be someone with knowledge of the tasks involved, who has the relevant skills in leadership, organisation and informed decision-making, so that the council or forum can be advised on the direction of the project and the decisions it needs to make. The representative will need to have the time and commitment required to represent the neighbourhood group for the duration of the design coding process.

14. The representative will need to liaise closely with the local planning authority to test approaches, source technical guidance, access local data and receive general support from them. They should seek a single point of contact within the planning department with whom they can liaise throughout the project and build a positive working relationship with them.

## 1.2 Built environment expertise

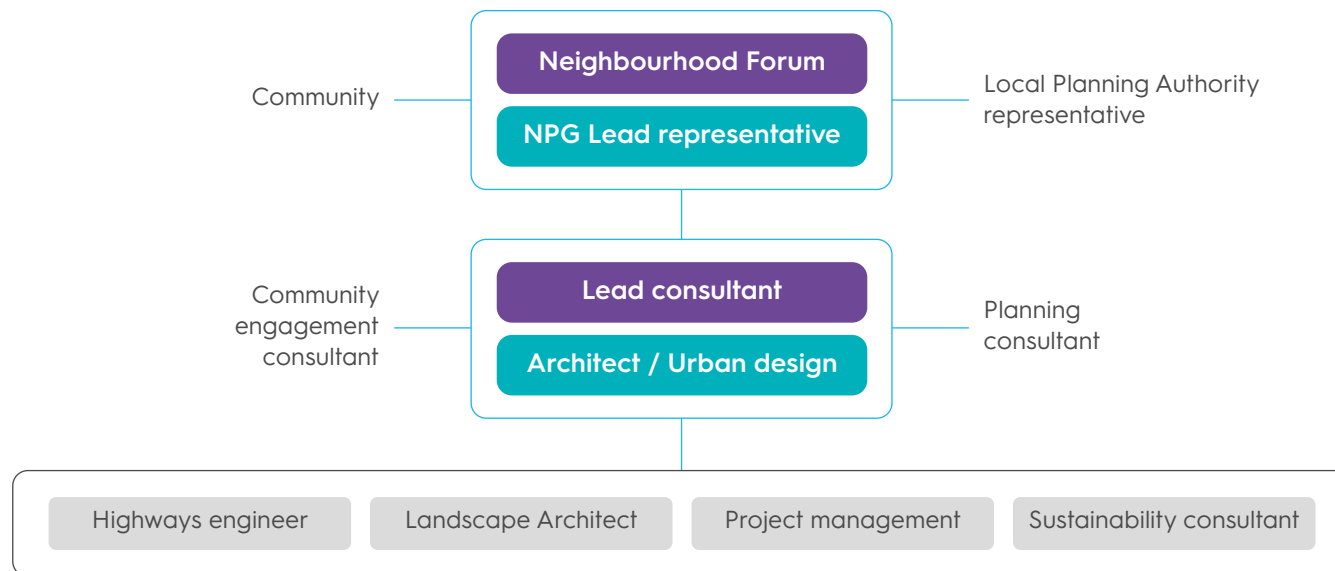
### Developing the brief and selecting consultants

15. The purpose and objectives for your design code should be agreed upon with your group as a starting point. It can include high-level issues affecting the area to be covered by the design code and include design priorities that the design code is expected to address. You may be able to draw from the expertise that exists in your group to do this.

16. It is likely that you will need to appoint specialist advisors or consultants to support you to produce a design code under your direction. For this, you will need to write a brief for the technical support you need, outlining the scope, scale, community priorities and expected design issues that are to be included in the design code.

17. A typical brief will include:

- **Introduction** – background to the neighbourhood plan and overview of the project
- **Geographic area** – a description of the area or character area for the design code
- **Neighbourhood Plan team and representatives** – who is involved and leading the work
- **Scope of service to be provided by consultants** – the professional expertise required to prepare a design code and consult stakeholders
- **Timetable** – critical dates and deadlines to meet
- **Contract requirements** – a draft legal agreement for the appointment of consultants and;
- **Tender and interview process** – the approach to selecting consultants.



### (ii) Typical organisational structure, team roles and responsibilities

18. Set out and agree a selection process with the neighbourhood planning group and follow good practice for appointing consultants. Alternatively, seek advice from the local planning authority to share their approach to selecting and appointing consultants.

19. Once a brief has been prepared, select a list of consultants to invite to tender. This is likely to be a minimum of three reputable companies with a track record of delivering design codes. Invite them to tender, requesting a submission, comprising a statement on how they would approach the project, the team that would carry out the work, relevant previous experience, the cost of the service and a detailed timetable for undertaking it.

20. A tender is typically assessed on a balance of quality and cost factors including the consultant's appreciation and understanding of the project, the team, their experience, approach to the project and the cost of the service to ensure value for money. You should nominate a selection panel of ideally three neighbourhood

planning group representatives including your lead representative to decide which consultant to choose. It may be that the process can be simplified subject to the scale of the project, with a simpler brief, a request for a service and a cost for providing the service.

21. The selected consultants should have a single point of contact or individual who leads on the work. They need to have a full appreciation of the brief and you need to be satisfied that they and their team members have the capability, capacity, and personal skills to deliver a community-led design code.

www.locality.org.uk



www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-for-place



## Consultant skills

22. Depending on the brief, the size of your area and your priorities, you may need urban designers or architects who have experience in preparing design codes and are skilled in community engagement to support you to produce a design code.

23. The tasks involved may be simple and you may not need additional consultant skills. However, depending on the issues and complexity, other skills might include:

- **Landscape architects** – advice on landscape and public spaces
- **Civil and transport engineers** – if there is a specific highways or transport issue to address
- **Heritage consultants** – if there are sensitive issues related to historic or heritage assets
- **Project management** – expertise within the group to manage programming, appointments and payments
- **Planning consultants** – advice on the wider planning issues and local plan policy issues

- **Community engagement specialist** – there may be the need for expertise to advise you on community engagement, including digital and social media methods and how to reach a diverse range of people.

## Other technical support

24. You may need advice from other specialist organisations to lead or shape your design code. Office for Place and design advisory services such as those that are part of Design Network, are some of the organisations that can provide design support. In addition, there may be support for you to prepare neighbourhood plans and design codes under the government-funded Neighbourhood Planning Support Programme.

