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Our reference:
Your reference:
Date: Monday, 6 January 2025

To all Members of the Cabinet

Dear Councillor

A Meeting of the Cabinet will be held on Tuesday, 14 January 2025 at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Rushcliffe Arena, Rugby Road, West Bridgford to consider the following items of business.

This meeting will be accessible and open to the public via the live stream on YouTube and viewed via the link: <https://www.youtube.com/user/RushcliffeBC>
Please be aware that until the meeting starts the live stream video will not be showing on the home page. For this reason, please keep refreshing the home page until you see the video appear.

Yours sincerely



Sara Pregon
Monitoring Officer

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest

[Link to further information in the Council's Constitution](#)

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 December 2024 (Pages 1 - 6)
4. Citizens' Questions

To answer questions submitted by citizens on the Council or its services.

5. Opposition Group Leaders' Questions

To answer questions submitted by Opposition Group Leaders on items on the agenda.

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KEY DECISIONS

6. Rushcliffe Design Code Supplementary Planning Document (Pages 7 - 122)

The report of the Director – Development and Economic Growth is attached.

7. Simpler Recycling Update (Pages 123 - 136)

The report of the Director – Neighbourhoods is attached.

8. Exclusion of the Public

To move “That under Regulation 4 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.”

9. Parkwood Leisure Ltd Contract Variation (Pages 137 - 152)

The report of the Director – Neighbourhoods is attached.

Membership

Chair: Councillor N Clarke

Vice-Chair: Councillor A Brennan

Councillors: R Inglis, R Upton, D Viridi and J Wheeler

Meeting Room Guidance

Fire Alarm Evacuation: In the event of an alarm sounding please evacuate the building using the nearest fire exit, normally through the Council Chamber. You should assemble at the far side of the plaza outside the main entrance to the building.

Toilets: Are located to the rear of the building near the lift and stairs to the first floor.

Mobile Phones: For the benefit of others please ensure that your mobile phone is switched off whilst you are in the meeting.

Microphones: When you are invited to speak please press the button on your microphone, a red light will appear on the stem. Please ensure that you switch this off after you have spoken.

Recording at Meetings

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 allows filming and recording by anyone attending a meeting. This is not within the Council's control.

Rushcliffe Borough Council is committed to being open and transparent in its decision making. As such, the Council will undertake audio recording of meetings which are open to the public, except where it is resolved that the public be excluded, as the information being discussed is confidential or otherwise exempt

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET

TUESDAY, 10 DECEMBER 2024

Held at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Rushcliffe Arena,
Rugby Road, West Bridgford
and live streamed on Rushcliffe Borough Council's YouTube channel

PRESENT:

Councillors A Brennan (Vice-Chair), R Inglis, R Upton, D Viridi and J Wheeler

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors Birch and J Walker

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

P Linfield	Director – Finance and Corporate Services
K Marriott	Chief Executive
S Pregon	Monitoring Officer
H Tambini	Democratic Services Manager

APOLOGIES:

Councillor N Clarke

27 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

28 Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 November 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 12 November 2024 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Vice-Chair.

29 Citizens' Questions

There were no citizens' questions.

30 Opposition Group Leaders' Questions

Question from Councillor Thomas to Councillor Brennan. Councillor Thomas was unable to attend the meeting, so her question was read out by Councillor Brennan.

"In addition to the identified nine key recommendations from the peer challenge, there were also 20 other "additional observations" of items to be considered, and there are comments in the Appendix B on only four of these. Are you able to update members of these remaining 16 items? These include:

- investing in renewable energy
- reviewing KPIs
- comprehensive review of scrutiny
- creating sustainable heat networks
- affordable housing programme and potential housing revenue account
- identifying land for BNG credits
- engagement into the lead up to food waste collection.”

Councillor Brennan advised that the Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC) team was primarily concerned with the nine main recommendations, and an update would be provided in the substantive agenda item. The additional observations made by the team were largely still relevant and were being worked on, as listed in Appendix B, and she confirmed that a review of scrutiny was scheduled for 2025/26.

Question from Councillor Birch to Inglis.

“For the purposes of informing residents, please can you explain whether any money has been allocated by the Conservative-led administration at Rushcliffe Borough Council to building a new car park in Bingham.”

Councillor Inglis referred to the Cabinet report from April 2024, regarding improvements to car parking in Bingham, in line with the Council’s Off-Street Car Parking Policy. He advised that no money had been allocated for a new car park, although a new one had been built for the Bingham Arena and was included in the recently implemented car parking changes. Councillor Inglis confirmed that early feedback regarding those changes had been very positive, and due to those changes, a long stay car park might not be needed, but this project was being led by Bingham Town Council.

Councillor Birch asked a supplementary question to Councillor Inglis.

“For the purposes of informing residents, how much money has the Conservative-led Council allocated to Bingham’s new car park in the medium term, that is to say in the next five years?”

Councillor Inglis confirmed that he would provide specific details in a written response.

Question from Councillor J Walker to Councillor Brennan.

“People are already actively engaged in their local economy as business owners and consumers. There is an easy link to be made between the Economic Strategy and our Peer Review's recommendation to engage more effectively with our residents. Has Cabinet sought the opinions of groups on the local economy, such as our disabled residents, as part of its draft Engagement Strategy?”

Councillor Brennan confirmed that significant consultation was undertaken with a wide range of groups, organisations and stakeholders. Although she could not specifically recall if that included disability groups, Councillor Brennan agreed that the Engagement Strategy, linked to the Peer Review Challenge put

forward a series of options, to improve consultation. The Engagement Strategy would be developed in the New Year and that “bottom up” approach would be developed to ensure that all groups could take part in the process.

Councillor Walker asked a supplementary question of Councillor Brennan.

“Are consultations as they stand an effective approach to engagement?”

Councillor Brennan stated that a recommendation from the Peer Review Challenge was to consider the Council’s broader Engagement Strategy, and whilst the Council was satisfied that consultations reached as many residents as possible, the CPC team felt that it was not statistically sound as people tended to be self-selecting. Councillor Brennan stated that she was confident that the recommendations put forward by officers would address those concerns and improvements would continue.

31 Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring 2024/25 - Financial Update Quarter 2

The Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Finance, Transformation and Governance, Councillor Virdi, presented the report of the Director – Finance and Corporate Services, which set out the budget position for revenue and capital as at 30 September 2024.

Councillor Virdi stated that whilst the overall position remained positive, financial challenges made it imperative that the Council continued to drive forward improvement and efficiencies.

In respect of revenue, Councillor Virdi confirmed that there was a projected net revenue efficiency of £1.786m, with the significant variances highlighted in Table 1 and Appendix B, together with the reasons for those variances detailed in Paragraph 4.3 of the report. Councillor Virdi referred to Table 2, which summarised how the underspend would be used and focused in particular on areas of risk and opportunities for economic growth, including a proposal to create a West Bridgford Town Centre Reserve, with the largest addition to Table 2 for potential land acquisition for carbon offsetting, which amounted to £0.698m. Councillor Virdi confirmed that those funds, combined with funds detailed in Paragraph 4.10 would allow £1.5m to be earmarked to help achieve the Council’s carbon offsetting targets. It was noted that Appendix E detailed a minor overspend on the Special Expenses Budget.

In respect of the Capital Programme, Councillor Virdi referred to Appendices C and D, which detailed an underspend of £3.598m, with £1.435m rephased into next year, as highlighted in Table 3, and Paragraph 4.10 detailed reasons for the remaining underspend. Councillor Virdi referred to the Disabled Facilities Grants and confirmed that an additional £0.2m had been allocated, although he acknowledged that this was not a permanent situation and a more prudent, long term solution would be required.

Councillor Virdi concluded by stating that whilst the financial position remained healthy, the situation could change quickly, with the Council’s current reserves allowing it to manage risks and maximise opportunities, whilst continuing to

deliver excellent services and support economic growth.

In seconding the recommendation Councillor J Wheeler was pleased that the Council continued to invest, with savings being reinvested and he specifically thanked the Communities Team for their work in maximising bookings. The Council continued to invest in services, had no external debt, and other councils were envious of Rushcliffe's situation.

Councillor Brennan agreed that the Council was still facing various external pressures and it was pleasing to see that those efficiencies were giving flexibility to provide support across the Borough when required.

It was RESOLVED that the report be approved and the following be noted:

- a) the expected revenue budget efficiency for the year of £1.786m and proposals to earmark this for cost pressures at Paragraph 4.6 and Table 2 to the report;
- b) the projected capital budget efficiencies of £3.598m including the reprofiling of schemes totalling £1.435m at Paragraph 4.9 and Table 3 to the report;
- c) the removal of £1m from the Capital Programme for travellers site acquisition and £1.5m to be added in relation to carbon offsetting land acquisitions for the 2024/25 programme going forward at Paragraph 4.10 to the report; and
- d) the expected largely balanced outturn position for special expenses at Paragraph 4.7 to the report.

32 **LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Progress Review**

The Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Business and Growth, Councillor Brennan, presented the report of the Chief Executive, outlining the Local Government Association (LGA) Peer Challenge progress review, following the examination in January 2024.

Councillor Brennan thanked members of the Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC) team for their constructive and challenging visit and the positive way that they engaged with everyone. Councillor Brennan confirmed that the Council had completed or progressed all nine core recommendations made, details of which were highlighted in Paragraph 4.4 and Appendix A to the report. Cabinet noted that the CPC feedback to the Council's follow-up work had been very positive, recognising the speed and breadth of the Council's response, with that feedback detailed in Paragraph 4.8 and Appendix A. Councillor Brennan referred to Paragraph 4.9, which outlined comments on the other recommendations. The Council was very pleased to see the recognition by the CPC team regarding progress made, and the Council's willingness to embrace change and improvement, together with recognition for the hard working staff, and Councillor Brennan added her thanks. It was recognised that improvement was a continuous process and the Council would continue to look at the additional observations that were made.

In seconding the recommendation, Councillor Upton referred to the benefits of this review, as it was a highly valued improvement and assurance tool, which helped councils to meet their best value duty.

Councillor J Wheeler stated that it was good to see that the CPC team had acknowledged improvements to the training programme for Councillors.

Councillor Viridi stated that progress had been made due to the great relationship between Councillors and the Executive Management Team.

It was RESOLVED that the Local Government Association's feedback report as presented in Appendix A to the report be accepted.

The meeting closed at 7.25 pm.

CHAIR

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Cabinet

Tuesday, 14 January 2025

Rushcliffe Design Code Supplementary Planning Document

Report of the Director – Development and Economic Growth

Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing – Councillor R Upton

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. The purpose of the Rushcliffe Design Code Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is to replace the Rushcliffe Residential Design Guide SPD (2009) with a National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) compliant authority-wide Design Code. The Design Code will provide a set of design rules against which planning proposals will be assessed in the determination of planning applications. It will also provide greater certainty for applicants with respect to what the Council expects from design quality.
- 1.2. Following earlier rounds of consultation undertaken in preparing the Design Code, approval is sought to publish it in draft for a period of public consultation. The report sets out the background to the Design Code and provides a summary of the work that has been undertaken thus far. It also provides an overview of the structure and content of the Design Code and the next steps and anticipated timetable for its adoption as an SPD.

2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet:

- a) approves the draft Rushcliffe Design Code Supplementary Planning Document for a six-week period of public consultation; and
- b) delegates authority to the Director – Development and Economic Growth to make any necessary minor editing changes to the Supplementary Planning Document prior to consultation.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1. To enable preparation of an NPPF-compliant authority-wide Design Code (Appendix 1) to progress further towards adoption. Its role is to provide code and guidance to support the delivery of well-designed new development.
- 3.2. If adopted, the Design Code SPD will provide design code and guidance on the application of relevant Local Plan policies, including Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy Policy 10 (Design and Enhancing Local Identity) in particular, and

pertinent national policy and guidance within the NPPF and the government's Planning Practice Guidance.

- 3.3. The draft Design Code SPD has been subjected to a Sustainability Appraisal and Appropriate Assessment Screening Opinion. The report for this process is at Appendix 2. It concludes that the draft Design Code SPD does not require its own Strategic Environmental Assessment or an Appropriate Assessment under the Habitat Regulations Assessment.

4. Supporting information

- 4.1. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (LURA) 2023 requires local planning authorities to produce design codes for their area. This requirement seeks to address the concerns that new development over the past 20 years or more has not always created well-designed and sustainable places.
- 4.2. The revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published on 12 December 2024 and retains the requirement for all local authorities to prepare design guides and codes consistent with the principles set out in the National Design Guide (NDG) and National Model Design Code (NMDC), and which reflect local character and design preferences. The NPPF sets out that design guides and codes can be prepared at an area-wide scale, as well as neighbourhood or site-specific scale, and to carry weight in decision-making should be produced either as part of a local plan or as a supplementary planning document.
- 4.3. The importance of delivering well-designed places has been strengthened in the new NPPF by the inclusion of the need to have particular regard to key policies for securing well-designed places when applying the presumption in favour of sustainable development.
- 4.4. The revised NDG and NMDC are expected to be published in Spring 2025; however, it is not anticipated that either will conflict with the structure and content of the Rushcliffe Design Code.
- 4.5. The purpose of the Rushcliffe Design Code Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is to replace the Rushcliffe Residential Design Guide SPD (2009) with a National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) compliant authority-wide Design Code. This will provide a set of design rules against which planning proposals will be assessed in the determination of planning applications. It will also provide greater certainty for applicants with respect to what the Council expects from design quality.
- 4.6. SPDs build upon and provide more detailed guidance on policies in an adopted local plan. They do not form part of the development plan and cannot introduce new planning policies into the development plan. However, they form a material consideration in decision-making and carry significant weight provided they have been prepared within the statutory procedures and subject to public consultation.

- 4.7. The Council has been working with Harper Perry Architects since January 2024 on the preparation of the Design Code. This has followed the process set out in the NMDC which forms part of the government's Planning Practice Guidance.

Stage 1 Analysis (1A Scoping; 1B Baseline Analysis)

- 4.8. Stage 1 of the process involved scoping and baseline analysis and included consultation between 29 January and 7 March 2024. This consultation exercise gathered feedback from residents and other stakeholders on the strengths and weaknesses of different places in the Borough and informed the priorities and the overarching design vision of the Design Code. It also helped inform how the Borough could be divided into a number of Area Types (or zones) which reflected places of similar character and function. A Baseline Analysis document was prepared with worksheets for each Area Type, providing the evidence base for Stage 2.

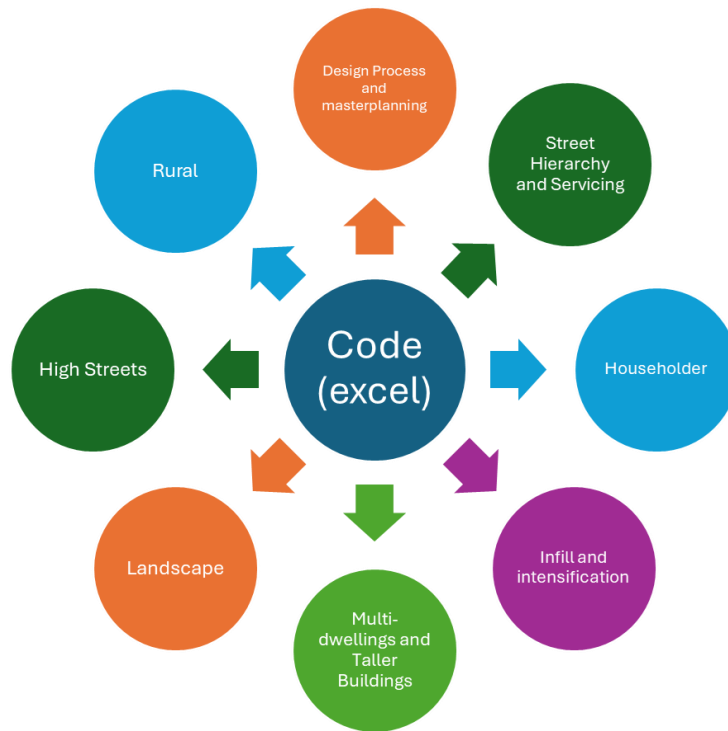
Stage 2: Vision (2A Design Vision; 2B Coding Plan)

- 4.9. Stage 2 involved preparation of a Design Vision and Coding Plan and included a second round of consultation between 20 May and 30 June 2024. This consultation gathered opinion on an overarching design vision for the Borough, a Coding Plan which identified seven Area Types with a design objective for each. The Council also took the work undertaken thus far to Design Review by an independent panel of experts at Design Midlands.

Stage 3: Code

- 4.10. Stage 3 involved preparation of code and guidance for each of the Area Types. Following the Stage 2 consultation and feedback from Design Review, it was decided to simplify the Coding Plan and propose five Area Types, as opposed to seven. During the initial drafting it was found that writing a separate code and guidance for each Area Type was resulting in a lot of repetition and was becoming overly complex, a challenge which had also been encountered by the government's Pathfinder local planning authorities, who had been tasked with piloting the NMDC. As a result, it was decided to write just one code that could be filtered by Area Type in a spreadsheet format with links to further explanatory guidance.
- 4.11. The draft Design Code is available as one PDF document (Appendix 1) and also as an interactive web-based version, which is designed to make the code easier to navigate. The basic structure of the code comprises a list of mandatory requirements, or rules, which sit in a spreadsheet that can be filtered by application type and Area Type. Each rule links to further explanatory guidance and illustrations within a suite of eight design notes. The design notes cover topics which reflect the main priorities identified during the consultation exercises. The basic structure and content of the code are illustrated in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Structure of Rushcliffe Design Code



4.12. The initial draft of the Design Code was subject to a number of internal consultation exercises, including road-testing on real-life planning applications and a series of workshops for officers, Councillors and the Council’s Agents’ Forum. Feedback from the above and discussions also with the Highway Authority have informed the draft Design Code (Appendix 1).

Timetable

- 4.13. The timetable for progressing the Design Code, subject to approval by Cabinet, is:
- Late January - statutory six-week consultation period
 - March 2025 – potential revisions to the design code following consultation
 - April/May 2025 – adoption of the Design Code SPD and post-adoption training of officers and councillors.

5. Alternative options considered and reasons for rejection

The Cabinet could decide not to adopt the draft SPD. This is not recommended given that the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (LURA) 2023 introduced legislation to require every local planning authority to produce design codes for their areas. The SPD will also better support the implementation of Local Plan policies that seek to ensure well designed new development across the Borough.

6. Risks and Uncertainties

The main risk at present is that the timetable will slip if the content of the Design Code cannot be agreed upon and established. Government funding for preparation of the project has been secured for use during 2024/25.

7. Implications

7.1. Financial Implications

The Council made a successful bid to Government for £60,000 Planning and Skills Delivery Funding to support preparation of an authority-wide Design Code and additional costs such as training. This will supplement £50,000 that is available within existing budgets for preparation of the Design Code. Any officer time in supporting preparation of the Design Code can be accommodated within existing budgets. The Council has signed a Memorandum of Understanding and has now received funding from Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHLCG).

7.2. Legal Implications

7.2.1. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (LURA) 2023 introduced legislation to require every local planning authority to produce design codes for their areas. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), December 2024, sets out that to carry weight in decision-making they should be produced either as part of a local plan or as supplementary planning documents.

7.2.2. The 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act empowers local planning authorities to prepare local plans and supplementary planning documents (SPD). SPDs are not part of the Local Plan but are capable of being a material consideration in planning application decisions. There is a statutory requirement for public consultation to be undertaken on the draft SPD and for any representations received to be taken into account before it can be adopted by the Council.

7.3. Equalities Implications

There are no direct equalities implications arising from matters covered in this report. Equalities Impact Assessments were undertaken in preparing the Local Plan and the Planning and Skills Delivery Funding bid. The SPD would not put in place new policies but would supplement relevant policies from the Local Plan.

7.4. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Implications

There are no direct community safety implications arising from matters covered in this report.

7.5. Biodiversity Net Gain Implications

There are no direct biodiversity net gain implications associated with this report.

8. Link to Corporate Priorities

The Environment	The SPD helps to ensure new developments positively affect Rushcliffe's environment.
Quality of Life	The SPD helps to ensure new developments positively affect Rushcliffe's environment through the delivery of good design.
Efficient Services	The recommendations in this report do not impact on or contribute to the Council's Efficient Services priority.
Sustainable Growth	The SPD helps to ensure new developments are delivered in a way that supports the Council's design aspirations.

9. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet:

- a) approves the draft Rushcliffe Design Code Supplementary Planning Document for a six-week period of public consultation; and
- b) delegates authority to the Director for Development and Economic Growth to make any necessary minor editing changes to the Supplementary Planning Document prior to consultation.

For more information contact:	Richard Mapletoft Planning Policy Manager 0115 914 8457 rmapletoft@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Background papers available for inspection:	Draft Rushcliffe Baseline Appraisal: https://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/media/voolorryl/240927_baseline_rev-a.pdf?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.rushcliffe.gov.uk%2Fmedia%2Fwq2qhd%2Fcompressed_240520_baseline_full_lq.pdf&data=05%7C02%7Ckhancock%40rushcliffe.gov.uk%7C83120e697a4344b6280908dc9f39436b%7C0fb26f95b29d4825a41a86c75ea1246a%7C0%7C0%7C638560315489164711%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=8cpFsSYLEraXGS0Ljh0LPy9XvxFNTOvkRyZKn6SDt8g%3D&reserved=0
List of appendices:	Appendix 1: Draft Rushcliffe Design Code Supplementary Planning Document Appendix 2: Draft Rushcliffe Design Code Supplementary Planning Document – Sustainability Appraisal and Appropriate Assessment Screening Opinion Report

Appendix 1: Draft Rushcliffe Design Code Supplementary Planning Document

A. Rushcliffe Design Code Compliance Checklist

The following table identifies which design codes (numbers 0.1 to 7.7) apply to which planning application types (e.g. major residential outline applications) and to which area types (e.g. 'urban')

Code number	Code	COMPLIANCE				APPLICATION TYPE							AREA TYPE				
		Yes	No	Not applicable	If 'no', justify	Major residential outline	Major residential full/ reserved matters	Minor residential	Householder	Major non-residential outline	Major non-residential full/reserved matters	Minor non-residential	Urban	Key settlements	Rural	Riverside	High Streets
0.1	Proposals for major applications must be accompanied by a Design and Access Statement that includes a detailed account of how the proposal has been developed following each of the nine stages of the Planning and Design Process.					✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
1.1	The spatial characteristics of different street types must be distinctive from one another.					✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
1.2	Streets designed as part of new development must be designed with traffic-calming measures.					✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
1.3	Lighting must be present on all new tertiary streets.						✓	✓					✓	✓		✓	
1.4	New tertiary streets must have at least one pedestrian priority feature to help encourage slower traffic speeds every 40 metres, or at least once where a street is less than 40 metres in length.						✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	
1.5	On-street parking on tertiary streets must be designed as clearly defined parallel and/ or chevron bays integrated within the street landscape strategy.						✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	
1.6	Verges and planting areas with street trees must be at least 2 metres wide.						✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1.7	Street lighting must be present in all new secondary streets.						✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	
1.8	On secondary streets, pedestrian crossings with dropped kerbs located across the mouth of side street junctions must maintain the trajectory of the footpath (desire lines).						✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	
1.9	New secondary streets must have at least one pedestrian priority feature to help encourage slower traffic speeds every 50 metres, or at least once where a street is less than 50 metres in length.						✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	
1.10	Level footways must be maintained across driveway access points on secondary streets.						✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	
1.11	On-street parking on secondary streets must be integrated within the street landscape strategy.						✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	
1.12	New secondary streets must integrate area of soft landscape and tree planting including SuDS.						✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	
1.13	Verges and planting areas with street trees must be at least 2 metres wide on secondary streets.						✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	
1.14	Main streets must be designed with a clear distinction between vehicular, cycle and pedestrian space.						✓						✓	✓			

Code number	Code	COMPLIANCE				APPLICATION TYPE							AREA TYPE				
		Yes	No	Not applicable	If 'no', justify	Major residential outline	Major residential full/ reserved matters	Minor residential	Householder	Major non-residential outline	Major non-residential full/reserved matters	Minor non-residential	Urban	Key settlements	Rural	Riverside	High Streets
1.15	Protected space for cycling must be provided on all new main streets.						✓						✓	✓			
1.16	_A main street must not provide direct access to only residential land uses.						✓						✓	✓			
1.17	Main streets must be designed to accommodate public transport.						✓						✓	✓			
1.18	Street lighting must be present on all new main streets.						✓						✓	✓			
1.19	Pedestrian crossovers with dropped kerbs located across the mouth of side street junctions must maintain the trajectory of the footpath (desire lines) on all new main streets.						✓						✓	✓			
1.20	New main streets must have at least one pedestrian priority feature to help encourage slower traffic speeds every 60 metres.						✓						✓	✓			
1.21	Level footways must be maintained across driveway access points on new main streets.						✓						✓	✓			
1.22	On-street parking on main streets must be designed as clearly defined parallel and/or chevron bays integrated within the street landscape strategy.						✓						✓	✓			
1.23	New main streets must integrate areas of soft landscape and tree planting including SuDS.						✓						✓	✓			
1.24	Verges and planting areas with street trees must be at least 2 metres wide on main streets.						✓						✓	✓			
1.25	Triple tandem parking spaces are not permitted.						✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	
1.26	In-curtilage parking forward of the main building line must be integrated with an area of soft landscaped frontage that is equal to or greater than the size of the parking area.						✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
1.27	All parking spaces must have permeable surfaces						✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1.28	Access to rear parking courtyards must have headroom for resident owned trade vehicles to enter.						✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	
1.29	Proposals for private drives must justify why an adopted tertiary street cannot be used instead.						✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	
1.30	Any private drives serving 6 or more dwellings must be designed to adoptable standards.						✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	
1.31	All private drives must have an entry point via a crossover maintaining pedestrian and cycle priority and have a dwelling or open aspect terminating the forward view.					✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	

Code number	Code	COMPLIANCE				APPLICATION TYPE								AREA TYPE				
		Yes	No	Not applicable	If 'no', justify	Major residential outline	Major residential full/ reserved matters	Minor residential	Householder	Major non-residential outline	Major non-residential full/reserved matters	Minor non-residential	Urban	Key settlements	Rural	Riverside	High Streets	
1.32	In parking squares, bays must be arranged in clusters up to 5 integrated with areas of soft landscaping.					✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
1.33	Rear parking courtyards must be directly overlooked by homes, with lighting present.						✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓		
1.34	Neighbourhood-scale parking squares must be enclosed by local facilities on at least three sides (exceptions may be deemed acceptable –see guidance note).					✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓		
1.35	EV charging infrastructure within streets must be designed to ensure pavements are kept clear and accessible.						✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
1.36	EV charging infrastructure must be provided in shared areas of parking.						✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
1.37	Parking bays reserved for disabled users and car club vehicles must have access priority to building entrances.						✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
1.38	Proposals for a dropped kerb(s) on an existing classified highway are not acceptable.								✓				✓	✓	✓	✓		
1.39	All new dwellings must be designed with a purposely designed and adequately sized space for the storage of at least one adult sized cycle						✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓		
1.40	Waste collection strategies must be made explicit at pre-planning stages.						✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
1.41	Bin storage must be enclosed to provide a positive outlook for residents and designed to be robust, secure and ventilated.						✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓		
2.1	Proposals must have regard for 1) the relevant Area Type vision and 2) Area Type worksheets in the design code Baseline Appraisal taking into account development pattern of the local area including building lines, plot structure and grain.						✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.2	The scale and massing of new development in backland sites must not exceed that of surrounding existing buildings.						✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
2.3	Views into backland development along new points of access must be terminated by a building or key group, rather than a minor structure such as a garage or a side elevation or void.						✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
2.4	Gates across the entrance to access routes into backland development will not be permitted.						✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		

Code number	Code	COMPLIANCE				APPLICATION TYPE							AREA TYPE				
		Yes	No	Not applicable	If 'no', justify	Major residential outline	Major residential full/ reserved matters	Minor residential	Householder	Major non-residential outline	Major non-residential full/reserved matters	Minor non-residential	Urban	Key settlements	Rural	Riverside	High Streets
4.7	All new homes with gardens, planting areas and/or access to communal planting must be fitted with water butts of a minimum of 200 litre capacity.						✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	
4.8	Dry detention ponds must not be part of proposed SuDS features outside of East Midlands Airport Strike Zone.					✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
4.9	A minimum of two swift bricks per dwelling must be provided in new residential development, in addition to any other ecological enhancements.						✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	
4.10	A minimum of three swift bricks or suitable alternative must be installed per unit for commercial and industrial development, in addition to any other ecological enhancements.										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
4.11	Robust boundary materials (including 'internal' fences) must be fitted with hedgehog holes, in addition to any other ecological enhancements.						✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
4.12	New development must not specify the use of plastic planting or artificial grass.						✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
4.13	Multifunctional green infrastructure must be incorporated into new development.					✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
4.14	Proposals for new development must demonstrate how new green infrastructure features will connect to existing strategic and local green infrastructure.					✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
4.15	Proposals for green infrastructure must include a management plan covering a 15 year period.						✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
4.16	New trees planted in the public realm must be planted at a minimum rate of rate of 1 per parking space provided in the development (including garage spaces.)						✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
4.17	Trees planted within a hard landscape must utilise a soil structure system to create an uncompacted root zone and reduce the risk of roots lifting surfaces.						✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4.18	Public realm design proposals must demonstrate how they have been informed by an analysis of movement patterns by users through and within the space, including desire lines.						✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4.19	Level access must be provided to all areas of public realm within new development. Where changes of level are required they should be considered in terms of how they promote or restrict access and be clearly communicated.						✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

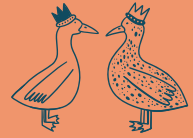
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4.20	Play spaces must be located to create a balance of provision across new developments and not be segregated to one area.					✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓		
4.21	Play spaces must be located where they have direct links to walking and cycle routes so that children and young people can reach them safely and easily.					✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓		
4.22	Management and maintenance plans must be provided for all proposed play spaces.						✓						✓	✓	✓	✓		
4.23	New development must integrate opportunities to play outside of designated play areas.						✓						✓	✓	✓	✓		
4.24	In new residential development communal facilities must be located where they have direct links to walking and cycle routes so that residents can reach them safely and easily on foot or by wheel.					✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓		
4.25	Proposals for new residential development must demonstrate that they for clear and easy movement through and within the development area.					✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓		
4..26	Proposals for new residential development must provide a well-connected street network within the development and enable connections beyond the site boundary.					✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓		
4.27	Major new development must provide integrated active travel routes as part of a safe, attractive and coherent network.					✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
4.28	Main, secondary and tertiary streets (see Street Hierarchy design note) must provide adequate street lighting to improve safety and accessibility.						✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
4.29	Walking and cycling routes must be lit to increase safety and accessibility, taking cognisance of their setting and context.						✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
4.30	Management plans must highlight areas of landscape for adoption with information on layout, materials, construction details and soft landscaping.						✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
4.31	Management plans must indicate: Land to be Adopted by the highway authority. Land to be Adopted by the council landscape maintainance arm. Land managed by a management company. Land managed by private landowners.						✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
4.32	Management plans must promote and encourage cleanliness and safety.						✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
4.33	Management plans must ensure the successful establishment and continued thriving of all plants						✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		

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	and trees, and replacement of all dead or dying trees planting stock for a period of 3 years.																
4.34	Developers must create a Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP), employing strategies that encourage biodiversity as per section 4.2 Biodiversity.						✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
4.35	Management plans must outline the goals and purposes of different landscape elements (4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6) and describe the strategies to be implemented for their achievement.						✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
4.36	Guardrails must not be erected around attenuation ponds.						✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
5.1	Side extensions must not result in development within 1 metre of a common boundary with a neighbouring house or where terracing would result.								✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	
5.2	Where there is a consistent rhythm to the street scene, in terms of setbacks, heights, separation distances and materials palette, this must not be interrupted.								✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	
5.3	Extensions must not result in blank gables to the public realm. There must always be a minimum of one window from a habitable room at ground floor level.								✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	
5.4	Householder applications must demonstrate how they comply with the following table on maximum built area in relation the overall plot size. This standard must be applied in conjunction with other standards in the design code. Those standards may further reduce the buildable areas.								✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	
5.5	Extensions to buildings in the Green Belt must not exceed 50% of the volume of the original building.								✓						✓		
5.6	Dormers on front elevations will only be accepted where there is an existing historic precedent of dormers on the front elevation and the proposed dormers follow the existing proportions.								✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	
5.7	Dormers must be inset by a min 50cm from party walls, eaves and ridges unless justified in a Heritage Impact Assessment.								✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	
5.8	Dormer extensions on side elevations will not be accepted.								✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	

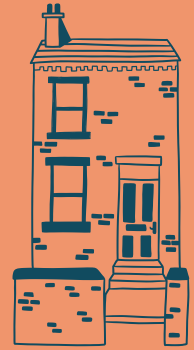
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5.9	The overall area of outbuildings must fall within the maximum proportion of buildable area as set out in C5.5.								✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	
5.10	Outbuildings in the primary frontage will not be accepted.								✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	
5.11	All front gardens should include grass, planting and other forms of living vegetation								✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	
5.12	All rear gardens should include grass, planting and other forms of living vegetation to cover at least 50% of the area.								✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	
5.13	Raised platforms in rear gardens must be installed with privacy screens.								✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	
6.1	In conversions of traditional rural buildings, original openings in the external elevations must be retained.						✓	✓			✓	✓			✓		
6.2	New wall and roofing materials must match those in the historic building.						✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓		
6.3	New boundary features must reflect historic boundary features such as hedgerows, stone and brick walls, or footpaths.						✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓		
6.4	Masonry chimneys will not be acceptable in conversions of traditional rural buildings. Matt metal flues are acceptable close to the eaves.						✓	✓			✓	✓			✓		
6.5	Dormer windows will not be accepted in conversions of traditional rural buildings.						✓	✓			✓	✓			✓		
6.6	Porches will not be accepted in conversions of traditional rural buildings.						✓	✓			✓	✓			✓		
6.7	Replacement dwellings in the Green Belt must not increase more than 50% in volume from the existing dwelling, including outbuildings within 5 metres of the host dwelling.							✓							✓		
6.8	Applications for more than four small stables and one storage area for tack/hay/animal feed, etc in one given location are not acceptable, unless supported by an existing business case.										✓	✓			✓		
6.9	Stables must not be located on an exposed skyline.										✓	✓			✓		
6.10	Tack rooms and hay stores must be integral to a stable block and be of a size similar to a small stable.										✓	✓			✓		
6.11	Muckheaps must not be sited where they will contaminate watercourses, cause nuisance to public rights of way or in proximity to houses.										✓	✓			✓		

Code number	Code	COMPLIANCE				APPLICATION TYPE							AREA TYPE				
		Yes	No	Not applicable	If 'no', justify	Major residential outline	Major residential full/ reserved matters	Minor residential	Householder	Major non-residential outline	Major non-residential full/reserved matters	Minor non-residential	Urban	Key settlements	Rural	Riverside	High Streets
6.12	Exercise areas/manages must be constructed with visually unobtrusive surface materials. Bark or recycled chippings are acceptable.										✓	✓			✓		
6.13	Bituminous macadam must not be used for hardstanding areas.						✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓		
7.1	Developments on High Streets must include active ground floor uses that enliven the public realm.										✓	✓					✓
7.2	Developments on High Streets must orientate buildings to face the street, with their entrances located on the street frontage.										✓	✓					✓
7.3	Shopfronts must be designed in keeping with the host building.										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7.4	A stallriser between 0.2-0.9 metres in height must be included within the elevation of shops frontages.										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7.5	Frontages must include legible and level door access.										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7.6	In Conservation Areas traditional features must be included in new and replacement shop fronts (see illustrations)										✓	✓		✓	✓		
7.7	Solid roller shutters are unacceptable.										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

B. Rushcliffe Design Code



RUSHCLIFFE DESIGN CODE



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and illustrations
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Kasperowicz
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INTRODUCTION

What is an authority wide design code?

An authority wide design code is a set of design requirements that set the expectations for design quality across the Rushcliffe Borough Council. They have been created with local stakeholders, communities and their representatives to establish a vision for new development in their area small and large. The aim of the design code is to provide clarity through rules and supported by good practice design guidance to allow applicants to bring forward proposals with confidence.

Why do we need a design code

Design Codes are a requirement of the Levelling Up & Regeneration Act (LURA). The Act makes it a requirement for every local planning authority in England to prepare a design code for its area.

What are benefits of a design code

The following design code has been prepared to assist residents, architects, developers, builders and planning professionals when designing development proposals whether small or large. The code will be used by Rushcliffe Borough Council to set clear design code (or rules) and design expectations through guidance to support development proposals and aid in the determination of planning applications.

The design code document will also outline the process,

considerations, qualities, and opportunities that will help to deliver high quality new development in Rushcliffe. The design code is not drafted as a substitution for design talent and does not intend to impose any particular tastes. The code is about promoting process and design rigour that lead to good design practice and proposals. In this way it aims to provide certainty in relation to design approaches likely to be deemed acceptable and consistency when determining design quality.

What the Design Code will and won't do

A design code can be used to provide clarity on what is expected of applicants when submitting a design proposal, in some areas setting out the minimum requirements to achieve design quality. It may also set mandatory requirements and discretionary guidance.

It is relevant to all scales of development such as medium to large scale residential schemes, mixed-use developments and large regeneration sites across the Borough. Whilst parts of a code may also be important considerations for smaller sites, and homeowners wishing to extend their properties, and for other uses such as commercial development.

A design code cannot introduce new areas of planning policy, nor can it make new land allocations.

We acknowledge there are limitations to the code which are beyond the limits and managed through statutory or regulatory bodies. These include, but not exclusive to:

- Energy: Energy conservation is currently established through Building Regulations set by central government using Approved Documents.

Approved Document L: Conservation of fuel and power sets minimum values for thermal transmittance (u-values), air permeability and efficiency of heating systems.

- Highways: The local highways authority is Nottinghamshire County Council who manage and set their own design standards



Council's planning team workshop



Developers' Forum workshop.

Engagement Process - Summary

The findings were wide reaching, (and as to be expected given the wide geographic nature of the borough), but broadly with many common themes emerging between officers, elected members and the general public.

Overall, sustainability, better design quality and access to good quality open space was high on the agenda. Threading these together was a strong emphasis on active travel and movement to create more enjoyable places

to walk and bike, as opposed to default to the car. Respondents highlighted the existing landscape and access to green space as key strengths. Alongside this was the unique architectural character and heritage of existing towns. However, participants highlighted car parking and the design of parking as a weakness that detracted from the enjoyment of new and existing communities. This was followed by high levels of traffic negatively impacting the quality of high streets, towns and villages, as well as being inhibitive to promoting active travel.

A more detailed summary of our findings can be found in the Baseline document.



West Bridgford walk around with community representatives and ward Councillors

Vision and Area Types

The consultant team alongside the council originally developed seven area types from their analysis of the wider borough. From this process, the team focused on urban form as the defining factor. Through a consultation process, this was simplified further down to five area types which define the broad geographical areas of Rushcliffe.

In parallel, vision statements for each area type were developed and consulted upon to establish the focus of the code. The overall vision for Rushcliffe is:

'To secure well-designed, high-quality and sustainable development that reflects and enhances the local character of the Borough of Rushcliffe and supports vibrant and healthy communities.'

From this, the five area types and their visions are:

Urban (West Bridgford)

'To create new opportunities to live sustainably and increase the amenity for residents of the Borough's principal urban area, including through improved connectivity.'

Riverside

'To offer design approaches that find their distinction in the unique setting, challenges, and development pressures along the urban riverfront, by ensuring development respects and engages with the waterfront location, provides accessibility and connectivity to the riverside and

connects with existing public rights of way, highways and cycleways.'

Settlements

'Integrate new development so that it belongs, captures the distinctiveness and best qualities of place, whilst adding something new and sought after.'

High Streets

'To promote vibrant high streets as places for investment and for people to spend time in, with a variety of reasons to visit. To ensure our high streets are safe, accessible and easy to visit, as well as being positive places to live in and around.'

