



RTPI Networks
Royal Town Planning Institute

**Urban
Design Network
News
Summer 2021**

Welcome to your Urban Design Newsletter

I am delighted to introduce our bumper Summer newsletter, with an update on recent Government announcements on design in England and a new Place Alliance report on design skills. We have also packed this edition with insights from fellow members of your Network across the UK and Ireland, alongside some links to interesting RTPI blogs you may have missed.

A series of major announcements on design were made last week by Housing Secretary Robert Jenrick during an [event at think tank Policy Exchange](#) – a recording of which can be found on the link above. One key element is the creation of a new 'Office for Place' from MHCLG and we are pleased that RTPI Chief Executive Victoria Hills [has been named as a member of the Advisory Board](#). Chaired by Nicholas Boys Smith, director of Create Streets, the Office for Place has been positioned to help councils and communities 'banish ugly developments and deliver beautiful, green homes and places using Britain's world-class design expertise'. Joining Victoria on the new taskforce will be developers, architects and other planners.

Also announced were revisions to the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) following a consultation earlier this year, hopefully giving more tools to enable planners to reject poor quality design – something that the RTPI has been campaigning on. More insights from the RTPI's Richard Blyth can be found here: ['Let's do design!'](#)

A [National Model Design Code](#) has also been launched to help councils and communities to create their own local design requirement. Guidance will be provided across all aspects of new development including tree-lined streets, sustainable drainage and design to support walking and cycling. The greater role for codes also means that, in an era where action on climate and nature recovery is a key priority for nations and for communities, we need to see how they can be used to achieve real progress towards net zero, greater active travel, nature recovery and ensure people's access to green/blue infrastructure. The RTPI has therefore commissioned a study into design codes, net zero and nature recovery, with publication of the research due in autumn 2021.

I would also like to draw your attention to a recent RTPi webinar on 'design and access statements with Colin Haylock and Steve Hudson. A link to the event recording on YouTube [can be found here](#).

On the heritage front, the revised NPPF presents a new paragraph on memorials (para. 198) and new paragraph numbering for content that was already in place. An area to keep an eye on more generally is the increasing focus on the sustainability dynamic of reusing historic buildings, with an increasing body of work on embodied energy and managing change. Elsewhere, you can view a masterful summary on current dynamics relating to planning balance following the Bramshill case from Landmark Chambers here - [click here](#).

If you are short of time, links to our featured articles are also copied directly below:

- [Matthew Carmona and Valentina Giordano](#) - The design deficit
- [Vicky Payne](#) - Community led Strategic Planning: If Not Your Back Yard, Then Where?
- [Glen Richardson](#) - National Model Design Code enshrined in NPPF
- [Colin King](#) - New Approaches to Building Heights in Current Planning in Ireland
- [Chloe Rutland](#) - Embedding design quality: my first 6 months as a local authority Infrastructure Planner
- [Rob Beardsworth](#) - The Byker Wall, a modernist success story?
- [David Buckley](#) - From retail destination to civic space: reimagining our town centres
- [Jamie Wilde](#) - The value of design review

The views expressed by authors are their own and do not necessarily reflect the views of the RTPi.

We are always keen to receive contributions for future editions of the newsletter, please contact max.tolley@rtpi.org.uk if you would like to write a short article on planning and design.

Justin Webber
Chair, Urban Design Network

The design deficit

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The last comprehensive survey of [Design skills in English local authorities](#) noted: "Urban design skills and capacity within local planning authorities are woefully low and declining" Three years later [A Housing Design Audit for England](#) concluded that the design of new housing developments in England remained overwhelmingly 'mediocre' or 'poor'. The two are fundamentally linked.

The stark conclusion of our latest [Place Alliance](#) research on the subject suggests that at the current rate of change it will take until 2077 to have at least one urban design officer in every local planning authority in England.