### 1.3 Resources

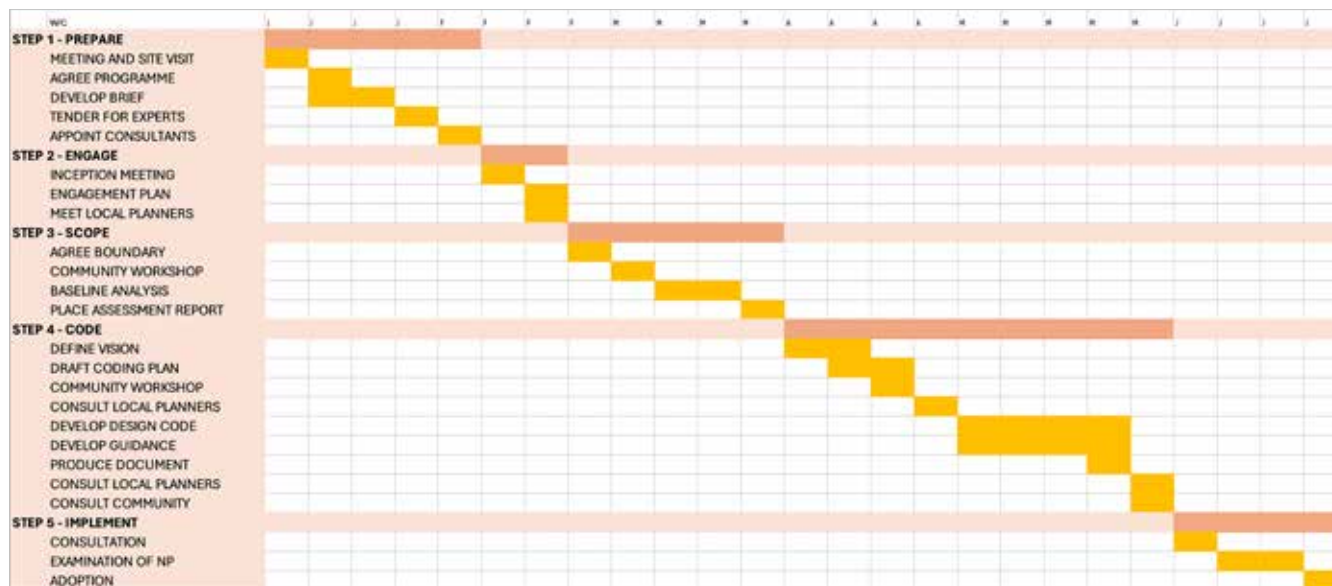
#### Time management

25. A timetable for delivery, setting out key steps in your process from commencement to adoption should be prepared. This will be helpful for all participants to follow, and should be drafted with the support of consultants. It should follow the process set out in Step 4 of this document (page 15) and take account of community and stakeholder engagement in Step 2 (page 10).

26. Once you have the right skills and expertise in place, a neighbourhood plan design code can be prepared in six to nine months excluding the adoption process, subject to the complexity of the area and a positive stakeholder engagement process. The timetable should be managed by your nominated lead representative with support from consultants and be regularly updated, with progress reported to the group, council, or forum.

#### Funding

27. Preparation of a design code will require a budget to finance the activity including the cost of fees, community events, production of design code documents, supporting evidence and printing costs. Funding sources should be agreed upon and secured in advance and might include central or local government grants and, potentially, support through the Government funded Neighbourhood Planning Support Programme.



(iii) Example of a typical programme

#### References

##### Office for Place

This organisation helps to create beautiful, successful and enduring places that foster a sense of community, local pride and belonging.

##### Design Network

This network covers local design support from regionally based not-for-profit agencies that provide design support.

##### CABE Guidance

This guidance sets out how to be a good client.

##### Neighbourhood Planning Support Programme

This gives details of how to apply for support for developing neighbourhood plans, design policies and tools.

##### Locality Toolkits & Guidance: How to commission consultants

This gives guidance on how to commission consultants to work on your neighbourhood plan.

##### 10 Criteria for Effective Design Coding

A list of 10 criteria that represent good practice for creating design codes, developed by Office for Place.

#### Checklist

- Have you nominated a project team leader?
- Have you prepared a brief for the design code?
- Do you have expertise required to produce a design code?
- Has the programme been agreed?
- Has a budget been set aside and funding sourced and secured?

## Step two - engage

Provides advice on how to engage with the community and stakeholders in producing a design code, and signposts to other relevant guidance.

### 2.1 Community engagement

28. Neighbourhood plans are developed in collaboration with the local community. Whether the design code is produced after the neighbourhood plan has been completed or at the same time, the community needs to be involved in the design code preparation from the start, and at each stage of the process.

29. The community includes all people living, studying or working in and around, or regularly visiting the neighbourhood area. There will be people from different age groups, backgrounds, ethnicities, and groups who are seldom heard, which may include those with disabilities and long-term health problems, and who should be consulted on engagement techniques that work best for them. The community should be engaged in a way that ensures the design code is based on what is popular and therefore likely to gain broad support locally.

30. It is probable that many of those contributing to the design code development will know most about their area, and therefore be well-placed to advise on priorities. You should collaborate to define the coding area (whether it will be the whole neighbourhood area or a specific part) to help assess the area and understand what local people value and want to address. Local communities should be involved in the design proposals for areas of change and ensure that the design code content reflects the neighbourhood plan priorities.



Walkabouts - walking audits



Co-design - working alongside experts



Events - getting community feedback

### Community engagement activity

31. Use techniques and methods of community engagement that ensure meaningful participation and align with your neighbourhood planning process. You may want to consider using digital tools to support your engagement activities. Hybrid events, that involve in-person and digital elements, break down barriers that may otherwise reduce public engagement levels.

32. There is plenty of advice and information on the effective tools that enable the public to participate effectively, including traditional, in-person and digital methods. Digital and social media platforms can be used to reach members of the community that are unable to engage in face-to-face meetings. The principles set out in the 'Listen, Learn, Adapt' guidance will be helpful for this.

33. All neighbourhood planning exercises are different, and the approach to community engagement will need to be tailored to meet your local circumstances. Learning about your community will help you to understand the best ways to interact with them.

34. Some of the commonly used tools for design coding include:

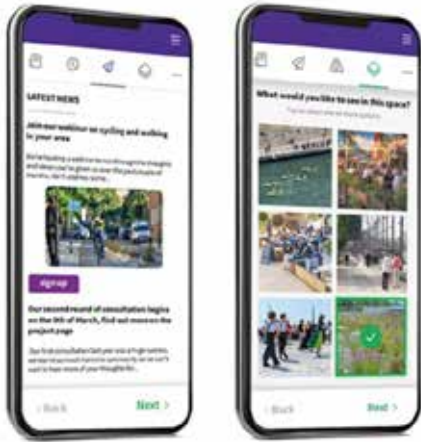
- Design workshops and meetings
- Drop in events and exhibitions
- Place assessment techniques
- Digital surveys
- Community panels or civic forums
- Social media platforms, apps, emails and websites.

### 2.2 Key stakeholders

35. A stakeholder is a person or organisation that has an interest in, influence on, or is affected by the activity in the neighbourhood area. This includes the local community and its representatives, officials, businesses and services operating in the area. Some will be more relevant to the issues within your area than others.

#### Local Planning Authorities

36. The support of your local planning authority will be essential for the successful adoption and implementation of a design code. You will need to liaise closely with the local authority from the outset, and establish a positive working relationship with a designated lead officer or team to agree on the coding area and principles.



## Engagement using digital and social media

Continuous engagement with the local planning authority will be particularly important to the success of the design code, to ensure it does not conflict with local plan design policies, authority-wide design codes or other policies. Their support will be necessary to endorse the plan and the design code prior to adoption. Your work on design codes may also be reciprocal in supporting their work on developing an authority-wide design code.