Rural and Farmland

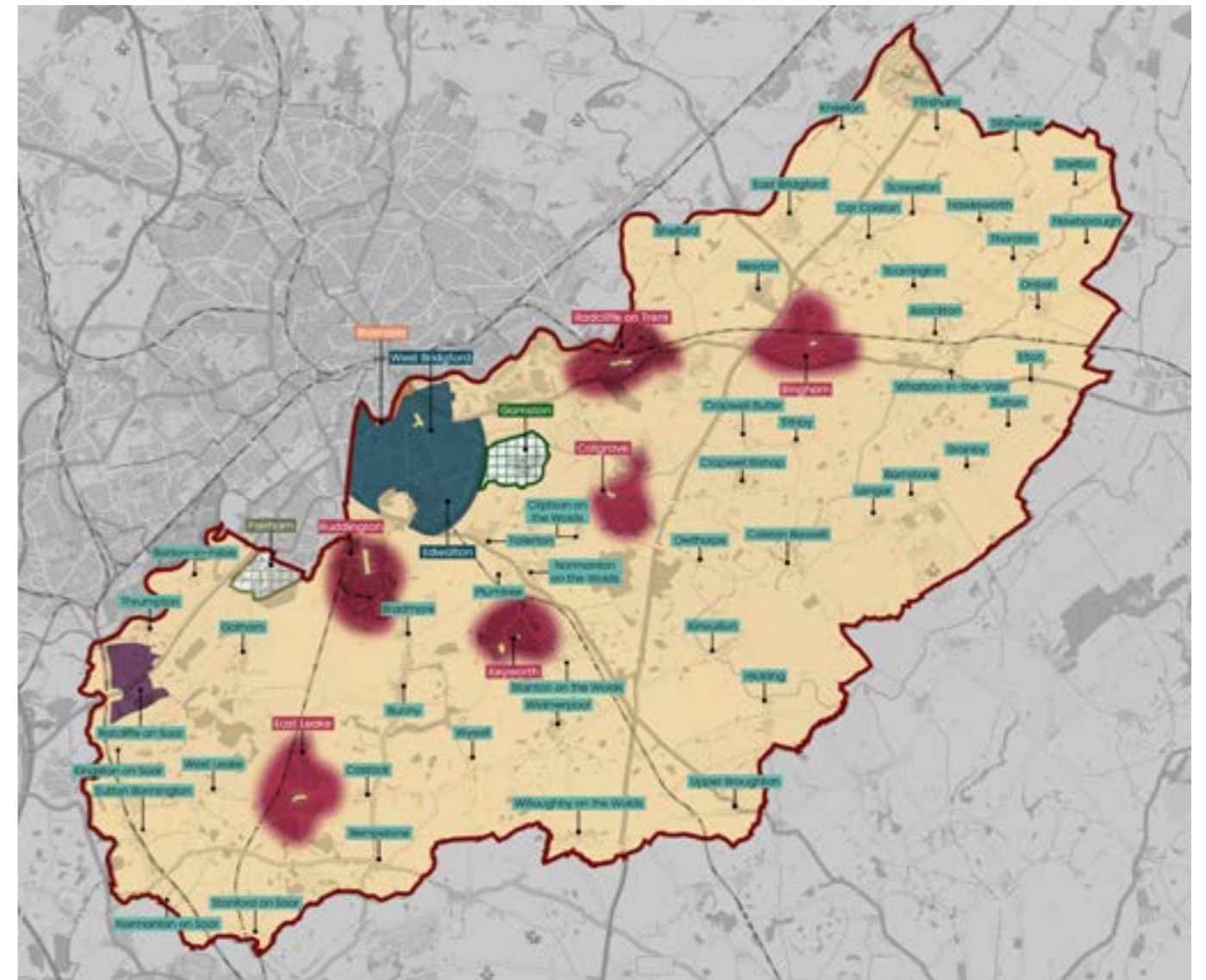
'To keep villages as villages in scale and appearance, whilst adding new qualities to the local character. To maintain the agricultural character of the countryside and avoid urbanising 'creep' into rural and farming areas, including an appropriate and sensitive approach to the conversion of rural buildings. Continue a tradition of conserving, restoring and enhancing the diversity of landscapes, historic farmsteads, wildlife and the wealth of natural resources, ensuring it may be enjoyed by all.'

Excluded from the authority wide area types is an existing Local Development Order (LDO) around land designated to shape the plans for redevelopment of the Ratcliffe on Soar power station site. We recognise the existing order but will not be coding for it.

Borough wide area type plan.

Riverside area type

Urban area type



Key

- Rushcliffe Borough Boundary
- Urban
- High Streets
- Riverside
- Key Settlements
- Fairham - Site Specific Design Code
- Gamston - Site Specific Design Code
- Local Development Order (LDO) - Site Specific Design Code
- Rural

How to use the design code

Design codes are a set of rules – you must – you must not. They are collated as a downloadable table which is located at the heart of the Rushcliffe Design Code. Depending upon application type and scale, the table can be filtered to clearly set out which codes are relevant to your application.

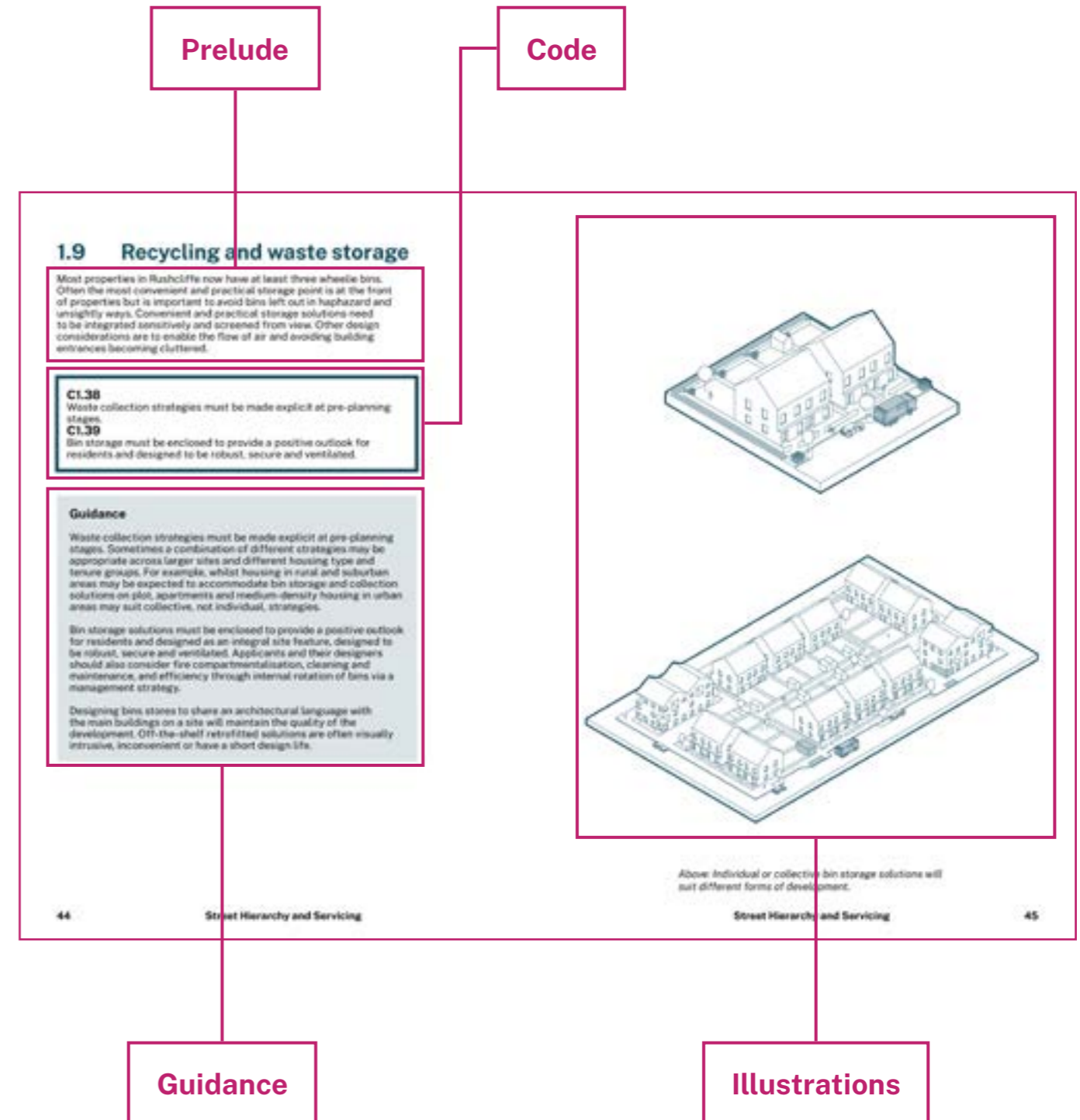
Applicants are then required to mark their compliance and non-compliance with the design code at the submission of the planning application. This will form a validation requirement to register the planning application.

The codes are structured around eight key topics, each supported by a detailed 'design note'. These are:

1. Planning and Design Process
1. Street Hierarchy and Servicing
2. Infill and Intensification
3. Multi-dwelling and taller buildings
4. Landscape
5. Householder
6. Rural
7. High Streets

Each design note is divided into sub-topics. A typical page may include the following:

- A prelude: why is this subject important
- Code: what are the rules – the musts and must not
- Guidance: promoting good design practice, they set out the should and should nots.
- Illustrations or case studies: demonstrating how to apply code or guidance. Or examples of UK wide good practice
- Further supporting information: where topics are more complex or require situating, further detail is provided



0 PLANNING AND DESIGN PROCESS

When to apply this design note

Experience has shown that when applicants and their design teams follow a robust planning and design process design quality is understood at planning stages and can be upheld after permission has been granted.

Planning applications including Section 73 applications, will not be recommended for approval unless they can demonstrate how they have followed the *Planning and Design Process* and meet the relevant requirements of Rushcliffe Design Code.

Proposals for major applications must be accompanied by a Design and Access Statement (DAS) that includes a detailed account of how the proposal has been developed following each of the nine stages of the Planning and Design Process.

Minor applications are not required to follow the *Planning and Design Process* but are advised to consult the document and use it as a best practice guide.

Purpose

To help speed up the planning process and improve the quality of design in Rushcliffe.

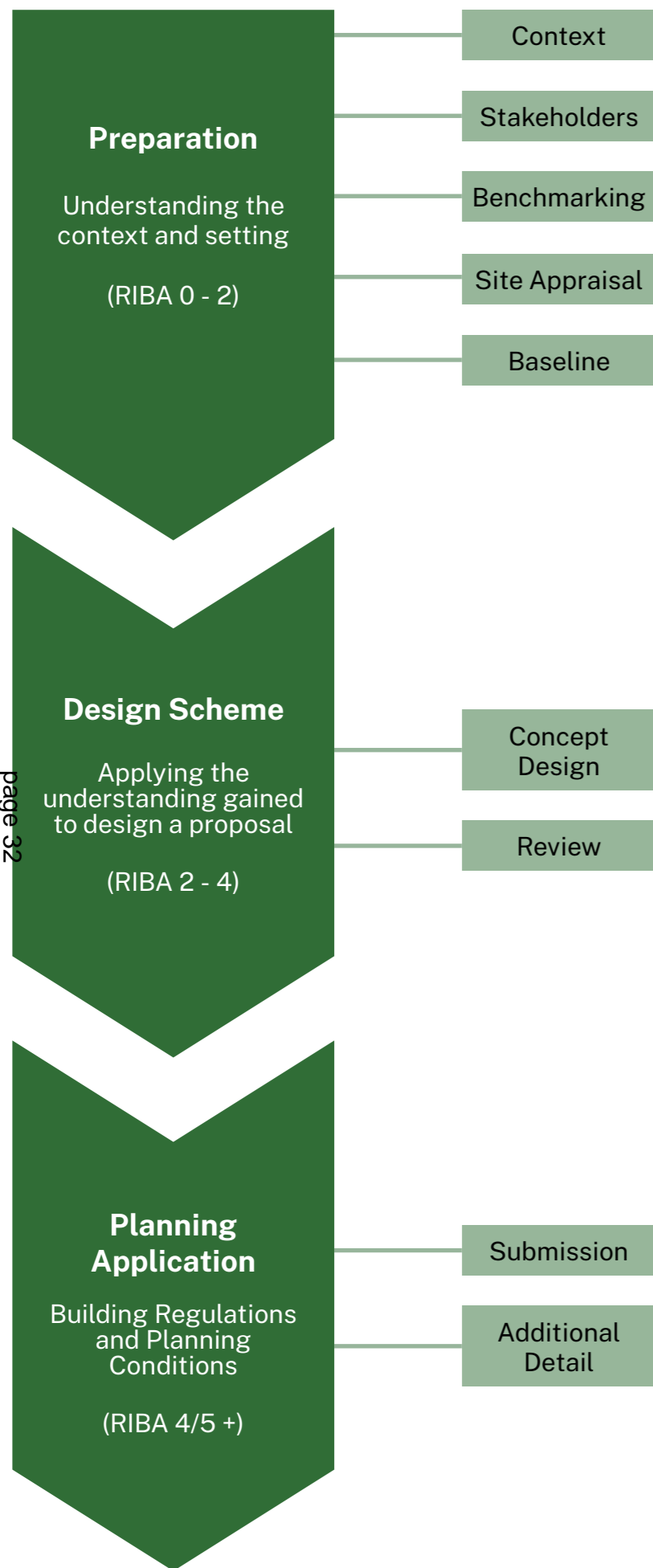
Following these nine stages will help applicants and their design teams to adopt good design principles and practices.

It outlines the planning and design process and considerations that will help to deliver high quality new development in Rushcliffe.

1. Context

During this first stage applicants should undertake research and fieldwork to develop their understanding of the role of the application site in its wider context through:

- Its history.
- Any cultural aspects, the importance of the place to local people and the social networks of the area.
- Its role as part of the economic landscape.
- Its role as part of the larger natural ecosystem and climate, wider Blue and Green Infrastructure
- The wider movement networks.



2. Stakeholders

Applicants should identify who the relevant stakeholders are and have a plan for how and when they will engage with them.

Local stakeholders may include residents, local businesses, not-for-profit organisations, schools, religious groups, other prominent informal networks such as local heritage groups, sports clubs, parenting group etc.

Authorities may include Local Planning Authority (LPA), Parish Councils, Highway Authority, Utility providers, Emergency Services, Severn Trent Water, Internal Drainage Board, Environment Agency and other relevant organisations.

Applicants should decide whether to seek formal pre-application input from Local Planning Authority before moving forward to stage 3.

3. Benchmarking (design quality)

For residential proposals, applicants should use a tool to help appraise design quality and use this to form the basis of pre-application discussions with stakeholders.

It is recommended that applicants use *Building for a Healthy Life* (BHL). Where an applicant chooses not to use BHL they may use an alternative approach but should make the reasons for this explicit in the DAS and if unsure consult the LPA beforehand.

BHL is recommended on the grounds it has been created to allow a broad range of people to use it easily – from members of a local community, local councillors, developers to local authorities – allowing those involved in a proposed new development to focus their thoughts, discussions and efforts on the things that matter most when creating good places to live.

Applicants should use BHL to think about the qualities of successful places and how these can be best applied to their proposed development in its wider context.

4. Site appraisal

The characteristics of a site will influence the layout and form of development. The response to those characteristics will significantly determine the distinctiveness of the design.

Site appraisals should be primarily map based using a number of topic-based ‘overlays’ where the appraisal is likely to be complex. The analysis must include as a minimum, or justify where it does not include:

- Landscape and topography.
- Site micro-climate.
- Site ecology.
- Existing site conditions.
- Infrastructure.
- On and off-site movement network.
- On and off-site open space network.
- Opportunities and constraints.
- Heritage - above and below ground.
- Green Belt

Landscape and topography: the three-dimensional aspects of the site are likely to exert as much influence on the character of any development proposal as its two-dimensional form.

Site micro-climate: watercourses, flood risk, drainage, gradients, exposure to wind, sun path, sunny slopes and shady slopes.

Site ecology: habitat and biodiversity characteristics of the site, designations and protections, mature trees, TPOs, hedgerow and ponds.

Existing site conditions: ground conditions, site boundaries, points of access, existing buildings and other structures on-site.

Infrastructure: utilities, nearby uses and facilities such as schools, health care, shops etc.

On and off-site movement network: existing walking and cycling routes, public transport infrastructure, local street networks/hierarchies.

On and off-site open space network: green corridors, woodland, nature reserves, formal parks, squares, play areas, greens, sports fields etc.

Opportunities and constraints: summarising all the above positive factors in the area which gives the site an identity and character and identifying any negative aspects that redevelopment of the site could potentially improve.

5. Low Carbon and Sustainable Design

The National Design Guide sets out an energy hierarchy for reducing the carbon cost of new buildings. It is based upon three principles:

1. Reducing energy demand, both in construction and in use.
2. Using energy-efficient systems within buildings.
3. Maximising renewable energy sources, especially on-site generation, and community-led initiatives.

Applicants must complete the checklist in Appendix 1 of the Rushcliffe Low Carbon and Sustainable Design SPD and reference this in the DAS.

This stage will have implications for the proposed design as it may influence fabric-first decisions regarding building form, orientation, materials, procurement and on-site/on-plot renewable energy sources.

Low carbon and sustainable design principles should influence design development from the outset.

Pre-determined site layouts and forms of development can never be retrofitted to achieve the same outcomes.

6. Concept design

Concept designs should be recorded on a map/plan, or a series of drawings and preferably supported by 3D illustrative sketches and annotations.

A concept design is not a detailed layout, but it must show the most important aspects of the proposed development such as the basic design decisions about the function, appearance, and layout of the proposed development.

Proposals of over 50 dwellings should provide a concept masterplan indicating delivery phases.

By stage 6 applicants should be able to answer the following questions:

- What will be the character of the development?
- How will the opportunities and constraints identified during the site appraisal be resolved?
- If residential, how is the design approach responding positively to the 12 considerations of BHL?
- How is the design approach responding positively to input from the community and other stakeholders?

At this stage the applicant should also be able to answer questions about the intended approach to the following design considerations:

- What is the approach to accessing the development?
- What is the approach to prioritising walking and cycling?
- How will the development address the site boundaries and look out on adjacent land and development?

- How will the existing site ecology, structures or buildings influence the layout and form of the proposals?
- How will the development be given identity and be legible?
- What is the site wide approach to:
 - Green and blue infrastructure
 - Location and function of open spaces
 - Sustainable drainage verges
 - Tree planting
 - Play spaces
 - Allotments
 - Foot/cycle-paths and cycle storage
 - Bin storage and collection points
- How will biodiversity net gain be delivered within the site?
- What is the approach for reducing the carbon cost of the development?
- What is the approach to ensuring vehicle circulation and parking will not dominate the character of the development?

At this stage the applicant should summarise stages 1-6 with supporting plans, drawings and photographs and this information can be used in the DAS.

Applicants that choose to progress beyond stage 6 without pre-application input from the LPA are at greater risk of failing to comply with this Planning and Design Process and the Rushcliffe Design Code.

7. Design Review

Applicants and their design teams should now conduct a review of their design development thus far and discuss with the LPA whether a formal Design Review, using Design Midlands or another agreed forum, is appropriate.

Having conducted an appropriate review, applicants and their design teams should now produce a more developed proposal based on the analysis and evidence produced to date.

A draft DAS should accompany the developed design and explain the evolution of the proposal through stages 1 to 7 of the Planning and Design Process.

8. Submission

In addition to satisfying all validation requirements, Full and Reserved Matters applications are expected to submit as a minimum the following to ensure design quality can be accurately appraised and determined :

- Sections through the site and street elevations along the main frontage(s).
- Siteplans giving accurate location of trees, hedges, other landscape features, all other relevant structures, all adjacent buildings, bus stops and bus routes.
- Coloured and annotated elevational drawings providing details of all building materials and finishes.
- Drawings showing details of boundary design, lighting, and street path materials.
- 3D visuals.
- Labelling of LEAPS and LAPS (Local Equipped Areas of Play and Local Areas of Play).

C0.1

Proposals for major applications must be accompanied by a Design and Access Statement that includes a detailed account of how the proposal has been developed following each of the nine stages of the Planning and Design Process.

9. Additional detail

Once the proposal has obtained permission, some details can be defined through planning conditions. This could include final specification, environmental issues, circular economy, end-of-life disposal, or arrangements during construction such as phasing.

Masterplanning

Producing a masterplan for an area can be an effective way of creating successful development and navigating the planning and design process. This is because the masterplanning process can help to clarify policy and design expectations, set a clear vision for a site, inform infrastructure decisions and viability assessments, and identify requirements for developer contributions early in the planning process.

What is a masterplan?

A masterplan sets the vision and implementation strategy for an area focusing on site-specific proposals such as landscaping, layout and mix of uses, transport and movement, scale, massing and grain of development. A masterplan is often accompanied by a range of supporting evidence such as a local character study or landscape assessment. If a development is to be delivered in several phases, an implementation strategy should also be included.

Masterplans and Design Codes

Any masterplan being prepared for an area within Rushcliffe is expected to demonstrate how the mandatory requirements and further guidance within Rushcliffe area-wide Design Code can be implemented through the site-wide design proposal.

In some cases, it may also be necessary to set out how more detailed design requirements are being met in a separate site-specific design code which can accompany or follow the overall Masterplan.

Masterplans for development sites can be produced by the landowner/ developer on their own, or in partnership with a local planning authority. In all instances the masterplanning process should be collaborative and multidisciplinary and subject to a separate community and stakeholder engagement exercise so that site opportunities and constraints are understood early on.

Care should be taken to ensure that masterplans are viable and understood by all stakeholders and include accurate representations of what the proposed development will look like. They must not be misleading to the public.

The level of detail included in a masterplan may vary depending on the complexity of the site. The National Model Design Code section 2.c Masterplanning includes guidance on what a notional masterplan is likely to include.

1

STREET HIERARCHY AND SERVICING



When to apply this design note

This design note is required to be followed as part of Rushcliffe Design Code on any development proposing the creation of any new street or multiple new streets.

The term 'street' will be applied at the discretion of the LPA to all routes providing access, vehicular or otherwise, that connects to, through and out of new residential and mixed-use development.

All new development involving the creation of a single or multiple new streets or access routes must apply the *Rushcliffe Street Hierarchy*. This hierarchy includes three street types each with varying spatial characteristics considering their role and function in the hierarchy.

Pre-application

It is recommended during the pre-application stages that applicants discuss and agree in writing with both the LPA and Highways Authority a proposed street hierarchy indicating street types for each and every new street being proposed.

This requirement covers all proposals ranging from the creation of a single street to a network of multiple new streets. The overall design of each proposed street must conform to the design parameters for the corresponding street type within this hierarchy (Tertiary, Secondary, Main).

It is anticipated that not all proposals will contain each street category.

Rushcliffe Street Hierarchy has been designed in consultation with Nottinghamshire County Council Highways Authority. Applicants must engage early with Nottinghamshire County Council and Borough Council Officers to explore adoptable street designs and any proposed variations from Nottinghamshire County Council Highway Design Guide to which all applicants proposing the creation of new streets must refer.

Rushcliffe Borough Council require applicants and their designers to agree the general geometry of residential streets in consultation with the Highway Authority.

This design note follows the principles and guidance in Streets For A Healthy Life and applicants and their designers should consider this and other relevant design guidance including Manual for Streets I and II and Building for a Healthy Life.

1.1 Street hierarchies

C1.1

The spatial characteristics of different street types must be distinctive from one another.

C1.2

Streets designed as part of new development must be designed with traffic-calming measures.

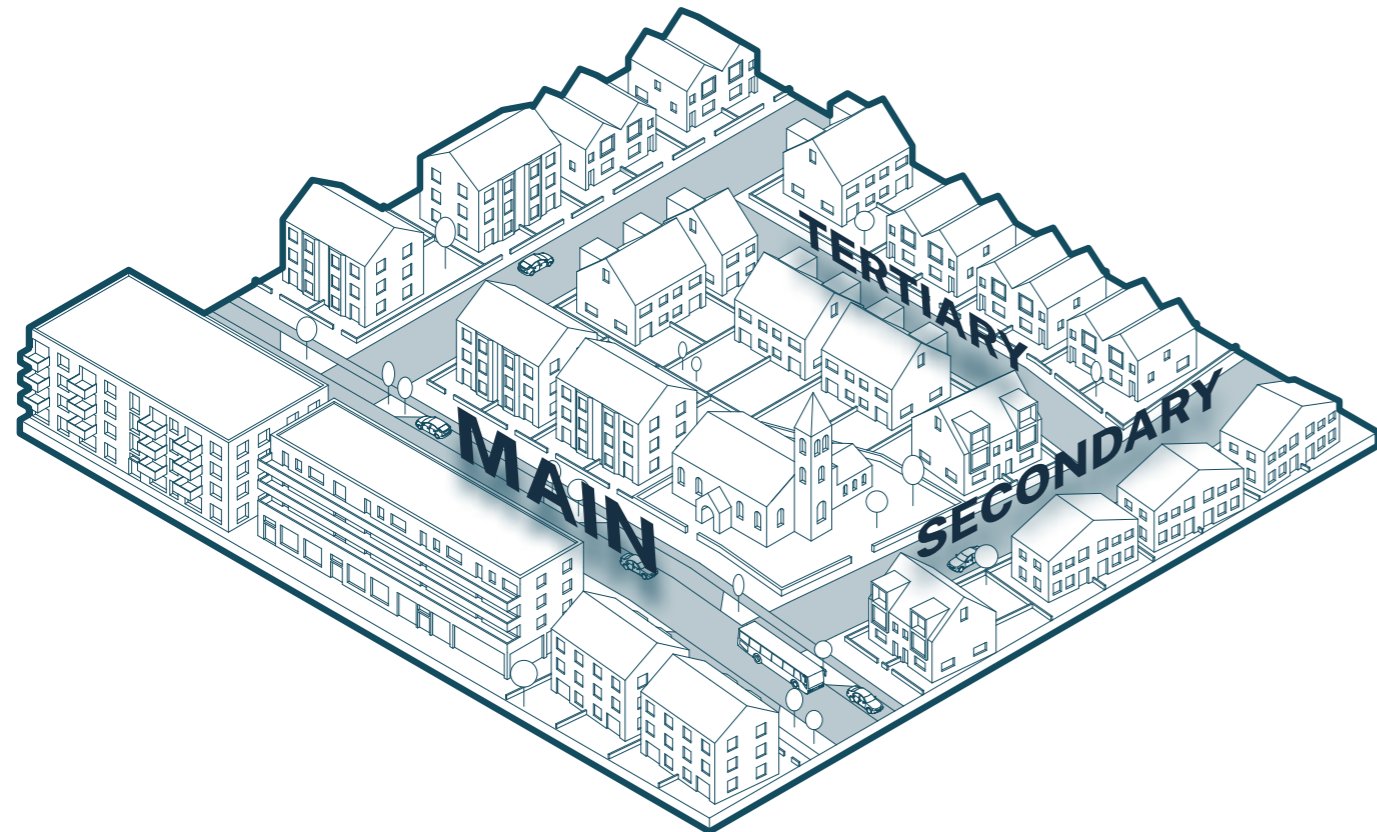
Guidance

When considering the character of a new development it is common to consider creating a range of different house types, scales, materials and densities. But it is equally important to create a sense of character through a variety of streets and spaces. The spatial characteristics of different street types must be distinctive from one another. Distinction can be in the form of enclosure ratio, carriageway width, land use, landscaping, and parking.

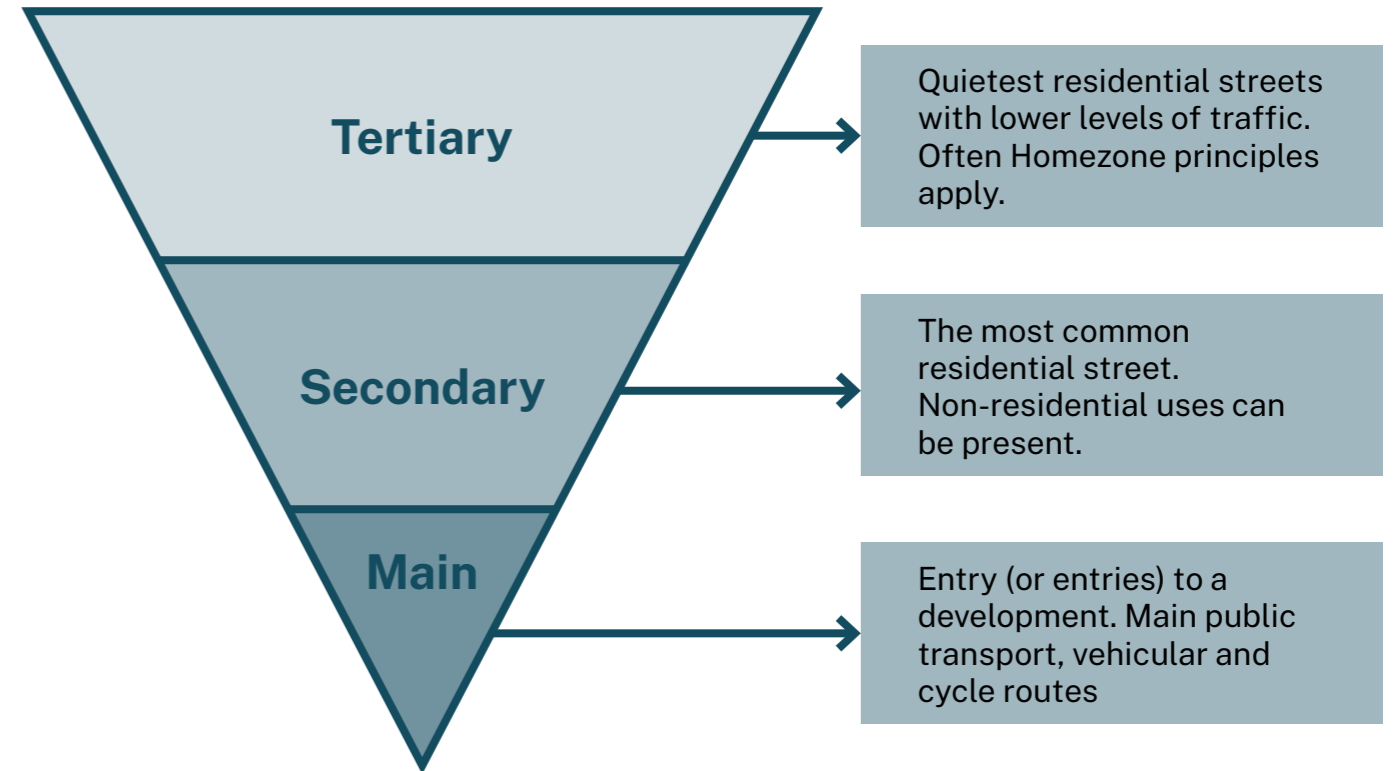
Streets designed as part of new development should be designed for vehicles speeds of 20mph or lower and should be designed to give pedestrians priority over vehicle users.

A hierarchy comprises a network of streets and spaces progressing from the entry (or entries) to the development site progressing down to the most minor streets and courtyards.

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Rushcliffe Street Hierarchy



Rushcliffe residential street hierarchy is intentionally inverted to put the emphasis on the requirement to create streets that give people priority over vehicles, and which are safe and attractive to all users.

1.2 Tertiary streets

These quieter streets are designed for people first and are not normally bus routes. A tertiary street can have clear, designated footpaths or designed to Homezone principles with a level surface. Cyclists will share the main street surface with vehicles.

Traditionally this category might include Mews, Courts, Yards, Lanes, Closes and Cul-de-sacs. Tertiary Streets are quieter residential streets. They can be connected at both ends of the street, or no through routes, for vehicles (e.g. cul-de-sac).

C1.3

Lighting must be present on all new tertiary streets.

C1.4

New tertiary streets must have at least one pedestrian priority feature to help encourage slower traffic speeds every 40 metres, or at least once where a street is less than 40 metres in length.

C1.5

On street parking must be designed as clearly defined parallel and/or chevron bays integrated within the street landscape strategy.

C1.6

Verges and planting areas with street trees must be at least 2 metres wide.

Guidance

Enclosure ratio

Buildings are usually situated on both sides of tertiary streets giving a strong sense of enclosure to create a residential character and positive pedestrian and cycle environment. In some contexts a tertiary street can feel comfortable where the width of the space is less than the height of the buildings on either side.

Setbacks

Buildings may be set back by between 0.5 and 3 metres to provide a threshold or front garden. This may also accommodate a bin store, cycle store and a low boundary wall, railing or fence.

Space for walking and wheeling

Tertiary streets may have a level surface, but this does not preclude footpaths. Surface materials should be suitable for use by disabled people, avoiding using patterns that may create visual confusion and potential hazards for visually impaired users.

Cycling on the carriageway will normally be acceptable – see [LTN 1/20](#) for further guidance.

Pedestrian priority interventions

Tertiary street design must incorporate at least one traffic calming feature to help encourage slower traffic speeds every 40 metres, or at least once where a street is less than 40 metres in length. These features reinforce pedestrian priority by intentionally forcing vehicles and cyclists to slow down to walking speeds and/or come to a halt.

Vehicle speed

Tertiary streets should be designed for 20 mph or less, 15 mph for shared surfaces.

In curtilage parking

Vehicular access to plots is permitted from a tertiary street, but parking to the front of the building line is discouraged and should not dominate streets.

On street parking

Can be provided, but not allocated. It is recommended that provision is made for one parking space per three dwellings.

On street parking must be designed as clearly defined parallel and/or chevron bays integrated within the street landscape strategy. Parking proposed on either side of a street should be staggered and not directly opposite.

Service strips

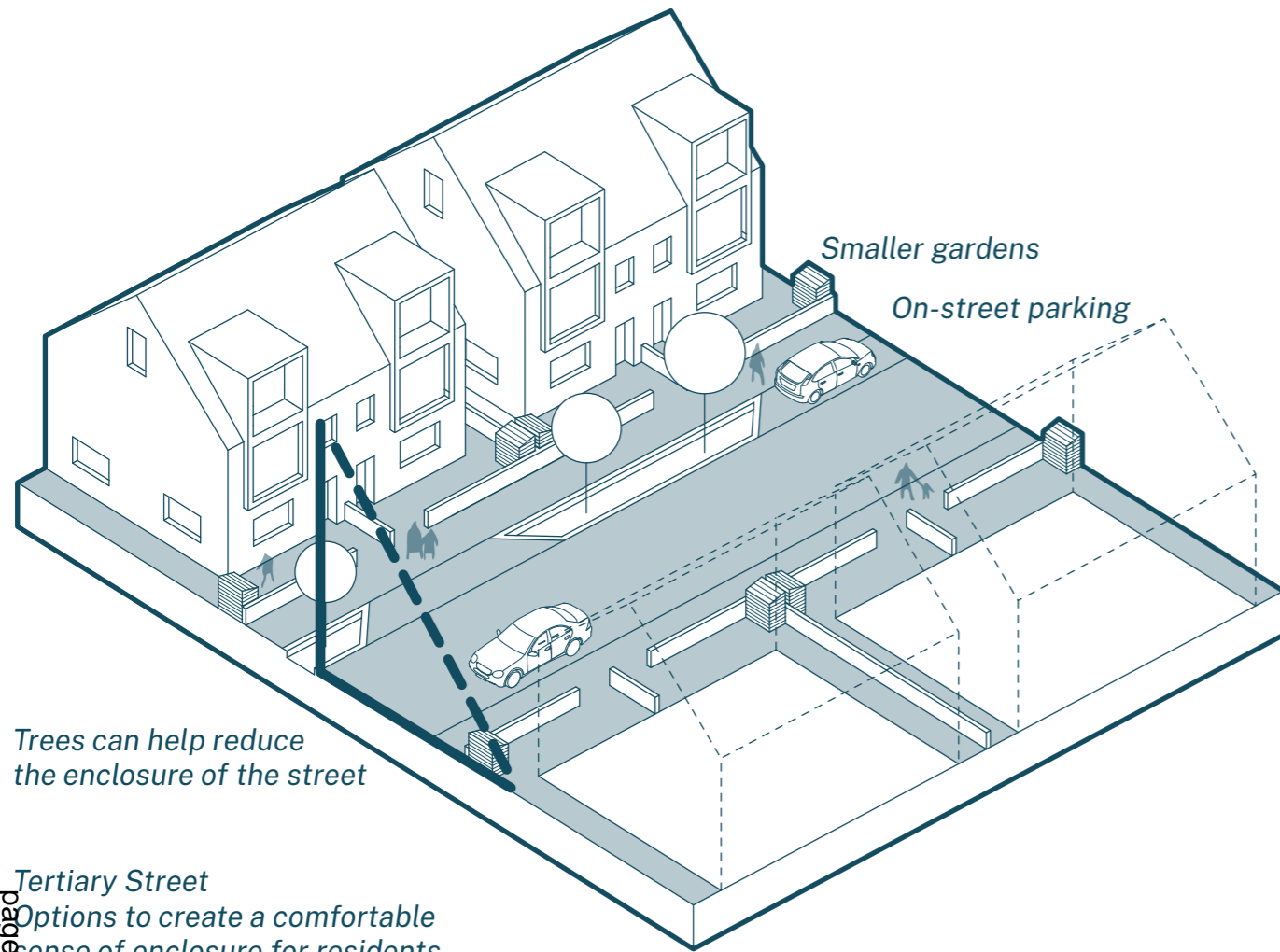
To be minimum 1 metres and should not read as a narrow footway.

Landscaping and trees

Verges and planting areas with street trees must be at least 2 metres wide.

Tertiary street design will not be permitted where:

- ✗ A lack of space to park vehicles is likely to result in pavement parking.
- ✗ Street is not part of a connected network for walking and cycling.
- ✗ 'Segregation sandwiching' occurs. A Segregation sandwich is where private access drives are segregated by a publicly accessible 'central reservation' or through route.
- ✗ Lack of differentiation between the surface of the street and adjacent on street parking bays.
- ✗ Planting strips are too narrow and will be difficult to maintain.



Trees can help reduce the enclosure of the street

Tertiary Street
Options to create a comfortable sense of enclosure for residents and pedestrians in tertiary streets and secondary streets in urban contexts.



Ninewells, Cambridgeshire, Tertiary street with doorstep play and linear park (Photograph by Rebecca Clark)

Staithe housing, Gateshead. Street designed for walking speeds. Varied planting creates a buffer between houses and street, whilst clear visibility of entrances and front windows help animate the street. (Photographs by Rob Beardsworth)



Great Kneighton and Ninewells, Cambridgeshire. Slightly different takes on the conventional residential street. Building line gives continuity and a strong sense of enclosure. Pedestrian priority intervention using a planting area that intentionally narrows the street to disrupt vehicle continuity. The image on the right is an example of how 3-storey house types can enable a wider street section without compromising the sense of enclosure. Here the additional street width allows for the relatively deep liner park alongside the vehicle path and footpath. Note pedestrians feel safe and comfortable to walk in the vehicle path. (Photographs by Rebecca Clark)



1.3 Secondary streets

The most common form of residential street. These streets usually provide a link between a main (primary) street and form a network to tertiary streets and spaces.

Designed for 20 mph or less, secondary streets are people-orientated residential streets much like their tertiary street counterparts. They differ in that some non-residential uses such as cafes, community and retail space may be present and traffic volumes are slightly higher. They can also be good secondary locations for larger community facilities such as schools, health and community facilities.

These streets typically have a clear distinction between vehicular and pedestrian space, with defined kerbs and footways. Secondary streets are not usually bus routes and cycling in the carriageway will normally be acceptable.

C1.7

Street lighting must be present in new secondary streets.

C1.8

On secondary streets, pedestrian crossovers with dropped kerbs located across the mouth of side street junctions must maintain the trajectory of the footpath (desire lines).

C1.9

New secondary streets must have at least one pedestrian priority feature to help encourage slower traffic speeds every 50 metres, or at least once where a street is less than 50 metres in length.

C1.10

Level footways must be maintained across driveway access points on secondary streets.

C1.11

On-street parking on secondary streets must be integrated within the street landscape strategy.

C1.12

New secondary streets must integrate area of soft landscape and tree planting including SuDS.