Numerous reports over many years, including that of the [Building Better Building Beautiful Commission](#), have identified *The design deficit* in local authorities to be a key barrier to raising the general standard of urban design across the country. No matter how the [ambitions of](#)

[Government](#) rise in relation to design quality, we will never witness a general improvement in the quality of new development until we crack this particular nut!

Reviewing the latest evidence, whilst the decline in design skills seems to have stabilised, the availability of urban design skills remain at a low ebb and far below where they need to be in order to address the ambitious national agenda on raising the design quality of new development. Early signs of the growing use of design review and design codes are positive, but recruitment of design officers into local government remains challenging, proactive community engagement in design is minimal, and design related training remains basic. We have a long way to go!

[The design deficit](#) includes a wide range of recommendations. Amongst those for government, is the need to establish a new dedicated (and generous) funding stream for raising design skills in local planning authorities. Receipt of this funding should be tied to local authorities submitting a plan for resourcing in-house design expertise over the long-term. Of course everyone is asking for more resources just now, but it is difficult to overemphasise that, without this necessary investment in design skills, the proposed changes to the planning system will be all but impossible to deliver.

For Local government, the recommendations include the obvious conclusion that all local authorities should invest in in-house design expertise appropriate to the size of their planning team with a remit to prepare or commission design frameworks, codes and guidance, conduct or commission design review and community engagement, offer advice to planning staff on all major developments, implement government guidance on design and generally raise and support local design quality ambitions. A ratio of design specialist staff to other professional planning staff of 1:10 is a reasonable aspiration to work to. Over time, this would roughly double the numbers of design staff working in local planning authorities across the country.

This would represent a minimum body of expertise from which to build a new culture of design. It would require an acceleration in recruitment many times the snail's pace currently being achieved.

Community led Strategic Planning: If Not Your Back Yard, Then Where?

Vicky Payne

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Like many within the industry I watched the 21st June Parliamentary debate on planning with a mixture of excitement (“Ooo look at planning right there at the top of the political agenda!”) and horror (“but, but, the bill hasn’t been written yet!”, “what even is a Developer’s Charter!?”)

Although the debate expanded to cover failures of the current system, the housing crisis, land banking, infrastructure, green space and the environment, the starting point was an issue of local democracy. Namely, the fear that a Planning Bill could remove the rights of residents to comment on (let’s be honest, object to) individual applications.

The white paper proposes a simplification of Local Plans to focus on identifying land under three categories: growth, renewal and protected. In “growth” areas outline approval would automatically be secured. In such a system, respondents could comment on the details of development, but any objections to principle would be shifted forward in the process, during the production of the Local Plan.

I'm sympathetic to the concerns. Engagement in Local Plan processes is notoriously low. [A YouGov poll showed that 69 percent of respondents had not engaged with a Local Plan consultation](#), rising to 80 percent for 18–34-year-olds. In a new system barriers to participating would need to be dismantled and the burden of this could easily fall on Local Authorities already stretched to breaking point.

However, if the right government support is given, it could provide a more meaningful way of engaging with the principle of development in a particular location. At application stage if you object to the principle, you simply say “not here”. If you are meaningfully engaged with the strategic distribution of housing numbers at a Local Plan stage, you're deciding where development *should go*, rather than where it *shouldn't*.

I was shaken from my dreamscape of positive strategic planning by a [recent Guardian article](#), describing the angst “tearing apart” a community in West Sussex as they try to decide where to build 16,000 new homes. One resident said “It's tough luck for one of us and we just want to make sure the one of us is not us.”

I remain ever hopeful. Let's imagine for a moment that we have resolved the legitimate concerns around how such housing numbers are calculated, and that the design quality of the resulting development will be good (don't laugh!). Wouldn't it be incredible to get residents using a shared mapping platform to plot constraints, think about infrastructure and identify locations for the total number of required homes? Of course, the first individual reaction might be “not in my back yard” but after that, pragmatic choices would have to be made, and the resulting cumulative picture might give shape to something fair and logical.