### Highways Authorities

37. Many areas have two tier authorities, with agencies such as the highways authority that is responsible for setting standards at county or other wider area level. For example, in London, highways issues are dealt with by Transport for London. They are separate statutory bodies from the local planning authority and have requirements for matters such as public transport, parking, refuse collection, road design and construction materials. They will have a say in streets and public spaces and how their policies might be adapted to local circumstances which will impact on the design code requirements. Again, their support will be critical to the practical implementation of your design code.

### Other stakeholders

38. Other groups, individuals and agencies that may need to be engaged during the development of a code include:

- **Statutory consultees** – the local planning authority can advise on other statutory authorities, such as the Environment Agency, Natural England, Historic England, utility companies and other agencies which may have an influence or regulatory responsibility in the area
- **Local business forums and civic societies** – these groups should be directly involved in the neighbourhood planning process and can provide insights into business, heritage, civic and other local interests that might inform the design code
- **Landowners** – local landowners in neighbourhood planning areas need to be involved in the process. Land ownership in areas of change can be identified through the Land Registry Searches portal
- **Local developers** – local developers should be identified and involved when design priorities are agreed upon by the community. They will have an appreciation of the local property market and can provide practical advice on viability and what development is likely to be deliverable in the area.

## References

### [Listen Learn Adapt – Engaging your community in a meaningful way](#)

This provides detailed guidance on community involvement in neighbourhood planning.

### [National Model Design Code Part 2 – Guidance Notes – Community Engagement](#)

This sets out advice on community engagement in the process of developing a design code.

### [Planning system guidance. Design: process and tools](#)

This provides general advice on how communities can be involved in the planning process.

### [Accessibility and assisted digital](#)

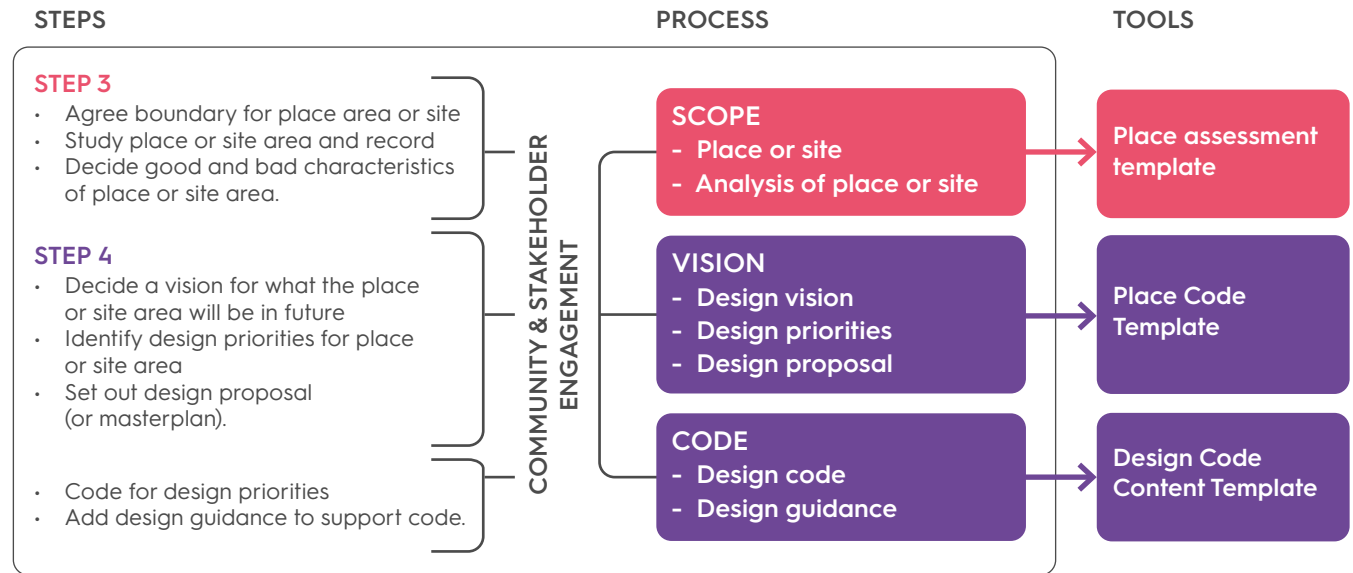
This provides user support for accessibility and assisted digital services.

## Checklist

- Is there a community engagement strategy for neighbourhood planning that can be used?
- Have you prepared a list of stakeholders to engage with?
- Is there a structure to engage with the local planning authority?
- Are you familiar with the requirements from stakeholders and statutory authorities?

# Step three - scope

Sets out the process for producing a design code for a neighbourhood plan and the area it is to cover.



(iv) Design coding process

## 3.1 Process

### Steps for developing a design code

39. The process for preparing your design code is illustrated in the diagram and follows the principles set out in the National Model Design Code Part 1 - Coding Process.

The steps are:

- Scope** - identifying the boundary of the area to be covered by the code
- Analyse** - understanding your place to inform the design code and its contents
- Vision** - setting out a design vision for your place
- Plan** - preparing a plan of areas of change
- Code** - develop design principles, detail requirements and guidance.

40. The National Model Design Code Part 2 - Guidance Notes for Design Codes provides a library of useful information describing what could be included in a design code, how to set out requirements and includes illustrations that can help you understand the principles that are important in a design proposal.

## 3.2 Scope

### Appropriate types of development

41. Neighbourhood planning activity can cover a range of development types at neighbourhood-scale and in a wide variety of contexts. This guidance is appropriate for typically smaller developments in clearly defined areas with fewer and more specific issues to address. This might include:

- Small-scale developments in rural or small settlements, typically less than 50 homes
- Extensions, additions, and infill
- Improvements to spaces between buildings in defined areas or the extent of a parish or town council area
- In some circumstances, larger developments that fall within a neighbourhood or local plan.

42. The National Model Design Code Parts 1 & 2 guidance will be more appropriate for producing a code for large-scale development with more complexity and a wide range of design priorities, for example, areas with multiple uses and complex characteristics, large development sites and greater geographic areas.

### Defining the design code area

43. Define the boundary of the area within which the design code applies. The boundary for a design code may cover all or some of the neighbourhood area or a specific area or site for development. This can be decided in several ways: there could be physical boundaries like a road, river or railway, a specific site for future development, a central area of improvement of public open spaces or a catchment area for local shops. You should agree on the design code boundary with the community and the local planning authority.

## Typical projects suitable for design coding



Infill development



Improvements to shared spaces between buildings



Greening public spaces



Improvements to urban spaces

### 3.3 Understanding your place

44. Design codes need to be based on a comprehensive understanding of your local area, identifying the features and functions that people feel work well and those that do not work well. This will inform what you want the area to be in the future.

45. With input from your communities, gather evidence to build an understanding of the area that will inform the content of your design code. This should include a site appreciation study, details of the site condition and other site information and supporting documents. Your local community who live and work in the area will have a wealth of knowledge and understanding that can inform the evidence you gather through techniques such as walking audits, workshops and surveys, as covered in Step 2.