C1.13

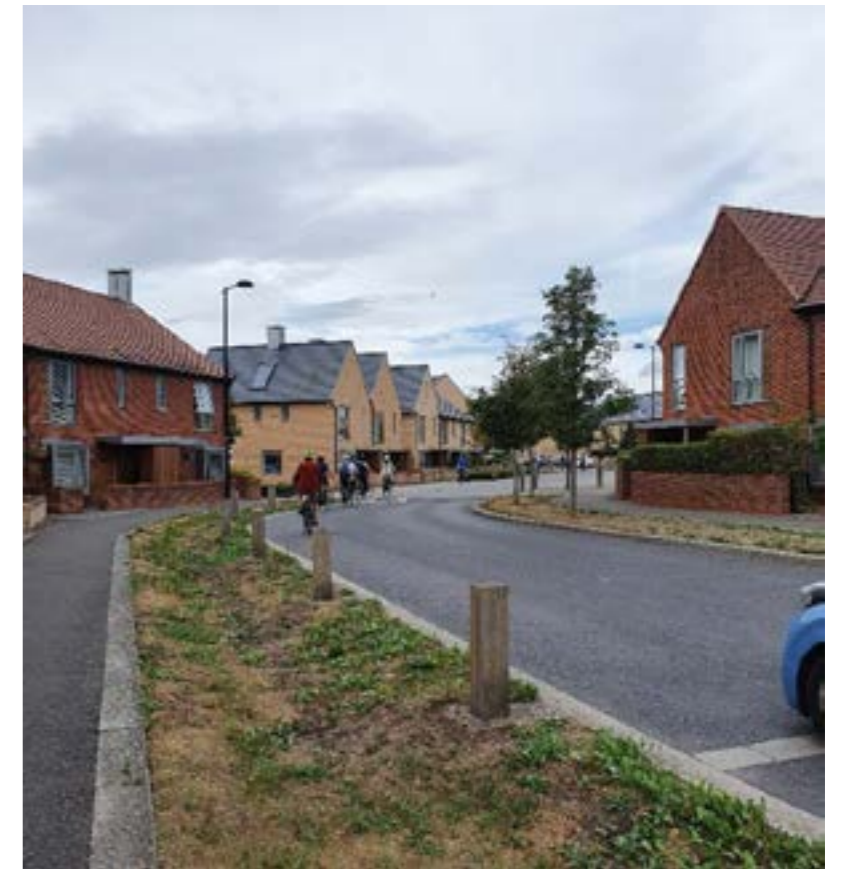
Verges and planting areas with street trees must be at least 2 metres wide on secondary streets.

Trumpington Meadows, Cambridgeshire. Cycles and vehicles share carriageway. Absence of frontage parking creates a sense of enclosure which will strengthen as street trees mature. Verges on both sides are designed as SuDS and segregate footpaths. Street lighting and lack of crossovers onto driveways add to a safe and convenient pedestrian environment.

Other features of interest include the use of timber posts to prevent fly-parking on the verge (always consult Highways Authority as such features could be deemed as a maintenance issue). Also note the integration of on-street parallel parking bays and the visually prominent uncontrolled pedestrian crossing. (Photographs by Rebecca Clark).

Tree lined verges on one side of the street creates secondary enclosure and parallel parking bays on the other side of the street help maintain the sense of enclosure (perpendicular bays would increase street width) and bays are interspersed with street trees to break up the visual dominance of parked cars.

Other features of note include how street lighting and lack of crossovers onto driveways add to a safe and convenient pedestrian environment. (Photographs by Rebecca Clark).



Guidance

Enclosure ratio

Can vary according to the adjacent land uses and local context. In an urban area secondary streets can feel comfortable where the width of the street is only a little wider than the height of the buildings. In suburban settings the width of the street can be at least twice that of the building height, allowing more space for conventional footpaths, verges, street trees and on street parking.

Setbacks

Buildings may be set back by between 0.5 and 6 metres to provide a threshold or front garden. This may also accommodate a bin store, cycle store, a low boundary wall, railing or fence. Principal elevations and front doors should face the street with frontage access for all buildings.

Space for walking and wheeling

In most cases will have at least 2 metre wide footpaths on both sides of the carriageway unobstructed for pedestrians. Pedestrian crossovers with dropped kerbs located across the mouth of side street junctions must maintain the trajectory of the footpath (desire lines) and not deviate further down the side street.

Cycling on the carriageway will normally be acceptable – see [LTN 1/20](#) for further guidance. Street lighting must be present.

Pedestrian priority interventions

Secondary street design must incorporate at least one pedestrian priority feature to help encourage slower traffic speeds every 50 metres, or at least once where a street is less than 50 metres in length. These features reinforce pedestrian priority by intentionally forcing vehicles and cyclists to slow down to walking speeds and/or come to a halt.

Vehicle speed

Secondary streets should be designed for 20 mph or less.

In curtilage parking

Where curtilage parking is provided at the front of dwellings level footways must be maintained across driveway access points.

On street parking

Can be provided, but not allocated, on one or both sides of the carriageway. It is recommended that provision is made for one parking space per three dwellings and one additional visitor space per five dwellings. In streets of mixed land use a higher ratio may be applicable by agreement.

On street parking must be designed as clearly defined bays integrated within the street landscape strategy.

Service strips

To be minimum 1.5 metres and should not read as a narrow footway.

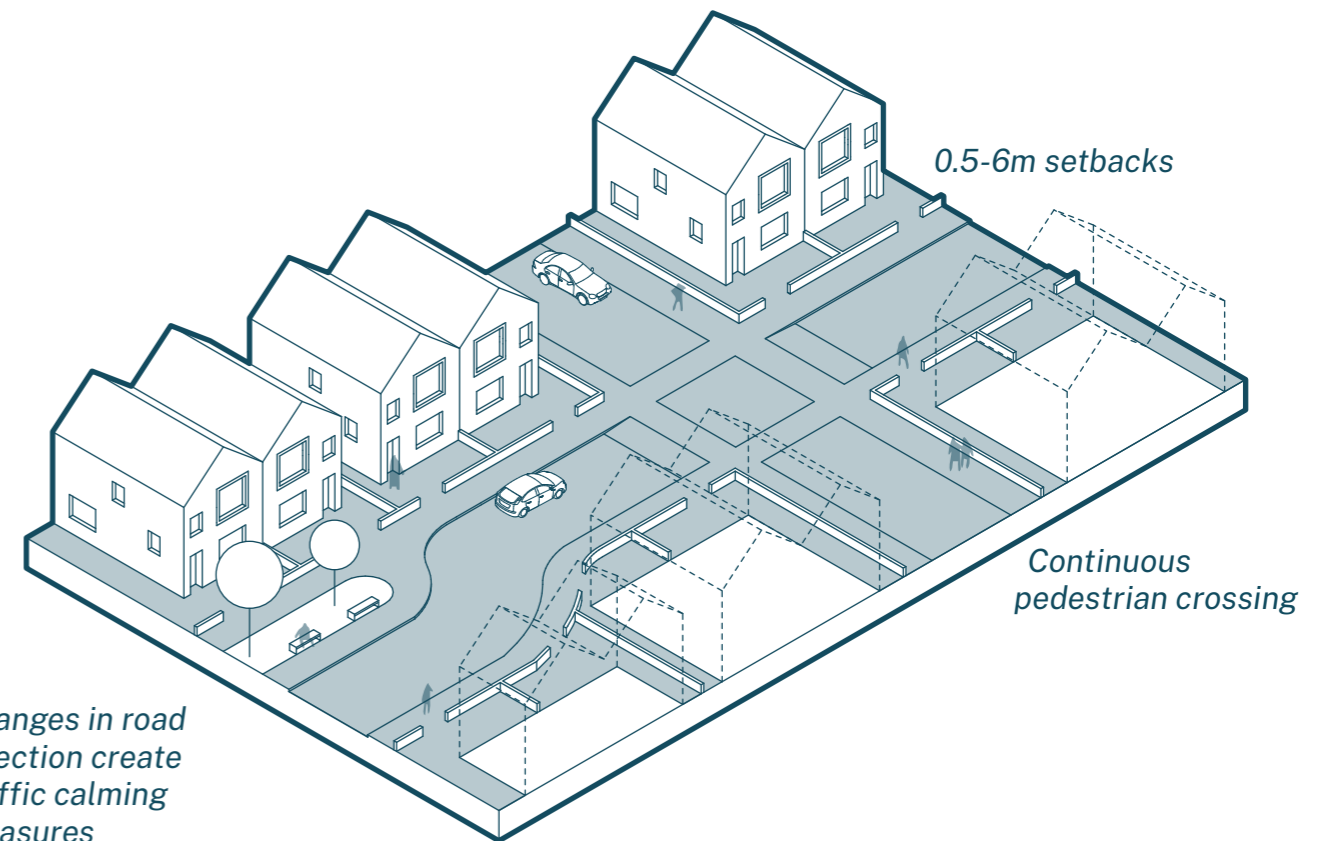
Landscaping and trees

Secondary streets must integrate landscape and tree planting including SuDS. See Landscape section for further information on the design of SuDS. Verges and planting areas with street trees must be at least 2 metres wide.

Illustrative secondary street designed for low speeds incorporating examples pedestrian priority measures.

Secondary street design will not be permitted where:

- ✗ A lack of space to park vehicles is likely to result in footway parking.
- ✗ Tandem parking is proposed.
- ✗ Street is not part of a connected network for walking and cycling.
- ✗ 'Segregation sandwiching' occurs.
- ✗ Lack of differentiation between the surface of the street and adjacent on street parking bays.
- ✗ SuDS are absent.
- ✗ Planting strips are too narrow and will be difficult to maintain.
- ✗ Footways undulate due to multiple driveway access points.
- ✗ Backs or sides of properties on to street create a deadening effect to the street.



1.4 Main streets

Sometimes also referred to as primary streets, main streets are the strategic routes for vehicular traffic through a settlement but must also be designed to balance this function with the needs and safety of all users. Not all new developments are required to contain a main street.

C1.14

Main streets must be designed with a clear distinction between vehicular, cycle and pedestrian space.

C1.15

Protected space for cycling must be provided on all new main streets.

C1.16

A main street must not provide direct access to only residential land uses.

C1.17

Main streets must be designed to accommodate public transport.

C1.18

Street lighting must be present on all new main streets.

C1.19

Pedestrian crossovers with dropped kerbs located across the mouth of side street junctions must maintain the trajectory of the footpath (desire lines) on all new main streets.

C1.20

New main streets must have at least one pedestrian priority feature to help encourage slower traffic speeds every 60 metres.

C1.21

Level footways must be maintained across driveway access points on new main streets.

C1.22

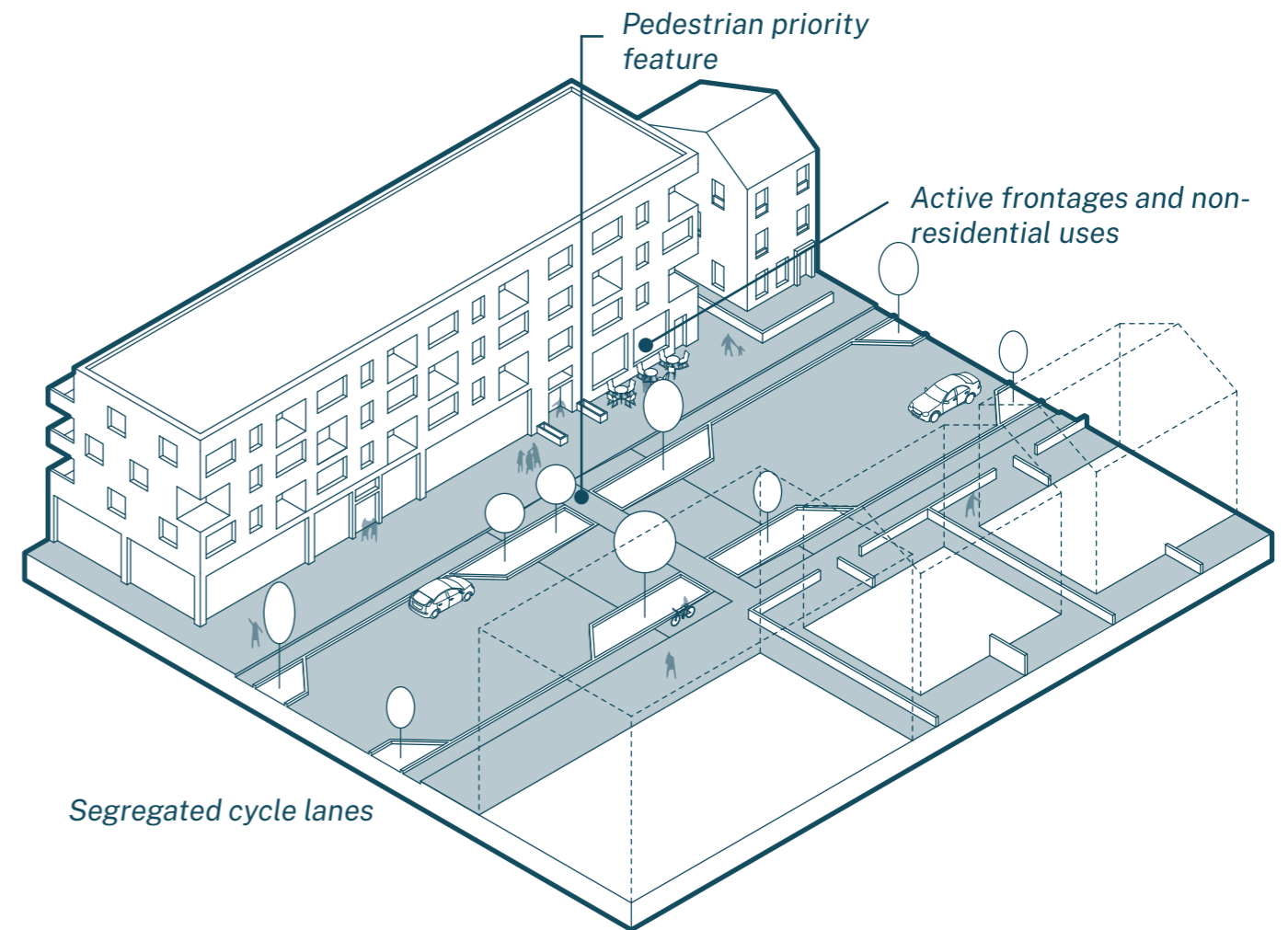
On-street parking on main streets must be designed as clearly defined parallel and/or chevron bays integrated within the street landscape strategy.

C1.23

New main streets must integrate areas of soft landscape and tree planting including SuDS.

C1.24

Verges and planting areas with street trees must be at least 2 metres wide on main streets.



Examples of protected space for cycling on main streets.

Protected space for cycling must be provided – see [LTN 1/20](#) for further guidance.

A main street must provide direct access to a mix of land uses. Where it is only providing access to residential development the street must be designed as either a secondary or tertiary.

A main street can vary in character along its length according to the adjacent land uses and townscape character. An important design distinction to make is that a main (or primary) street is not a character area itself. A main street will pass through different character areas, or neighbourhoods, and will take on the characteristics of that locality.

The National Model Design Code stipulates that main streets may vary and take on the character of an avenue, boulevard or parkway, especially in larger schemes.

Parkways

Streets with a wide central grass reservation with trees, along with carriageways and pavements. These are sometimes known as 'parkways' and can be suitable for new suburban development in Rushcliffe.

Guidance

Main streets must be designed with a clear distinction between vehicular, cycle and pedestrian space and can vary in their design according to the specific context and function.



Poundbury,
Dorset.

Boulevards

Streets with a central carriageway with secondary one-way streets for access and parking with landscaping with trees planted in the reservations. Less appropriate to area types in Rushcliffe.

Avenues

Streets with a central carriageway and wide tree-line verges either side. Can be suitable for both urban and suburban settings within Rushcliffe.

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Public transport

Main streets must be designed to accommodate public transport, allowing for the integration of stops, even if no bus service is planned in the short term.

Space for walking and wheeling

Main streets have footpaths on both sides of at least 2 metres unobstructed width for pedestrians with crossings as necessary. Street furniture should be provided as land uses dictate.

Pedestrian priority interventions

Main streets will tend to have straighter alignments, and therefore designers must use pedestrian priority features to help encourage slower traffic speeds at least every 60 metres. These features must reinforce pedestrian priority by intentionally forcing vehicles and cyclists to slow down to walking speeds and/or come to a halt.

Vehicle speed

Main streets should be designed for 20 mph or less.

In curtilage parking

Where curtilage parking is provided at the front of dwellings level footways must be maintained across driveway access points.

On street parking

Defined car parking bays may be used on one or both sides of the carriageway integrated within the street landscape strategy.

Service strips

To be minimum 2 metres and should not read as a narrow footway.

Landscaping

Street trees and SuDS are an important feature and must be present and integrated within main streets.

Main (primary) street design will not be permitted where:

- ✗ There is insufficient protected cycle infrastructure.
- ✗ A lack of space to park vehicles is likely to result in footpath parking.
- ✗ Lack of differentiation between the surface of the street and adjacent on street parking bays.
- ✗ SuDS are absent.
- ✗ Planting strips are too narrow and will be difficult to maintain.
- ✗ Footways undulate due to multiple driveway access points.
- ✗ Backs or sides of properties on to street create a deadening effect to the street.

Servicing

It is important to ensure streets and public spaces are designed with management and maintenance in mind (Landscape Design Note 4.7). Even a well-designed space will end up having a negative impact on the environment and local community if it is not appropriately maintained in a discreet and proportionate manner.

1.5 Designated parking

As car ownership continues to increase, parking is now a significant design issue across Rushcliffe. It can be an emotive issue leading to disputes between neighbours, missed bin collections and a contentious design issues leading to planning refusals.

Parking needs to be designed carefully, and parking capacity needs to be flexible. What works on one site, may not work on another. Where and how vehicles are parked has a massive impact on how a place looks, feels and functions. There needs to be a balance between achieving sufficient parking without it being over-dominant and detrimental to other aspects of good design.

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C1.25
Triple tandem parking spaces are not permitted.

C1.26
In-curtilage parking forward of the main building line must be integrated with an area of soft landscape that is equal to or greater than the size of the parking area.

C1.27
All parking space must have permeable surfaces.

Guidance

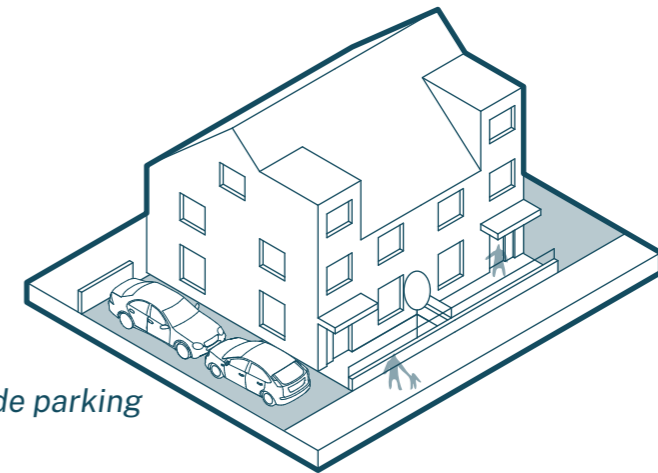
In curtilage parking

Parking within the curtilage of properties is generally better at the side of the house or partially behind the building line as opposed to entirely to the front. Tandem parking will not be counted as two spaces.

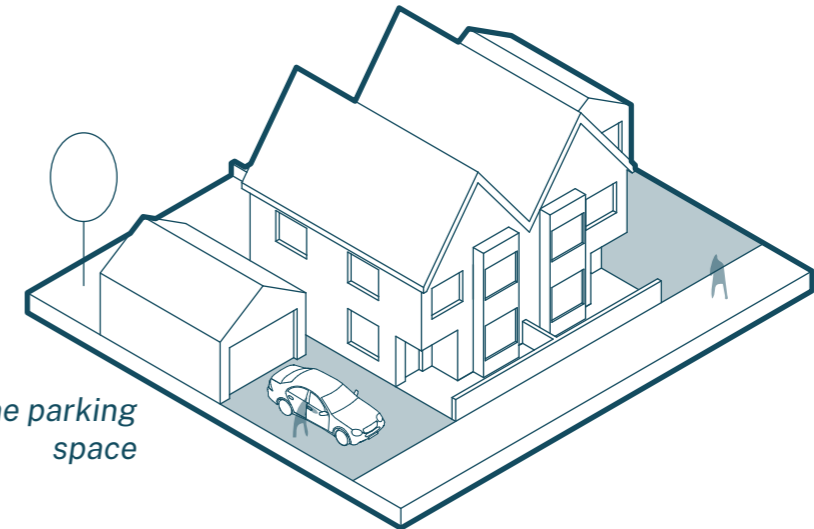
Where parking is to the front of properties it must be integrated with soft landscaping, preferably equal to or greater than the size of the parking area. Landscaping should be arranged in such a way that it is not easily converted into another parking space.

Carports and garages

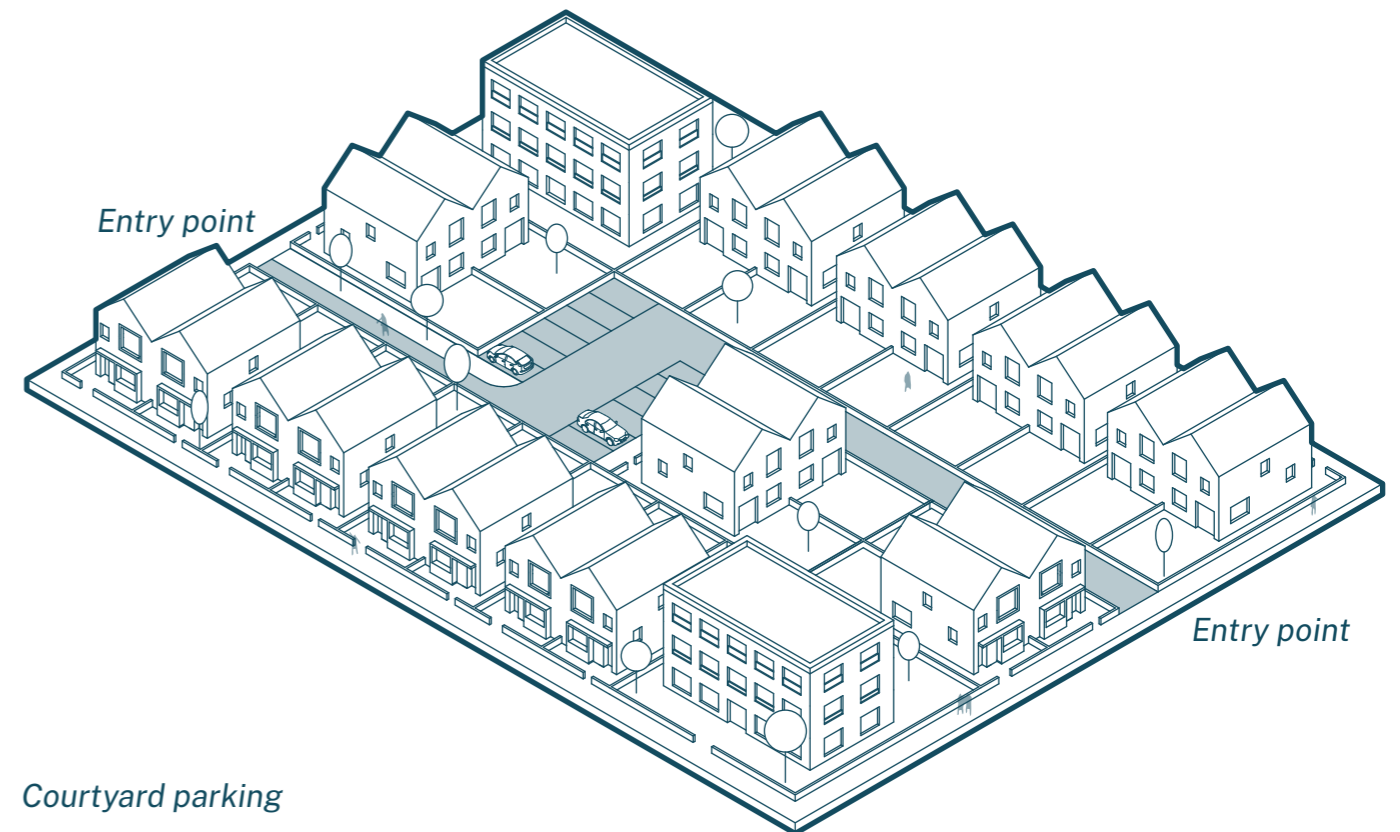
Carports should be offset by 1 metre from the highway and garages must be offset by 5.5 metres from the highway and be of sufficient dimensions to allow for the primary purpose of parking a vehicle. Accessible parking bays for M4/1 and M4/2 houses should be +900mm and +1200mm respectively.



Tandem side parking



Garage + one parking space



Entry point

Entry point

Courtyard parking

Different considerations for in curtilage parking and house types to reduce the dominance of parked cars on streets.

1.6 Shared parking areas

A move towards collective parking strategies will allow for streets that are not dominated by parked vehicles and maximise opportunities for soft landscaping and amenity spaces which bring social and environmental benefits and may also allow for more efficient land uses.

C1.28

Access to rear parking courtyards must have headroom for resident owned trade vehicles to enter.

C1.29

Proposals for private drives must justify why an adopted tertiary street cannot be used instead.

C1.30

Any private drives serving 6 or more dwellings must be designed to adoptable standards.

C1.31

All private drives must have an entry point via a crossover maintaining pedestrian and cycle priority and have a dwelling or open aspect terminating the forward view.

C1.32

In parking squares, bays must be arranged in clusters up to 5 integrated with areas of soft landscaping.

C1.33

Rear parking courtyards must be directly overlooked by homes, with lighting present.

C1.34

Neighbourhood-scale parking squares must be enclosed by local facilities on at least three sides (exceptions may be deemed acceptable –see guidance note).

Guidance

Rear courtyards

To be used sparingly. Poorly designed rear parking courts are often under-used by residents, leading to displaced parking in streets. Rear parking courtyards should be small in scale and must be directly overlooked by homes, with street lighting present. In rear spaces parking bays should be arranged in clusters of 4 or 5 integrated with areas of soft landscaping and tree planting.

Within rear courtyards homezone principles will help pedestrians take precedence over vehicle movements. Surface materials in courtyards should vary from the surface material used for the carriageway on the rest of the vehicular network. Access must have headroom for resident owned trade vehicles to enter to prevent displaced parking of larger vehicles.

Rear parking courtyard, Derwenthorpe, York. Small scale, overlooked, lighting and well-detailed private parking courtyard with bays arranged in clusters of three. (Photograph by Rob Beardsworth).



Shared private drives

Applicants and their designers must justify every private drive being proposed to the LPA and Highway Authority and demonstrate why an adopted tertiary street cannot be used instead.

Any private drives serving 6 or more dwellings must be designed to adoptable standards with an entry point via a crossover maintaining pedestrian and cycle priority and have a dwelling terminating the forward view. Dead-end shared drives should have a shared surface and turning areas so that all vehicles, including deliver vehicles, can egress in forward gear.

Parking squares

Also known as front courtyards. These are areas devoted to residential parking, allocated or not, enclosed by surrounding houses. Squares can provide additional spaces for other nearby housing and visitors too. The optimum number of spaces will depend on the layout, types and density of housing proposed, but could be based on the number of homes within a 50 metre radius of the square with additional spaces for visitors and deliveries.

Parking squares should also provide secure cycle parking and some seating is recommended.

Neighbourhood parking squares

Suitable only in larger developments. Neighbourhood-scale parking squares must be enclosed by local facilities on at least three sides, exceptions to this may be where a parking area is associated with public open space or outdoor facilities in which case less enclosure may be deemed acceptable.

Car parking provision is intended for users of the facilities such as shops, childcare, health and other community uses. The optimum number of spaces would depend on land uses but is likely to be between 30 and 50 spaces.

1.7 On street parking

There will be circumstances where parking is better positioned within the street scene. Where possible parking should be parallel to the street and integrated with planting and street trees.

C1.35

EV charging infrastructure within streets must be designed to ensure pavements are kept clear and accessible.

C1.36

EV charging infrastructure must be provided in shared areas of parking.

C1.37

Parking bays reserved for disabled users and car club vehicles must have access priority to building entrances.

C1.38

Proposals for a dropped kerb(s) on an existing classified highway are not acceptable.

Guidance

Unallocated on street parking

On street parking may be used on one or both sides of the carriageway, particularly in areas of mixed land use. These must be designed as clearly defined bays integrated within the street landscape strategy.

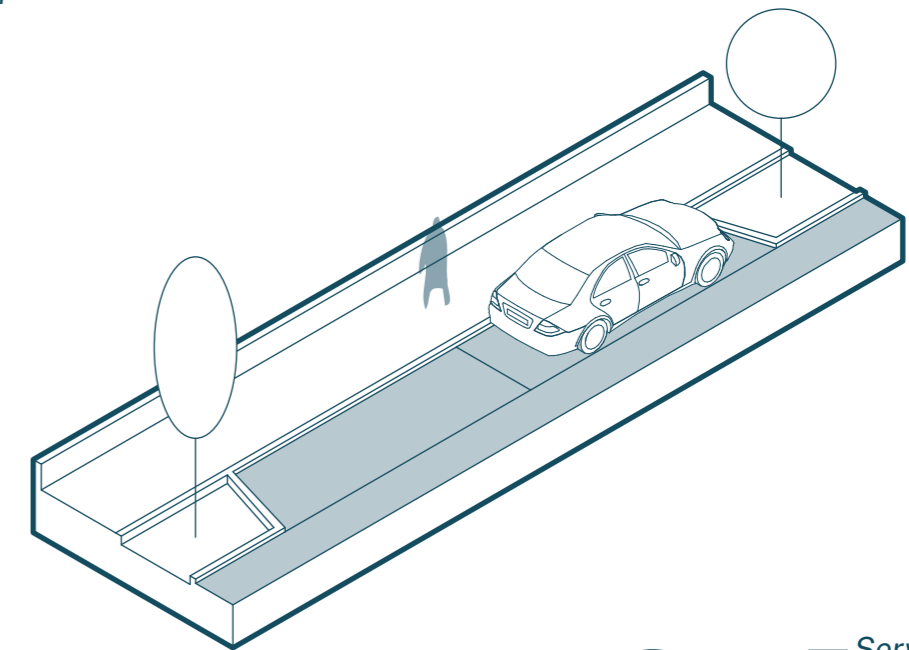
Electric vehicle charging

EV charging infrastructure within streets must be incorporated within buildouts into the carriageway to ensure pavements are kept clear and accessible. EV charging infrastructure must be provided as part of the default consideration in shared areas of parking such as courtyards and parking squares. Applicants and their designers should refer to Building Regulations Part S and these requirements must be viewed as a minimum.

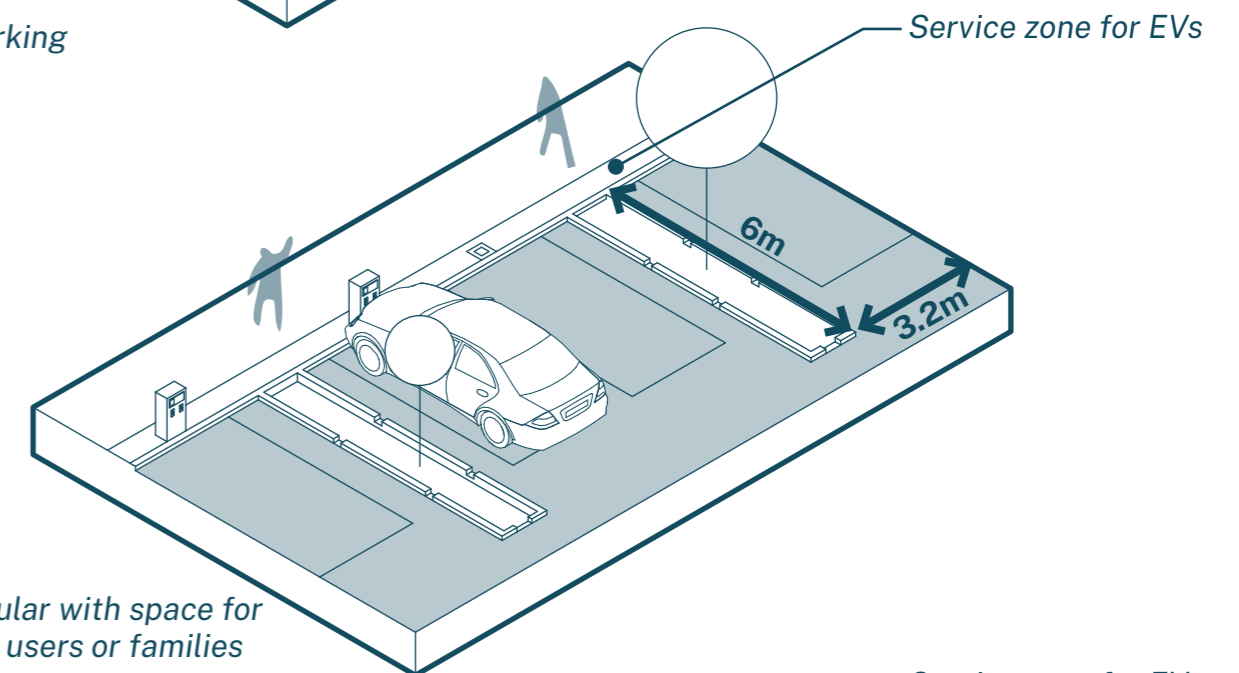
Disabled and car club priority

Disabled parking and Car Clubs must be given priority in terms of access and convenience in relation to building entrances.

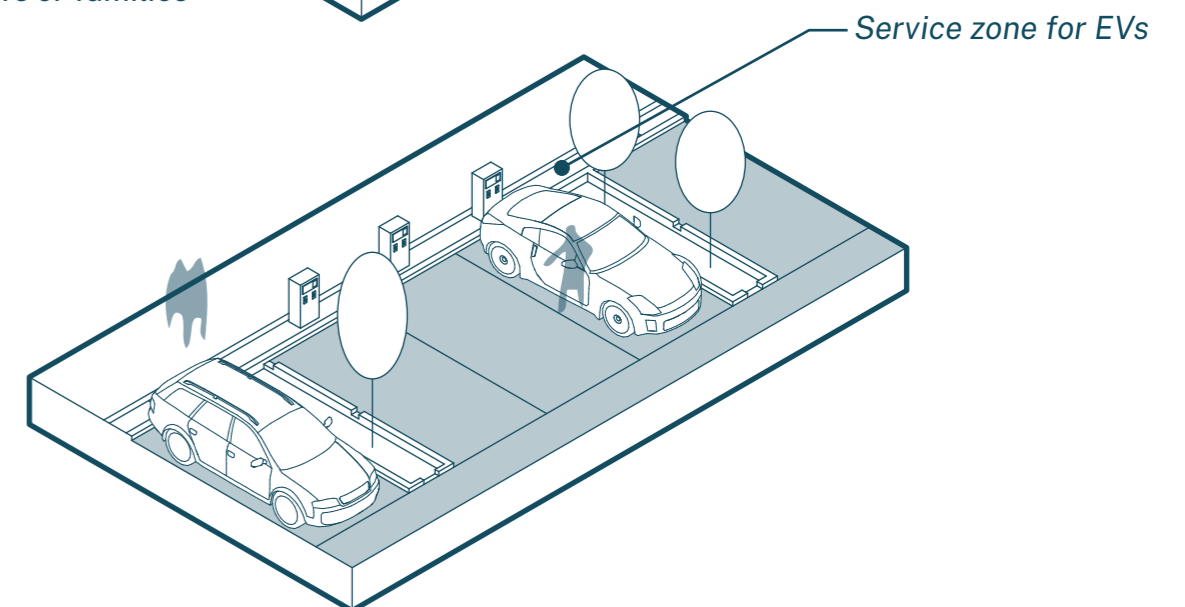
Examples of on street parking design



Parallel parking



Perpendicular with space for accessible users or families



Service zone for EVs

1.8 Cycle storage

New developments should make it more attractive for people to choose to walk or cycle for short trips helping to improve levels of physical activity, and reduce the impact of car use on air quality and local congestion.

C1.39

All new dwellings must be designed with a purposely designed and adequately sized space for the storage of at least one adult sized cycle

Guidance

Communal storage

A common solution for groups of smaller properties or apartment buildings is to provide communal cycle parking facilities for residents only. These should be secure and located on the ground floor. Outdoor cycle storage should be weather-proof and located in well-overlooked and well-lit locations. Cycle storage solutions must take account of the need for at least a 2 metre circulation space, stacked storage solutions may provide a solution.

Visitor cycle storage

Publicly accessible cycle parking for visitors is needed in convenient locations close to the entrances to homes, shops and other facilities. It should also be included in all publicly accessible shared parking areas such as residential and neighbourhood parking squares. Whilst visitor cycle storage may differ from that provided for residents, it must always provide secure and overlooked facilities positioned close to entrances to buildings.

Location

Cycle storage should be easily accessible, located close to entrances to make the choice to cycle convenient and desirable to move around the neighbourhood or access local services.

Biodiversity

On-street cycle storage is a great opportunity to enhance biodiversity through green roofs or insect habitats.

1.9 Recycling and waste storage

Most properties in Rushcliffe now have at least three wheelie bins. Often the most convenient and practical storage point is at the front of properties but is important to avoid bins left out in haphazard and unsightly ways. Convenient and practical storage solutions need to be integrated sensitively and screened from view. Other design considerations are to enable the flow of air and avoiding building entrances becoming cluttered.

C1.40

Waste collection strategies must be made explicit at pre-planning stages.

C1.41

Bin storage must be enclosed to provide a positive outlook for residents and designed to be robust, secure and ventilated.

Guidance

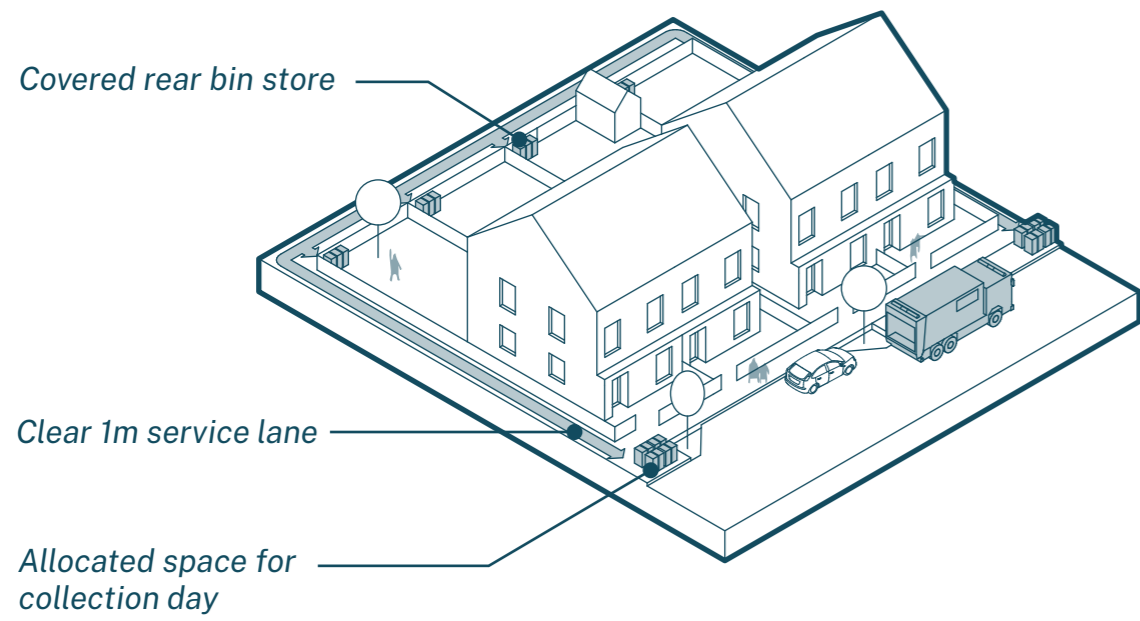
Waste collection strategies must be made explicit at pre-planning stages. Sometimes a combination of different strategies may be appropriate across larger sites and different housing type and tenure groups. For example, whilst housing in rural and suburban areas may be expected to accommodate bin storage and collection solutions on plot, apartments and medium-density housing in urban areas may suit collective, not individual, strategies.

Bin storage solutions must be enclosed to provide a positive outlook for residents and designed as an integral site feature, designed to be robust, secure and ventilated. Applicants and their designers should also consider fire compartmentalisation, cleaning and maintenance, and efficiency through internal rotation of bins via a management strategy.