National Model Design Code enshrined in NPPF

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Associate Partner, Carter Jonas

On the 20th July, 2021, the government released a revised version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This revised Framework replaces the previous National Planning Policy Framework published in March 2012, revised in July 2018 and updated in February 2019. The revised version places significant emphasis on the use of design codes and guides, underpinned by the National Model Design Code (NMDC) (the post-consultation version of which was also released on July 20th) and the National Design Guide.

The most relevant new or amended paragraphs are found in Chapter 12: Achieving well designed places. Paragraph 128 now states: "To provide maximum clarity about design expectations at an early stage, all local planning authorities should prepare design guides or codes consistent with the principles set out in the National Design Guide and National Model Design Code, and which reflect local character and design preferences". New paragraph (129) has been added which states: Design guides and codes can be prepared at an area-wide, neighbourhood or site specific scale, and to carry weight in decision-making should be produced either as part of a plan or as supplementary planning documents. Landowners and developers may contribute to these exercises, but may also choose to prepare design codes in support of a planning application for sites they wish to develop. Whoever prepares them, all guides and codes should be based on effective community engagement and reflect local aspirations for the development of their area...."

Planning and design practitioners will immediately recognise the significance of these changes. Paragraphs 128 refers to “all” Local Planning Authorities (LPA’s) and notes they “should” prepared design guides or codes. It was widely considered when consultation took place in early 2021 on the NMDC that many LPA’s would either have to increase in-house resources to prepare guides/codes or simply struggle to deliver on this requirement. The second significant change is that guides or codes “...should be produced either as part of a plan or as supplementary planning documents”. This significantly elevates the importance and potential material weight of such a document in decision making, and while not a bad thing on its own, will no doubt cause nervousness in already stretched, and in some cases overburdened, planning services in England.

The third significant addition to new paragraph 129 is the need for “...effective community engagement...” on guides or codes. Guides and codes, by their very nature, are often technical and not easily digested by local residents. They may struggle when looking at an example street section in a design code, for example, to understand what a development will actually look like. This is not to say public consultation is a bad idea, on the contrary effective consultation can often improve the quality and content of a guide or code, however those leading consultation exercises will need to consider very carefully how best to ensure truly meaningful engagement on guides and codes and the best format and means for doing so.

In reality, notwithstanding the revised paragraphs of the NPPF, guides and codes will most likely continue to be used mainly for large scale housing and mixed-use allocations and also continue to be prepared by developers and the private sector. This is because the preparation of such documents requires the right mix of resources, time and experience to prepare. The reality is that developers are often better able to both resource and program the preparation of design guides and codes as part of their own development program. However, if LPA’s are able to resource this work then this will most likely be beneficial to design outcomes and help further elevate the importance of design in planning.

Crucially, for me the most interesting question, remains to be answered. Specifically, will the concept of a new zonal land designation system with expansion of permission in principles as floated in the white paper “Planning for the Future” in 2020 become reality? If so, we know that the government has already said they will place great weight on the use of design guides and codes in the delivery of new places in a permission in principle system.

New Approaches to Building Heights in Current Planning in Ireland

Colin King

Dip.Arch., BSc. Arch.,MRTPI,

Associate, O’Mahony Pike and RTPI design champion for Ireland

As a new generation of County Development Plans come into public view, we are starting to see how the implications of the 2018 National Planning Framework’s programme of compact growth will change urban design and placemaking practice at the local planning level across Ireland.

The NPF set out a national strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of Ireland to the year 2040. Like this year’s Climate Bill, the delivery of the shared goals it articulates has consequences for planning in every community across the country. With a

general purpose of enabling both rural and urban Ireland to successfully accommodate growth by facilitating a shift towards Ireland's regions and cities, the particular implications of the NPF on urban areas are becoming apparent.

A key driver of this change is the S28 Urban Development and Building Height Guidelines. Broadly, it included prompts for the forthcoming development plans with regard to plan-making in SPPR's 1 & 2 and development management in SPPR's 3 & 4. It described the planning criteria relevant to the consideration of increased building heights to achieve greater densities, and specifically prohibited the use of explicit numerical height limits in forthcoming development plans.