46. Your local planning authority's website or other websites, such as Defra's Magic Map or Parish Online may provide you and your consultants with access to other relevant information to further inform your analysis of your area. This could include:

- GIS and OS mapping and topographical information
- Land use mapping
- Community uses, including schools, health and community centres
- Housing need and tenure
- Heritage and cultural uses
- Location of street trees and tree preservation orders
- Ecological information such as protected areas, habitats and biodiversity
- Open space designations such as green belt and special nature protections
- Conservation areas, character areas, character studies and listed buildings
- Rivers, waterways and flood risk mapping
- Transport patterns, public transport, cycling and car routes
- Air quality and pollution.

### Place assessment report

47. Collate the findings and characteristics of the area in a place assessment report. This will be an annex or supporting document to the design code. This should include key sections such as an appreciation of different character areas, character studies, heritage assessments and designations, and other relevant data informed by the research. You should check the content of the report with your local planning authority representative.

### 3.4 Scope of code content

48. The place assessment will help to determine the design priorities for your area. The assessment could include:

- **Context** – the overall features of the design code area and its setting, including character areas, heritage, the arrangement of buildings and the natural environment
- **Buildings** – the individual buildings in the design code area, the form of buildings, their character, heritage, appearance and materials
- **Activities** – the uses of buildings and spaces in the design code area, including homes, business, shops, social and other land uses
- **Connections** – the movement pattern in the design code area, including street layout, vehicular, cycling and pedestrian routes and their character and safety
- **Open spaces** – public and private open space and spaces between buildings in the design code area, including squares, courts, their use, character and materials
- **Landscape** – open amenity spaces in the design code area, including access to nature, natural environment, greening of streets and spaces between buildings.

49. A Place Assessment checklist is provided as part of this guidance to help assess the characteristics of the place, the good and bad qualities that offer challenge and opportunity for change. Other tools can be used such as Placecheck or the principles set out in the “Building for a Healthy Life” toolkit.

locality

Place assessment template

Here are some typical questions you can use to assess your area or place. These questions will need to be followed by the Neighbourhood Planning Group producing the Design Code to ensure they are specific to your area.

There may be further questions you wish to use and propose that will help you to assess and understand your specific place in more detail. These can be included in the Data row at the bottom of each page.

Question	Place assessment template	Priority issues for coding
How would you describe your place urban/rural?	Mostly urban with predominantly terraced houses	Supports self-development, but excludes townhouses design
How would you describe the character of your place?	Traditional buildings, close community	Maintaining character
What type of development is typical of your place?	Few new built developments, mostly extensions	
Are there special characteristics or features of your place?	No	
Are there special characteristics or features of your place, or areas, features?	Views to coast/sea	Maintain good views
Are there conservation or character areas?	No	Protective these and enhance the character
Are there significant sites for development?	No, small scale development sites in the centre of the village	
Are there areas in need of regeneration?	No	
Are there any problems with moving around your place?	Not too, but issues with parking, walking and cycling	
Is your place well connected to other areas?	Reasonably but reliance on the car	
Are there problems with moving around your place?	No, these would be an on-site development	
Is there a walking, wheeling and cycling network?	No, more is needed for safe pedestrian movement to schools and facilities	Making safe pedestrian and cycle routes from development sites to schools and facilities
Are streets pedestrian secure and safe?	Yes	
Is the area well served by public transport?	Yes	

#### Place assessment template



#### Neighbourhood plan context

#### References

##### Magic Map

This digital mapping website provides basic information on all areas which may be useful for gathering information about your area.

##### Parish Online

This website helps local councils easily find, create and publish information.

##### Placecheck

This digital tool combines the approach to assess an area with a method for recording the findings.

##### Building for a Healthy Life

This is a helpful tool to assess the quality of places and buildings.

##### Place assessment template

Link to the template.

#### Checklist

- Is your area appropriate for use of this guide?
- Have you clearly defined the area?
- Have you assessed your area?
- Have you completed your Place assessment template or used other assessment techniques?
- For an area-wide code, have you identified character areas where different codes will apply?

# Step four - code

Sets out how to write a code and what it should include.

## 4.1 Content

50. A design code will include the following sections:

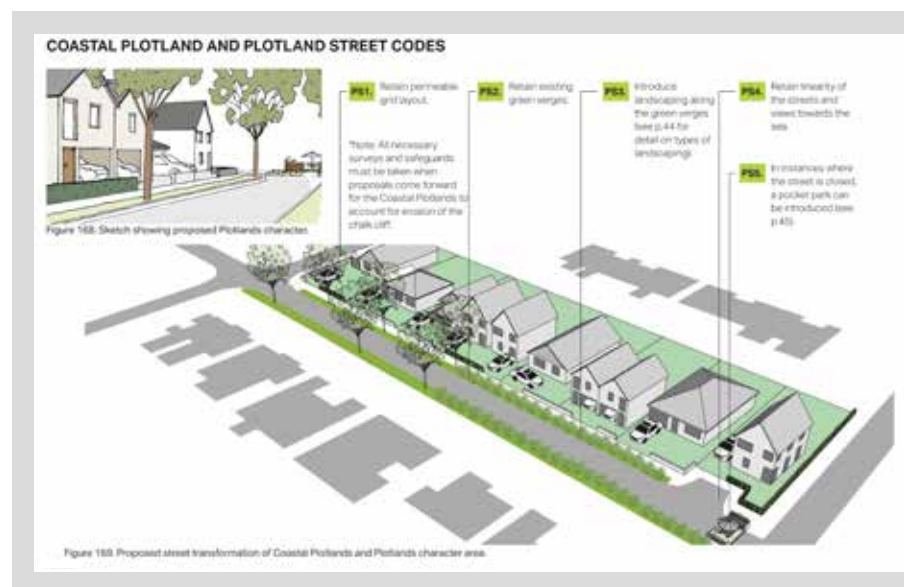
- **Vision** – purpose and objectives for the design code and a vision for your design code area
- **Design principles** – a description, plan, or design proposal
- **Design code** – design requirements and guidance
- **Annex or supporting document** – Place assessment report – a summary of activity set out in Step 3.

## 4.2 Vision

51. With support from consultants, if required, set out in detail a clear purpose and the objectives which the design code will address. These should be based on a realistic vision of what you would like your neighbourhood to be like in the future, developed and agreed upon with your local community and supported by the evidence gathered in Step 3 (page 12). A vision could set out aspirations for future change or a desire to maintain or enhance a place's current identity.

52. Visioning is an important stage of the community engagement process. It can be undertaken through workshops, online surveys, and social media to inform aspects of local character that are valued and what the community would like to change.

53. A vision could be a simple statement, setting out design priorities for development, area-wide improvements, conservation, or other protections to the built or natural environment. It will form a basis for your design code and be supported by a full appreciation of the design code area or site. It could be linked to



Extracts of typical design code illustrations: [Peacehaven & Telscombe design code](#) / [Stoke Ferry design code](#)

your neighbourhood plan vision and objectives, and any overarching design policy within the neighbourhood plan. You should test the vision with the community to ensure there is general support.