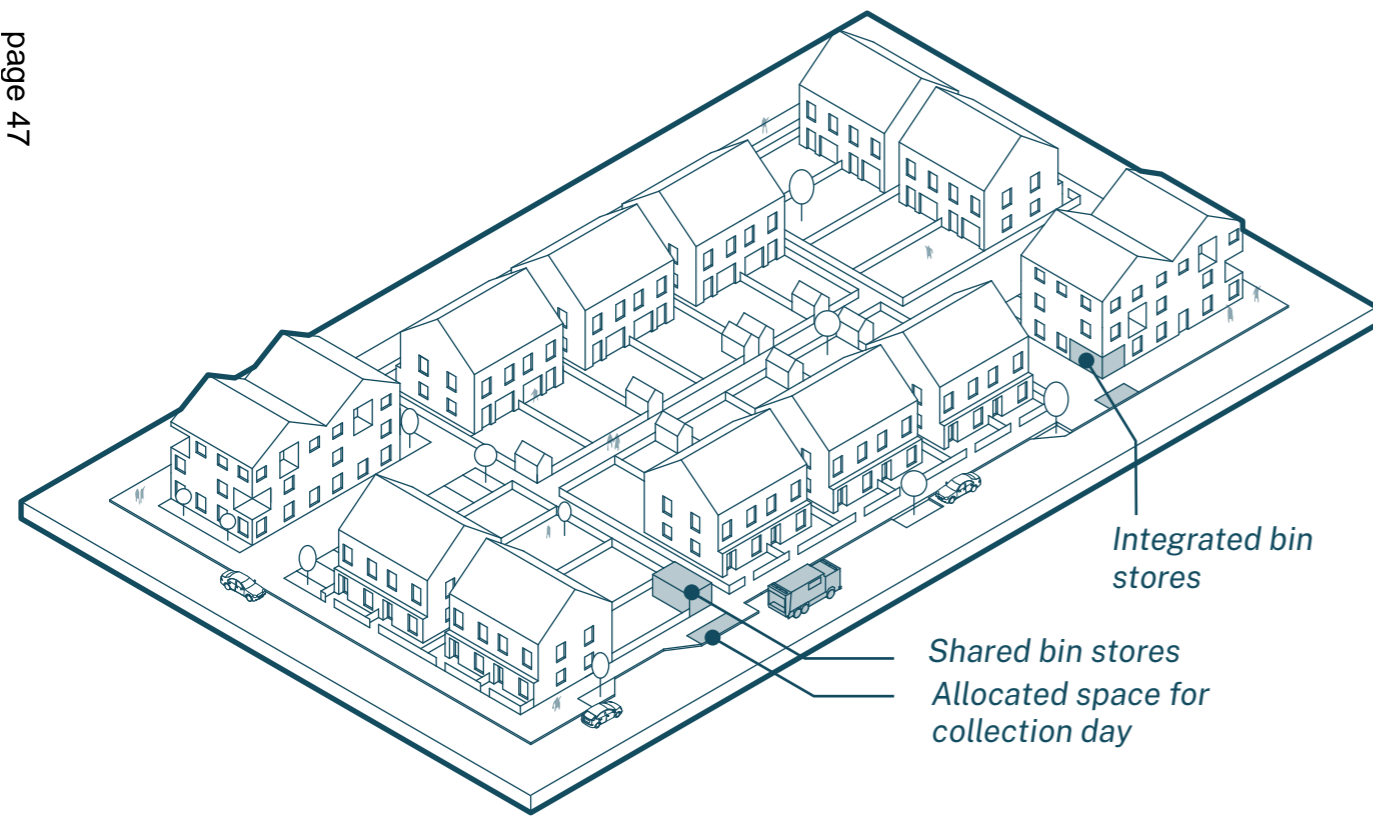
Designing bins stores to share an architectural language with the main buildings on a site will maintain the quality of the development. Off-the-shelf retrofitted solutions are often visually intrusive, inconvenient or have a short design life.

Biodiversity

Communal bin stores should integrate green roofs and insect habitats to support biodiversity.



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Individual or collective bin storage solutions will suit different forms of development.

2 INFILL AND INTENSIFICATION

When to apply this design note

Infill and intensification development takes place within an existing built-up area, it can be on a small-scale such as the development of a gap site within an existing street frontage, or on a larger scale. For example where a proposed change of land use or demolition(s) results in new development opportunities.

This type of development is usually on brownfield land (previously developed land) and usually viewed positively due to being inherently more sustainable than expansion into greenfield sites.

The priority when designing for infill and intensification is to be a good neighbour to surrounding buildings and uses.

2.1 Area type (local character)

The NPPF, National Design Guide and Rushcliffe Borough Local Plan require that new development responds to the distinctiveness and character of the existing built and natural environment.

C2.1

Proposals must have regard for 1) the relevant Area Type vision and 2) Area Type worksheets in the design code Baseline Appraisal taking into account development pattern of the local area including building lines, plot structure and grain.

Guidance

The scale, proportions and grain of new development should have regard to surrounding development and the Area Type visions set out within the introduction. As infill and intensification occurs the overall scale of development should be appropriate to each area type. For example, urban scale development will be inappropriate in a rural or village settings and suburban scale and forms will be inappropriate in compact urban areas of West Bridgford and Trent Riverside.

Successful design approaches rarely copy what's already there but rather take inspiration from it. Applicants and their designers are encouraged to observe, absorb, and reinterpret local context and character by analysing the local vernacular of a site. Understanding what local features are of importance to the local character and using this understanding to inform the design of new development.

2.2 Development pattern and grain

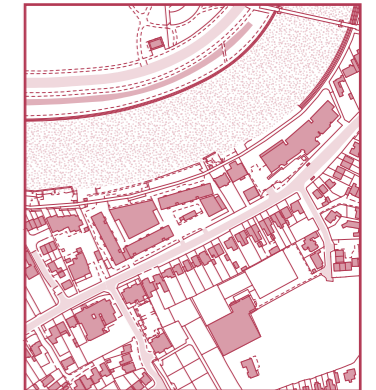
In addition to the overall scale and visual impact of new development, applicants and their designers must demonstrate that their design solution is derived from and responds positively to the prevailing pattern and grain of development found locally.



Urban Area



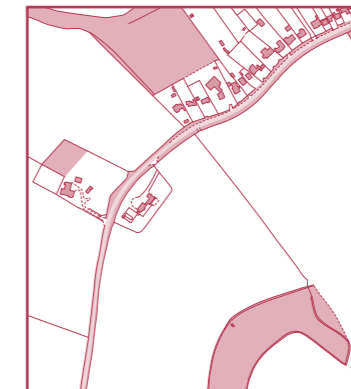
High Street



Riverside



Key Settlement



Rural

New development proposed across the borough will need to consider how proposals respond to the prevailing pattern of development. Of particular relevance is the configuration of streets, plots, how building lines address the street, and the location of key open spaces in relation to buildings and groups of buildings.

Guidance

Building lines and the plot structure of a settlement contribute to the overall character of the area and new development must take this into consideration. Orthogonal (with right angles) arrangements are more likely to be found in the riverside and older parts of West Bridgford and the key settlements. Curved streets and spacious plots with large gardens are more commonly associated with the detached and semi-detached suburbs of post-war development. Irregular patterns of development can be found in the historic cores of the borough's key settlements and majority of villages.

There are three main types of villages found in Rushcliffe. These are dispersed, linear and nucleated. Each have distinguishable characteristics in terms of their development pattern as a response of their location and terrains as well as economic and social functions overtime.

Another significant factor in determining local distinctiveness is the rhythm and variety of buildings and plots, or plot structure. This is referred to as grain and it derives from the size, frequency and configuration of plots. A greater frequency of smaller plots is known as fine (or tighter) grain, whereas fewer and larger plots is known as coarse (or looser) grain.

New development needs to indicate a proposed plot structure, which together with the way buildings join and relate to the street will have a substantial impact on how it responds to local character and distinctiveness.

Streets found in suburban neighbourhoods, villages and rural areas typically have greater variation in plot structure. Inner urban streets tend to have a great uniformity. For infill development in conservation areas, it is important that historic plot patterns are understood and respected.

2.3 Backland developments

Backland development is considered the development of land that sits behind an established building line of existing housing or other development. This type of development often occurs in areas where principal properties have large rear gardens, such as in parts of West Bridgford or where urban and suburban blocks have at their centre garages or outbuildings usually reached via a narrow access from the public highway.

C2.2

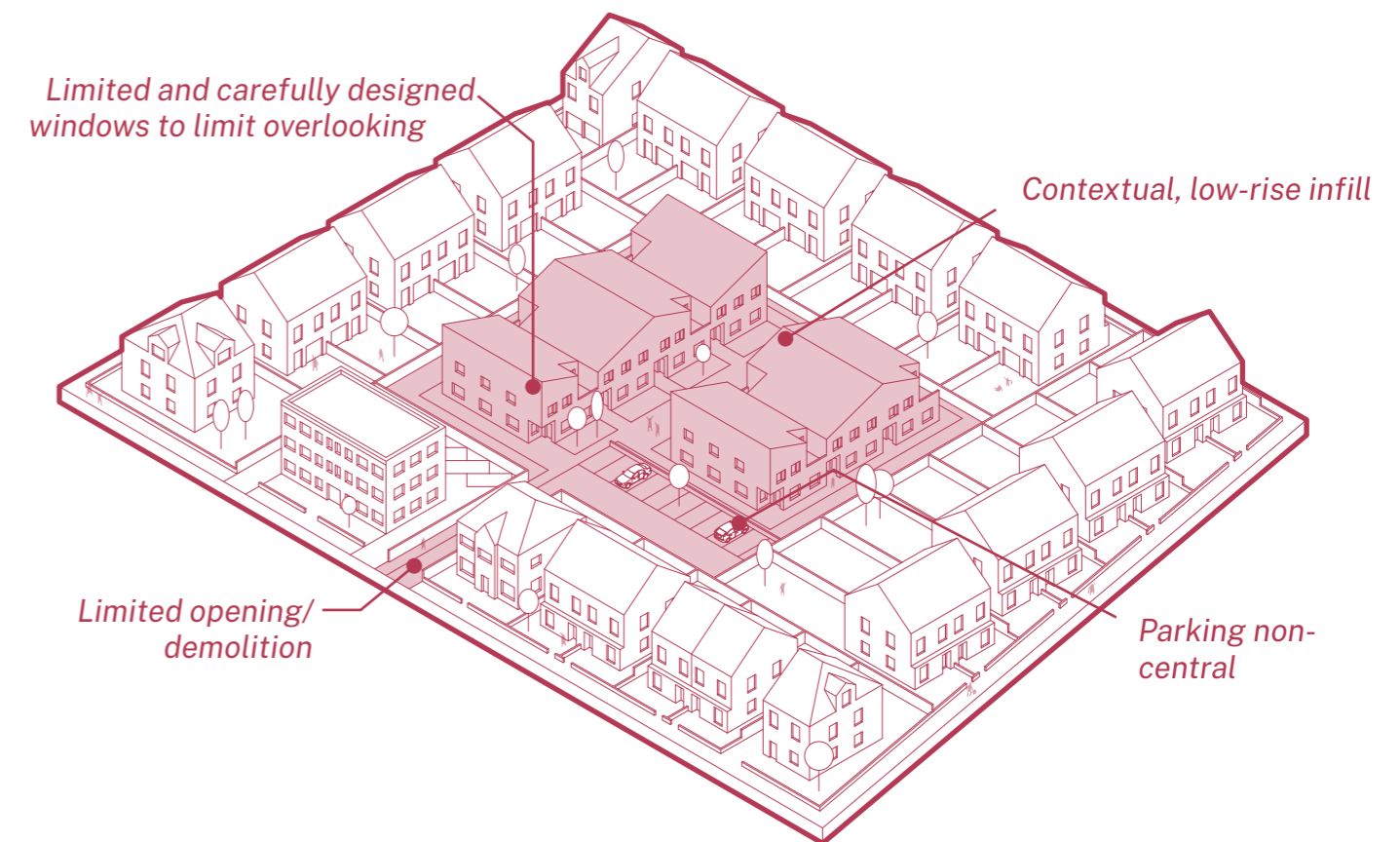
The scale and massing of new development in backland sites must not exceed that of surrounding existing buildings.

C2.3

Views into backland development along new points of access must be terminated by a building or key group, rather than a minor structure such as a garage or a side elevation or void.

C2.4

Gates across the entrance to access routes into backland development will not be permitted.



Guidance

Where the principle for development is agreed, backland development should be designed from the perspective of bringing forward benefits to adjoining residents, including increased security.

Building scale and massing must not exceed that of surrounding existing buildings. Access arrangements should be proportional to the scale of the development, appropriate to the level of use and must not over- dominate a host street.

When designing backland development designers should consider how building line, connected buildings, minimal setbacks, the proportion of the building line occupied by buildings, landscaping, and the orientation of entrances and windows can be used to create a strong sense of enclosure.

Where views into a backland development are created along new points of access, these sight-lines must be terminated by a building or key group, rather than for example, a gap or minor structure such as a garage or a side elevation.

It can be difficult to achieve the same level of vehicle access and parking arrangements in backland development as for unrestrained sites. In the riverside area type and parts of West Bridgford and the key settlements that benefit from a high level of accessibility to the public transport network, lower parking ratios and car-free backland developments may be supported.

Gates across the entrance routes into backland development will not be permitted as a default position. Design solutions which prevent vehicle ingress, but do not inhibit pedestrian access, are acceptable, providing allowances are made for emergency and other service vehicles to access the site where necessary.

2.4 Scale of development and building height

Scale is the impression of a building when seen in relation to its surroundings. Scale can also refer to the size of parts of a building or its details, particularly as experienced in relation to the size of a person.

Sometimes it is the total dimensions of a building which give it its sense of scale, and at other times it is the size of the elements and the way they are combined. Sometimes people use the word 'scale' simply as a synonym for 'size'.

This ambiguity means that when discussing the scale of a proposed development it is important that it is made clear what is meant when using the term scale.

Guidance

The impression of the overall scale of an area is influenced by prevailing local building heights, the skyline, key views and the relative prominence of local landmark buildings such as a church spire. What most people regard as the 'right scale' of development will fit comfortably within its surroundings. Of paramount importance is how the proposed height and massing of new development responds to the position, mass and height of the surrounding buildings.

In all cases of infill development, but especially where new development is seeking to gently intensify local densities, design proposals must ensure access to daylight and sunlight, privacy and outlook for future residents and neighbouring buildings are safeguarded through design.

The urban and riverside area types have greatest scope for variance from the prevailing scale and the creation of new landmarks.

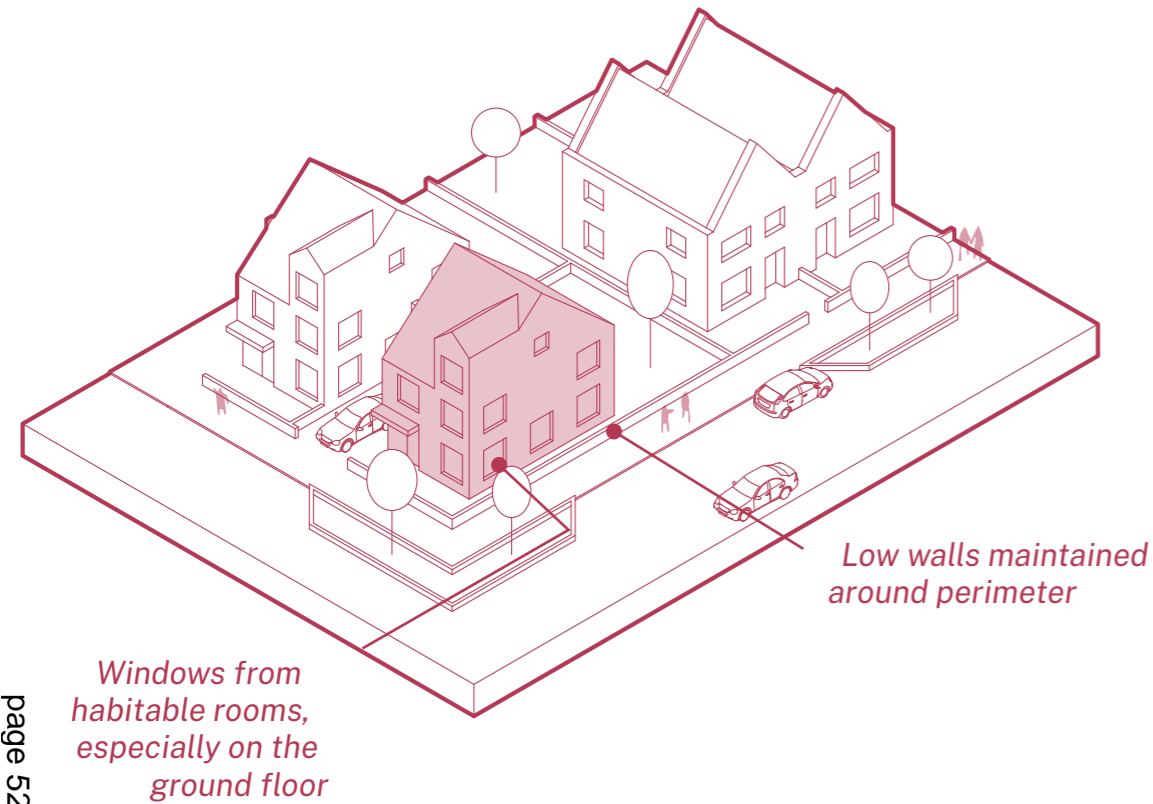
Outside of West Bridgford in the key settlements, rural areas and villages, the hierarchy in scale of development is largely set. New development that challenges these hierarchies of scale will be subject to intense scrutiny and is unlikely to be popular with locals.

Variations in scale can contribute to creating attractive and memorable places by making them more legible, by creating a strong sense of enclosure around public spaces and introducing landmarks.

Suburban areas can benefit from subtle changes and variations in scale to create local landmarks and frame views. Urban sites offer a distinctly different scale with streets resulting from historic patterns of development and often made up from street after street with buildings of a consistent height and character. Along the riverside the scale of development is generally greater, and opportunities exist to juxtapose the scale of new development and create variations and landmarks.

2.5 Corners

Corners plots are prominent features that require special consideration.



page 52

C2.5

In new development buildings in corner plots must respond to their double frontage with no blank elevations facing a street at ground floor level.

Buildings should respond to their double frontage with windows, entrances and openings onto both street elevations.

Guidance

Street corners require special consideration. Buildings must respond to their double frontage with windows, entrances and openings onto both street elevations ensuring surveillance of the public realm and avoiding blank elevations facing the street.

Corners may be appropriate locations for taller buildings to help create legibility and identity to street networks. The increased scale should always be appropriate to its context and fully justified.

2.6 Enclosure

Enclosure is formed by the width of a space relative to the heights which mark the edge of that space, usually buildings or trees. Enclosure impacts how people feels when they're within a space, affecting their sense of comfort, the types and level of activity taking place and the speed through which people and vehicles move.

Guidance

Streets with a higher level of enclosure are more common in the centres of settlements where streets and spaces are more people orientated. Levels of enclosure tend to weaken towards the edge of settlements where development tends to be more car orientated.

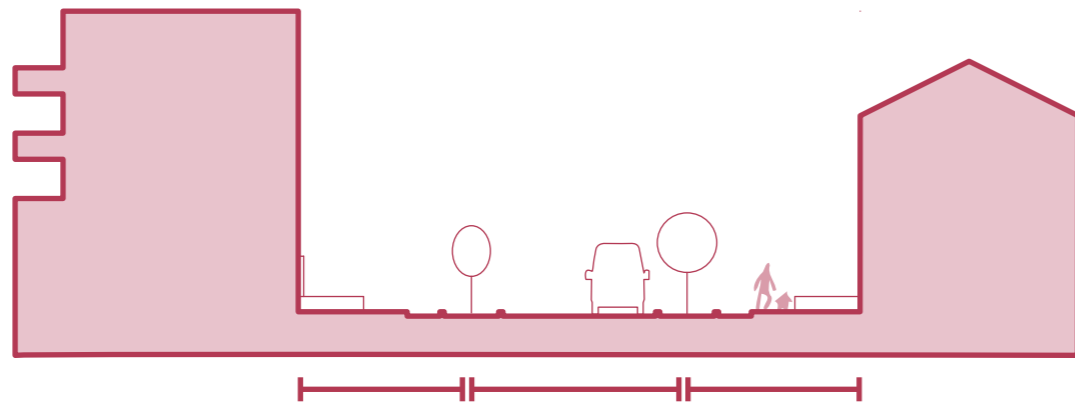
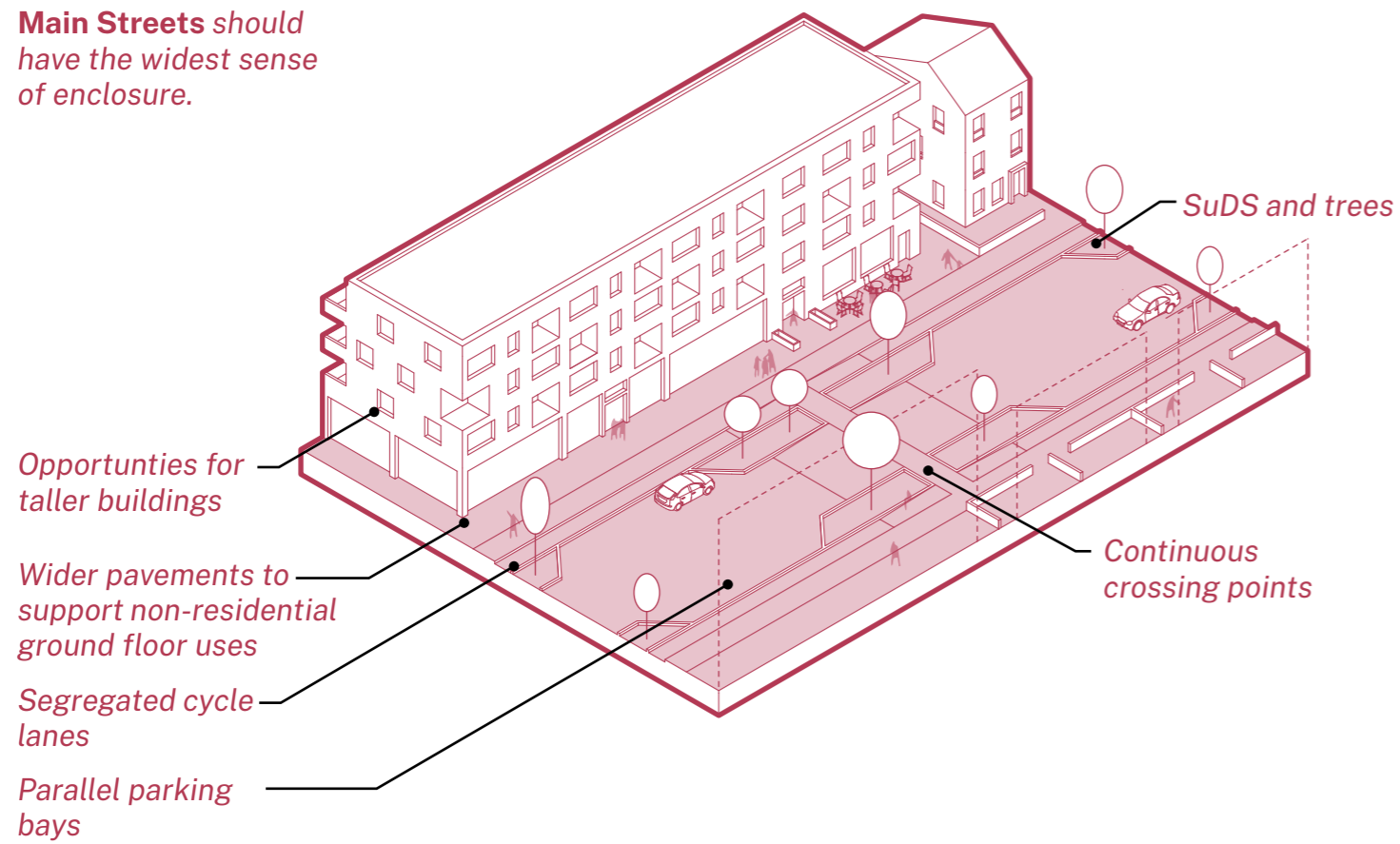
Townscape enclosure can be formed from perimeter blocks. Whether formal (orthogonal) or informal (irregular), grid structures are an efficient way of dividing space into public fronts and private backs, leading to street-focused layouts.

In urban areas, historic market towns and villages centres enclosure should support people-focussed streets and spaces. These contexts typically offer greater variation with street networks formed from a pattern of narrow streets and alleys, courtyards and informal squares and larger civic spaces.

Streets and buildings will be less compact as enclosure recedes in suburban areas and rural developments. With this lower level of enclosure comes more space and opportunities for landscaping, tree planting and larger gardens.

By arranging the buildings first to form street enclosure (rather than plotting the streets first) designers have a better opportunity to respond positively to local characteristics such as street enclosure, building lines and grain.

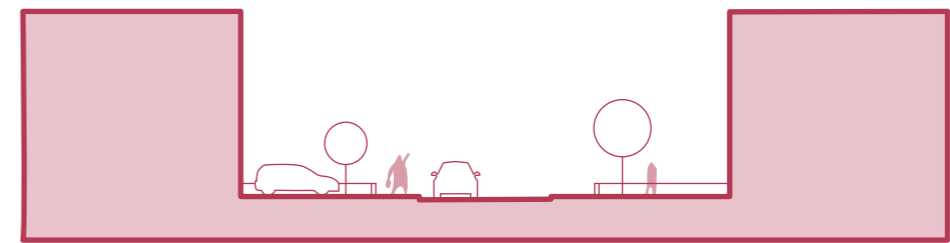
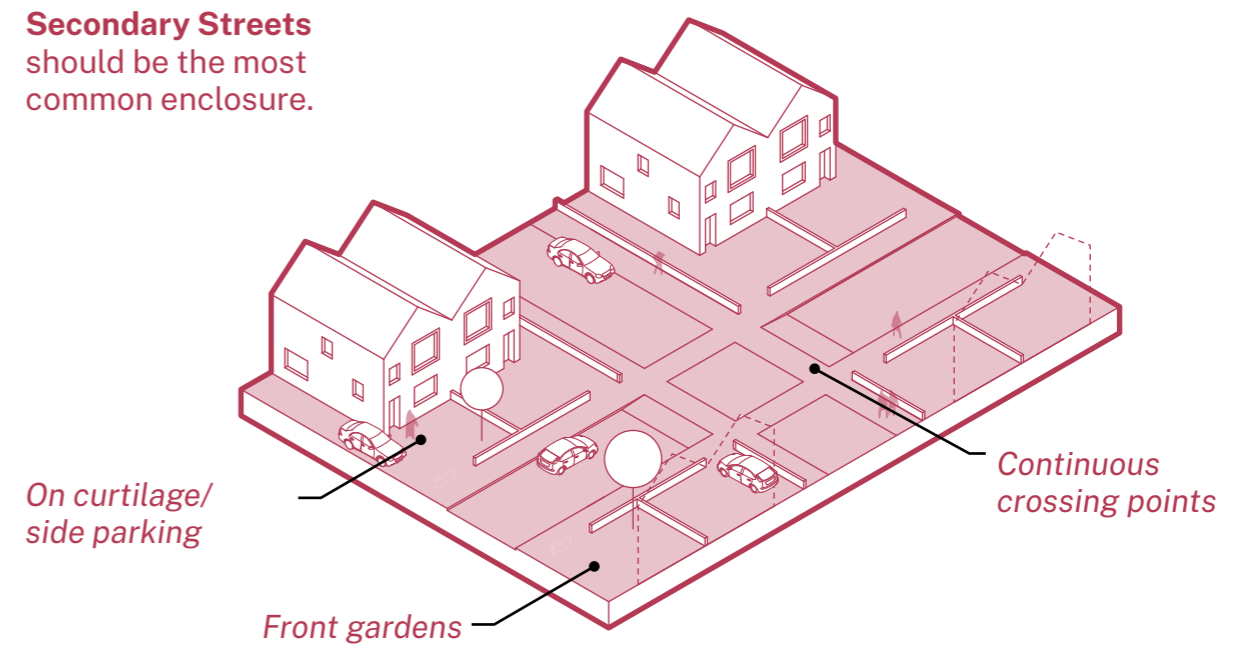
Main Streets should have the widest sense of enclosure.



Main Streets section

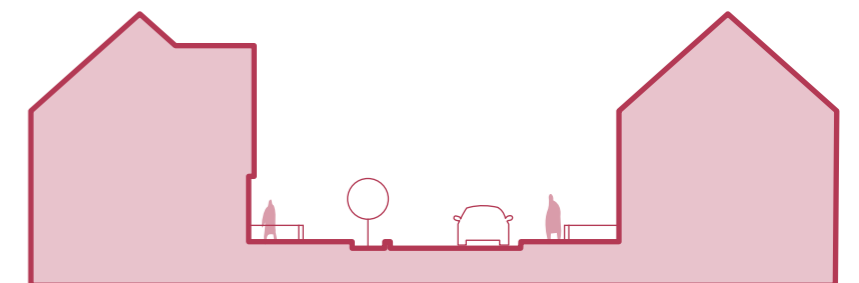
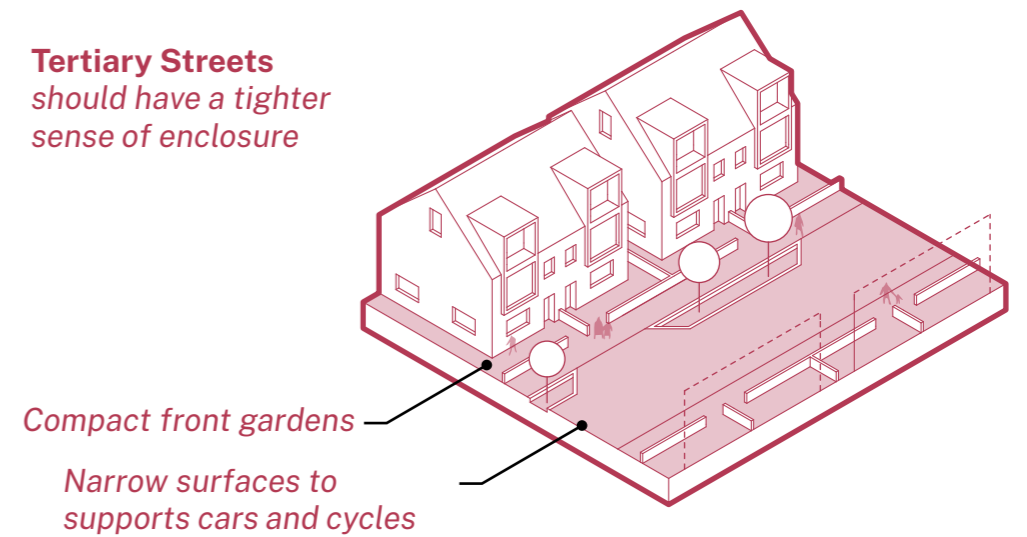
Trees can be used to reduce the sense of enclosure to avoid monotony and visually separate people from cars

Secondary Streets should be the most common enclosure.



Secondary Street section

Tertiary Streets should have a tighter sense of enclosure



Tertiary Streets section

2.7 Space between homes

The distance between homes has an impact upon privacy and overlooking, loss of light and overshadowing, over-dominance and enclosure.

Guidance

Basic standards including a conventional back-to-back separation of 21 metres for two storey homes are useful reference points but are not mandatory. Strict adherence to these standards will in some instances limit design variety, unnecessarily restrict density and may not reflect local character.

Privacy

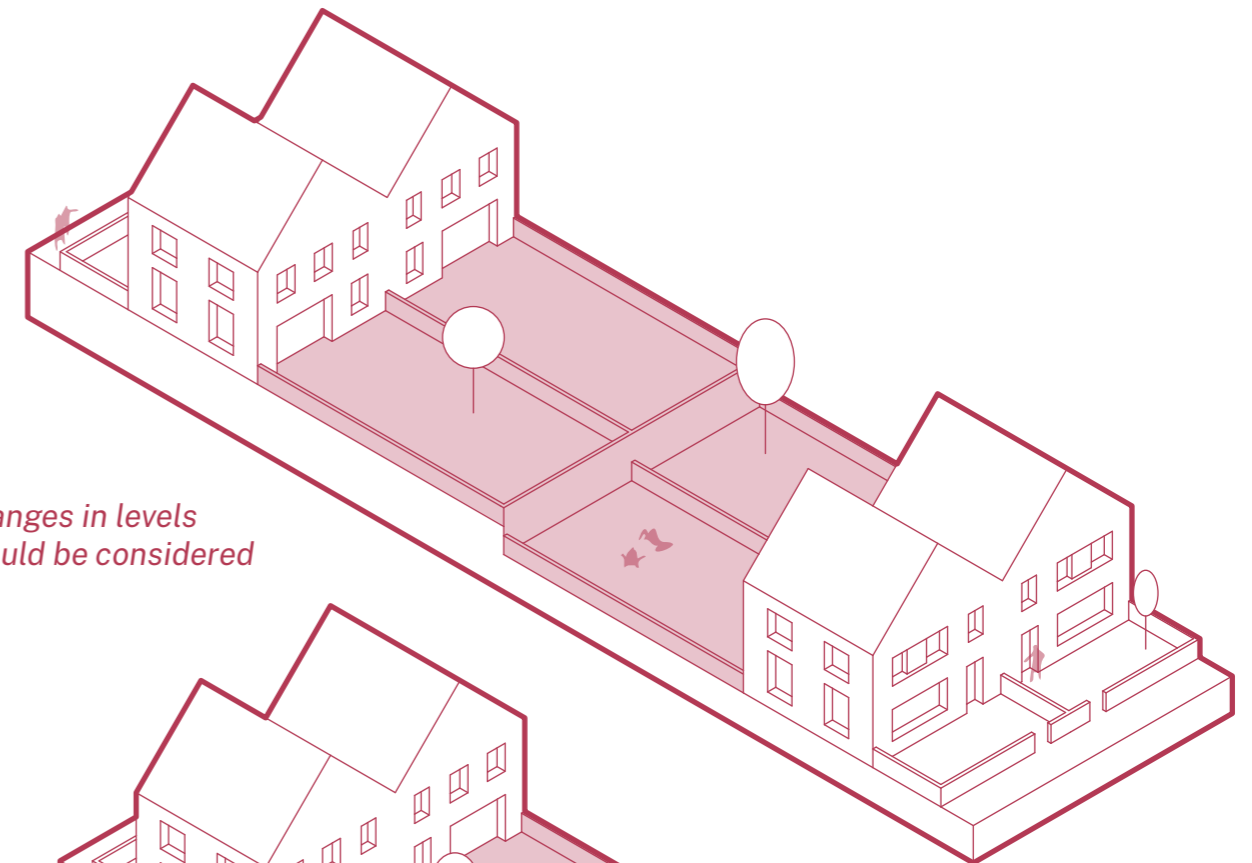
Where local context favours non-conventional distances design strategies must mitigate impact on residents' privacy and overshadowing. Considering splayed or offset façades, offset windows and landscaping.

In most cases homes will have a more public side (front) and a more private side (rear) but not always and designers will need to make use of other design aspects such as internal layouts, window orientation and profile, balconies and other external elements to give residents a sense of control over the privacy of their own home. Where possible, the more private spaces of a home; bedrooms and bathrooms should be located on the more private side of the building.

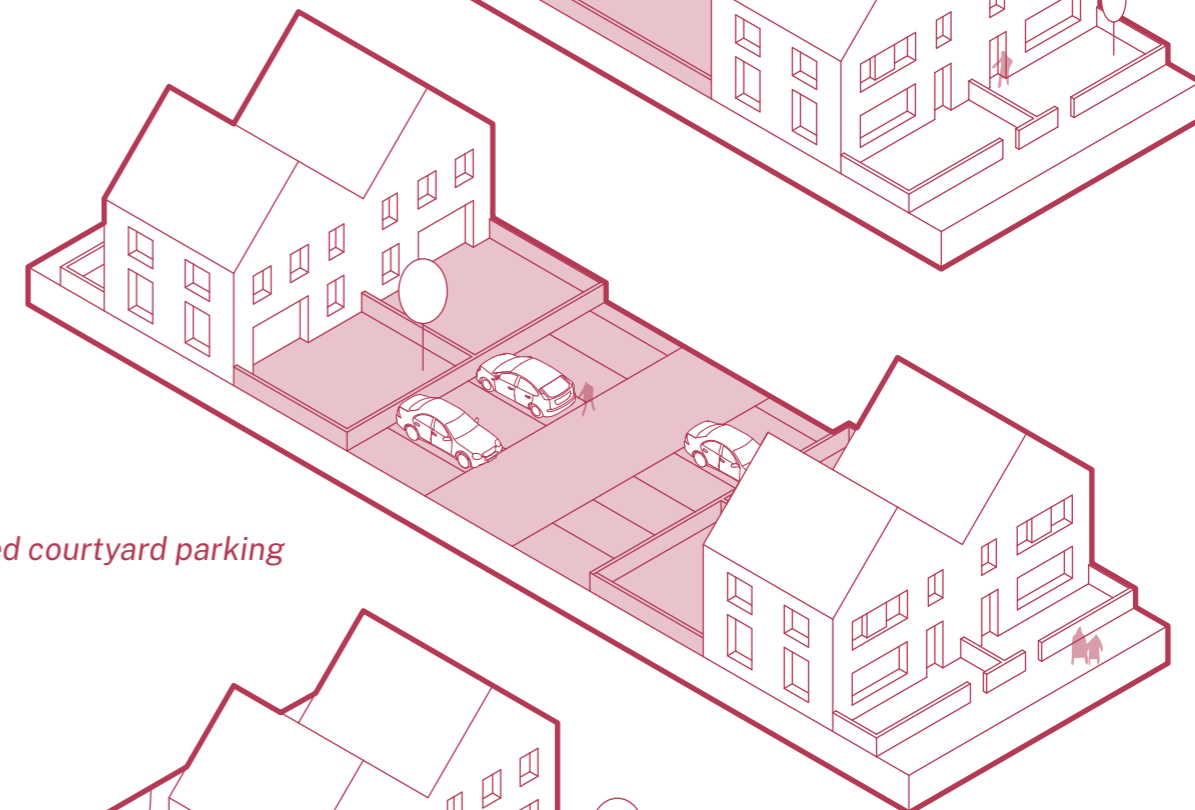
Plot coverage

Will vary according to location and context. In order to prevent sites being over-developed proposals should leave sufficient open space around a new dwelling for outdoor activity and access.

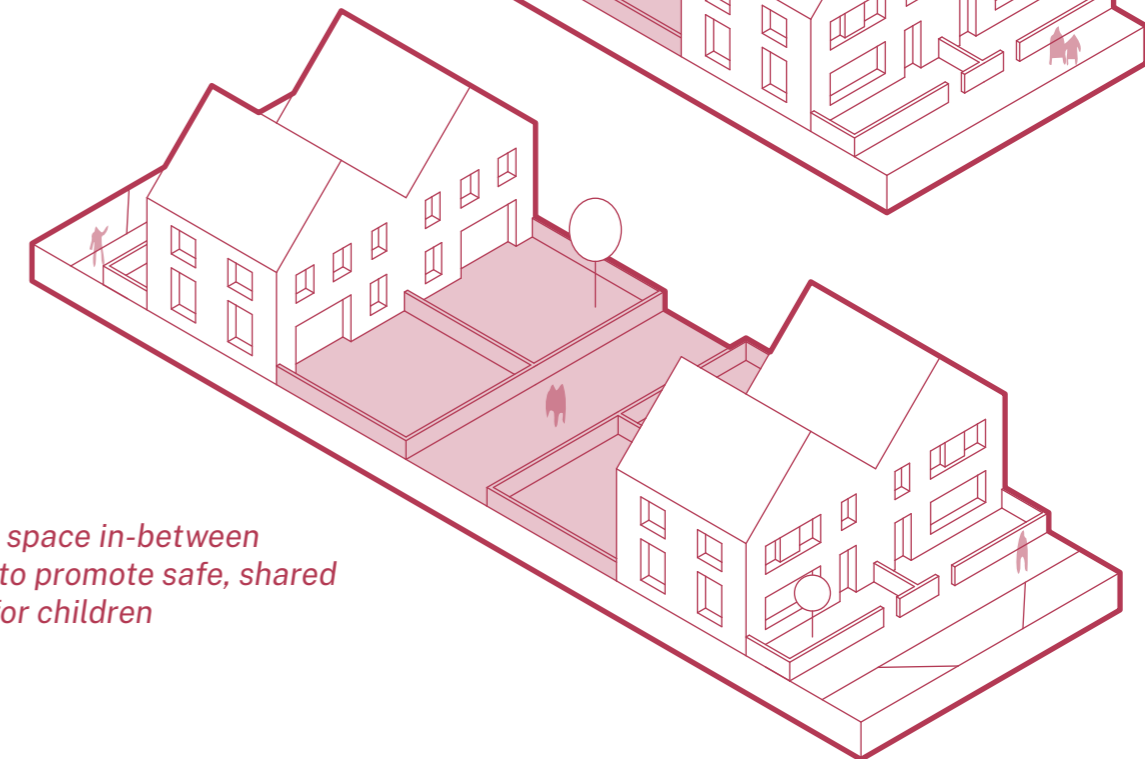
In detached and semi-detached family housing the proportion of plot area to building footprint should generally be greater than 60:40. In terraced housing and other more compact housing types the ratio may be much closer to 50:50 or in some cases with a higher proportion of built footprint to open space.