Two plans for urban areas published for consultation in recent weeks reflect the obligations for planning authorities to explicitly identify – through their statutory plan – areas where building height will be actively pursued for redevelopment, regeneration and infill development, and to provide for the assessment of proposed increased building heights in development application and development management scenarios.

The Draft Limerick Building Height Strategy – published as a supporting strategy of the Draft Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 – is broadly area-based and provides guidance on the appropriateness or not of increased height buildings in particular settings within the City. Directing taller buildings to the city centre, it proceeds to set out assessment criteria that will enable proper consideration of proposals for increased building height and taller buildings at identified specific geographic locations. South Dublin's Draft Building Height and Density Guide – published as a supporting strategy of the Draft South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028 – ties its proactive consideration of increased heights not to geographical areas but instead to specific land zonings across the administrative area. It then provides a parameter-based toolkit for use in applications to root proposals in urban design analysis and contextual appropriateness.

Despite their different approaches, each of the strategies signals a new and arguably more nuanced approach to building heights in the Irish context; an approach that will coincide with the end of current 'fast-track' strategic housing application procedures. While the surrender of numerical building height limits is likely to be seen by some as a loss of control, we might be hopeful that the return of responsibility from An Bord Pleanála to local members might mitigate this sense. Whatever the sentiment, what is clear is that height is an emotive issue and that leadership will be required to steer a nuanced discussion. Public interest in this generation of plans is high: a draft Plan for Dublin City is due in November, but Stage 1 of its public consultation has shown a 150% increase in submissions received at the same stage of the process for the last development plan. We can speculate that this is a result not only of the extended reach of the digital tools required due to Covid restrictions to augment traditional methods of engagement, but also of citizens' increased engagement with their local areas and increased recognition of what does and does not work at the local level. Proposals around civic leadership in planning and urban design – design champions or review panels – might be an aspect that these plans have yet to consider but could remedy before they are finally made.

Embedding design quality: my first 6 months as a local authority Infrastructure Planner

Chloe Rutland

Infrastructure Planning Officer at London Borough of Havering
and RTPI design champion for London

The design and delivery of high quality infrastructure in London will be essential to delivering a socially inclusive and resilient city. Providing the right infrastructure will also be crucial in meeting the Mayor's promise to make London a Net Zero Carbon city by 2030.

In my first 6 months as an Infrastructure Planning Officer at the London Borough of Havering I've had an opportunity to reflect on some of the key challenges and opportunities associated with embedding design quality in the infrastructure planning process.

Funding and co-ordination – At the local authority level, coordinating infrastructure delivery via developer contributions (S106 and CIL) often relies on development coming forward within specific timescales. By nature of the development industry, these timescales are subject to change, and this can create programme issues in infrastructure delivery. Conversely, developers want certainty that essential infrastructure will be delivered in time to make their developments attractive places to live and work. Improving coordination in this process will be essential to delivering high quality infrastructure projects that meet the placemaking vision of the places they serve. The GLA Infrastructure Co-ordination team is already doing great work in this space, helping developers and local authorities to identify and promote joint infrastructure delivery and coordinate collaborative projects across London.

Design & placemaking skills – In order to get the best value for money from infrastructure, a renewed focus on high quality placemaking and design is needed. Individual examples of innovation are encouraging (such as the National Infrastructure Strategy promoting the use of design panels), but embedding a culture of good design throughout local and regional government will be essential to ensuring London gets the best value from its infrastructure. At the local authority level, the input of skilled urban designers and architects during pre-application and planning application stage is crucial to ensuring that developments come forward with well-designed, appropriate infrastructure.