54. A **Place code template** can bring together your assessment of the characteristics of your area, which parts you wish to keep or enhance, and those you wish to change. You can use this to set out a summary of your vision for change.

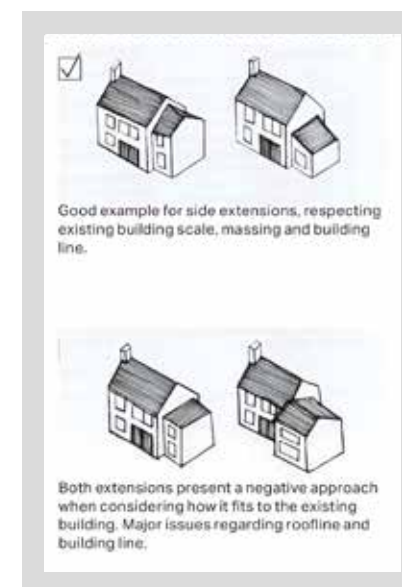
## 4.3 Design priorities

55. The design code should include the development proposals that address the design priorities set out in the vision. These could include the look and feel of new development, what uses are proposed, new walking, wheeling, and cycling routes, proposals for open spaces and landscape, new protections such as listed buildings, landscape designations and other planned changes.

56. Where development needs to be defined more clearly or is at a larger scale, a design proposal (usually referred to as a masterplan) prepared by

consultants, can set out the principles for the layout and form of the buildings, streets, open space and landscape in more detail. The purpose of the masterplan is to provide an outline for development of the site that covers, for example, the number of homes, the height and density of buildings, access to and the amount and distribution of open spaces. Design codes and masterplans need to be flexible, allow scope for innovation and serve to stimulate rather than constrain development proposals coming forward. They should be tested with local landowners and developers to ensure its proposal and requirements are reasonable and therefore capable of being delivered in practice.

57. You should involve your group and local community meaningfully in workshops or getting feedback from exhibitions, working with the consultants to develop a design proposal. It is also important to engage with the local planning authority and other statutory bodies such as the highways authority, to test that your design proposals and supporting design code is justified and evidenced, and that it complies with statutory requirements and policies.



Designers of any future development should positively respond to the material palette of adjacent buildings.  
Contemporary designs featuring high quality and sustainable alternative materials may be acceptable.



Any new buildings should adhere to a maximum height of 2 storeys. 1 and 1.5 storey buildings (using a dormer window) are also appropriate heights.

Single storey buildings may be more appropriate where a building will impact heavily on views to or from the surrounding landscape.

The images on this page illustrate various roof types and elements that are typical and appropriate in Hauxley.



Extracts of typical design code illustrations: building heights, roof form and materials - [Hauxley design code](#)

### 4.4 Design coding

58. Many neighbourhood plans include design guidance that sets out aspirations for design that is expected to be delivered, but which can be ignored as they are not mandatory. Design codes differ from design guidance by including mandatory requirements for design issues that are important to communities, through the use of clear language. This is summarised as:

Mandatory Code	Non-mandatory Guidance	Non-mandatory Guidance
Expressed as <b>MUST</b>	Expressed as <b>SHOULD</b>	Expressed as <b>COULD</b>
Principles that are requirements.	Principles that are strongly encouraged.	Principles that are suggestions.
E.g. the boundary wall <b>MUST</b> be provided alongside the road.	E.g. the boundary wall <b>SHOULD</b> match the adjoining building.	E.g. the boundary wall <b>COULD</b> be constructed in locally sourced materials.

59. Well-structured design codes typically use a combination of these definitions so that the design code is not overly prescriptive and allows for interpretation, innovation and creativity by the developers and their consultants who will use it. The design priorities for an area should be requirements, and those issues that are important but less specific and fundamental to the delivery of the vision, should be guidance.

60. The requirements should be measurable and precise. For example, this could be the height of buildings, the density of development, the amount of open space or car parking arrangements.

61. Depending on the status of your design code, whether it is part of a neighbourhood plan for example, there will be constraints on the extent to which you can introduce specific requirements. Generally, you cannot introduce new requirements or standards that are not covered in your local plan without the expressed support of the local planning authority. Your consultants and the local planning authority can advise you on potential conflicts and overlaps with other design, sustainability, nature and transport policies, and the flexibility you have in deciding local requirements for your area.

### Scope of design coding content

62. Some of the more common design coding principles, or design parameters, and design guidance for typical smaller sites include:

- **Context** – character, character areas, heritage, culture, and pattern of buildings
- **Nature** – open space amenities, public spaces, layout, landscape design, biodiversity, climate change resilience, planting, materials, security, safety, and its management
- **Connections** – vehicular movement, public transport, cycling, wheeling, walking, street design, parking, materials
- **Buildings** – block layout, building form, separation of buildings, height, density, character, appearance of buildings, energy, environmental performance, passive design, materials, and their management
- **Activity** – homes, shops, schools, community uses, commercial and other activities.

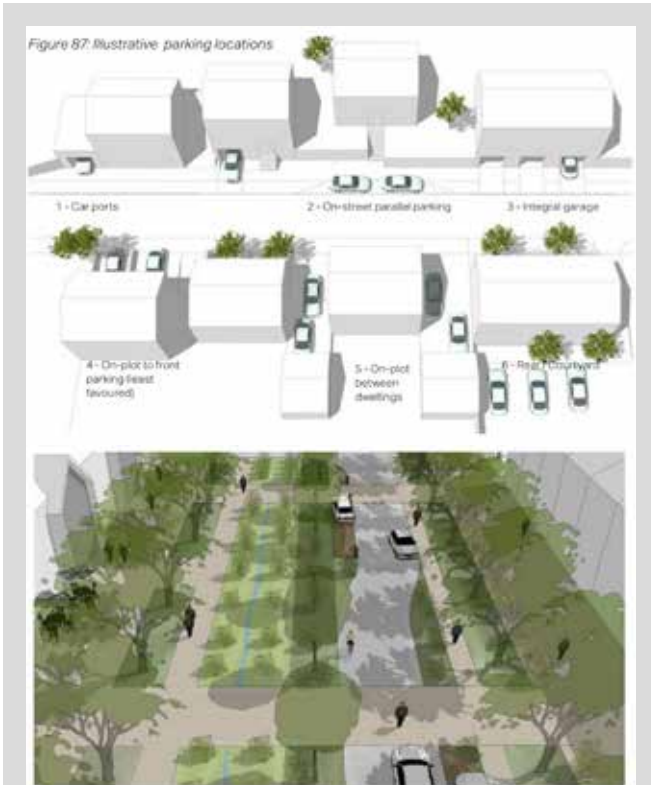


Figure 64: Indicative Westgate street adaptation with increased built-frontage and green infrastructure providing improved environment/crossings for pedestrians and cyclists



Figure 63: Indicative view of rejuvenated residential Avenue street with street trees creating a comfortable, attractive walking and cycling environment for residents to benefit activity

Extracts of typical design code illustrations: parking & greening streets - [Morecambe design code](#)

**Place code template**

The Place Code template is to be completed following the Place Assessment template. This template will be used in conjunction with simple bullet points, the Place Assessment findings and the Code Content priorities.