Changes in levels should be considered



Shared courtyard parking



Shared space in-between homes to promote safe, shared space for children

3

MULTI-DWELLINGS AND TALLER BUILDINGS

When to apply this design note

Rushcliffe has a range of scales (size of buildings) which we have defined by the areas types set out and consulted on in the baseline study. We are setting out two different urban scales for apartment buildings which are defined as follows:

Multi-dwelling: are defined as two or more dwellings, 2 storeys and above. They can come in a variety of arrangements, but usually have shared entrance(s) and circulation. They may contain apartments across single floors, duplexes or even triplexes.

Multi-dwelling are applicable to the Riverside, Urban and Key settlements area types only.

Taller Buildings: are defined as two or more dwellings over 5 storeys and above. They can come in a variety of arrangements and will have shared entrance(s) and circulation. They may result in a significant change to the skyline of Rushcliffe and are subject to further scrutiny.

Taller buildings are applicable to the Riverside area type only.

Process

Apartment buildings can provide a range of benefits as part of new housing options in Rushcliffe.

- Allow for choice – they add to the range of new living spaces available; housing for younger generations looking for their first home, and older generations looking to downsize
- Allow for increased site density
- Common in the adaption of existing structures (offices to residential)
- Allow more people to live in central and urban locations

The baseline study for the code identified existing pressure to add new development particularly residential in the Riverside area type where there is a precedent of post-war, new-build and adapted building for apartment living.

Apartment living has a number of advantages, but not all apartments are created equal. The term ‘typologies’ refer to the common variations found that relate to the horizontal and vertical circulation (how people access their homes via stairs, lifts and corridors for example), and the relationship between one apartment and its neighbour.

How these principles are designed result in many different layouts and forms that can cause both positive and negative factors in the quality of homes being designed.

Typologies are also not singular, they can be formed from combinations. The following section sets out the nuances of some of the key apartment typologies in relation to the following:

- Relationship between block depth (or 'thickness')
- Outlook from homes (or aspect)
- Private amenity
- Shared amenity
- Sociability

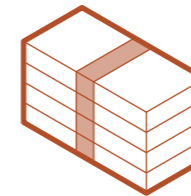
Differences between building typologies also determine the character of streets and spaces between the buildings. Typologies that have clearly distinguished front and rear elevations (terraces houses, dual aspect apartments) lend themselves to clearly distinguished public streets – an entrance at the front, and more private, domestic spaces to the rear.

Typologies with central corridors and cores will have frontage on all sides, creating less clearly distinguished streets and spaces between buildings and single-aspect dwellings that have only a public-facing front elevation but no rear.

There is no one singular solution, but ensuring a mix of typologies enables:

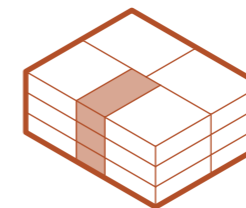
1. A finer grain of urban development with more porous site edges.
2. Variety in the heights, types and articulation of buildings creating intricacy in groundscape and roofscape.
3. A variety of public and private streets, courtyards and spaces between buildings.
4. A variety of house types to attract a range of potential future residents and enable residents to move home within a neighbourhood helping support more stable and resilient communities.

Linear Apartments



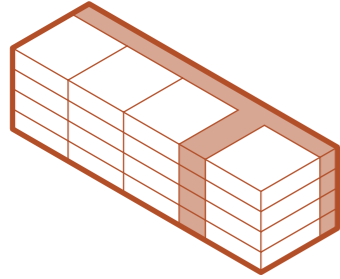
Block Thickness	10-12 metres
Aspect	Dual
(Potential) Private amenity	Front and/or back gardens, balconies, winter gardens
(Potential) Shared amenity	Gardens / courtyards
Potential sociability	Medium
Street types	Clear front and back, regular entrances

Point Block



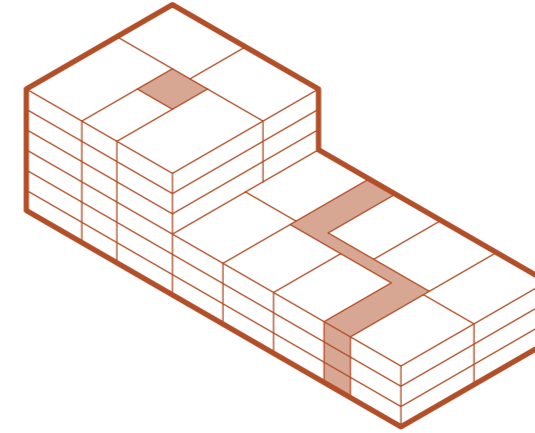
Block Thickness	18-25 metres
Aspect	Single/corner
(Potential) Private amenity	Balconies, winter gardens
(Potential) Shared amenity	None
Potential sociability	Low-medium
Street types	Frontage on all sides

**Deck access - internal/
external deck access**



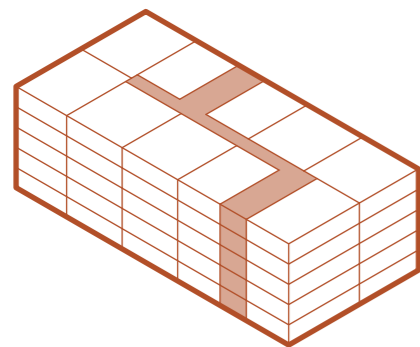
<i>Block Thickness</i>	12 - 14 metres
<i>Aspect</i>	Dual
<i>(Potential) Private amenity</i>	Ground floor gardens, balconies, winter gardens
<i>(Potential) Shared amenity</i>	Gardens/ courtyards
<i>Potential sociability</i>	High
<i>Street types</i>	Deck side and private side

Hybrid Example 1



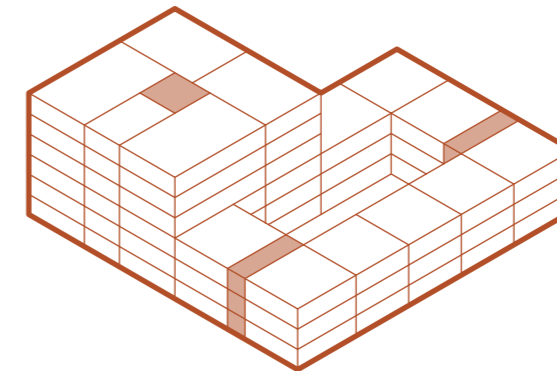
<i>Block Thickness</i>	18 - 22 metres
<i>Aspect</i>	Single/corner
<i>(Potential) Private amenity</i>	Balconies, winter gardens
<i>(Potential) Shared amenity</i>	None
<i>Potential sociability</i>	Low-medium
<i>Street types</i>	Frontage on all sides

Double-loaded corridor apartments



<i>Block Thickness</i>	18-22 metres
<i>Aspect</i>	Single/corner
<i>(Potential) Private amenity</i>	Balconies, winter gardens
<i>(Potential) Shared amenity</i>	Gardens/ courtyards
<i>Potential sociability</i>	Low
<i>Street types</i>	Frontage on all sides

Hybrid Example 2



<i>Block Thickness</i>	18 - 22 metres
<i>Aspect</i>	Single/corner
<i>(Potential) Private amenity</i>	Balconies, winter gardens
<i>(Potential) Shared amenity</i>	None
<i>Potential sociability</i>	Low-medium
<i>Street types</i>	Frontage on all sides

3.1 Scale and context

Riverside

The Riverside is defined by larger and taller buildings from Trent House, the City ground, former Civic Centre, (now Waterside Apartments) and County Hall amongst many. The Riverside should be the only area considered for tall buildings.

Guidance

The Riverside is a suitable place for densification given its proximity to West Bridgford and Nottingham City centre but also comes with the complexities of being in flood risk zone 2, with new development having to be designed carefully alongside existing heritage, ecology and highways infrastructure.

Urban, Key settlements

The Urban area type, West Bridgford has some opportunities for sensitive infill and intensification of plots, as well as utilising larger, but limited brownfield sites for intensification.

Guidance

Key Settlements area types present opportunities for sensitive infill and intensification of plots. Some Key Settlements also have brownfield sites and peripheral land for housing. Extensions to the settlement whether small or large should be considered as a continuation of the key settlements area type.

As with all area types, applicants will be expected to demonstrate how apartment typologies, whether standalone, or part of a suite of other housing typologies have been developed to respond the immediate scale and context.

3.2 Outlook

Outlook refers to the outlook from a home and is more often referred to as aspect. Outlook or aspect from a home can be singular, dual or multiple depending on the type of apartment developed and is determined by vertical and horizontal circulation. Apartment typologies come in a variety of arrangements, each with their own pros and cons. It is the responsibility of the design team to demonstrate suitable solutions that respond to the uniqueness of each site's context, surrounding scale, aspect and orientation.

Aspect determines a resident's outlook to the world. It can be rich and varied allowing multiple outlooks in different orientations, and it can be singular and limiting.

Dual/multiple aspect homes are often defined by:

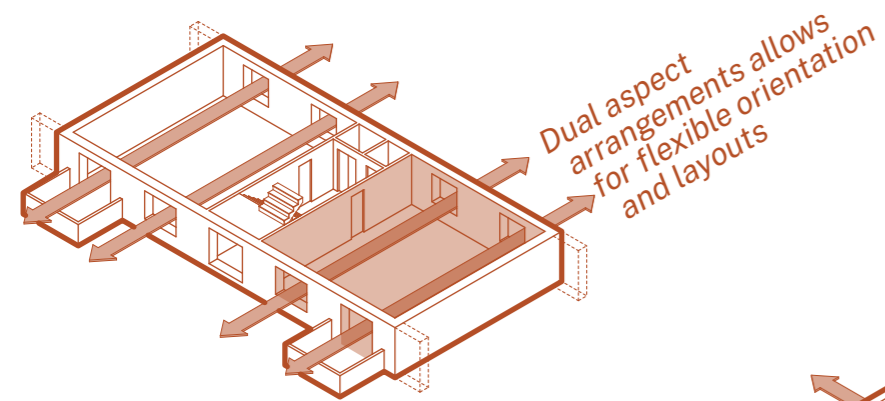
- Homes with daylight both sides - reducing 'dark space' at the centre of the building plan.
- Improved solar gain and ability to mitigate against glare or excess solar heating.
- Natural, cross ventilation and cooling potential.
- Better opportunities for privacy by having a front and back elevation.
- Flexibility in how spaces are inhabited.
- Options to provide alternative outlook where noise (roads, train lines, junctions) or poorer air quality affect the site.
- Possibility of a window to the kitchen and bathroom to allow better air movement, moisture and odour control (in addition to mechanical ventilation).
- Avoiding excessive net-heat gains (which can lead to overheating) or net-heat loss (which can result in higher energy consumption).

Single-aspect homes are often defined by:

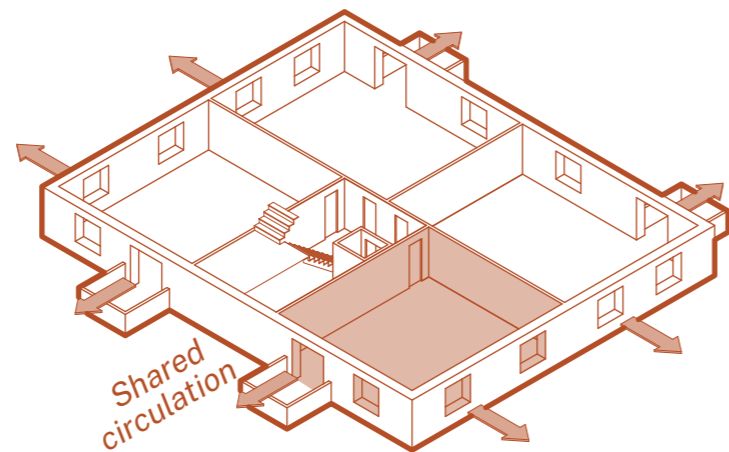
- Maximised site density/ net to gross ratios.
- Central horizontal corridor without natural light or ventilation.
- Prone to overheating risk due to exposure to solar gain or require additional heating due to lack of solar gain.
- Passive ventilation strategies are less effective and they typically rely on mechanical cooling and heating systems, building-in energy dependence.
- The location of building services along corridor spine walls also limits scope for internal reconfiguration and they lack the flexibility that many people desire from their homes.

C3.1

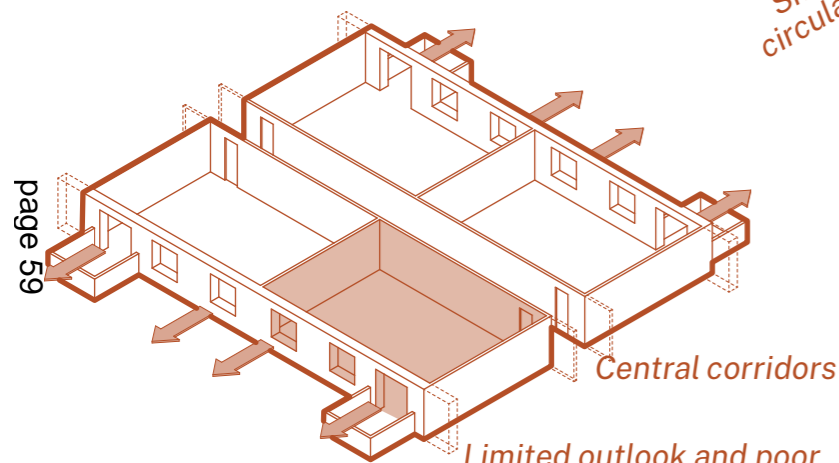
All new and adapted homes must be dual aspect. Single aspect, north facing apartments will not be accepted unless where the adaptation of an existing building prohibits it, and this can be rigorously demonstrated.



Dual aspect



Corner or multiple aspect



Single aspect

Dual aspect, multiple aspect and single aspect homes.

Poor orientation requires a higher annual heating demand. Adapted from the LETI Climate Emergency Design Guide.

Guidance

All new and adapted homes should be dual or multiple aspect unless there are exceptional circumstances which make this unreasonable or unsuitable. Primary living and bed spaces should be orientated to take advantage of the best views, preferably south facing (with suitable external shading).

Deep, narrow, single aspect living will not provide a suitable quality of accommodation.

A range of site layout options should focus on optimising the site layout demonstrating how an applicant has maximised dual aspect typologies at the earliest feasibility stages.

3.3 Solar orientation

Aspect and orientation cannot be thought about in isolation and will be determined by site, context, topography, access and landscape. The orientation of a building and the outlook from within the apartments establishes the principles for heat demand (and loss) and the overall energy consumption.

South facing windows can normally be designed to achieve a net heat gain. However, the amount of south facing glazing should also be optimised to prevent the risk of summer overheating.

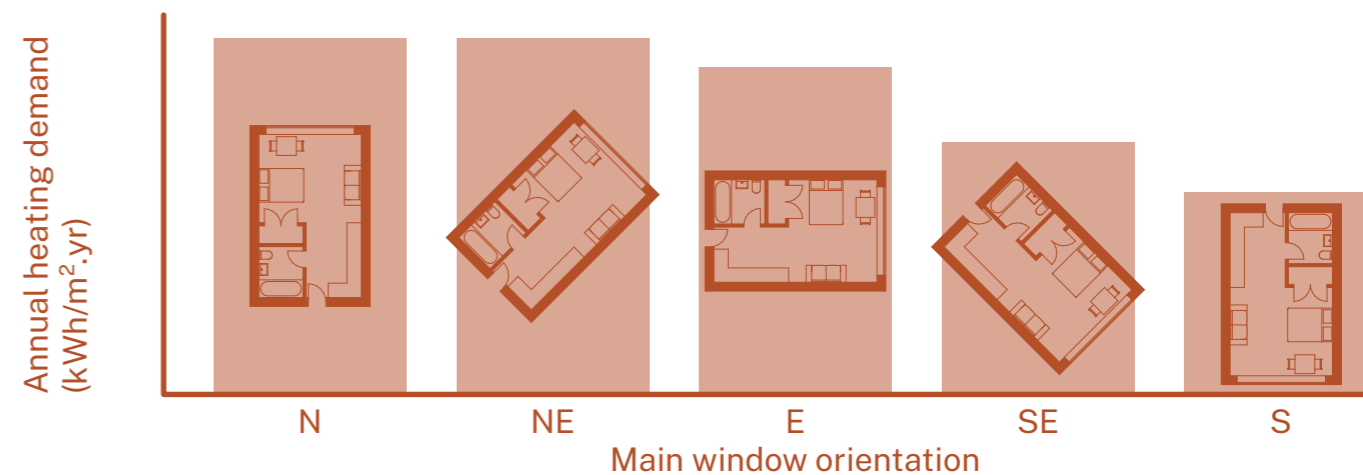
East/West windows can provide useful gains, they can often lead to overheating due to the low and prolonged angle of the sun at the start/end of the day which can be difficult to reduce.

Large **North** facing windows nearly always lead to net heat loss and need to be optimised – typically made smaller.

Guidance

As outlined in guidance on outlook, primary living and bed spaces should be orientated to take advantage of south facing orientation when accompanied with optimised window sizes and suitable external solar shading. A building's orientation combined with its glazing ratio is key to minimising energy demand.

Beyond optimising heat gains and loss, the immediate surrounding context can be a contributing factor in determining orientation. In particular, careful consideration should be given to busy roads or train lines which may contribute towards a poor quality of living by excessive noise and air pollution. Habitable rooms should be located away from these areas or mitigated against through good design such as wintergardens.



3.4 Elevation and roofscapes

There are no hard and fast rules about the design of elevations. The main components when considering elevation design should be:

- Groundscape - how the building meets the street.
- Mid-rise - the bit in-between.
- Roofscape - how the building meets the sky.

Guidance

Groundscape

How the building meets the street is important. This is space most experienced by passersby and residents on arrival. The groundscape should be considered the public facing part to a building and its design will be broadly dependant upon the scale of the building and the immediate surrounding context.

In an immediate urban context, the groundscape could be expressed through taller proportions and/or alternative active commercial uses such as shops or offices. The taller the building, the greater and more generous the contribution of the groundscape should be. The public realm around tall buildings should too increase in generosity with the height of the building.

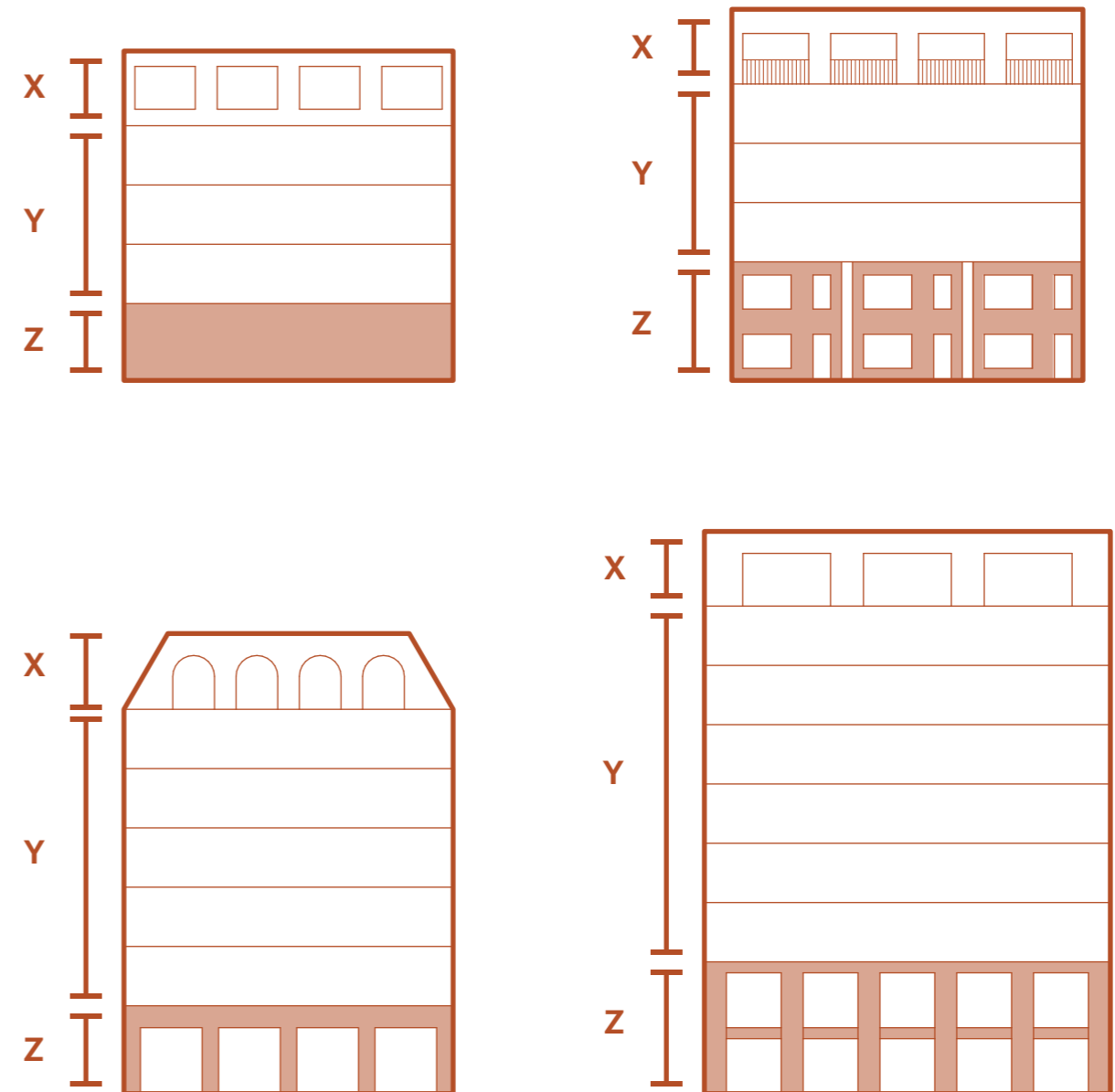
In a domestic context, the groundscape could be expressed through taller proportions or through alternative ground floor typologies such as duplexes which can be expressed in the elevation design.

Mid-rise

Apartment typologies offer an efficiency through repetition of floor plan. The mid-rise therefore is likely to display this repetition and rhythm of floors. Depending on the approach, in simple terms this could be expressed as a horizontal rhythm or a vertical rhythm. This can be achieved through arrangement of constituent parts such as, balconies or even rainwater pipes that reinforce rhythm.

Roofscapes

The roofscape is where the building meets the sky and forms the wider roofscapes of the surrounding area. Modern roofscapes have to work hard. They perform a vital role in water management and energy generation and can offer habitat in the form of green and brown roofs to wildlife. The roof form is also part of the distinctive character of the architecture of a new development, and a key way in which designers can demonstrate and respond to the surrounding context; either following the forms of surrounding buildings,



Key

- X Roofscape
- Y Mid-rise
- Z Groundscape

Above: Apartment typologies should promote active frontages. This could be through commercial uses or residential use, but only when there are individual front doors to each ground floor apartment to create the activation (see top right example)



Orwell House, Tower Hamlets, London by Bell Philips uses an ornamental frame/shade articulate the mid-rise of the apartments.

stepping with the topography or offering a contrast with something new.

Roofs spaces can be congested spaces for roof gardens, plant equipment, communal TV and satellite ariels, bio-diverse roofs (green and brown) and energy generation through photovoltaic panels (PVs). Therefore access to them is important. Applicants should demonstrate how these roof spaces must be safe to access and maintain. Roofing membrane, gutters and PVs (to operate efficiently) all require regular inspection by maintenance teams. They should therefore be safe places to access and not require specialist training or safety equipment.

Roof design for photovoltaic panels (PV) should prioritise asymmetric south-facing or east/ west roof pitches for maximum PV energy generation. PVs should be kept away from parapets/ upstands to prevent overshadowing and underperformance. Designers should therefore consider locating roof plant to the north to avoid overshadowing. Where on-site renewables are not required, or not currently financially viable, they should be designed and orientated for future adaption.

The roofscape is an important design feature and the plant assembled here needs to be considered in terms of integration. Applicants should provide detail to demonstrate their integration within the overall elevation design. Visible or finishing materials to conceal plants and mechanical roof equipment not of equal quality to the elevation of the building should not be proposed.

Fully glazed roofscapes or 'set-backs' should be avoided as they are an overheating risk.

3.5 Private Amenity Space

Private outdoor space is desirable in all circumstances to create quality places, built for longevity and to support the wellbeing of residents. This could come in the form of a garden, balcony, terrace or wintergarden. A wintergarden is an enclosed balcony with a large ratio of glazing.

Guidance

In very exceptional circumstances, existing site conditions may make it impossible to provide private outside space for some or all dwellings, particular with retrofit. For instance, outside space should not be located adjacent to areas with high levels of noise or air pollution (but wintergardens could be). To compensate, some/ all dwellings in a development may instead add amenity space on to the internal living space.

In the instance of balconies and wintergardens, written agreements with tenants could be used to ensure they are not misused for storage, BBQs or any misuse that may result in a fire risk.

Mint Street, Bethnal Green by Pitman Tozer Architects Wintergardens provide a habitable buffer from an adjacent trainline.



3.6 Active frontages

A variety of strategies can be used to provide activity at the ground floor. This is often referred to as active frontages and all buildings should be designed to ensure activity throughout the day as a means of providing passive surveillance to the street.

Activity can be brought about by several means:

- Ground floor apartments to be accessed via front doors accessed from the street (not via communal entrances).
- Commercial, office or retail uses on ground floor with large windows free from vinyl or obstructions.

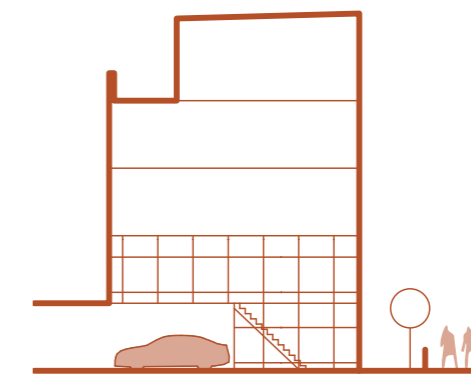
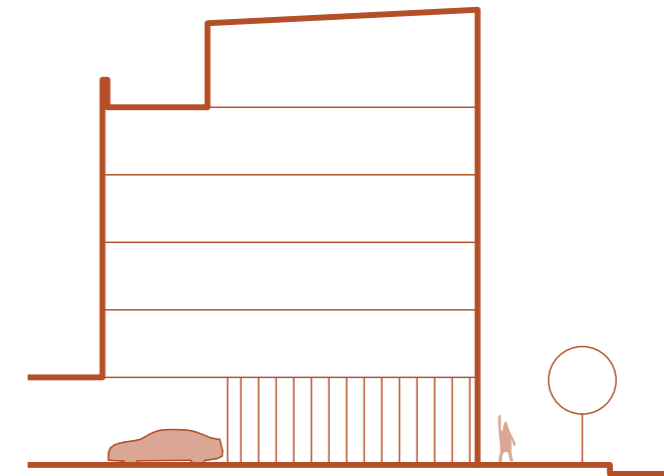
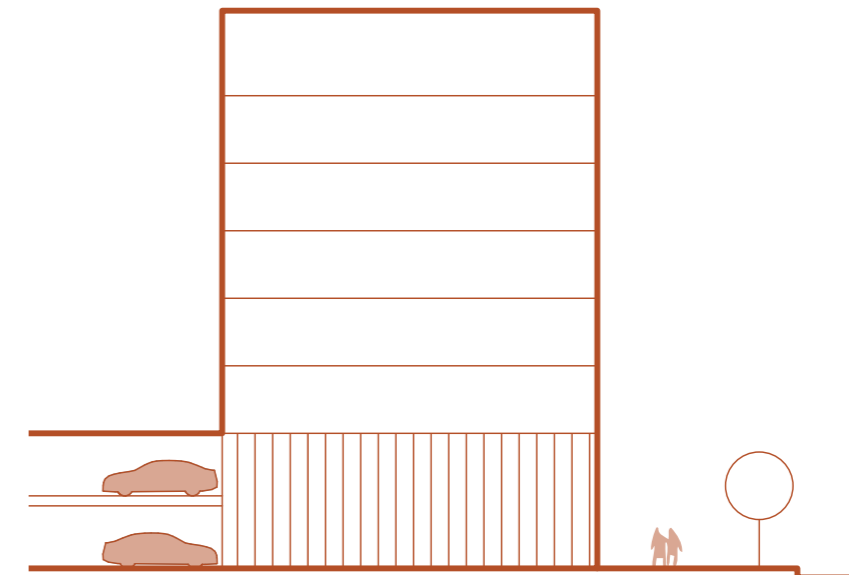
Guidance

Car parking should be carefully considered so as to not create inactive frontages. Car parking should not be visible within courtyards as it results in a very poor outlook. Instead, applicants will need to develop solutions to integrate parking within the landscape and housing.

Inactive frontages can be created via concentrated location of service doors to waste, plant and back of house which will negatively affect to the public realm. The location of car parking can also contribute to the inactivity. Blank frontage should be avoided.

Leeds Climate Innovation District, White Architekten, Citu. Parking is concealed in the topography of the site allowing a residents garden above.

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Key



Residential



Commercial

Active frontages can be achieved using commercial and/or residential uses. The objective should be to locate active uses alongside key routes to provide passive surveillance. Location of services should be minimised and preferably located on the north elevation.

3.7 Balconies

Balconies are essential to providing private amenity space at density. Balconies should be usable places to sit, socialise and grow small plants.

C3.2

Balconies must be a min. 1500mm deep of clear external space and free from obstruction. Any privacy screens must be integral to the design.

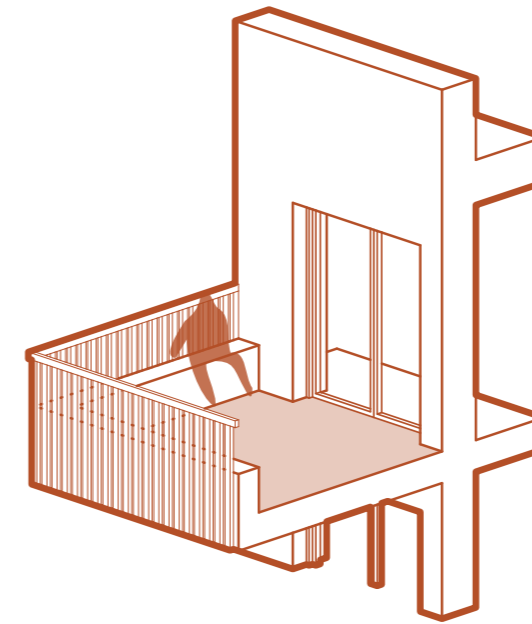
Guidance

Privacy should be carefully considered in relation to the design of the spaces to ensure that residents maintain their privacy and feel comfortable to use these spaces well. For instance, fully glazed balconies rarely offer adequate privacy for residents to use these spaces freely. Julietts do not represent a balcony providing amenity.

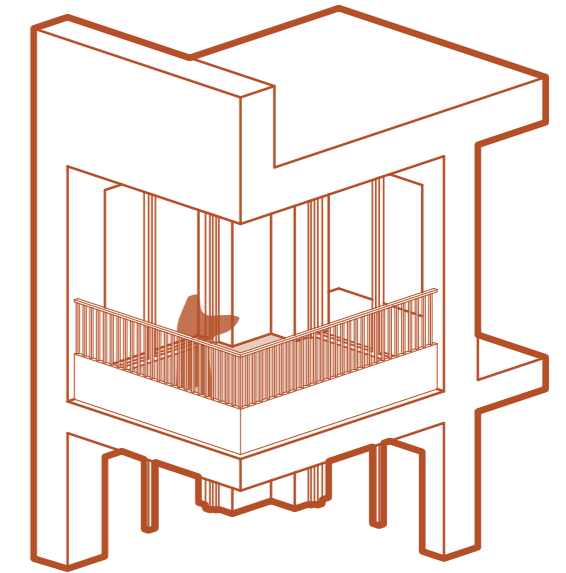
Solid upstands (brick/metal/ timber) or heavily opaque glazing should be considered as these help to create privacy. Shelter and comfort should also be considered, including solar shading to be considered in some instances depending on orientation. See Windows (3.2.4) for more details.

Careful consideration should be given to the drainage of balconies and terraces to meet the current requirements of warranty providers/building control, but also to prevent staining or runoff on to residents below. Drainage should be accessible for maintenance and management purposes with a secondary overflow spout to indicate any blockages.

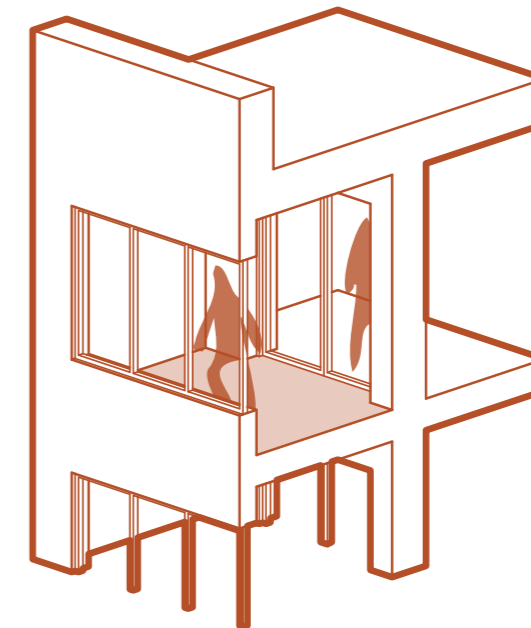
'Juliet balconies' will not be accepted as balconies as they do not contribute to any additional external space.



Projecting balconies



In-set balconies



Wintergardens

Balconies come in different forms. Projecting (or cantilevered), inset and wintergardens. Each providing residents with valuable private external space outside of the wall of their apartment. Julietts are not balconies.

3.8 Shared external spaces

Living at density should come with significant benefits to the residents living there and should not be about maximising land values at the expense of creating sustainable and desirable places to live.

Offering shared external space provides opportunities for community gardening, food growing and composting.

Guidance

All apartments should have at least one secure outdoor shared communal amenity space. These spaces should be overlooked by residents and accessible to all tenants. These spaces are essential to supporting communities, where family sized homes (+2bed/3person and above) are concerned. They should be designed for people of all ages to meet people, socialise, relax, grow food, play and support biodiversity.

Creating homes that will support family lives is important. Providing space for children to develop physically, emotionally and cognitively is an important stage in their development. It is therefore essential that we give space to children young and old.

For developments with a potential occupancy of ten children or more, development proposals (in addition to private external space) should provide:

- Appropriate play provision in the form of every child anticipated in a development = 10sqm of external play space provided.
- Overlooking by surrounding developments.
- Accessibility to all via level thresholds and not involve stepped access.
- Designs that take advantage of direct sunlight.
- Suitable management arrangements in place to ensure play spaces are cleaned and maintained.

‘Catalogue play equipment’ should generally be avoided as it is often generic (and provides limited interest for children), is costly, and typically requires an intensive maintenance and inspection routine. Bespoke play environments are preferred.

Design teams should look to design elements of landscape that provide ‘multiple affordances’, i.e. different uses for different people such as a low-level wall that might retain a planting bed, whilst also providing a seat for residents to sit and chat, or a child to walk on and practice balancing. The goal is for low maintenance elements where their use is open to interpretation.

Roof terraces are another means to provide external space at density. Communal terraces will need to provide a range of facilities to cater for residents including:

- Seating.
- Canopies and shelter.
- Safe, level thresholds– step free access for all.



The Malings, Newcastle Upon Tyne by Ash Sakula Architects, combines private and communal planting space at an urban living with central raised planters, with access to communal water and electricity to maintain.

Shared courtyards with low garden fencing, shared allotments, garden tool shed storage and gardens provides the conditions for community. New housing in Swindon.



3.9 Windows

The design of windows and openings define the appearance and character of a building and provide rhythm to the street. The right size and type of windows, located carefully in the building façade will ensure that homes have good quality natural light, natural surveillance, comfort, passive and purge ventilation (with dual or corner aspect homes). They can also contribute towards internal overheating if oversized in East and West orientations or a net heat loss if primarily on North elevations requiring a larger heat load (and unnecessary cost) to residents.

C3.3

Windows must have a minimum reveal depth of 150mm in all new developments.

Guidance

As a general rule of thumb, designers should aim to locate larger windows on the lower floors where access to natural light can be compromised and consider reducing glazing areas higher up the building where there is more daylight available and less overshadowing from neighbouring buildings.

Wider, shorter windows:

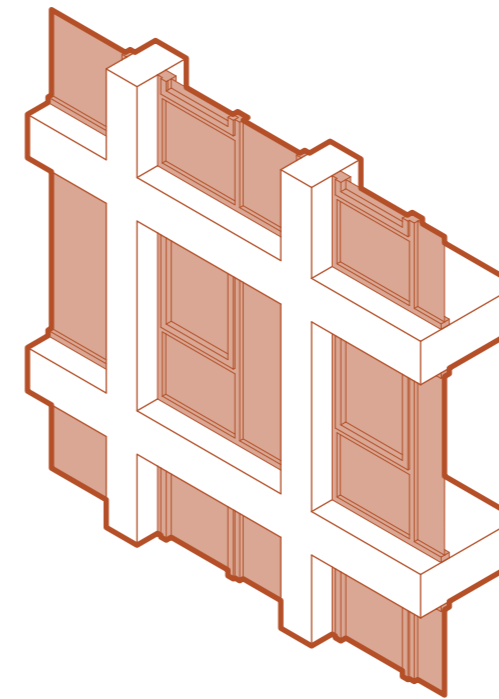
- Improve daylight distribution in rooms.
- Moderate overheating risk and are typically easier to shade.
- Increase openable area for ventilation.
- Provide increased privacy to bedrooms.

The south facing of homes should be prioritised for living spaces. Fixed shading on southern facades can provide solar shading in the summer, whilst also supporting heat gains in the winter.

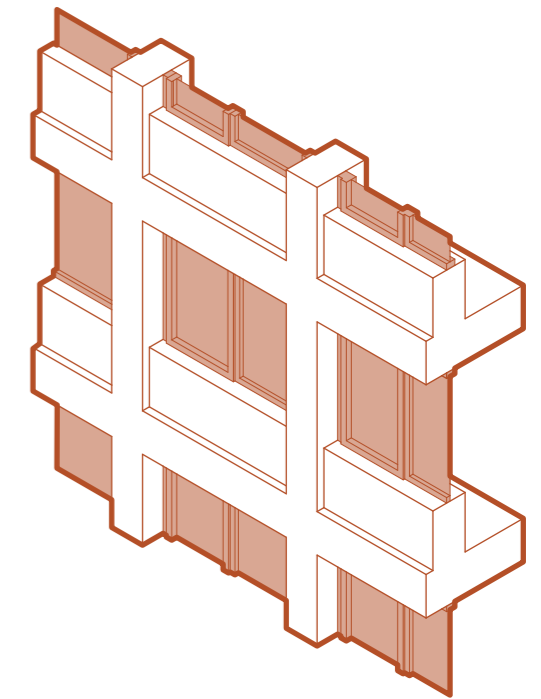
Design teams should aim to increase the pane-to-frame ratio by avoiding unnecessary transoms and mullions as these will significantly reduce thermal performance. Sash windows should be avoided (unless in a conservation context).

Large format windows running floor to ceiling as standard throughout homes can be problematic for a number of reasons. Poorly orientated they can contribute to net heat loss and gains/overheating as they are typically the poorest thermally performing building element (even with triple glazing). To overcome this, external shading is required to prevent overheating adding cost. Basic internal layouts of furniture (and flexibility) is compromised with residents left with no choice but to abut beds, desks and storage blocking the glazing and visible to the outside.

This does not mean that glazing should be mean spirited, but proportionate to the design of the home and quality of space inside. In the right place, large glazing can contribute to the quality of the home – creating an immediate relationship between interior and exterior spaces and allowing good natural light into key habitable rooms.



Full height windows are likely to result in overheating issues and/or energy intensive mechanical cooling. Reductions in window sizes should be considered to mitigate this.



Infill details reduce the size of glazing. They should not compromise the thermal transmittance. Insulated render (see example below) is preferred over integral window panels as they compromise the buildings performance.

Goldsmith Street, Norwich by Mikhail Riches for Norwich Council. Uses small areas of insulated render below windows to create the proportion of a large window, without the thermal loss.



3.10 Entrances

Entrances are the arrival point for residents and should offer shelter and protection from the elements.

C3.4

Meter boxes must not be located on primary elevations.

Guidance

All entrances should be clearly illuminated and have level access over the threshold. They should have some form of canopy or protection from the weather which should be integral to the design of the buildings.