Influencing wider suite of policies – Raising the profile of infrastructure within local government is crucial to ensuring that infrastructure is considered early in the development process. One way this can be achieved is by working closely with council colleagues to embed infrastructure thinking across the council's suite of documents, including the Local Plan, masterplan SPDs, and regeneration projects. In addition, using existing infrastructure policy documents such as the Infrastructure Delivery Plan to promote the Net Zero agenda can ensure that infrastructure projects demonstrate visible, measurable actions to help tackle the climate crisis.

The Byker Wall, a modernist success story?

Rob Beardsworth

Urban Design and Conservation,
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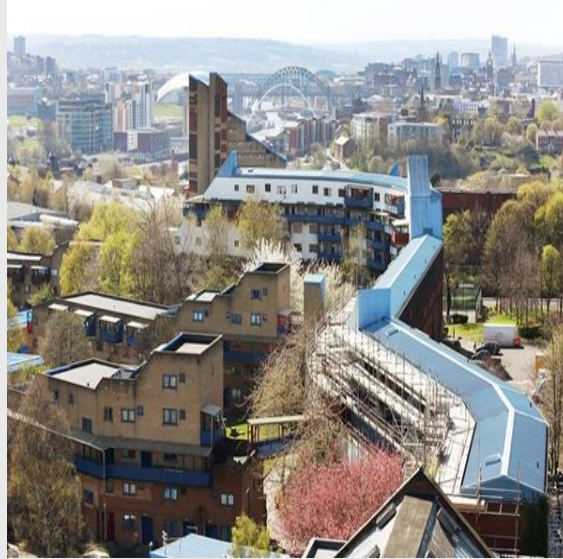


IMAGE CREDIT Newcastle Chronicle online

“If the measure of a successful place is that people want to live there, then it has been very successful” says a friend, and built environment academic. The subject of our conversation is the Byker Wall Estate – a large-scale social housing project designed by Ralph Erskine in the late 1960s and constructed throughout the following decade. Grade II Listed since 2007, and recognised by UNESCO’s list of outstanding twentieth century buildings – the Byker Wall Estate is a most singular example of the non-traditional social housing genre. My colleague’s measure of success is absolutely valid as we reflect on the enduring qualities of places as they (and we) grow older. It is always worth reminding ourselves that the true clients of our profession are the people who live in the places long after the designers have moved on.

The centrepiece of the Byker Estate is Erskine’s Byker Wall – a one-and-a-half mile long, 180 home, gargantuan piece of townscape which first grabbed my attention upon arrival in Newcastle upon Tyne at the start of my postgrad-studies in 2005. Of course my own fascination had been nothing new, as the Byker Wall has been fascinating students of architecture, urban design and social history ever since the wrecking ball entered old Byker – a tight-knit, working-class community of Victorian back-to-back terraces – more than 50 years ago.

Much has been and will doubtless continue to be written about the Byker Estate, and much of this rightly focuses on the original Byker community and its displacement. This article is not an attempt to add to this weighty subject but rather takes the Byker Wall as it finds it today, observing it through the lens of urban design.

In the interests of keeping this as concise as possible I have chosen to explore four elements of design that may have contributed to the endurance of the Byker Wall Estate. No grand hypothesis is offered, rather an exploration of the qualities that seem to set it apart from many of its contemporaries from the often ill-fated genre of post-war non-traditional housing estates.

How have design decisions taken in the late 1960s and 70s played out more than a half decade later.

Responding to context

In its most simple form Erskine's Byker Wall is the result of a design decision to shelter the estate and its inhabitants from the roar of traffic along A193 that booms along the northern edge of the estate, linking Newcastle city centre and the east end. This principle is evident in the scale and massing, but also in terms of the internal layouts and architecture – kitchens and bathrooms on the north side and small austere windows to the north face. In stark contrast the interior on the south side has active and open facades allowing light to penetrate more generously into living spaces, and with regular entrances and balconies looking across the interior of the estate, and down the sloping topography towards the banks of Tyne.