	Connections Networks Streets Active Character	Built form Block Identity Sustainability Character	Nature Landscape Open spaces Community Character	Activity Home Uses Community	
Challenges	• Enhance footpaths and cycleways to improve connectivity • Review car parking needs • Improve public transport to local facilities	• Minimising overheads of plant • Use traditional building forms such as outbuildings	• Improve natural environment in the centre • Improve green links to countryside and water • Improve flooding and surface water runoff issues • Manage tree canopy loss	• Increase diversity of housing sizes and tenure • Attract young people to live in the village • Increase diversity of community and social activity	ambience
Opportunities	• Strengthen links to surrounding and national infrastructure • Create new active routes for walking and cycling to link with existing network	• Strong local character and architecture to be maintained through new development • Draw from existing points of materials to strengthen character	• Enhance natural environment in and around the village to be extended • Increase tree planting and improve landscape design in the village	• Strengthen community by incorporating new facilities	activity
Future checklist	• A well connected and serviced village centre • Enhanced walking and cycling for a healthy community • Good connections to countryside • Addressing parking requirements to meet essential requirements while supporting local business	• New development that fits in but does not replicate the historical buildings • A new vision for the village centre with new high quality efficient, healthy homes • Construction materials should be soft and warm	• New development should have a strong landscape character using local plants and species • Biodiversity net gain is a minimum	• Encouraging new development does not have existing facilities • Improving	

**Design code content template**

This checklist is used to set out the agreed design code priorities and summarise the requirement in a simple statement. This can include details and metrics if known, or can be left to develop further as the design code is progressed.

The design code priority column notes how important each theme of the code is from A to C. This will inform the amount of information requirements and guidance your design code provides for each theme.

Design code	Design code content checklist			Summary of code requirement (must, should, could)
	A	B	C	
Character and Conservation				
Heritage				Heritage buildings near development areas should be protected
Local features				New development must enhance existing character
Layout of plots				New development must strengthen character in village centre
Street design				Details of new development areas must be in character of setting
Making & cycling				New cycle and pedestrian routes must be provided
Car parking				Landscaping must be grouped, screened and articulated
Public transport				Public transport should be improved
Public spaces				Public spaces in new development must enhance existing character
Safety				
Other				
Character				

**Example of a completed [Place code template](#) & [Design code content template](#)**

63. The National Model Design Code Part 2 provides a library of detailed information to help you decide on the requirements and guidance that should be included in your design code. These are listed in the order of the ten characteristics set out in the National Design Guide and the National Model Design Code.

64. It is likely that there will be fewer characteristics that the neighbourhood plan design code is seeking to address. So not all design characteristics in the National Model Design Code need to be included in your design code, just those that are a priority to meet your vision for the area or site. Do not include overarching design priorities if the local planning authority has already included them in the authority-wide design code. Simply cross-reference with the authority-wide design code.

65. A **Design code content template** is available to assist in deciding design priorities and coding content. This can be used to set out a format for the design code, bringing together the vision, design priority and design principles that are to be included.

**References**

[National Model Design Code Part 2 - Guidance Notes for Design Codes](#)

[Place code template](#)

Link to the template.

[Design code content template](#)

Link to the template.

**Checklist**

- Have you identified the design priorities for which there will be a requirement?
- Have you checked with the local planning authority that your design code is compatible with the authority wide design code and other policies?
- Are you clear what is a requirement, guidance and an aspiration?
- Have you completed the Design code content template?

# Step five – implement

Provides information on how a code is adopted, preferably in a neighbourhood plan and subsequently implemented in practice.

## 5.1 Format

66. The design code needs to be concise, with clear requirements and guidance written in non-technical language that can be understood by the community, councils, landowners, and developers. It should be illustrated with annotated diagrams that are relevant, informative and reflect the local context.

67. The design code needs to be made available in a publicly accessible format. This should be decided on at an early stage. You might want to consider an online document such as a PDF or a digital web-based tool. In addition, you will need to consider how to make the design code available to people who find it hard to access online versions. This may be informed by the format of the neighbourhood plan or the local planning authority's authority-wide design code.

68. Digital formats will be encouraged in the future as more of the planning system is digitised and you should co-ordinate with your local planning authority so that your approaches are compatible

## 5.2 Process for adoption

69. A neighbourhood plan goes through a process of independent examination by an examiner and, if approved, is followed by a referendum of residents in the area in which 50% plus one of those voting need to agree to the plan. If agreed at the referendum, your local planning authority will then adopt the plan and its policies as part of the local statutory planning framework so that it can be used to decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area.

### Examples of adopted design codes



70. Demonstrate that local views have been considered before finalising the design code by inviting comments from the community and recording responses. You might wish to use a consultation statement for this as it is good practice and required for neighbourhood plans, although not formally required for design codes.

71. Prior to adoption, the local planning authority or local developers could test the design code against recently approved applications or applications in progress to evaluate its impact and effectiveness.

72. There are four routes that can be followed that lead to adopting a design code:

- **Preparing a design code as an integral part of the preparation of a neighbourhood plan** – the design code then forms the design policy of the neighbourhood plan. It will be subject to independent examination alongside the neighbourhood plan and a referendum.
- **Modifying an existing neighbourhood plan to include a design code** – the design code then forms the design policy of the neighbourhood plan. It will be subject to independent examination alongside the neighbourhood plan and a referendum.

- **Preparing a design code separately from and alongside preparation of a neighbourhood plan** – should comply with and be consistent with the design policy in the neighbourhood and/or local plan. The design code is not subject to examination or a separate referendum. It will not have the same statutory weight as the neighbourhood plan but will be capable of being a material consideration in determining planning application.
- **Preparing a design code following adoption of a neighbourhood plan** – should conform with the design policy in the adopted neighbourhood plan. The design code is not subject to examination or a separate referendum. It will not have the same statutory weight as the neighbourhood plan but will be capable of being a material consideration in determining planning applications.

For the first two routes, the design code should be included in the formal stages of consultation that a neighbourhood plan requires.



Examples of adopted design codes

### 5.3 Implementing and updating a design code

73. When planning applications come forward for development within the neighbourhood plan area, the local planning authority will be responsible for determining the outcome of any applications and their compliance with your design code. The neighbourhood planning group, if they are a parish, can be a statutory consultee for planning applications, enabling them to make representations to the local planning authority about whether the application complies with the design code.

74. The effectiveness and useability of new design codes in improving the design quality of proposals coming forward need to be monitored and assessed. This might include whether the design code has been successfully applied by the local planning authority in determining applications or by planning inspectors in making decisions on appeals. Views from all stakeholders, including landowners, developers and their consultants, as well as the neighbourhood planning group and the community need to be considered to assess whether the design code is delivering the desired quality outcomes.