The scale, location and design of the entrance should be appropriate to the type of building and number of people using it. For larger buildings entrances will need to be larger and more generous in scale, with robust materials and detailing reflecting the heavier usage.

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Branch Place, Colville Estate by Karakusevic Carson Architects. Communal entrance is generous and clear (left of image). Private residential doors provide further ground floor activity (right of image)

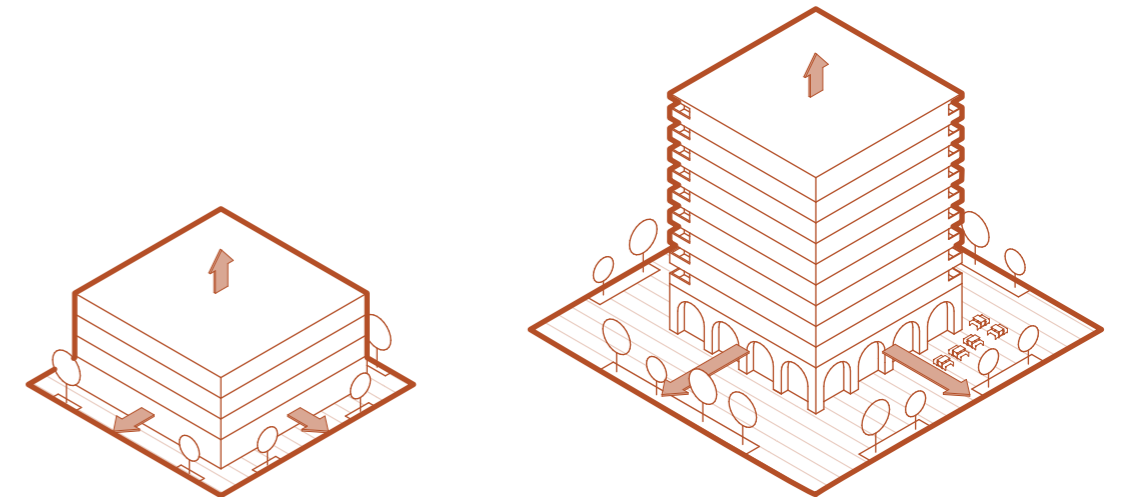
3.11 Impact, boundaries and public space

Tall buildings have an impact on their surroundings and the taller they are the greater the impact can be. Visual impact is important as tall buildings are likely to be visible from wider West Bridgford. Visual impact needs to be assessed from the perspective of several different scales; in relation to its immediate neighbours; close-up as part of the townscape; and in terms of long-distance views and impact on the skyline.

Tall buildings have a pronounced functional impact on their surroundings. This is because of the human activity they generate; pedestrian activity; parking and servicing; shadowing and other climatic considerations such as wind and down drafts.

C3.5

Micro-climate should be carefully considered around the base of tall buildings. Assessments are required to identify and mitigate against unpleasant or dangerous wind effects. It will be expected that mitigation measures such as landscape and trees designed to reduce wind speeds will be provided and managed on-curtilage and within the scope and design of new development and managed in perpetuity.



Taller buildings impact on the public realm. The taller the building, the more generous the public realm should be.

Guidance

Tall buildings will typically be proposed in high population areas and should serve local residents at the ground floor with 'other uses' - commercial premises, offices, shops, creche, restaurants etc.

Where other ground floor uses are not suitable in lower rise apartments, applicants should provide front door access to each ground floor apartment as a means of providing an active frontage.

3.12 Materials

There are no hard and fast rules when it comes to building envelope design and the selection of materials. The process of selection is a combination of factors including the context, durability/longevity, maintenance and embodied carbon. Careful consideration should follow throughout the design process from the external envelope, to structure and foundation, to finishes and fixtures and evidenced in the planning process.

Guidance

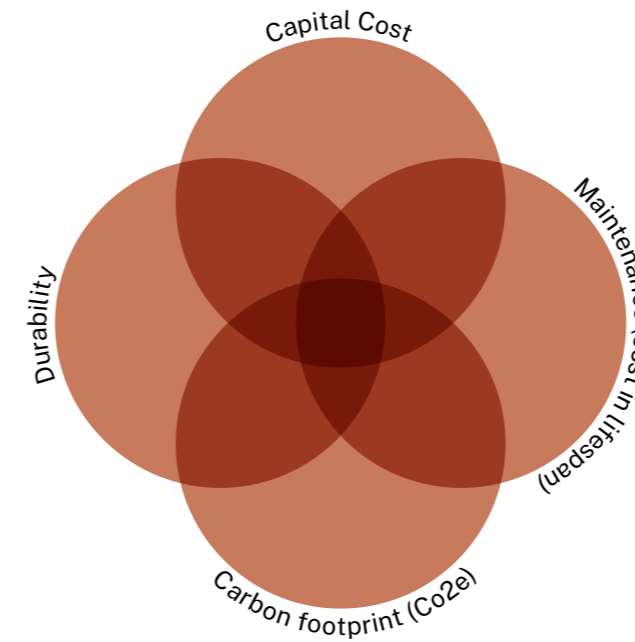
Simplicity is often key in robustness of detail, buildability, long term maintenance and weathering. Multiple cladding combinations are generally discouraged unless carefully considered and necessary. Junctions between materials are the most common areas for visible weathering issues and maintenance complexity.

Material selection is always a balancing act.

A solid clay fired brick may be extremely low maintenance, but comes with a high embodied carbon cost and increased loading on concrete foundations that may run contrary to climate goals. Brick slips on a secondary fixing frame allow the appearance of brick with lower carbon cost and lighter dead weight to the structure.

External renders require painting every 5-10 years, but with the right selection of insulation can be very low in carbon, ideal for retrofits and don't require any foundation reinforcement. However, poor details and interfaces around render with rainwater goods or exposed steel components may result in staining and additional maintenance costs.

Rainscreen cladding is a catch-all terminology to describe a range of panels of differing quality. They vary from high pressure laminates (HPL), to fibre cement based products and folded aluminium. The quality is in the detail and commitment of the applicant to select materials that should weather well. Products that are susceptible to UV damage and bright paint applied colours should be avoided as they are likely to degrade over the medium term.



Material selection is a balancing act



New build apartments in West Bridgford. A combination of the interface of steel balconies, mechanical ventilation extract/intake and pollution with light coloured renders result in staining/discolouring.

3.13 Adaptation

New buildings need to be adaptable to ensure long term sustainability of developments. This is particularly relevant to purpose built student accommodation.

C3.6

Purpose built student accommodation (PBSA) must demonstrate adaptation to self-contained residential apartments.

4 LANDSCAPE



When to apply this design note

This design note provides essential guidance on integrating new development within our existing areas of landscape and public realm. It outlines the design requirements that designers and developers should follow when creating new places in Rushcliffe.

The guidance aims to ensure that new landscape and public realm enriches the quality of life for all users, promoting ecological health, social interaction, and cultural identity.

All sections of the design note should be consulted to ensure that landscape and public realm is multifunctional, combining sustainable urban drainage, biodiversity, trees and planting, public realm and shared amenity, play, wayfinding and the use of management companies.

4.1 Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)

As climate change will lead to an increased likelihood of flooding from the Trent and its tributaries, Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) can contribute significantly to reduction in the impacts of flood risk across the area.

SuDS features include rain gardens, swales, retention ponds, detention basins, bio retention, strips, green roofs, and permeable surfaces. SuDS features slow surface run-off and allow rainwater to be stored close to where it falls. Water can then be utilised as a resource, for example, to irrigate trees and planting.

Blue infrastructure refers to networks of rivers, canals, lakes, ponds, reservoirs, streams and ditches throughout the landscape. SuDS systems within a site connect to wider blue infrastructure networks, overflowing into urban wetlands and natural water courses.

C4.1

SuDS features must demonstrate that they have been designed as part of a system coordinated with strategic and local blue infrastructure, for example, overflowing in to urban wetlands and natural water courses.

C4.2

SuDS features must incorporate resilient planting suitable to wet and dry conditions.

C4.3

Management and maintenance plans must be provided for all new SuDS features.

C4.4

Rain gardens with planting must be incorporated into streets.

C4.5

Any proposed SuDs within the highway must be discussed with the Highway Authority before a planning application is submitted.

C4.6

Severn Trent Water must be consulted on plans for adoption before a planning application is submitted.

C4.7

All new homes with gardens, planting areas and/or access to communal planting must be fitted with water butts of a minimum 200 litre capacity.

C4.8

Dry detention ponds must not be part of proposed SuDS features outside of the East Midlands Airport Strike Zone.

Rain Gardens during dry season at Lovedon Fields in Hampshire.



Sheffield Grey to Green - Tree planting in SuDs



Guidance

Sites should incorporate best practice with regard to sustainable drainage and the management of flood water.

The layout and design of all new development should be planned with a SuDS system which takes account of wider blue infrastructure beyond the site boundary, avoiding any increase to the risk of flooding elsewhere, and where possible reducing flood risk - unless it can be demonstrated that such measures are not viable or technically feasible.

Proposals for new development should demonstrate that SuDS are integrated throughout the site layout and design rather than restricted to isolated locations, incorporating attenuation in to the heart of proposed schemes.

SuDS features should incorporate trees.

SuDS features should provide multifunctional benefits, for example, by enhancing biodiversity, and providing opportunities for combining SuDS and recreation.

New development on greenfield sites should reduce or maintain runoff levels compared to those present prior to development.

Below ground storage tanks should be avoided and only used as a last resort when surface attenuation has been proven to be unfeasible.

Guardrails should only be erected around attenuation ponds where there is identified need to mitigate risk presented by water.

page 70

Refer to

- The SuDS Manual (C753) published by CIRIA
- First Steps in Urban Water: Managing Water as a Resource (2023) published by TDAG
- Greater Nottingham Blue-Green Infrastructure Strategy (2022)

Multifunctional SuDs incorporating informal play, trees and planting



Swale planted for biodiversity and amenity, adding to placemaking principles by being distinctive and welcoming.



Narrative

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) are critical to flood attenuation and water resource management. As stated in the Local Plan, flood risk is a significant issue in Rushcliffe, and some parts of Rushcliffe are prone to flooding from surface water runoff. This is likely to be exacerbated by more extreme weather conditions brought about by climate change.

Rushcliffe Borough Council has signed the Nottingham Declaration on climate change which is a public statement of intent to work with the local community and businesses to respond to the challenges of climate change. This includes preparing for the changes climate change will bring.

SuDS systems should be planned for exceedance during extreme or prolonged rainfall events to minimise the damage of surface water flow.

4.2 Biodiversity

The word 'biodiversity' refers to the variety of life on earth, including the different species of animals, plants, and micro-organisms that coexist globally. It also refers to the variety of ecosystems and their component habitats. Examples include wetlands, grasslands, rivers, agricultural and urban landscapes.

Existing grassland, woodland and wetland habitats mean Rushcliffe is an important area for some species of plants and animals. In 2015 there were 8 nationally important sites (SSSIs) and 214 Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) listed within Rushcliffe, in addition to Local Nature Reserves (LNRs).

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is a way of creating and improving natural habitats. BNG makes sure development has a measurably positive impact ('net gain') on biodiversity, compared to what was there before development. A Biodiversity Net Gain of 10% is mandatory for new development unless exempt. Rushcliffe will require BNG of 20%.

C4.9

A minimum of two swift bricks per dwelling must be provided in new residential development in addition to any other ecological enhancements.

C4.10

A minimum of three swift bricks or suitable alternative must be installed per unit for commercial and industrial development in addition to any other ecological enhancements.

C4.11

Robust boundary materials (including 'internal' fences) must be fitted with hedgehog holes in addition to any other ecological enhancements.

C4.12

New development must not specify the use of plastic planting or artificial grass.

Skylarks
Nature Reserve,
Nottinghamshire,
an example of a
local wetland.



Guidance

All new development which falls within one or more focal areas identified in the Rushcliffe Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping Report should be informed by the opportunities for improvement identified, and must demonstrate how it would deliver these opportunities.

All new development should protect existing biodiversity features wherever possible and improve these where appropriate. All new development should demonstrate mitigation measures to minimise impacts to biodiversity.

All new development should provide additional features designed to benefit certain species or groups, for example, bee bricks, nesting boxes for birds, bat boxes, and features for reptiles, amphibians or invertebrates. Wherever possible the selection of features should contribute towards the delivery of objectives for priority habitats and species identified in the Nottinghamshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

Proposals for new biodiversity features should demonstrate how they are strategically located, planned and managed to provide connections with existing blue and green infrastructure.

Proposals for new development should include a planting design which provides a diverse mixture of plants, shrubs and trees to provide habitats and food for wildlife throughout the year. Where hedgerows are within the red line boundary and watercourses are within 10 metres of the red line boundary, BNG for hedgerows and watercourses must be provided unless the development is exempt from BNG.



Protecting existing high value biodiversity assets is of greater value than replacing them with new. Ancient Coppiced Woodland in Nottinghamshire (Bunny Old Wood West)



Brownfield sites pose huge potential for biodiversity gains. Once the centre for ground-breaking research into road safety, Buckler's Forest in Crowthorne was re-naturalised into a space where both people and wildlife could thrive.

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Refer to

- Rushcliffe Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping Report (2015)

Narrative

The Rushcliffe Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping Report underpins the wider work of the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group and complies with the Lawton Review of wildlife conservation 'Making Space for Nature' which promotes the protection and enhancement of a network of habitats (which are better, bigger, and more connected) rather than individual sites in isolation.

The Rushcliffe Local Plan states that the East Midlands currently compares unfavourably with other regions in England in terms of the surface area covered by designated nature conservation sites, has lost more wildlife than any other region in England and has lost large amounts of its wildlife habitats with losses continuing and those that remain becoming increasingly small, isolated and fragmented. There is a recognised need to deliver a major step change increase in the level of biodiversity across the East Midlands.

Opportunities within new development to incorporate new biodiversity features include wetlands, green roofs, native species, hedgerows, and unimproved grassland.

4.3 Trees & Planting

Trees and planting are building blocks of a larger connected green infrastructure network. Trees have a positive impact on the attractiveness, value, viability, quality and sustainability of new development. Benefits include creating welcoming, attractive and distinctive places, enhancing biodiversity, dealing with stormwater and enhancing thermal comfort.

C4.13

Multifunctional green infrastructure must be incorporated into new development.

C4.14

Proposals for new development must demonstrate how new green infrastructure features will connect to existing strategic and local green infrastructure.

C4.15

Proposals for green infrastructure must include a management plan covering a 15 year period.

C4.16

New trees planted in the public realm must be planted at a minimum rate of rate of 1 per parking space provided in the development (including garage spaces.)

C4.17

Trees planted within a hard landscape must utilise a soil structure system to create an uncompacted root zone and reduce the risk of roots lifting surfaces.

Guidance

Green Infrastructure

- Proposals for new development should follow the guidance to plan and design good green infrastructure provided in the Green Infrastructure Planning and Design Guide published by Natural England.
- Proposals for new development should follow the Green Infrastructure Standards published by Natural England is to drive improvement in the quantity and quality of green infrastructure.
- New development should address the opportunities to protect and enhance green infrastructure set out in the Greater Nottingham Blue-Green Infrastructure Strategy (2022)
- New development should explore opportunities to both provide new green infrastructure and upgrade existing green infrastructure.



Green and blue infrastructure design can provide multiple functions and benefits to people, wildlife, landscape processes. Embedding quality and abundant green infrastructure has the benefit of protecting both urban and rural environments from a changing climate and adverse weather. Making green infrastructure accessible enhances people's experience, understanding and relationship with natural processes.

Trees and planting in new urban developments with shared amenity and public places can embrace local landscape character, native species, and tie into existing green infrastructure.



- Green infrastructure proposals should demonstrate how they respond to local landscape character by protecting, conserving or enhancing the different landscape types in Rushcliffe in line with the recommendations of the Greater Nottingham Landscape Character Assessment.
- Green infrastructure should be multifunctional, for example: by providing access to employment and leisure facilities; physical activity and wellbeing opportunities; biodiversity opportunities; and tackling and adapting to climate change.
- Where proposed new development has an adverse impact on GI corridors or assets, alternative scheme designs that have no or little impact should be considered before mitigation is provided, as stated in the Local Plan.
- New residential development should provide communal green space and food growing sites as a component of the green infrastructure network.
- New development should prioritise the modification of the degraded soils and avoid importing manufactured topsoil where possible.
- New residential development should incorporate vegetation and features for wildlife on structures associated with provision of services or storage, for example, cycle and bin stores, service buildings, sub stations.

Trees & Planting

- Proposals for new trees and planting should include a diversity of species which have been selected to respond to local landscape character, to provide value for wildlife, to reduce vulnerability to the risk of disease, and increase resilience to climate change.
- Planting schemes outside of residential gardens should

select tree and shrub species from the guidance published by Rushcliffe Borough Council on tree and hedgerow planting to enhance landscape character, as applies to each of the four regional character areas in Rushcliffe.

- Amenity grassland should be planted with flowering lawn seed mixes
- New development should incorporate both new and existing trees. In addition to complying with Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and hedgerow protection legislation, mature trees, shrubs and hedgerows should be retained where possible.
- New planting should strengthen existing tree lines and hedgerows, and/or create new native hedgerows.
- New streets should incorporate trees with tree pits with a minimum volume of 7m³ to enhance resilience.
- Maintenance of new and existing trees should follow the council's Tree Management and Protection Policy.
- Mowing should be reduced or delayed to allow wildflowers to grow and provide food for pollinators. Consider mowing strips around the edge of unmown areas to present an impression of 'management'.

Refer to

- Green Infrastructure Planning and Design Guide published by Natural England
- Green Infrastructure Standards published by Natural England
- Greater Nottingham Blue-Green Infrastructure Strategy (2022)
- Greater Nottingham Landscape Character Assessment
- Rushcliffe Borough Council: Tree and Hedgerows Planting to Enhance Landscape Character
- Rushcliffe Borough Council: Tree Management and Protection Policy 2023
- Tree Species Selection for green Infrastructure: A Guide for Specifiers published by Tree Development Advisory Group

Narrative

The National Planning Policy Framework 2021 defines Green Infrastructure (GI) 'as a network of multifunctional, green and blue spaces, and all the natural features, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental, economic, health and wellbeing benefits for nature, climate, local and wider communities and prosperity.'

Elements of a green infrastructure network vary in scale from strategically important green spaces, linear infrastructure such as roadside verges and access routes, to small features which appear throughout the landscape such as domestic gardens, hedgerows, street trees, ditches, or ponds. A single green infrastructure design can provide multiple functions and benefits.

New developments provide an opportunity to enhance green infrastructure, both within the site or off-site.

Green corridors and amenity in residential neighbourhoods can connect rural and urban provisions of green space and tree cover.



At a local scale, street trees and planting help reduce pollution, increase water retention, improve visual amenity, and can be used to extend green corridors.



4.4 Public Realm and shared amenity

Public realm is defined as the spaces between buildings that are freely accessible to people. It includes streets, amenity spaces, open spaces, green spaces, sports and recreation grounds, cycle ways and pedestrian areas.

Shared amenity refers to communal spaces or facilities designed for shared use by residents or the public. Shared amenities typically include parks, green spaces, playgrounds, seating areas, gardens, and other recreational facilities that are intended to enhance the quality of life and social interaction.

C4.18

Public realm design proposals must demonstrate how they have been informed by an analysis of movement patterns by users through and within the space, including desire lines.

C4.19

Level access must be provided to all areas of public realm within new development. Where changes of level are required they should be considered in terms of how they promote or restrict access and be clearly communicated.

Guidance

Public realm

The spatial design of public realm, including the layout of elements such as street furniture, planting, trees and lighting, should allow for flexible and meanwhile use, enabling activities and events of varied scales and places to dwell.

Public realm design proposals should incorporate trees and planting which support biodiversity and the creation of new habitats. See 4.2 Biodiversity.

The design of public realm should provide spaces with shelter or partial shelter from wind, rain and sun.

Public space is a melting pot for coming together. It is a social space that can incorporate seating, shelter, play, movement, and biodiversity.



Public realm design should encourage and support active and healthy lifestyles.

Future users of a space should be actively involved in the briefing, design, and development of public realm design. Proposals for engaging future users should identify specific measures to increase the accessibility and inclusivity of the engagement process to enable a diversity of people to participate.

Safety and surveillance

New residential development must be designed to maximise natural surveillance of access routes and public open spaces.

Lighting must create a welcoming and safe environment which encourages the use of outdoor spaces.

Trees and planting in urban areas should be designed and maintained to allow visibility and sightlines to facilitate surveillance avoiding the creation of isolated spaces. Appropriate trees and planting can provide cooling and shading to places to dwell, make a positive contribution to air quality and create a buffer to roads. Maintenance of trees should follow the council's Tree Management and Protection Policy.

Street furniture

All street furniture must be consistent in design 'style' (style, colour and material) and quality across new development whilst achieving any required distinction between street hierarchy and routes.

Street furniture must be integrated into the design of the public realm.

Street furniture must be positioned to maintain clear walking and wheeling routes, and maintain visibility of entrances and facilities.

Seating

A variety of seating should be provided alongside space for people in wheelchairs to interact with others.

Seating should include opportunities to sit on the periphery of a space, areas which encourage social interaction, and accessible seating with arms and backrests.

Seating should be provided along all walking and wheeling routes to provide opportunities for people to take a rest.

Bins

An adequate quantity and capacity of bins should be provided to support a litter-free environment.

Bins should be located conveniently with clearly marked options for recycling.

Emptying of bins should be specified in the management and maintenance documents.

Lighting design

Lighting must be present on main, secondary, and tertiary streets.

Lighting in the public realm must not cause a nuisance to residential windows.

Lighting design should take in to account the character of the local townscape or landscape, by selecting an appropriate type, scale and style of lighting for the context.

Designs should seek to reduce the number of lighting columns as these contribute to clutter in the public realm. This might be achieved by using multi-headed columns, by combining lighting with other items of street furniture, and considering wall mounted luminaires where appropriate. Luminaires should be specified for low energy consumption.

Lighting should be designed to minimise their impact in areas which are close to or within green infrastructure and wildlife habitats.

Wayfinding furniture

Signage and wayfinding, including graphic and text-based information must meet inclusive design requirements.

Wayfinding furniture should complement other aides to navigation such as spatial hierarchy, design legibility and material consistency. It should be consolidated and only used where additional information is required to avoid excessive clutter in the public realm.

Materials

Materials should be chosen which reduce the carbon footprint of the development. The choice of materials should aim to reduce environmental impact, by considering embodied carbon, sustainability of the supply chain, and ongoing sustainability in use.

New development should seek to reuse materials on site wherever possible.

Material choice and design should remain consistent to express the relationship between different areas and the street hierarchy in the public realm.

Materials should be robust and age well, with a life cycle and maintenance requirements which suit the development. Proposals for new development should demonstrate that they have considered the character of areas surrounding the site boundary when specifying materials.

A balance of material transition and continuity should be considered at thresholds and changes between site edges and the wider public realm.

Hard surfaces in the public realm should be porous to minimise stormwater runoff and be coordinated with sustainable urban drainage networks.

Sealed surfaces should be avoided.

Detailing of hard and soft landscape materials adds a richness to the experience of a place and should be encouraged early on in the design process to ensure adequate allowances are made for it during the viability and costing process.

Refer to

page 77

Engagement Overlay to the RIBA Plan of Work
Artificial lighting and wildlife Interim Guidance: Recommendations to help minimise the impact artificial lighting

Narrative

Good public realm design makes public spaces and routes pleasant, easy to use, and legible for a diversity of users. It also considers inclusivity, accessibility, safety and maintenance, as well as how to support community interaction, outdoor activities and wellbeing.

Public realm combines different elements within a successful spatial and functional design. These include street furniture, lighting, trees and planting, hard materials and surfaces.

A mix of use, activation, and building orientation allows for natural surveillance of accessible routes and public open spaces.



Public wildflower gardens



4.5 Play

Policy for play areas is based on three levels of provision for play friendly spaces that are accessible and inclusive. These relate to the size and level of equipment provided but also the age of the children for which it is designed. Inclusive play spaces should also consider the needs of children with special needs and disabilities, including access for wheelchairs and mobility aids, and multisensory play.

Opportunities to play can also be provided outside of designated play areas. Examples include integrating playful elements along active travel routes and encouraging exploration and play in green space. Natural play space can include trees, planting, natural play features such as logs and boulders, and opportunities to learn about wildlife. A multifunctional approach can provide health and wellbeing benefits to children and young people through access to nature, support biodiversity, and link to the green infrastructure network.

C4.20

Play spaces must be located to create a balance of provision across new developments and not be segregated to one area.

C4.21

Play spaces must be located where they have direct links to walking and cycle routes so that children and young people can reach them safely and easily.

C4.22

Management and maintenance plans must be provided for all proposed play spaces.

C4.23

New development must integrate opportunities to play outside of designated play areas.

Page 78



Left: Access to Nature is a key ambition of Play guidance. Consider reducing the tendency to fence in play (unless specifically required).

Right, top to bottom: 'Wild Play' with biodiverse rich planting enhances connection to, and resilience of, nature.

Aim to use distinct and locally inspired play features and materials.

Play, biodiversity, tree planting and SuDs all sharing landscape infrastructure. It is aspirational that these elements are considered holistically and refrain from them being deployed as a 'tick box' exercise and applied in isolation.



Guidance

Proposals for play provision within new development should provide accessible and equitable spaces for children and young people of different ages and genders.

Play provision within new development should include opportunities for children and young people to play together.

Proposals for play provision within new development should complement provision available in the wider locality.

Play spaces should be located away from busy roads, noise, pollution and water bodies including sustainable drainage features which hold water.

Play spaces should be located alongside other amenities. Combined facilities encourage children, young people and adults to spend time outdoors together, promote social interaction, increase natural surveillance and a perception of safety.

Fences and gates should only be provided where they are necessary, for example, to contain young children or to keep animals out.

New residential development should incorporate doorstep play spaces.

page 79

Refer to

- Make Space For Girls: for guidance on how to make new developments inclusive for teenage girls.
- Rushcliffe Play Strategy

The three levels of provision of designated play areas are:

- Local Areas of Play (LAP) aimed at very young children, with a few fixed items of play near to the home, and a minimum activity zone area of 100 m².
- Local Equipped Areas of Play (LEAP), with at least five pieces of equipment for slightly older children, and a minimum activity zone area of 400 m².
- Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play (NEAP) aimed at older children, with at least eight pieces of equipment often complemented by other facilities including Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) and skateboard parks, with a minimum activity zone area of 100 m².

Play can be inviting, diverse and inclusive. Co-design of amenity spaces to ensure a wider range of user needs are heard and met.



Play can include activities for all ages and be combined and shared to foster collaboration and shared ownership of space.



4.6 Wayfinding & Navigation

Connections that enable transport, active travel, communication, and social interactions across urban and rural areas improve accessibility and mobility for residents, with a positive impact on health and wellbeing.

A well-connected street network enables easy movement by providing straightforward ways to get from one place to another, with short routes and few dead ends.

C4.24

In new residential development communal facilities must be located where they have direct links to walking and cycle routes so that residents can reach them safely and easily on foot or by wheel.

C4.25

Proposals for new development must demonstrate that they provide for clear and easy movement through and within the development area.

C4.26

Proposals for new residential development must provide a well-connected street network within the development and enable connections beyond the site boundary.

C4.27

Major new development must provide integrated active travel routes as part of a safe, attractive and coherent network.

C4.28

Main, secondary and tertiary streets (see Street Hierarchy design note) must provide adequate street lighting to improve safety and accessibility.

C4.29

Walking and cycling routes must be lit to increase safety and accessibility, taking cognisance of their setting and context.

Guidance

New residential development should maximise walkability.

New residential development should provide access to green space by providing links to parks, green spaces and rights of way.

New development should help to achieve continuous routes connecting the city centre with the urban fringe and wider countryside and major leisure destinations.

Right: A network of pathways allows for multiple modes of active travel. It also offers opportunities to mix play, movement and biodiversity.

Wide and segregated accessible streets make it easier for people to choose active travel to reach essential services, school, work and leisure spots.



Narrative

Active travel means getting about in a way that makes you physically active, like walking, cycling or wheeling. It enables people to make short journeys, such as getting to the shops or local school, cycling to work or a public transport hub. Encouraging more active travel provides many benefits – in terms of improved public health and air quality, increased road safety, better street life, and reduced carbon emissions.

4.7 Management Plans and Companies

The management of landscape and its associated public realm is crucial to maintaining a functional, healthy, and pleasant place to live. Management and maintenance of places is generally concerned with incorporating the processes associated with preserving their quality or condition. Good management and maintenance contribute to the resilience and attractiveness of a place and allows communities to have pride in their area.

C4.30

Management plans must highlight areas of landscape for adoption with information on layout, materials, construction details and soft landscaping.

C4.31

Management plans must indicate:

- Land to be Adopted by the highway authority.
- Land managed by a management company.
- Land managed by private landowners.

C4.32

Management plans must promote and encourage cleanliness and safety.

C4.33

Management plans must ensure the successful establishment and continued thriving of all plants and trees, and replacement of all dead or dying trees planting stock for a period of 3 years.

C4.34

Developers must create a Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP), employing strategies that encourage biodiversity as per section 4.2 Biodiversity.

C4.35

Management plans must outline the goals and purposes of different landscape elements (4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6) and describe the strategies to be implemented for their achievement.

C4.36

Guardrails must not be erected around attenuation ponds.

Community engagement and ownership of public spaces encouraged through long term management plans.



Park pathways - example of volunteer led management and maintenance.



Guidance.

Management plans of public spaces (including private streets and open spaces) should highlight what will be Adopted by the Highway Authority and where shared spaces may be jointly or privately managed.

Management plans, where appropriate, should encourage and curate positive activity in the public realm. This might include taking responsibility for unassociated seating, caring for planting, providing sports accessories, and organising social or cultural events.

Management plans should include comprehensive maintenance instructions that balance the ambitions of biodiversity, user experience and cleanliness.

Low maintenance strategies should be designed into schemes where appropriate to reduce scope of required management.

Robust and appropriate materials should be used that balance design intentions with longevity and maintenance. Damaged materials should be replaced with like-for-like to maintain quality of design.

The Landscape Management and Maintenance Plan (LEMP) should outline the strategies for preserving the existing ecology and maintaining the landscaped areas within a development. It should ensure that the planned landscape functions effectively, serving purposes such as creating habitats and offering recreational zones.

Developers should consider submitting a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). A CEMP document outlines how a developer will minimise any negative environmental impacts of a specific construction project. A CEMP should also demonstrate that a construction project complies with any relevant environmental legislation.

Good management practices of public space and high streets can result in enriching cultural events.



Management plans are key to balancing the phasing and long term success of construction, maintenance and biodiversity strategies.



Narrative

Management plans set out the approach to adoption and management, and can range from the environmental, meaning wildlife is catered and cared for, right up to the bustling urban centres and high streets, where our streets and public spaces are managed to maintain thriving places.

The best examples of successful management plans include the potential for community engagement and management, shared responsibilities, and clear goals and outcomes. Management companies should use this guidance to inform the creation of their management plans at the earliest stage possible or where a Management Company is being brought in to look after the management and maintenance of a private place, should ensure they are managing it in accordance with this guide.

5 HOUSEHOLDER



When to apply this design note

Extensions and alterations to existing homes are often needed to accommodate the changing needs of households. The guidance in this section relates to changes to individual houses in the form of alterations, extensions and annex buildings.

- To provide clarity for householders planning to extend or make alterations to their existing home.
- Ensure that extensions and adaptations do not unreasonably reduce the privacy of neighbouring properties.
- To ensure changes do not result in the loss and continuity of historic streetscapes.
- To ensure that changes are not detrimental to the architectural qualities and characteristics of the original building and its setting.

Process

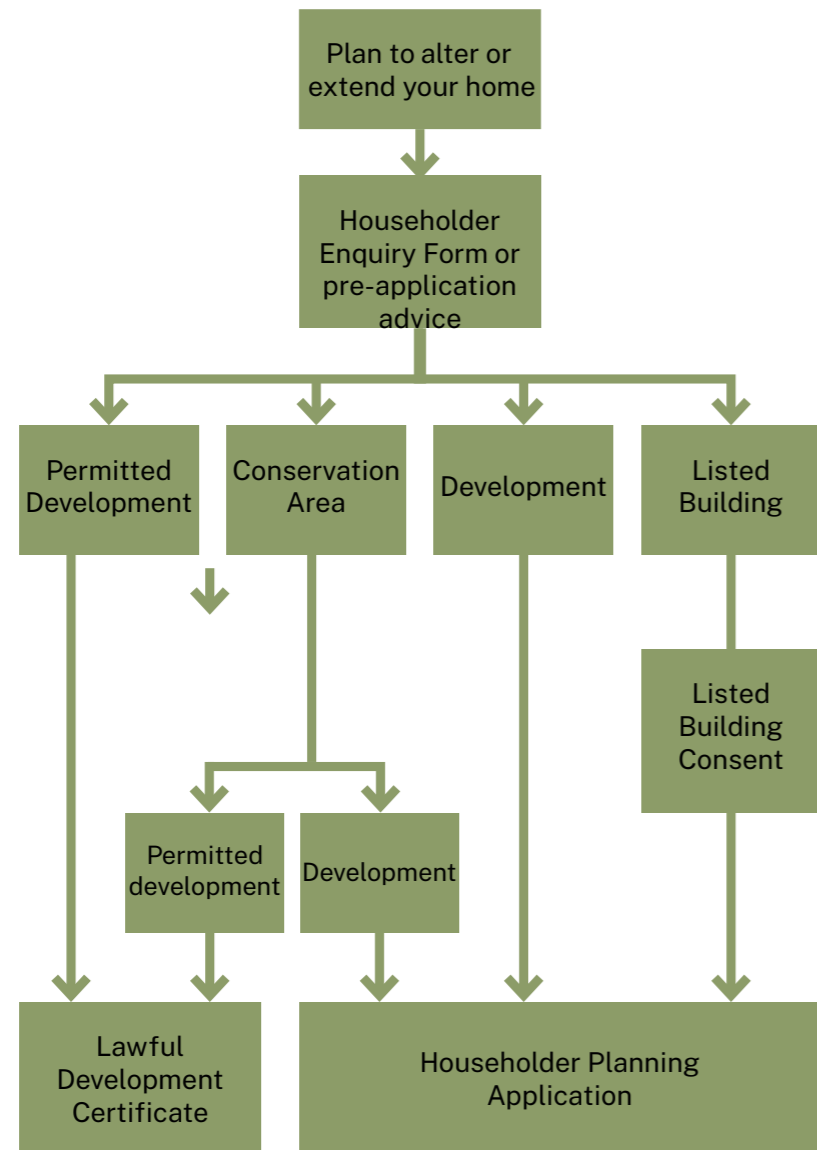
When considering an extension or alteration to your home, you will need to determine if the proposed works require the submission of a householder application (planning application), or whether it is covered by 'permitted development'.

The easiest way to understand which planning route and process is required, is to use Rushcliffe Borough Council Householder Enquiry Service or pre-application advice service.

www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/planning-growth/planning/do-i-need-planning-permission/

Engage design professionals

- architect
- surveyor
- engineer
- builder



Speak to neighbours

- discuss design, changes and likely impact
- party wall agreement

Professional services

Engaging a design professional, such as an architect, is recommended. They will guide you through the process from initial ideas, to engaging specialist consultants and ensuring the right permissions are in place.

The Architects Registration Board maintains the UK Register of Architects, and only people on the Register are legally allowed to use the title ‘architect’.

www.architects-register.org.uk

Selecting a reputable builder can also help to ensure that design and construction processes run smoothly. The Federation of Master Builders has a ‘Find a Builder’ tool, allowing you to search for professionally vetted builders.

www.fmb.org.uk/find-a-builder

Development

Householder applications will be reviewed against this design note, and other relevant policies such as conservation area management plans. The application must be approved before building work commences otherwise you will be in breach of planning law.

Permitted development rights

Permitted development (PD) rights allow you to extend or alter your home without applying for planning permission in certain situations. Please use the following guides produced by central government:

- Government Guidance: When is permission required? www.gov.uk/guidance/when-is-permission-required
- Government Technical Guidance: Permitted development rights for householders www.gov.uk/government/publications/permitted-development-rights-for-householders-technical-guidance
- Planning Portal: Do you need permission? www.planningportal.co.uk/permission

It is the responsibility of the applicant to find out whether your alteration will need an application for planning permission. Permitted development rights are subject to change and, even where the proposal is classified as ‘permitted development’, householders should apply for a Lawful Development Certificate to verify that the work was legally permitted at the time it was carried out.

Conservation Areas

There are a number of Conservation Areas in Rushcliffe. These are outlined in detail in Area Management Plans and Character Statements here:

www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/planning-growth/conservation/conservation-areas/conservation-areas-in-rushcliffe/

Listed Building Consent

Listed buildings have statutory protection against extensions and alterations which could harm their special architectural or historic interest. Extensions and

alterations, including internal changes and works to curtilage listed buildings require Listed Building Consent. External works to a listed building may require a detailed planning application as well as an application for Listed Building Consent.

Speak to neighbours

Alteration and extensions to individual dwellings can sometimes cause disputes between neighbours. When you apply for planning permission, your neighbours will be informed of your application and will have the opportunity to comment on the proposals.

It is not the role of the planning system to resolve private issues between neighbours, but we highly recommend speaking with neighbours informally prior to submitting any application to avoid any misunderstanding. Early conversations allow concerns to be raised during the design phase and can help avoid disputes at a later stage.

Working on or near the boundary or shared party wall will be subject to the Party Wall Act 1996. It covers shared walls, fences, gutters and foundations and provides a framework for protecting both parties' interests during construction work on a party wall or structure. Boundary issues are usually a civil matter rather than a planning consideration, and it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that you comply with the Party Wall Act when planning and undertaking any construction project.

More information is available here:

- www.gov.uk/party-walls-building-works
- RICS Consumer Guidance to Party Walls www.ricsfirms.com/residential/legal-issues/party-walls/rics-consumer-guide-party-walls/
- Or appoint a RICS approved chartered surveyor www.ricsfirms.com/

5.1 Context and Character

The context of a home is important to consider when designing alterations and extensions.

Character of the original building:

- When was it built?
- What makes it different from other homes?
- What are its characteristic details and architectural language?
 - Materials, lintels, decoration
 - Windows
 - Form, size and layout
 - Architectural period

Character of the outdoor space:

- Are there existing trees or hedgerows?
- Does it have gardens, front, back, size?
- What are the boundary wall details and finishes?
- Is there topography or changes in levels

Character of the immediate surroundings:

- How does it relate to neighbouring houses - Detached, semi-detached or terraced
- What is the street outside like – is it tree-lined, are there consistent garden walls, building frontages, entrances?

Character of wider local area:

- What is the dominant architectural period? Rural cottages, Victorian or post-war for example?

Guidance

Good householder developments respect the context and character in which the home is situated. Proposed alterations or extensions respond positively to features in the environment, rather than remove or undermine. Planning decisions will reflect the context of each application. A particular type of extension may be appropriate in one area but inappropriate in another.

Each home contributes to overall character of a street or neighbourhood. Alterations and extensions should be sympathetic, preserve or enhance that character. Openings, ornament, lintels, eaves and materials should usually be aligned with features on the existing building. The shape, pitch and materials of the roof can also have a significant impact on cohesiveness, and so extensions are expected to match the roof form of the original house. Extensions should 'support' the existing character rather than undermine or dominate.