Tethered to the landscape

The beauty of writing retrospectively about place is that the passing of time has allowed the natural landscape to mature and to take hold becoming entwined with the built forms. A half decade on it can be difficult to discern what was planned and planted, from what is the result of nature's urban wilding. What seems certain is that the estate was originally laid out around existing natural features as many of the trees found there today are far more advanced in years than the estate itself. What can be observed from this is that a characteristic the Byker Estate shares with many sought-after traditional residential neighbourhoods, is the structural landscape that elevates a sense of hierarchy, and tethers the estate to the land.

Eyes on streets and spaces

Whilst the estate is non-traditional in its design and layout – there is no grid and block structure – the design has delivered the sense of public fronts and private backs far more successfully than is the norm for post-war non-traditional estates. In the Byker Estate whilst streets and spaces lack the uniformity and legibility of a traditional layout, the buildings and landscape provide a comfortable sense of enclosure, and a network of generally well-overlooked pathways, communal squares and play areas – some large and some more intimate – which reinforce a sense of community. At this point it is necessary to offer a counterpoint by identifying that like much of post-war Britain, the Byker Wall Estate was made by men for men. Women have a different perspective of their environment from the men who created it, and the labyrinthine routes through the estate and their perceived levels of comfort are an example of this gender bias in design.

What is apparent when exploring the estate today is that the design team understood how to use distinctive architecture and open spaces to act as wayfinders and local landmarks to help people orientate. This has to an extent alleviated for the absence of a more traditional layout that people are able to navigate intuitively.

Society at the heart of design vision?

What of Erskine himself? A British architect by birth, but a designer who lived and worked in Sweden for the vast majority of his life. It is perhaps a generalisation to say Scandinavian values of community and co-housing are present in the design approach, but there is weight to the argument that Erskine's approach was progressive at the time for placing such values at the heart of a design vision. According to research Erskine set up base in a former funeral parlour during the destruction and subsequent rebuilding of Byker from where he attempted to pivot his approach on a desire to keep social and familial ties intact. A further explanation of the sinuous form of the Byker Wall is to be found in the aspiration of rehoming households

street-by-street. Such ambition it seems was only partially realised, and depending on which source you read fewer than 25% of the existing Byker population came to live in the Byker Wall Estate.

Anecdotally at least the Byker Wall Estate as viewed through the lens of this urban designer is a place where families appear content to leave children's toys and bikes out in communal spaces, under no apparent fear of them being taken. A place where outdoor theatre companies are encountered on what seemed at the time the most innocuous of Tuesday mornings. Therein lies at least a partial understanding of its enduring success: its design engenders a sense of ownership that many of its contemporaries contrived to eradicate.

From retail destination to civic space: reimagining our town centres

David Buckley MRTPI

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This article is written in a personal capacity

The difficulties facing retail have resulted in a need for alternatives to the traditional retail-led approach in town centres. Department store buildings are often built in widely appreciated, more historic architectural styles and despite the challenges of reconfiguration, residential conversions are proposed at several former Debenhams stores.

Post-war shopping centres are more difficult to reconfigure, although consideration is now being given to include education, social and other uses, which the new more flexible planning Use Class E could help facilitate.

While in Milton Keynes and Coventry, some shopping centres have been heritage listed and are considered to contribute to local character, in general this type of post-war architecture did not win wider public appreciation. Where shopping centres have become redundant, redevelopment is often considered the best option, which raises the difficult question of what we now desire from our town centres.

A recent example in Maidenhead, Berkshire will see a post-war shopping centre replaced with a mixed-use residential and retail scheme, with wider community uses and new civic and public space. A stated aim is to increase permeability and provide an improved heritage setting. However, the original street network that once ran through the site and is still visible in surrounding areas is unlikely to offer the density required and will not be reinstated.

A smaller example is in Wolverton, a Victorian railway town in Buckinghamshire, where replacement of the 1970's shopping centre with a mixed retail and residential scheme is proposed. Density and building heights will be greater than elsewhere in the vicinity, but the proposal would also reinstate the old street network, taking design cues from the surrounding area.