75. Once your design code has been in operation for some time, you may wish to consider arranging a design review in which external consultants and experts peer review the design code and any particularly sensitive projects that need to comply with it. Local residents can participate in the workshops, and the local planning authority may be able to advise on the most appropriate method and organisation.

76. At the conclusion of the adoption process you should nominate a 'keeper of the code' to provide continuing oversight and monitor its effectiveness. The local planning authority will ensure developers and landowners comply with the design code. Like a neighbourhood plan, a design code will require a periodic review in line with changing national, regional, or local policies or other circumstances. Consideration should be given to a review and update of the design code when you are reviewing and updating your neighbourhood plan.

#### References

##### Neighbourhood Planning – Planning Practice Guidance

This sets out the Government's guidance on developing and implementing neighbourhood plans.

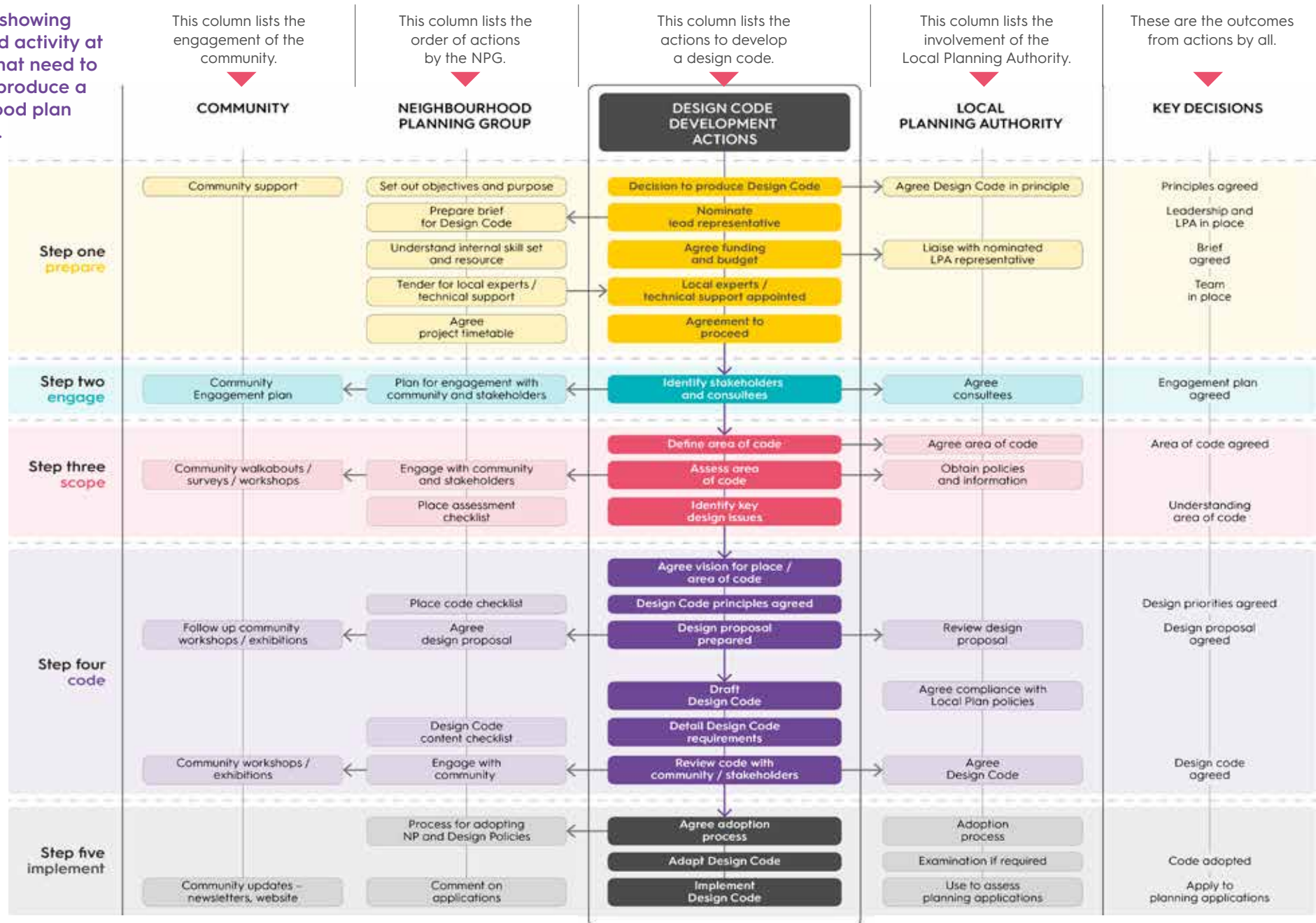
#### Checklist

- Has a community review process been set up to endorse the content of the design code?
- Have you agreed the adoption process with the local planning authority?
- Is there a nominated person or group that will oversee the application of the design code?
- Have you conducted a review of the design code by external experts?

# Activity Map

(v) Diagram showing the steps and activity at key stages that need to be taken to produce a neighbourhood plan design code.

Activity Map



# Glossary

Refer to the Glossaries in the [National Model Design Code Part 1](#) and the [National Design Guide](#) for further technical terms.

Refer to [Planning Aid England](#) for further technical terms relating to planning.

## Background

**Authority wide design code** – A design code prepared by a local authority and that applies across the whole area of a local authority.

**Design code** – A design code provides detailed design principles for a site or area and they prescribe design requirements (or ‘rules’) that new development within the specified site or area should follow.

**Design guide** – A document providing guidance on how development can be carried out in accordance with good design practice, often produced by a local authority.

**Development plan** – A document setting out the local planning authority’s policies and proposals for the development and use of land in the area.

**Material consideration** – A matter that should be taken into account in deciding a planning application or on an appeal against a planning decision.

**National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)** – The government policy document that sets the guiding principles for local authorities to follow in their local plans.

**Local plan** – Documents prepared by a local planning authority for the use and development of land and for changes to the transport system, such as development plans and statements of community involvement.

**Neighbourhood Development Order** – An order introduced by a parish or town council, or a

neighbourhood forum, as part of the neighbourhood planning process, which grants planning permission for a specific development or type of development.

**Community Right to Build Order** – A form of Neighbourhood Development Order which can be created by a local community organisation and can be used to grant planning permission to bring forward development on specific sites. Any benefits from these developments stays within the community to be used for further community benefit.

## Step 1 – Prepare

**Neighbourhood Plan** – A planning document created by a parish or town council or a neighbourhood forum, which sets out the vision for the neighbourhood area, and contains policies for the development and use of land in the area.

**Neighbourhood forum** – Designated by the local authority in non-parished areas, an organisation established for the purpose of neighbourhood planning to further the social, economic, and environmental well-being of the neighbourhood area. Forums cannot have overlapping boundaries.

**Urban design** – The design of towns and cities, including the physical characteristics of groups of buildings, streets and public spaces, whole neighbourhoods and districts, and even entire cities.

## Step 2 – Engage

**Stakeholders** – People, parties and agencies who have an interest in an organisation or process including residents, business owners and government.