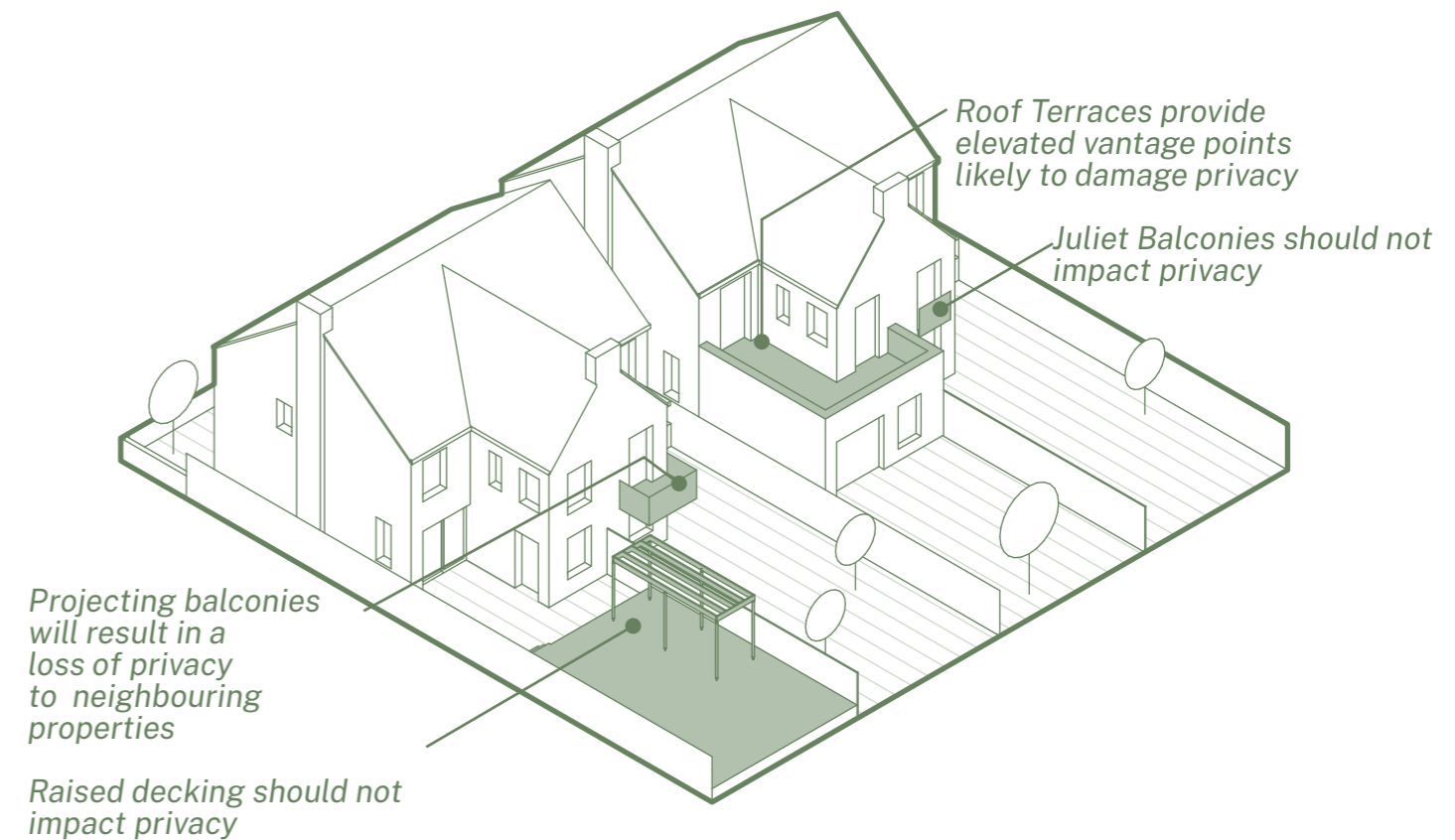
Changes to the proportions and mass of a home should not imbalance the street scene. The assumption is that extensions are expected to be smaller in volume and in height than the original house in most cases. Extensions should not result in harm to a street scene by respecting established building lines and form.

Householder applications may be brought forward in the context of historically poorly-designed neighbouring extensions. These extensions may have been constructed under previous and superseded guidance. The existence of previous poor developments will not necessarily be considered as sufficient justification for non-compliance with current design standards and planning officers reserve the right to determine planning applications on their own merits according to current policy and guidance.

5.2 Neighbour amenity – privacy, overbearing, light, impact

Changes to a property will in most instances result in a change to the outlook for the people who live around you. As outlined, applicants should speak with neighbours early on about their proposed plans.

Alterations and extensions that change the building volume through dormers affecting the profile of the roofline, and extensions that extrude beyond the existing footprint of the building may impact a neighbouring property and alter the quality of light and privacy.



Damaging adaptations that may be detrimental to neighbours' enjoyment of privacy. Any additional 'screening' to mitigate against privacy is likely to result in forms out of scale in a domestic context.

Guidance

Proposed extensions and alterations to a home must not damage or be detrimental to the privacy of a neighbouring property. Privacy may be harmed through increased overlooking via (but not exclusively):

- New raised decking, landscape or raised structures
- Projecting balconies
- Roof terraces
- Juliet balconies

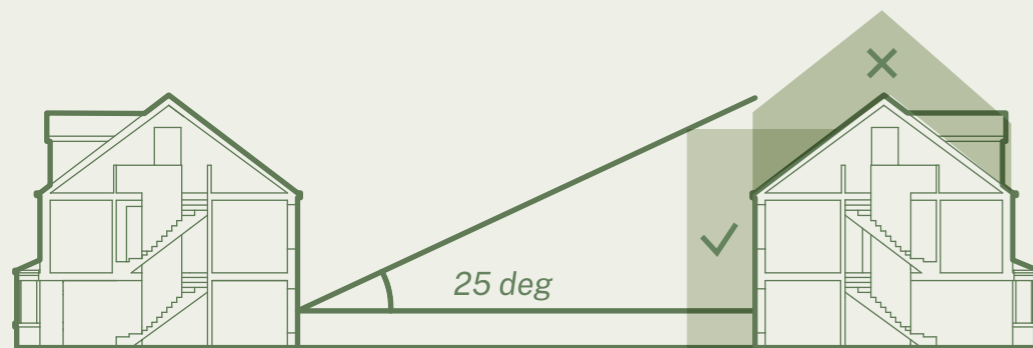
Whilst it may be possible to screen balconies or roof terraces between properties, the screening is likely to increase the mass and overshadowing of the neighbouring property (see principles below).

When designing an extension, applicants should endeavour to be a 'good neighbour' and mitigate the impact of any changes on their neighbours.

To measure impact and loss of light, some simple principles have been established to help applicants and their designers assess the impact of their proposals on their neighbours.

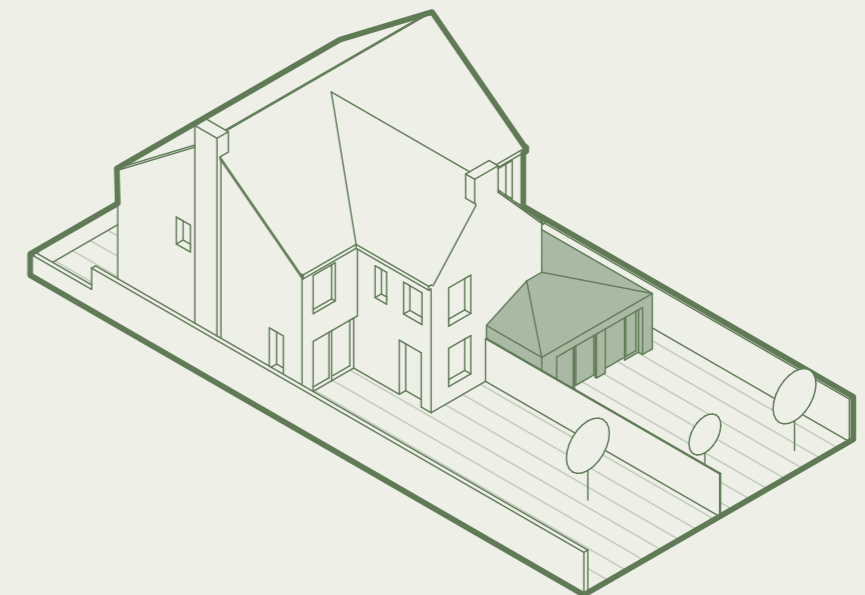
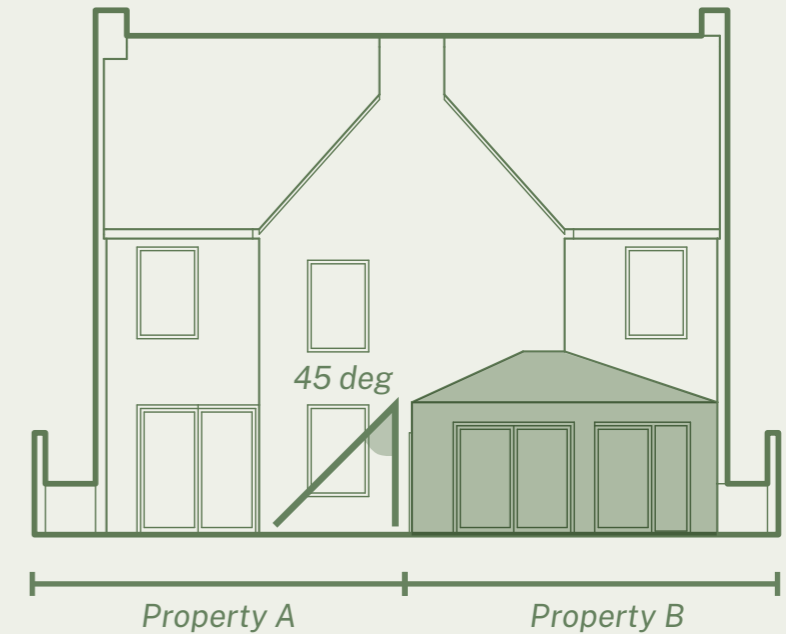
A new extension should not obstruct light into a neighbouring property if the following principles are followed:

Principle 1: For facing buildings, a 25 degree line drawn from the window of the habitable room should not be obstructed by a new extension.



Above: Development should not intersect in the 25deg line

Principle 2: Extensions should not adversely impact neighbouring homes. A 45 deg drawn from the highest point on the proposed extension should not result in adverse overshadow. Where there are two windows, the overshadowing should not obstruct one of the windows. Where there is only one window to a habitable room, it should not be obstructed by the 45 deg. line.



A carefully considered roof form of extension at property B has been considered to mitigate impact on property A

Applicants should carefully consider roof designs to reduce impact on neighbouring homes by using the 45 deg principle

5.3 Side extensions

Side extensions can have a significant impact on character and historic continuity of a street. Any proposed extension should respect the street pattern and elevation.

C5.1

Side extensions must not result in development within 1 metre of a common boundary with a neighbouring house or where terracing would result.

C5.2

Where there is a consistent rhythm to the street scene, in terms of setbacks, heights, separation distances and materials palette, this must not be interrupted.

C5.3

Extensions must not result in blank gables to the public realm. There must always be a minimum of one window from a habitable room at ground floor level.

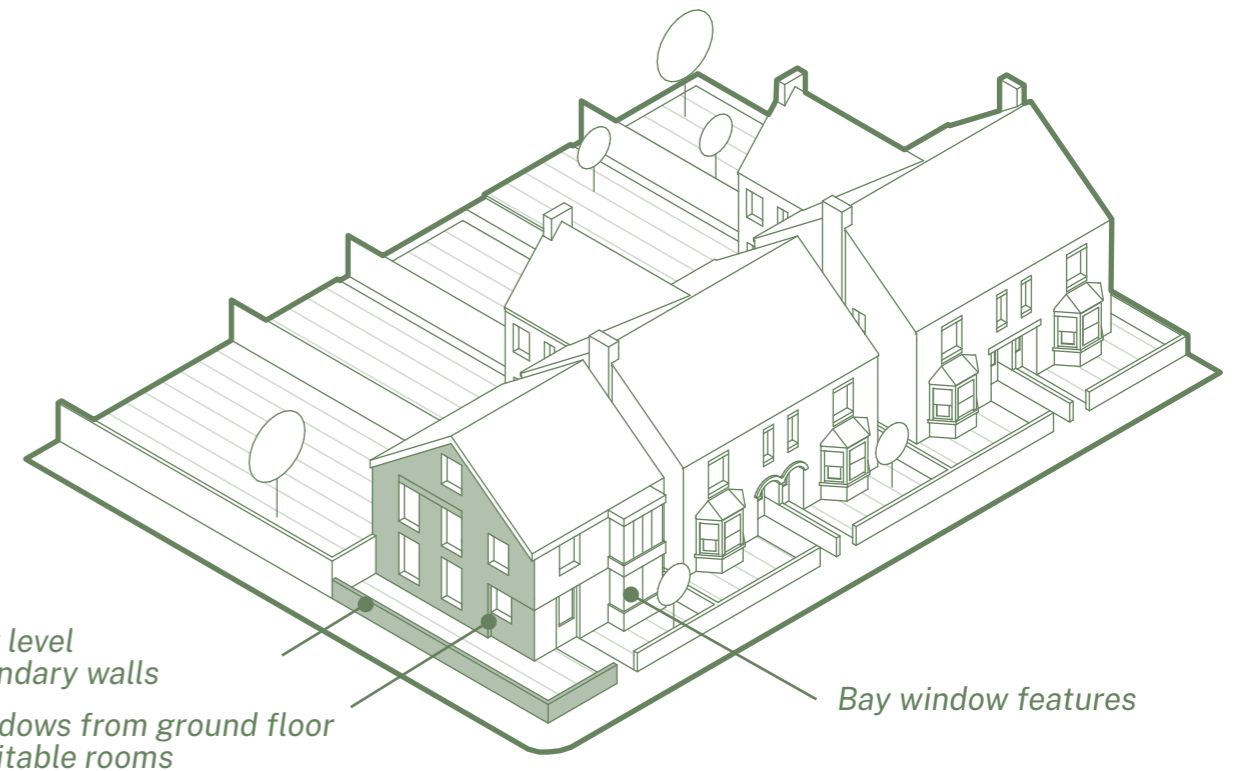
Guidance

Overdevelopment of side extensions will result in a 'terracing' affect, where the continuity of detached or semi-detached streets are changed into terraced streets.

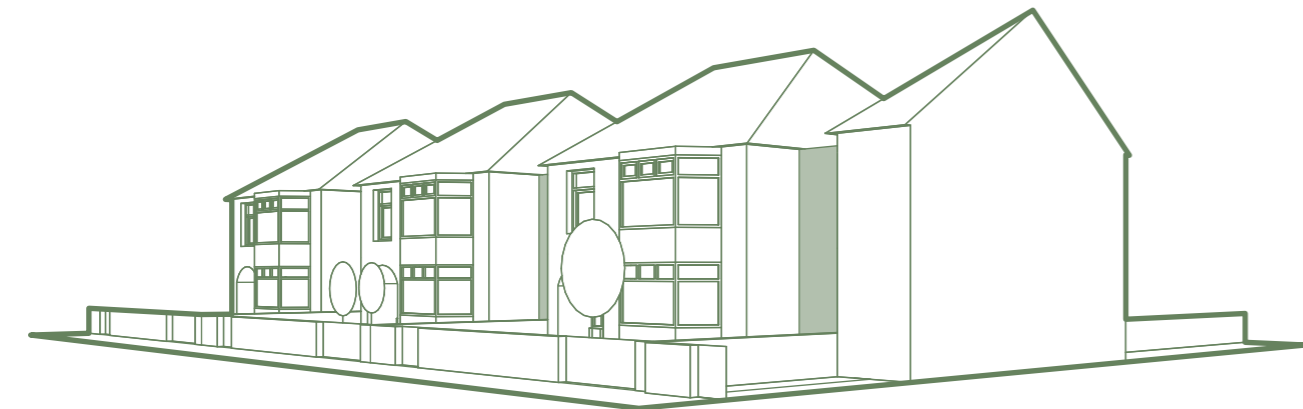
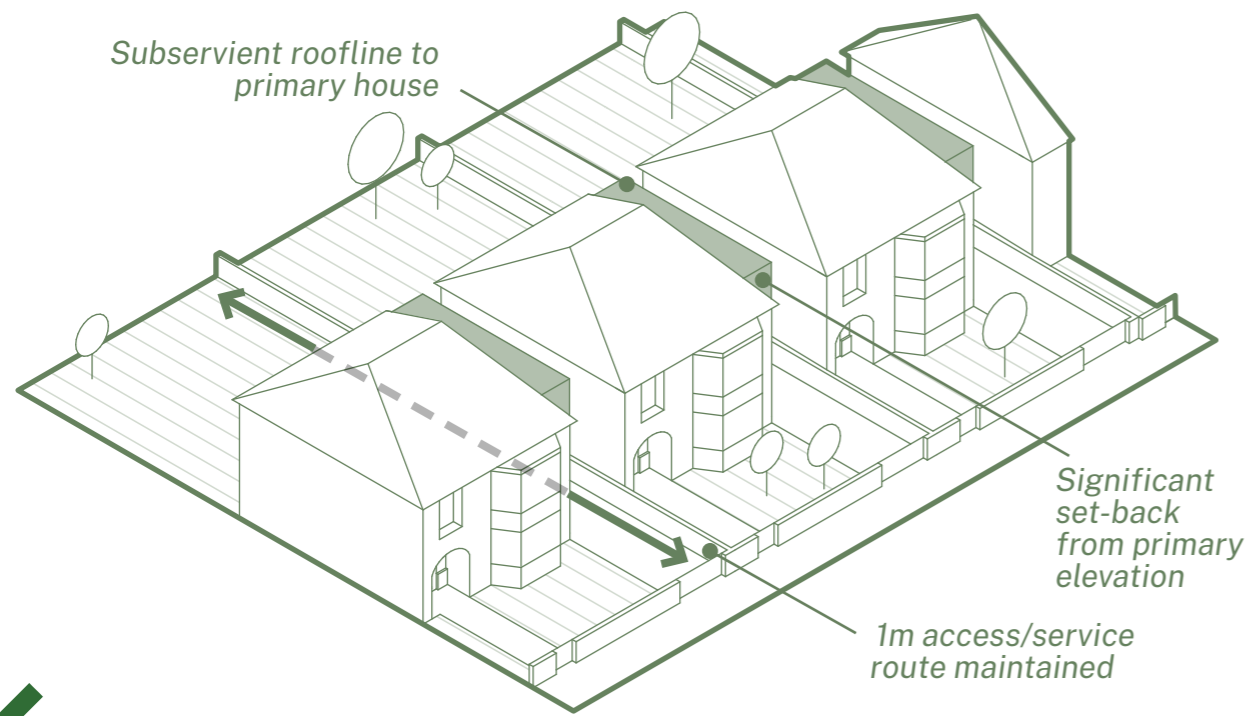
Extensions should be subservient unless in exceptional circumstances. Side extensions on corner plots should have a minimum one windows (or more) from a habitable room at ground floor level on to the public realm with landscaping and boundary details to complement the street.

To protect the privacy of neighbours, windows on the side elevations of extensions close to a neighbour's boundary should be avoided.

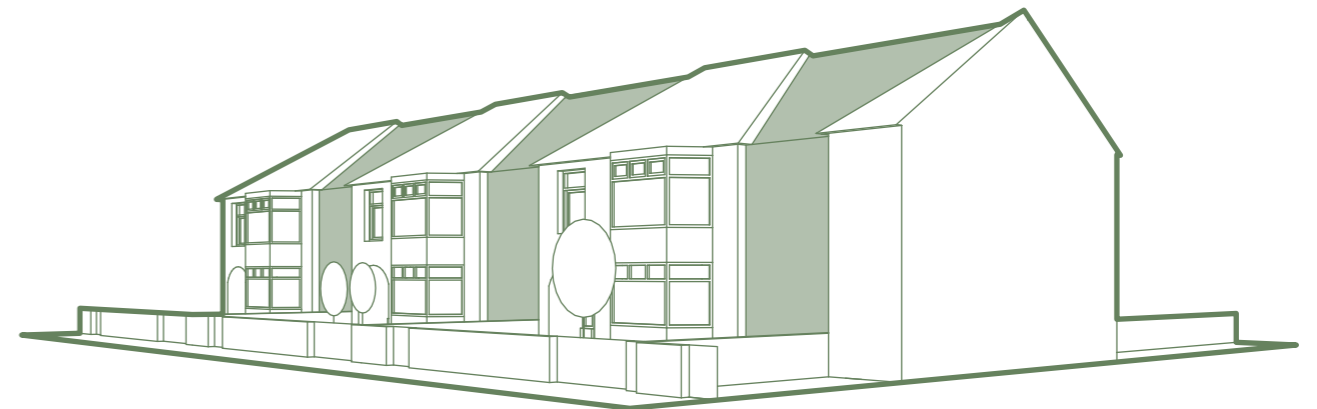
Where side extensions result in the loss of a location to store waste and recycling, it should be re-provided in a suitably designed external bin store.



When corner/side plots are developed, the gable elevation should provide windows from a habitable room and suitable low level boundary wall.



Infill which maintains the detached or semi-detached quality of the street through set back side extensions.



*Infill which damages the appearance of the street by creating a terracing effect **will not** be accepted.*

5.4 Rear extensions

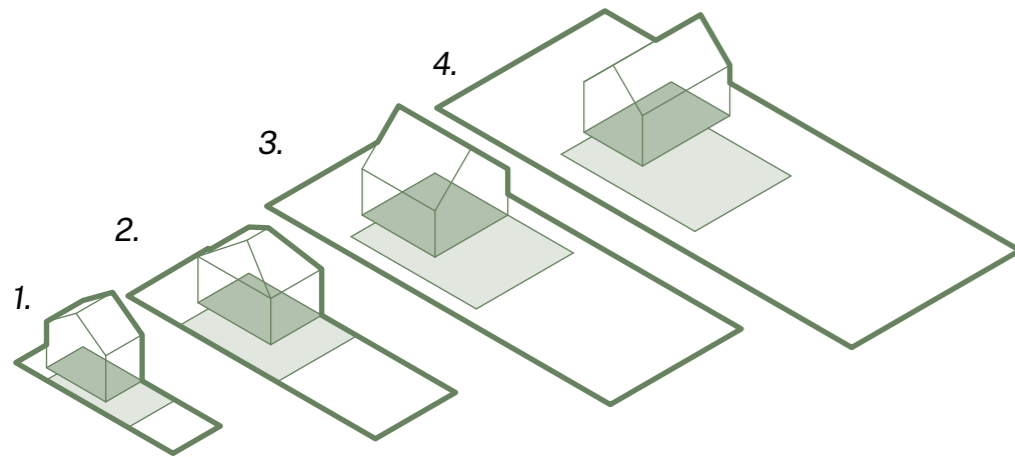
Overshadowing, loss of privacy, loss of light and any overbearing impact on the existing building and neighbouring buildings are the key issues when determining applications for rear extensions. Overdevelopment of a site can result in long term damage to an area.

C5.4

Householder applications must demonstrate how they comply with the following table on maximum built area in relation the overall plot size.

Undeveloped curtilage* (sqm)	Max. footprint as % of undeveloped curtilage
<100	40%
100-500	30%
500-1000	20%
>1000	15%

* Undeveloped curtilage = Total plot area - footprint of the original building



Example	1	2	3	4
Undeveloped curtilage (sqm)	100	250	750	1200
Max. footprint new extension	40	75	150	180

This standard must be applied in conjunction with other standards in the design code. Those standards may further reduce the buildable areas.

C5.5

Extensions within the Green Belt must not exceed 50% of the volume of the original building.

Guidance

Roof form is important when impacting neighbouring homes. Flat roofs can be one of the most efficient forms in keeping the roof profile and impact low. Whilst mono-pitched roofs tend to impact adversely on one neighbouring property.

On corner plots where single storey extensions are visible from the public domain, they should be considered in the context of the street pattern.

Roof terraces and balconies which provide external access from upper floors will not be accepted where they result in substantial overlooking issues and loss of privacy for neighbours.

Where a rear extension extends beyond the gable wall, side extension code and guidance applies.

5.5 Dormers

Dormer windows can be a useful way to create additional rooms within the roof space of an existing building. Dormers should appear as a feature within the roofscape and not dominate or overwhelm the building and/or terrace.

C5.6

Dormers on front elevations will only be accepted where there is an existing historic precedent of dormers on the front elevation and the proposed dormers follow the existing proportions.

C5.7

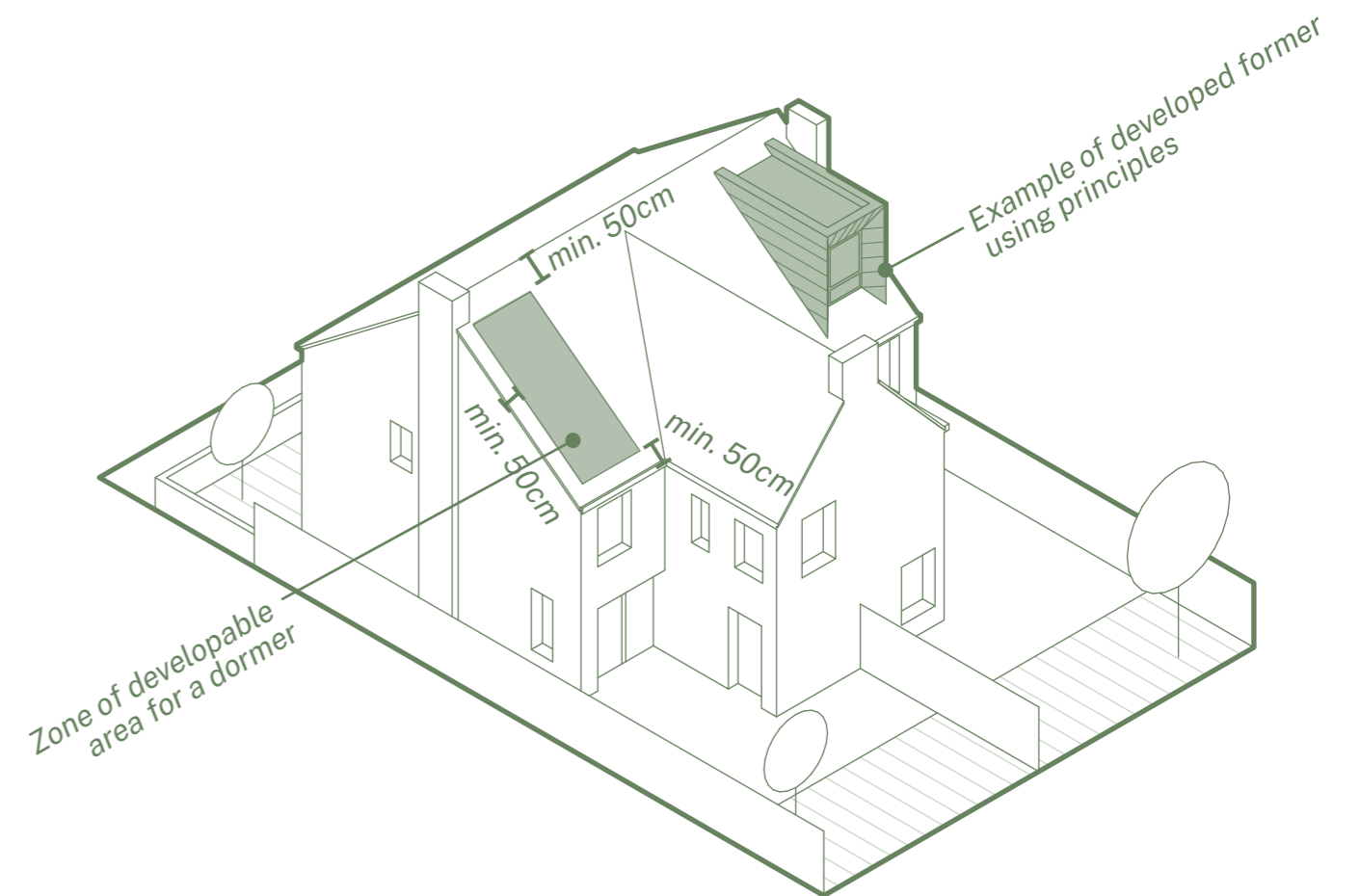
Dormers must be inset by a min 50cm from party walls, eaves and ridges unless justified in a Heritage Impact Assessment.

C5.8

Dormer extensions on side elevations will not be accepted.

Guidance

Dormer windows should normally not be wider than the windows below in elevation. Deviations from this principle should only be allowed if exceptional design and quality are demonstrated. Large dormers, particularly on corner plots can detract from the character of the area and damage the continuity of the streetscape. Some roof spaces, particularly existing houses with shallow pitches may not be suitable for conversion to habitable rooms. External drainage from new bathrooms in the attic space should be discrete and incorporated into the design proposal at planning stage.



Dormers must be inset 50cm from eaves, ridge and gable wall to result in the extension being a minor element.

5.6 Outbuildings

An outbuilding is defined as a separate, secondary or independent building within the boundary of the land of an existing primary house. Typically, they will share the same services such as entrance/driveway, parking arrangement and garden(s) and be dependant and support one another.

If the new outbuilding is intended to be occupied independently, sold separately, or a guest house/rental, applicants will need to apply for planning permission for an additional dwelling.

C5.9

The overall area of outbuildings must fall within the maximum proportion of buildable area as set out in C5.4..

C5.10

Outbuildings in the primary frontage will not be accepted.

Guidance

Outbuildings must be for ancillary residential functions only. Outbuildings with a combination of facilities that include the primary aspects of accommodation (bedroom, living room, kitchen, bathroom) will be conditioned for ancillary use only. A clear dependency to original homes should be maintained in perpetuity.

5.7 On-site Renewables

Integration of renewable energy sources for individual homes will make an important contribution to decarbonising domestic power use. The careful integration of technologies however should not detriment the immediate housing area or cause nuisance through noise.

Guidance

Photovoltaic Panels (PV) should be designed as part of the building form.

On primary elevations or visually prominent roofs, PVs should be:

- Mounted as integral photovoltaic tiles
- Set into the profile of the roof structure

On secondary or rear elevations, PVs should:

- Not extend further than 200mm from the profile of the existing roof structure

New development should not overshadow neighbouring roof mounted renewable energy installations.

Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHP) should not be located on primary or side elevations. ASHP if correctly installed and well-maintained should be below 45dB (the background noise of urban areas is typically 60dB)

- Rear locations of the property are suitable
- Preferably away from neighbouring properties
- ASHPs produce little noise, but consideration should be given to their relationship to the windows of neighbouring properties

Solar Thermals should be designed as part of the building form.

On primary elevations, they should be:

- Set into the profile of the roof structure

On secondary elevations, they should:

- Not extended further than 200mm from the profile of the existing roof structure

5.8 Materials

Material choices will be subject to a range of different considerations, including:

- Appropriateness to the age and architecture of the original house.
- Context and location of the proposed new building or extension, whether to the front, side or rear, and how it relates to the surrounding streets and buildings.
- Carbon impact of different materials.
- Availability and cost of materials.

Where extensions are visible from the street, the impact of material selections on the surrounding area will be prioritised in determining the planning application. Materials should reflect the qualities and characteristics of the street and should not add new materials to the street palette.

5.9 Front Garden

The front garden is an important space and often a defining feature reflecting the age and architectural quality of historic houses and streets. They provide an important threshold between the public street and privacy of home. Well-maintained front gardens also contribute to a pleasant streetscape. Poorly adapted gardens and boundary walls can harm the appearance and continuity of streets and impact biodiversity and resilience to flooding in the local area.

C5.11

All front gardens should include grass, planting and other forms of living vegetation.

Guidance

Any alterations should respect and enhance the local character maintaining or carefully adapting boundary details and materials.

Porous surfaces such as planting and soft landscape should be maximised to allow runoff water to be absorbed and held on-site. Non-porous surfaces (blacktop and block or concrete paving) should be kept to a minimum as they reduce biodiversity and contribute towards increased runoff and localised flooding.

Changes to boundary walls and dropped kerbs to gain access over the highways (pavement) requires planning permission on classified roads and will not be supported.

Bin stores (see storage) are strongly encouraged to conceal bins and bikes whilst maintaining frontages.

5.10 Rear Gardens

Private gardens provide important amenity space which supports household well-being. They can also:

- Support and enhance biodiversity.
- Provide on-site water management.
- Reduce run-off surface water into drainage system.
- Support local wildlife and their movement from one garden to another.
- Allow space for growing food and other plants.

C5.12

All rear gardens should include grass, planting and other forms of living vegetation to cover at least 50% of the area.

C5.13

Raised platforms in rear gardens must be installed with privacy screens.

Guidance

Gardens make an important contribution to the local green infrastructure network and wildlife corridors. Gardens should be maintained with planting and soft landscape in order to fulfil their function as part of the green infrastructure network.

Water butts are strongly encouraged to reduce run-off water into surrounding surfaces and drainage.

6 RURAL



When to apply this design note

- To preserve and enhance the distinctive rural buildings and landscape of Rushcliffe.
- To support new uses and life for buildings to ensure they exist for future generations.
- With conversion of exiting rural buildings, the aim should be to retain the character and architectural integrity of traditional rural buildings.

6.1 Conversion of existing traditional rural buildings

Traditional buildings are those built before 1919 with solid wall construction. In Rushcliffe many farmsteads and other traditional buildings are heritage assets which make an important contribution to landscape character and local distinctiveness. They do so through a diversity of uses which are of benefit to local communities and economies.

Without appropriate uses to fund their long-term maintenance and repair, they will disappear from the landscape. Whilst poor adaptation poses a threat, new commercial, residential or other uses that enhance their historic character and significance are to be encouraged.

Converting traditional buildings to a new use when they are no longer suitable for their original intended use is a good way to protect the heritage of an area and reducing the environmental impact of creating a new building. Conversions must be sympathetically carried out in a way which does not erase the previous history of the building or site.

Not every building will be suitable for a new use. New uses must be carefully considered to make sure they are appropriate for the existing building.

C6.1

In conversions of traditional rural buildings, original openings in the external elevations must be retained.

C6.2

New wall and roofing materials must match those in the historic building.

C6.3

New boundary features must reflect historic boundary features such as hedgerows, stone and brick walls, or footpaths.

C6.4

Masonry chimneys will not be acceptable in conversions of traditional rural buildings. Matt metal flues are acceptable close to the eaves.

C6.5

Dormer windows will not be accepted in conversions of traditional rural buildings.

C6.6

Porches will not be accepted in conversions of traditional rural buildings.

Guidance

The conversion of a traditional existing rural building should preserve the key defining aspects whilst enhancing the building with new sensitive and respectful changes that do not compromise it. Applicants should maintain existing features including lintels, key stones, brick coursing and brick types, matching new to the original proportions and materials.

Openings, windows or doors that define the elevation of a rural building should be maintained. New openings or changes should complement the scale and proportion of existing features and should not undermine the defining features. For instance, new floor plates should not be positioned across existing window openings, proposed internal layouts should respond to bays of the original building, disproportionately large new openings in elevations and roofs will not be accepted. Internal plans should demonstrate the layout reflects the historic pattern of rooms without adversely affecting the external appearance. Existing openings should not be blocked-up or removed before proposing new.

- Avoid a regular pattern of openings – too domestic in appearance.
- Filling in existing openings with glazing, set back with a reveal, is acceptable.
- Juliet balconies will not be accepted.

A rooflight can provide additional light or support internal adaptation of the layout without adversely changing the elevation. However, rooflights must be used minimally as they are an alien feature in a traditional rural building. Proposed rooflights should be of a low-profile 'conservation' rooflight.

Ventilation

- Ventilation features retained.

Barn doors/shutters

- Doors/shutters can be retained as a wall feature. Blocking-in of existing openings with masonry is not acceptable.

Boundaries

Avoid new boundary walls. Post and rail fencing and/or native hedges are acceptable. Timber close-boarded fencing is not acceptable.

- Planting of ornamental species, such as Leylandii, is not acceptable.

Extensions

- Extensions must retain the traditional form of the buildings. In Rushcliffe these are generally courtyard, U-shaped or L-shaped. An off-shoot extension mid-range is not acceptable.

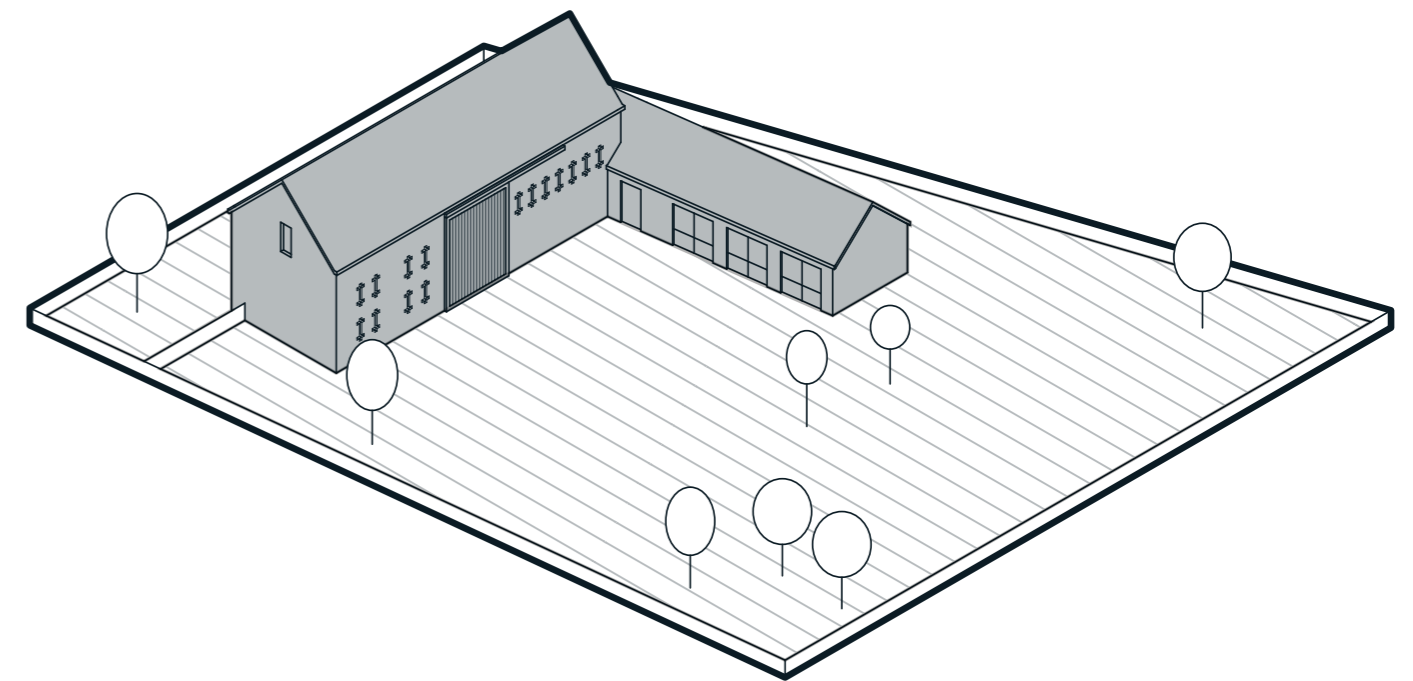
The transition between existing and new elements of a traditional rural building can be challenging. One acceptable approach could be the use of glazed 'links' that provide a transition. 'Links' should be considered as minor elements in elevation and mass.

Garages:

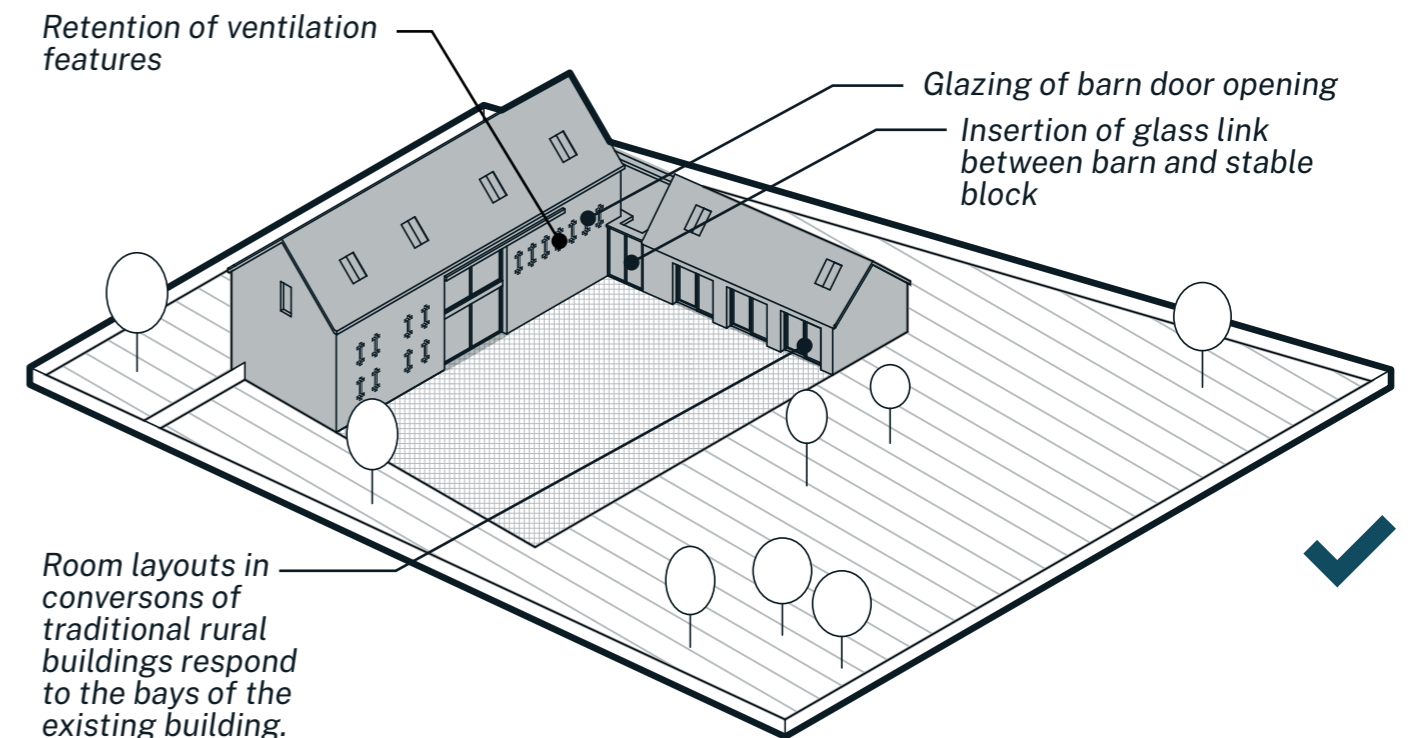
- Cartsheds, where present, should be re-used as garages before new garages are proposed.
- Domestic/suburban garage typologies are not acceptable.