A final example is Nottingham, where the Broadmarsh shopping centre has been returned to the Council as freeholder, following the collapse of the retail landlord. The Council's wide-ranging local consultation found the following to be public priorities: green, nature and open space; history and heritage and a mixed development. A strong dislike of the current Broadmarsh centre in terms of architecture and appearance and a preference to reinstate the old street network was another key finding.

It is notable that local government was a major stakeholder in all these redevelopments. It is hoped that the Government's recently launched high street strategy 'Building Back Better High Streets' encourages a proactive approach to reimagine town centres as a new focal point for activity that also values local heritage and identity.

This article is written in a personal capacity

Key Links:

[The Nicholson Quarter - JTP](#)

[Love Wolverton - New development by TOWN.](#)

[Broadmarsh, Nottingham - the big conversation \(arcgis.com\)](#)

The value of Design Review

Jamie Wilde, Planner and Urbanist at [Integreat Plus](#) and Manager of [Design Yorkshire](#)

Design Review panels are an effective technical resource that seek to support local authorities and design teams to assess and improve design quality. It is an independent and impartial peer review system that brings fresh impetus and perspectives to projects and can help identify and address key design issues positively and constructively. Design review is a tool recognised in the [NPPF](#) (was para. 129; now para. 133) and in many Local Plans and SPDs.

With the National Design Guide, BBBB commission and the draft National Model Design Code the importance of high-quality design is being increasingly recognised and promoted by the government. Whilst this is undoubtedly positive, cuts to local authorities over the last 11 years has led to a reduction of in-house design skills in many authorities. [Research by the Place Alliance and Urban Design Group](#) found that almost half of LPAs have no dedicated in-house design capacity at all, of those that do, most have a single officer often covering design as one part of a larger role. Only around 10% of LPAs have an urban-design/placemaking team (2 or more), increasing reliance on conservation officers doubling up as urban-design officers.

It is clear that with reduced capacities and competing priorities many LPAs do not possess the necessary design skills or training to adequately address this shift in emphasis. Design Review can assist LPAs in addressing the skills shortage – panels are made up of multi-disciplinary built environment experts with years of experience in both public and private sectors. Design Review can be utilised at any stage of the design process from scoping and the initial conceptual design stage up to assessing the quality of live applications.

[The Housing Design Audit](#) found that only 19% of LPAs are regular users of design review (monthly or quarterly), whilst most use it only occasionally, very rarely or never. In terms of frequency vs effectiveness of design governance tools, design review ranked 8th for frequency of use but 2nd for effectiveness.

If we are to deliver the high quality homes and neighbourhoods we desperately need and deserve, and are to address the many challenges facing us, greater utilisation of design tools such as Design Review should be an integral part of realising that aspiration.

Children and Town Planning: Creating places to grow

The aim of this advice is to expand the scope of what is currently understood as planning for children, beyond planning for play, towards a more inclusive approach that encompasses all aspects of children's lives, highlighting the importance of the sustainable location of development that encourages independent and sustainable mobility. This practice note gives advice on how town planners can work to create child-friendly places. It summarises expert advice, outlines key planning policy and focuses on good practice through a series of case studies. It also outlines eight principles for designing child-friendly places.



[Find out more](#)

RTPI News

[RTPI Chief Executive to be part of new Office for Place](#)

[Town Planning Apprenticeship gets go ahead](#)

[Open RTPI research tender: Rural Planning in the 2020s](#) (The deadline for applications is: 09.00, Monday 9 August 2021)

[More support required to help Scottish communities plan their places](#)

[Virtual council meetings should continue, say the UK's town planners](#)

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RTPI Blogs

[What can planners do to promote placemaking principles in Wales?](#) Joe Ayoubkhani, Planning Associate at Barton Willmore, RTPI Cymru Junior Vice Chair and RTPI design champion for Wales

[The rebirth of Park Hill, Sheffield](#), Wei Yang writes about her Presidential visit to the RTPI's Yorkshire region

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