## Step 3 – Scope

**Public realm** – Areas of space usually in town and city centres where the public can circulate freely, including streets, parks and public squares.

## Step 4 – Code

**Design vision** – A clear articulation of what an area should be like in the future, developed with the local community. Local planning authorities may create an authority-wide vision statement setting out specific aims of the design code in which a neighbourhood plan design code would sit.

# Credits

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(i) Typical relationship between Neighbourhood Plans, the Local Plan and typical policies. ©Locality.

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National Design Guide. ©Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government.

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The ten characteristics of well-designed places (Image from page 3 of NMDC Part 1). ©Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government.

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(iv) Design coding process. ©Locality.

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Greening public spaces: Maritime Estate, Barrow ©Farrer Huxley.

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Building Heights & Roof Forms - Hauxley Design Code. ©AECOM.

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Examples of adopted design codes. ©Locality.

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(v) Activity Map diagram. ©Locality.

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## Acknowledgements

Locality would like to thank members of neighbourhood planning groups, including those involved in the Design Code Pathfinder programme, who have contributed their time to help develop this guidance.

# Weblinks

## Cover

[locality.org.uk](http://locality.org.uk)

[gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-levelling-up-housing-and-communities](http://gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-levelling-up-housing-and-communities)

## Page 3

Activity Map and Templates:

[neighbourhoodplanning.org/toolkits-and-guidance/design-code-guidance/](http://neighbourhoodplanning.org/toolkits-and-guidance/design-code-guidance/)

## Page 5

National Model Design Code (NMDC) Parts 1 & 2:

[gov.uk/government/publications/national-model-design-code](http://gov.uk/government/publications/national-model-design-code)

National Design Guide:

[gov.uk/government/publications/national-design-guide](http://gov.uk/government/publications/national-design-guide)

Planning system guidance. Design: process and tools:

[gov.uk/guidance/design](http://gov.uk/guidance/design)

Achieving well-designed places through neighbourhood planning:

[neighbourhoodplanning.org/toolkits-and-guidance/good-design-neighbourhood-planning/](http://neighbourhoodplanning.org/toolkits-and-guidance/good-design-neighbourhood-planning/)

## Page 9

Office for Place:

[gov.uk/government/organisations/office-for-place](http://gov.uk/government/organisations/office-for-place)

Design Network:

[designnetwork.org.uk](http://designnetwork.org.uk)

CABE Guidance:

[webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20110118130430/http://www.cabe.org.uk/buildings/client-principles](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20110118130430/http://www.cabe.org.uk/buildings/client-principles)

Neighbourhood Planning Support Programme:

[neighbourhoodplanning.org/](http://neighbourhoodplanning.org/)

Locality Toolkits & Guidance: How to commission consultants:

[neighbourhoodplanning.org/toolkits-and-guidance/commission-consultants-work-neighbourhood-plan/](http://neighbourhoodplanning.org/toolkits-and-guidance/commission-consultants-work-neighbourhood-plan/)

10 Criteria for Effective Design Coding:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/10-criteria-for-effective-design-coding>

## Page 11

Listen Learn Adapt – Engaging your community in a meaningful way:

[neighbourhoodplanning.org/toolkits-and-guidance/engaging-with-your-community-in-a-meaningful-way/](http://neighbourhoodplanning.org/toolkits-and-guidance/engaging-with-your-community-in-a-meaningful-way/)

National Model Design Code Part 2 – Guidance

Notes – Community Engagement:

[assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/611105f98fa8f506c58e786f/National\\_Model\\_Design\\_Code\\_-\\_Part\\_2\\_Guidance\\_Notes\\_web.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/611105f98fa8f506c58e786f/National_Model_Design_Code_-_Part_2_Guidance_Notes_web.pdf)

Planning system guidance. Design: process and tools:

[gov.uk/guidance/design](http://gov.uk/guidance/design)

Accessibility and assisted digital:

[gov.uk/service-manual/helping-people-to-use-your-service](http://gov.uk/service-manual/helping-people-to-use-your-service)

## Page 14

Magic Map:

[magic.defra.gov.uk/magicmap.aspx](http://magic.defra.gov.uk/magicmap.aspx)

Parish Online:

[parish-online.co.uk/](http://parish-online.co.uk/)

Placecheck:

[placecheck.info/en/](http://placecheck.info/en/)

Building for a Healthy Life:

[designforhomes.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/BFL-2020-Brochure.pdf](http://designforhomes.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/BFL-2020-Brochure.pdf)

Place assessment template:

[neighbourhoodplanning.org/toolkits-and-guidance/design-code-guidance/](http://neighbourhoodplanning.org/toolkits-and-guidance/design-code-guidance/)

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Peacehaven & Telscombe design code:

[peacehaven-and-telscombe-neighbourhood-plan-steering-group.co.uk/copy-of-your-input](http://peacehaven-and-telscombe-neighbourhood-plan-steering-group.co.uk/copy-of-your-input)

Stoke Ferry design code:

[west-norfolk.gov.uk/downloads/file/7449/stoke\\_ferry\\_design\\_code\\_august\\_2022](http://west-norfolk.gov.uk/downloads/file/7449/stoke_ferry_design_code_august_2022)

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Hauxley design code:

[northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Planning-and-Building/planning%20policy/Neighbourhood%20Planning/Hauxley-NP-Hauxley-Design-Code.pdf](http://northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Planning-and-Building/planning%20policy/Neighbourhood%20Planning/Hauxley-NP-Hauxley-Design-Code.pdf)

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Morecambe design code:

[morecambe.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/DR-10839-Morecambe-Design-Codes\\_Draft-17-12-20-3.pdf](http://morecambe.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/DR-10839-Morecambe-Design-Codes_Draft-17-12-20-3.pdf)

Place code template & Design code content template:

[neighbourhoodplanning.org/toolkits-and-guidance/design-code-guidance/](http://neighbourhoodplanning.org/toolkits-and-guidance/design-code-guidance/)

National Model Design Code Part 2 - Guidance Notes for Design Codes:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6111531fd3bf7f043c4badd1/NMDC\\_Part\\_2\\_Guidance\\_Notes.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6111531fd3bf7f043c4badd1/NMDC_Part_2_Guidance_Notes.pdf)

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Neighbourhood Planning – Planning Practice Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2>

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Activity Map:

[neighbourhoodplanning.org/toolkits-and-guidance/design-code-guidance/](http://neighbourhoodplanning.org/toolkits-and-guidance/design-code-guidance/)

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National Model Design Code Part 1:

[assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/611152f98fa8f506ca458925/NMDC\\_Part\\_1\\_The\\_Coding\\_Process.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/611152f98fa8f506ca458925/NMDC_Part_1_The_Coding_Process.pdf)[code-guidance/](http://code-guidance/)

National Design Guide:

[gov.uk/government/publications/national-design-guide](http://gov.uk/government/publications/national-design-guide)

Planning Aid England:

[planningaid.co.uk/hc/en-us](http://planningaid.co.uk/hc/en-us)



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Publication date: April 2024.