Materials:

- For small-scale work, sound second-hand materials should be used.
- For large-scale work on a roof, natural slates or tiles should be used. Concrete roof tiles are not acceptable.
- UVPC window and door frames are not acceptable as they have a bulky profile. Modern narrow-profile materials, such as brushed aluminium, are acceptable.
- UVPC gutters are not acceptable. Cast iron is acceptable.



Example of existing barn and stables.



Room layouts in conversions of traditional rural buildings respond to the bays of the existing building.

Example of conversion of barn and stables.

6.2 Replacement dwellings in the open countryside

C6.7

Replacement dwellings in the Green Belt must not increase more than 50% in volume from the existing dwelling, including outbuildings within 5 metres of the host dwelling.

Guidance

Detrimental impacts on the countryside or unneighbourly effects due to bulk, scale, massing or design could render the proposal unacceptable.

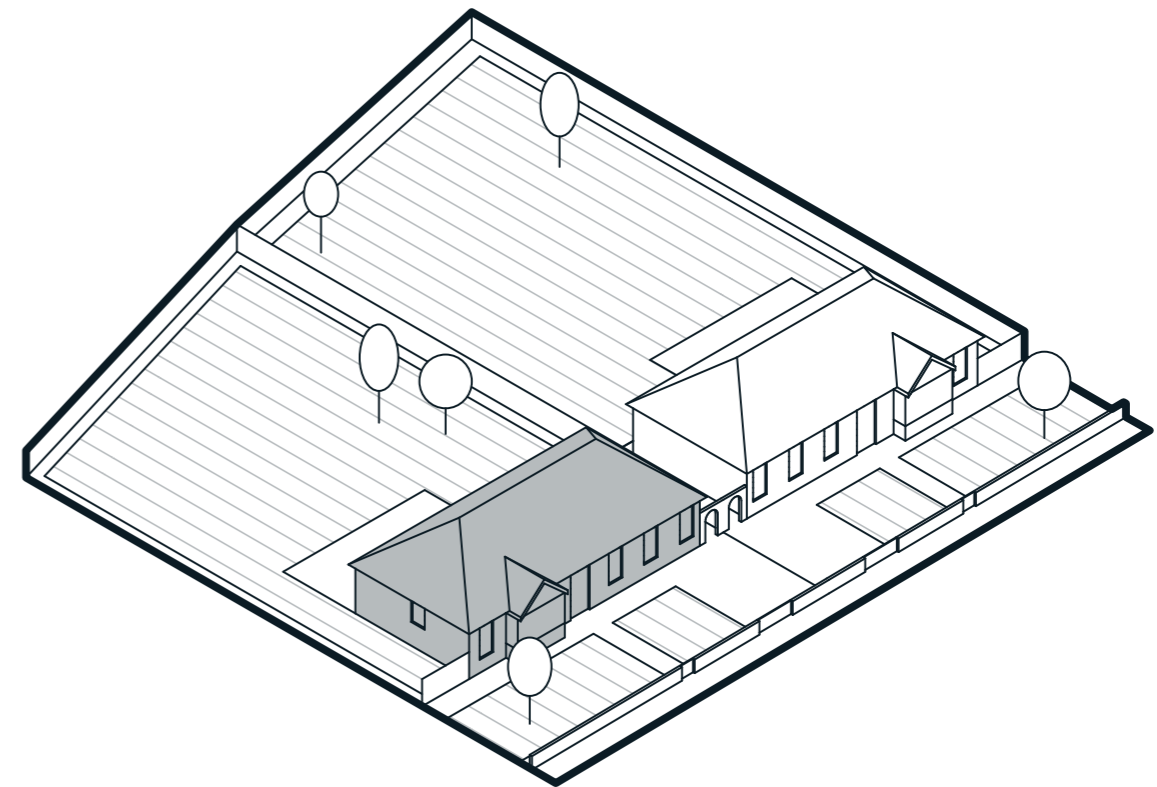
Replacement dwellings within 50% rule, C6.7 are unlikely to be considered disproportionate in size increase alone.

Replacement dwellings should not result in an urbanising effect on the character and appearance of the countryside.

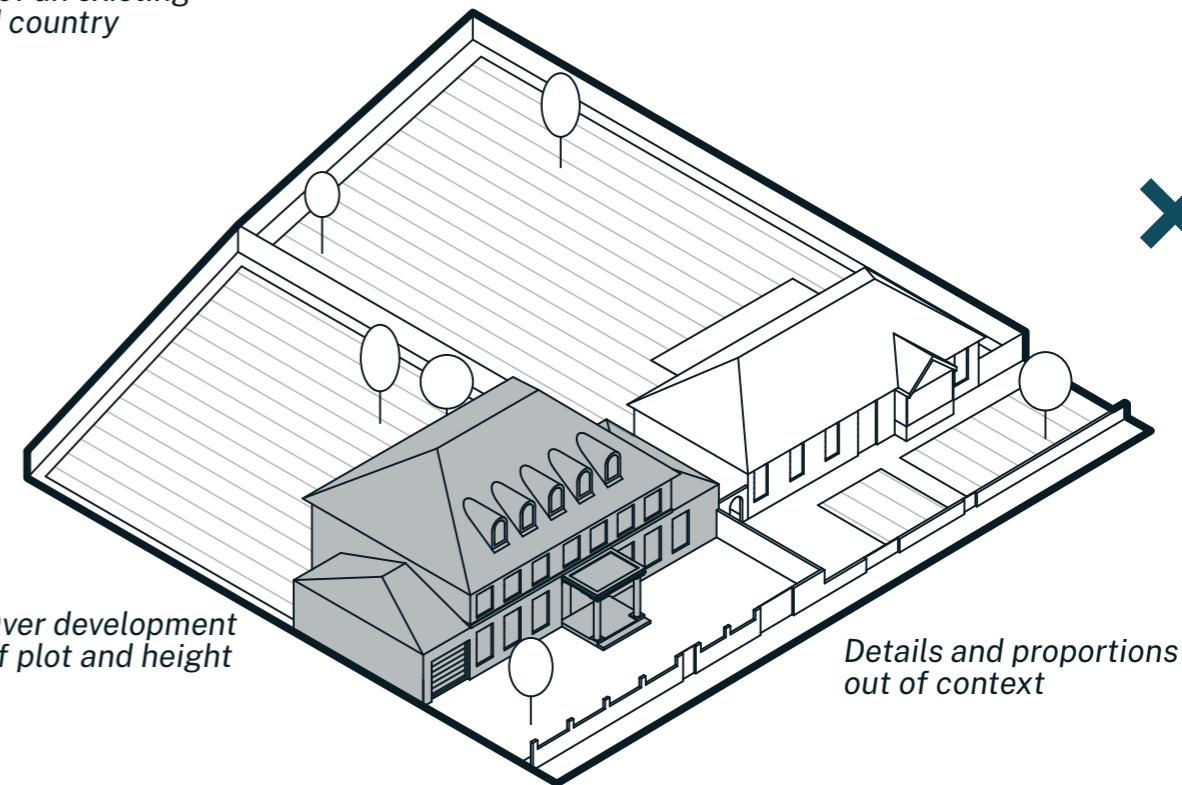
For example, the replacement of a small country dwelling with a disproportionately large house in volume, elevation, siting and mass can radically harm the rural character of a village.

A replacement dwelling should follow the existing siting and building line unless the dwelling is an anomaly within the surrounding context. Replacement dwellings should reinstate building lines which may have been lost through more recent development. The height should not significantly exceed the existing height. Additional floors are unlikely to be accepted.

Replacement of dwellings outside the Green Belt but within the Rural Area Type should not increase more than 50% in volume from the existing dwelling, including outbuildings within 5 metres of the host dwelling.



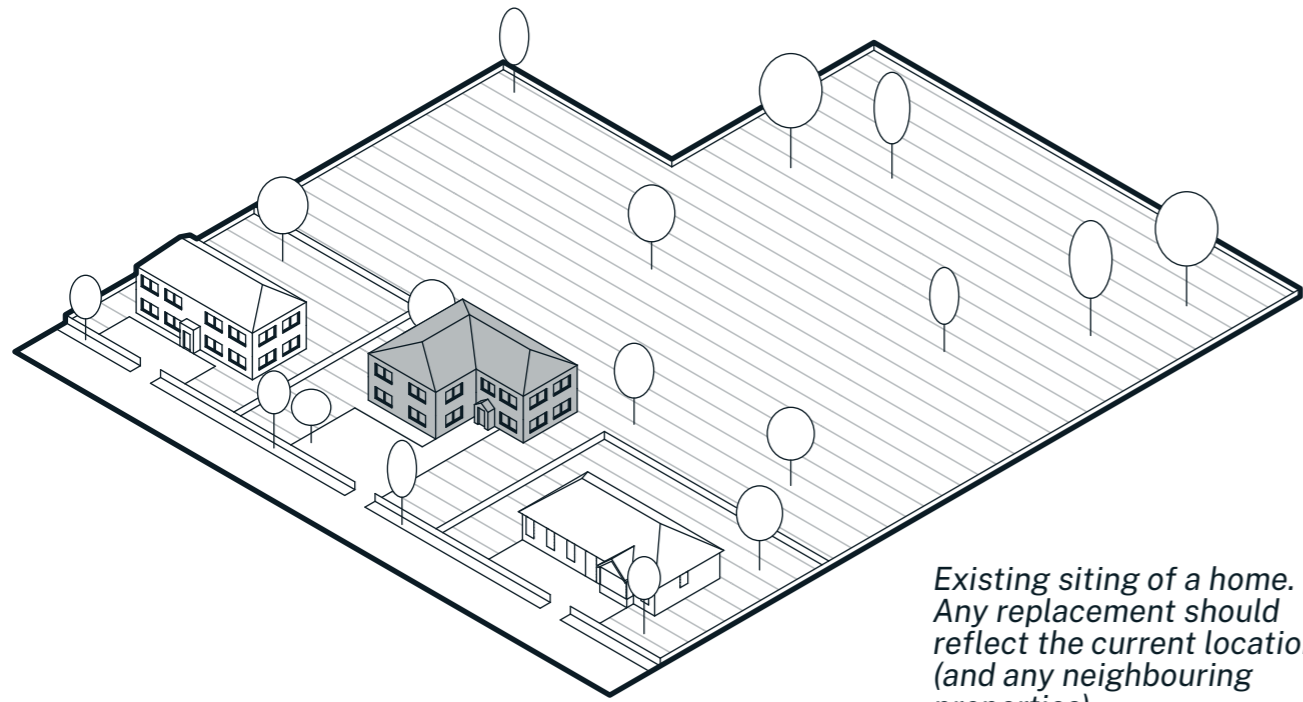
Example of an existing detached country dwelling



Over development of plot and height

Details and proportions out of context

Illustration of a proposed of a replacement dwelling that would be refused planning permission



Existing siting of a home. Any replacement should reflect the current location (and any neighbouring properties)

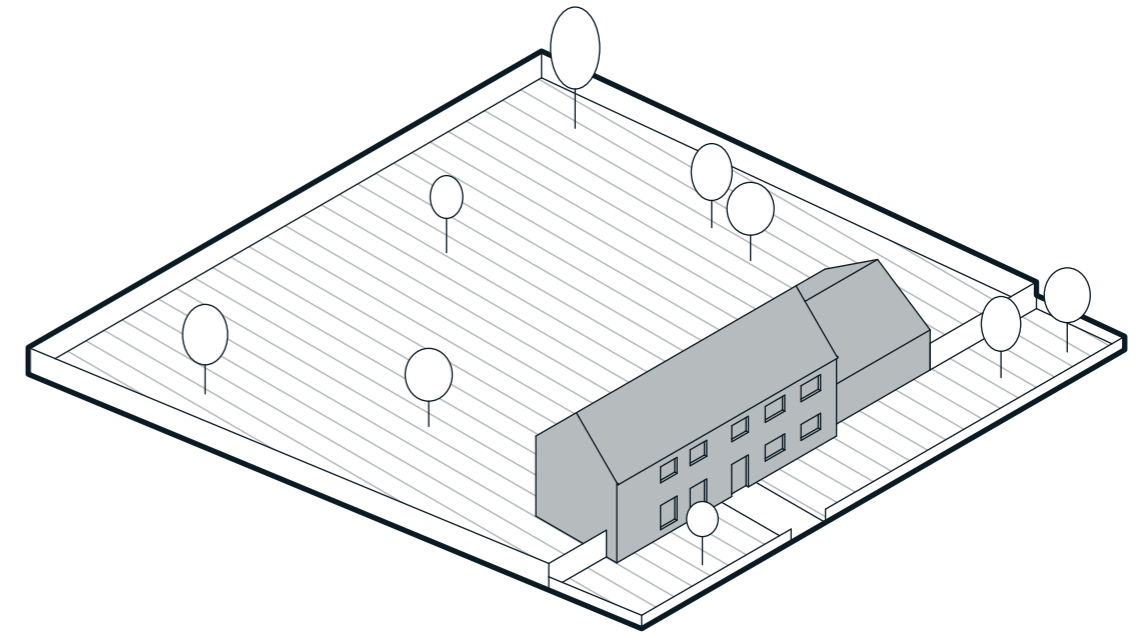
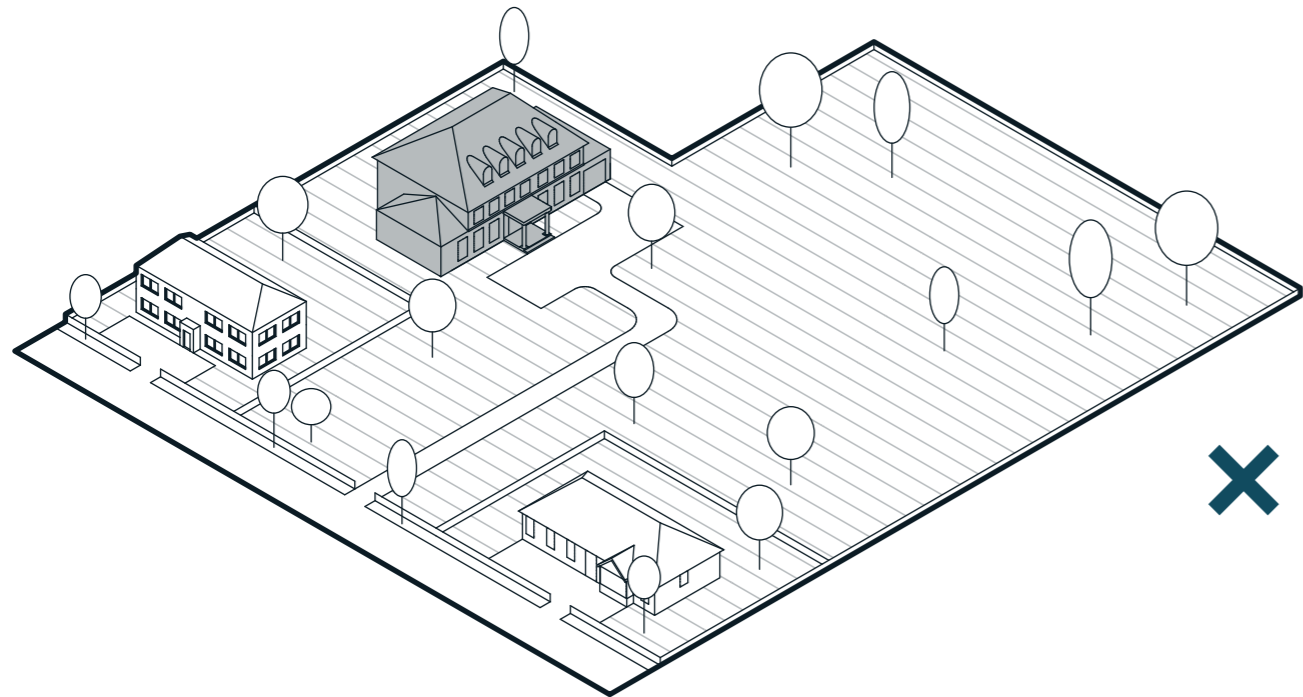


Illustration of an existing development



Resiting replacement dwellings will not be accepted. Disproportionate form, scale and details are also unacceptable.

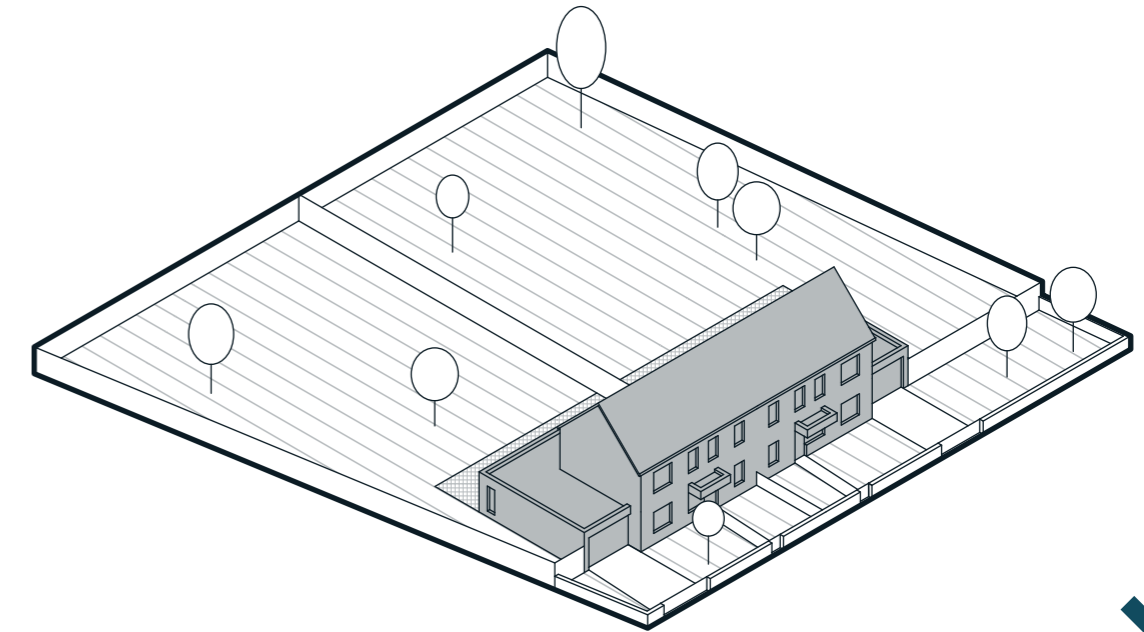


Illustration of replacement redevelopment likely to be more acceptable as similar in form and scale.

6.3 Equestrian development

Equine sports and leisure play an important role in the rural economy of Rushcliffe. The following section provides clarity on ensuring that this economy is supported with clear guidance on changes to the landscape or buildings for personal or professional use. These may include stable buildings, jumps, muckheaps, field shelters, exercise arenas and anything else needed to care for the welfare of horses.

The objective is to way find development to enhance and preserve the rural architecture and landscape.

Permitted development rights allow you to keep as many horses as there are people in a household. Once this number is exceeded, planning permission will be required.

Outdoor riding area and jumps fall under a separate use class, Use Class F2. Stables and the storage of the horses is a sui generis (class of its own) use.

C6.8

Applications for more than four small stables and one storage area for tack/hay/animal feed, etc in one given location are not acceptable, unless supported by an existing business case.

C6.9

Stables must not be located on an exposed skyline.

C6.10

Tack rooms and hay stores must be integral to a stable block and be of a size similar to a small stable.

C6.11

Muckheaps must not be sited where they will contaminate watercourses, cause nuisance to public rights of way or in proximity to houses.

C6.12

Exercise areas/manages must be constructed with visually unobtrusive surface materials. Bark or recycled chippings are acceptable.

C6.13

Bituminous macadam must not be used for hardstanding areas.

Guidance

Stable buildings:

- Stables should be located close to existing buildings and trees to maximise protection and minimise visual impact.
- Stable box dimensions should meet the recommendations of the [Horse Stables: Safety, Design & Size | The British Horse Society](#).

- Concrete blockwork, brick or stone is not an acceptable construction material, however internal blockwork of up to 1.2m or low brick plinths below timber walls is acceptable.
- The application must propose sufficient grazing land, as recommended by the British Horse Society, to support the number of intended horses.

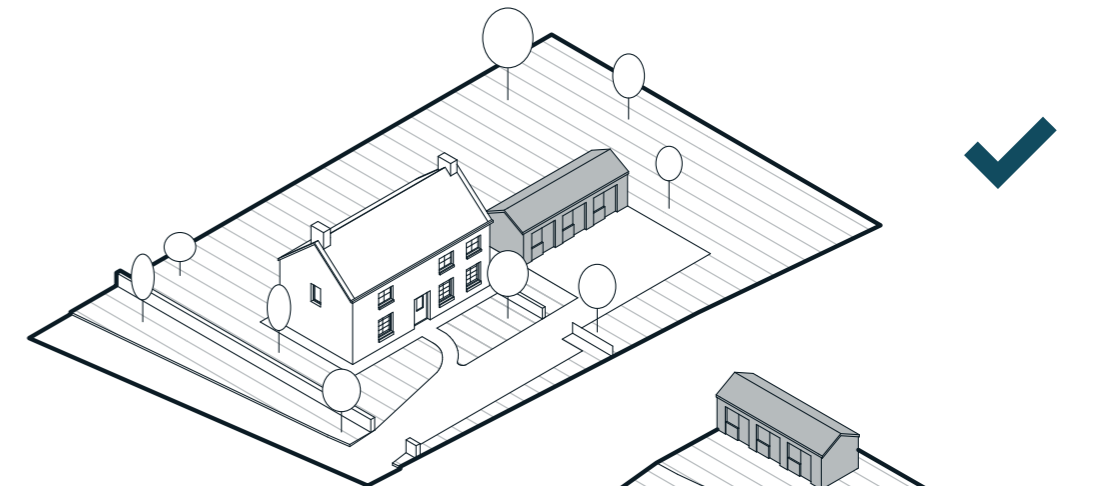
Exercise Arenas/Maneges:

- Sited to be as inconspicuous as possible
- Surface materials must be visually unobtrusive – bark or recycled chippings are acceptable.
- Post and rail fencing is acceptable
- Urban/close-boarded fencing is not acceptable.
- External column lighting should be avoided.

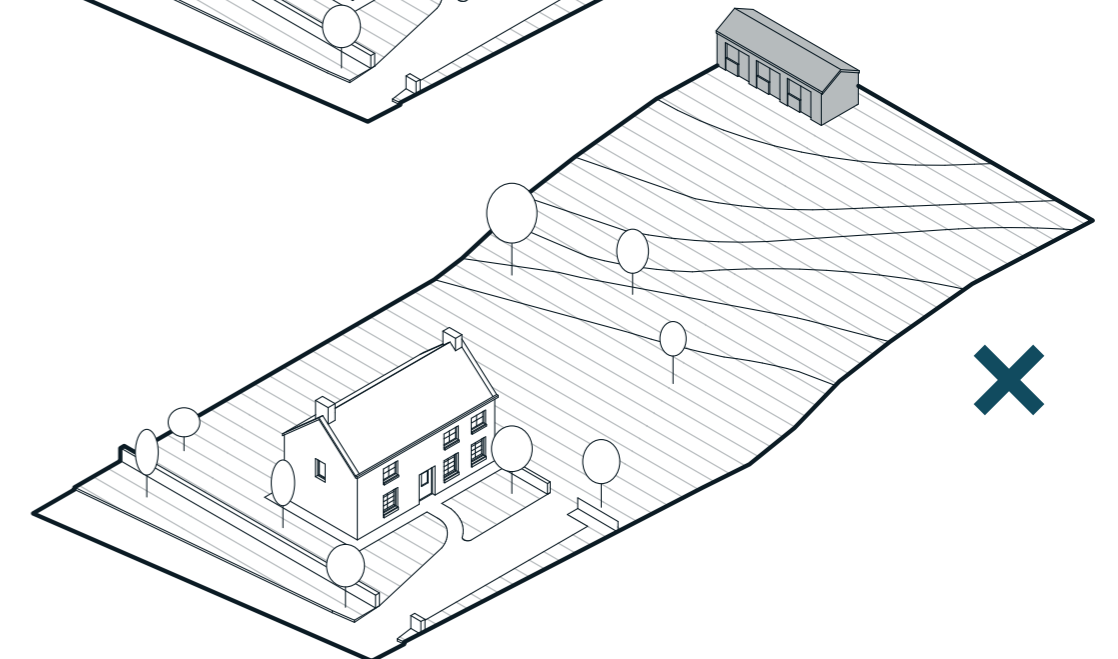
Hardstanding:

- Crushed stone, rolled gravel or grasscrete is acceptable

Equestrian related developments should be sited in relation to existing buildings; in close proximity.



Equestrian related developments should not be sited away from our on prominent parts of the landscape.



7 HIGH STREETS AND RETAIL

When to apply this design note

Active high streets and the design of shop fronts play a significant role in shaping and maintaining attractive town, neighbourhood, and village centres.

Many high streets within Rushcliffe are situated within conservation areas. In these areas the priority should be to preserve and enhance the traditional design of shop fronts, including taking opportunities to reinstate traditional shop fronts where they have previously been lost. Outside of conservation areas a more contemporary approach may be appropriate provided the requirements set out in this design note are followed.

7.1 Active high streets and retail centres

Traditionally our high streets provide a focus of activity and a heart to our neighbourhoods. Trends in retail and how we access different services have changed over time but the importance of the high street for local communities remains strong.

People are usually attracted to lively high streets, full of activity and bustle – a place to pop for daily essentials, or to browse and spend a large proportion of the day. The level and type of activity taking place along a high street is influenced by several considerations including the way buildings meet the street, the type and intensity of uses at ground floor level, and the ability of pedestrians to move about freely and cross the street safely and easily.

C7.1

Developments on High Streets must include active ground floor uses that enliven the public realm.

C7.2

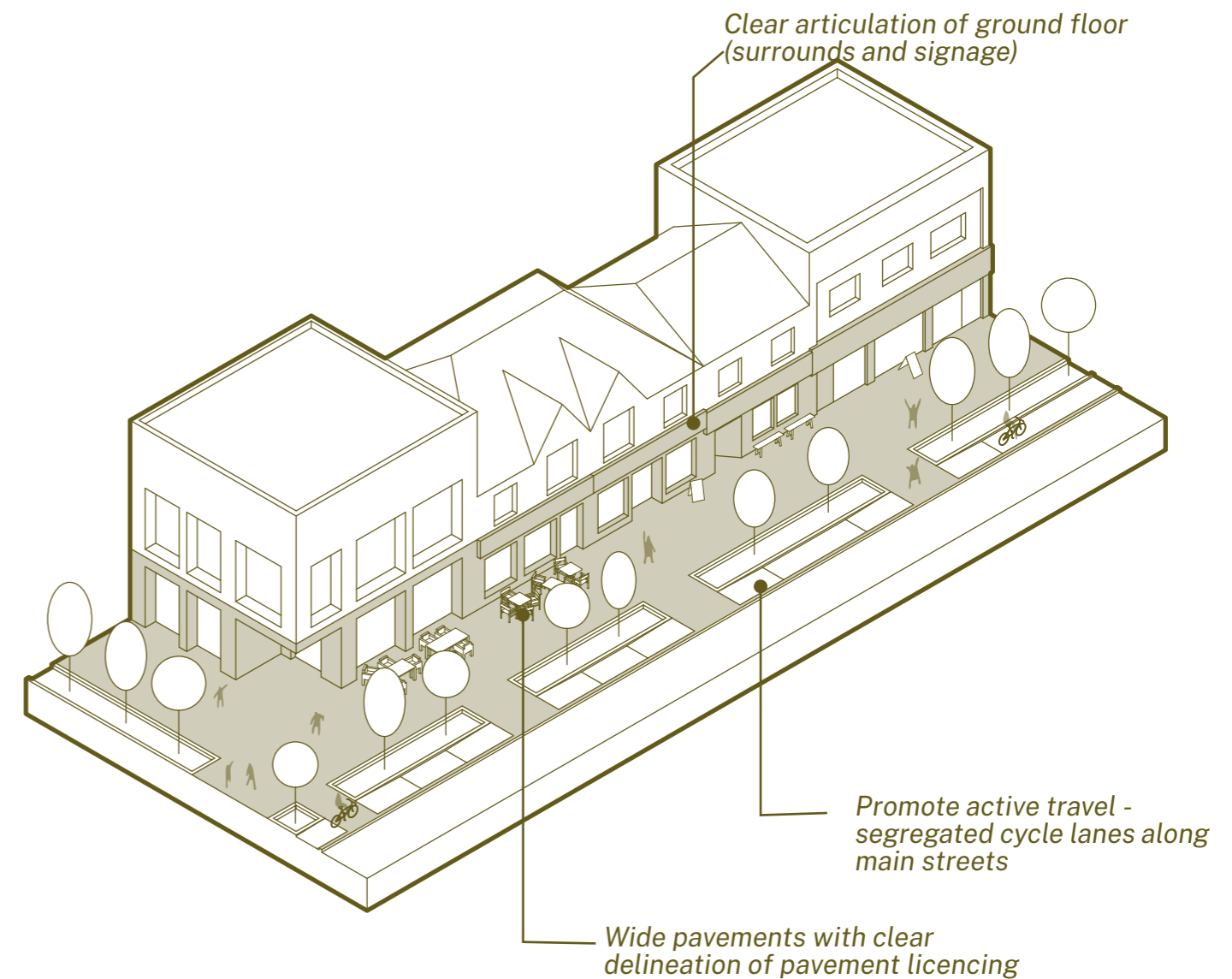
Developments on High Streets must orientate buildings to face the street, with their entrances located on the street frontage.

Guidance

High Street design

New development on an existing high street or involving the creation of a new high street must promote active ground floor uses and enliven the public realm by orientating buildings to face the street, with their entrances located on the street frontage. Lots of windows will also increase overlooking onto the street, enhancing natural surveillance and promote a positive relationship between inside and outside.

People are naturally curious of their surroundings and many of us enjoy ‘people watching’ and watching the world go by. Mixing uses vertically along a high street (or within a local centre) with residential and workspaces above commercial and other public uses is a good way to maintain the upkeep of upper floors and helps prevent ‘dead space’ above commercial units.



Features such as picture windows, detachable awnings, window seats and shop fronts with wide openings can be successful at providing respite and/or exposure to weather conditions as appropriate, as well as animate the building facade and create opportunities for interaction between inside and out.

Lining the edges of high streets with narrow fronted buildings with a direct frontage-to-pavement relationship helps bring life and activity onto the street. Continuous building lines along the street will also encourage activity and avoid breaks in frontages which can diminish the sense of enclosure and continuity. Applicants and their design teams should also consider the 'ground floor zone' where buildings can 'spill-out' into the street in the form of dedicated pavement cafes and terraces without compromising on footpath space. A minimum of 2 metres unobstructed footpath should be maintained.

Retail centre developments

In most cases where a new retail centre is being proposed, a cluster of premises enclosing a central space is the preferred form of development. This preference is supported by an understanding of existing local centres across Rushcliffe, where those within nucleated settlements - that is where the local centre has developed around a central node, such as a marketplace - tend to support higher levels of activity and uses than their linear high street counterparts.

The form (or shape) of focal place with buildings clustered around its edges, tends to encourage people to stay for longer and feel comfortable within the enclosed space where activity is generally high, but speed of movement is low. By contrast, a linear arrangement such as a row of shops, tends to increase the speed at which people pass through and reduce the level of activity taking place.

A proposed retail centre should have gently increased density (in relation to the surrounding development) to signify the increase in intensity. This may include first floor residential uses above ground floor commercial and community uses.

New retail centres are generally better located in central, multi-purpose locations for example near local parks and play areas or incorporating larger facilities such as schools and health centres.

Retail centres should have good access to public transport networks and promote active travel opportunities as well as provide sufficient and well-integrated short stay parking appropriate to likely levels of use.

7.2 Shop frontages and signage

Rushcliffe expects well-designed shopfronts that contribute to the vitality and appeal of high streets and local centres but maintain elements of variety and distinctiveness to guard against the risk of becoming a clone of identikit commercial high streets.

C7.3

Shopfronts must be designed in keeping with the host building.

C7.4

A stallriser between 0.2-0.9 metres in height must be included within the elevation of shops frontages.

C7.5

Frontages must include legible and level door access.

C7.6

In Conservation Areas traditional features must be included in new and replacement shop fronts (see illustrations).

C7.7

Solid roller shutters are unacceptable.

Guidance

The starting point in any well-designed shopfront is a design that is in keeping with the architectural language and period of the host building. A modern shopfront design can harm the character of an historic shop/building and equally a faux-traditional shopfront can look out-of-place in a contemporary setting.

Shopfronts must be legible and accessible to all users, regardless of age or ability.

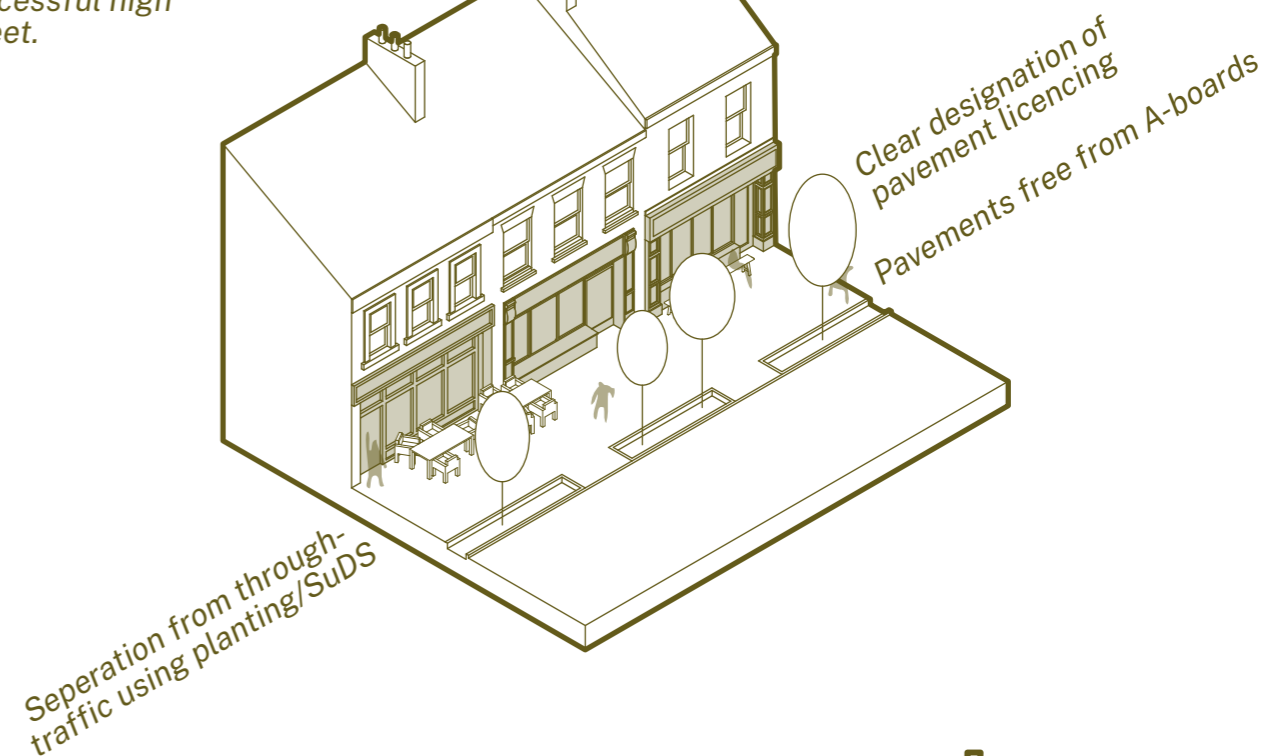
Another important consideration is the design of neighbouring buildings and shopfronts. Designers should avoid shopfronts that create continuous matching fascia running across two or more properties where this spoils the vertical rhythm of the street created by individual plot widths.

Designers should not be afraid of variation as subtle changes in heights and alignment often help to create a more aesthetically pleasing composition of shops along a street frontage.

Signage

Fascia illumination should emphasise the lettering and logos of the shop. Projecting signs should be located below first floor-windows. Images on adhesive material covering the majority of shop windows should be avoided.

The space outside of the shop is the most important aspect of a successful high street.



Illustrative example of shopfront design with appropriate features and proportions.

Security shutters

Internal shutters comprising of a mesh or lattice structure allow light to penetrate and reduce the negative appearance during times when the shop is closed.

APPENDIX 1

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

A

Accessibility means that people can do what they need to do in a similar amount of time and effort as someone that does not have a disability.

Active travel means getting about in a way that makes you physically active, like walking or cycling.

Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) is a type of low carbon heating source. It transfers heat from the outside air to water, heat from the air is absorbed into a fluid. This fluid then passes through a heat exchanger into the heat pump which raises the temperature and then transfers that heat to water, which heats your rooms via radiators or underfloor heating.

Amenity relates to the pleasantness or attractiveness of a place. Householder planning applications are assessed on visual amenity (the aesthetics of the proposal) and residential amenity (the impact on neighbours' outlook, privacy and access to light).

B

Bay window is a window which projects outward from the main walls of the building, forming a bay in a room

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is an approach to development. It makes sure that habitats for wildlife are left in a measurably better state than they were before the development. Developers must deliver a BNG of 20%. This means a development will result in more or better quality natural habitat than there was before development.

Blue infrastructure is a network of water-based features that provide ecological, social, and economic benefits.

Building line is an established line on a street created by the placement of buildings in uniform alignment: an extension which would project across this line may be harmful to local character, interrupting the uniformity of the street

Building Regulations are a set of statutory approved documents which set out national minimum standards for specific aspects of building design and construction.

C

Canopy is an overhead roof structure with open sides, used to provide shelter from rain immediately outside the entrance of a building, or to add decoration to a building.

Certificate of Lawfulness is a certificate issued by a Local Planning Authority to confirm that any specified use or development of land is lawful (also known as a Lawful Development Certificate) Character is the distinctively recognisable nature of a building or place.

Classified Road is a road which is classified in accordance with section 12 of the Highways Act 1980 due to national, regional or local importance as a main thoroughfare. Numbered roads are signed as M (Motorway), A- or B-roads, and there are some classified unnumbered roads (sometimes known as C-roads). Smaller local roads are unclassified.

Conditions are planning conditions imposed on a grant of planning permission, requiring additional approvals for specific aspects of the development or restricting the way in which the site is used to make the proposed development acceptable in planning terms

Canopy cover is the area of the ground covered by the leaves, branches, and stems of trees or shrubs as viewed from above.

Clear path width is the surface area conventionally described as the carriageway. In the case of some tertiary streets this part of the street may be shared by all users.

Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) is a document submitted by developers to Local Planning Authorities that outlines how they will minimise any negative environmental impacts of a specific construction project.

D

E

Enclosure is defined by the width of a street relative to the height of buildings at their edges. For example, where a street width is twice the height of the buildings this is expressed as a ratio 1:2.

F

Footpath parking is where people park their vehicles partially or wholly on spaces intended for pedestrians only.

Flood attenuation is the process of reducing the intensity and duration of flooding by storing and releasing water at a controlled rate.

G

H

Homezones are streets where people and vehicles share the whole of the street space safely and on equal terms, where quality of life takes precedence over ease of traffic movement. Vehicle speeds are reduced to walking pace.

I
Inclusivity is the fact of including all types of people, things or ideas and treating them all fairly and equally.

J
K
L

Legibility means the extent to which a place is recognisable and coherently organised. A legible layout contributes to identity, improves distinctiveness, and enables clear, memorable images of place.

Landscape Management and Maintenance Plan (LMMP) sets out how a particular development will maintain the retained landscape and existing ecology of the site. It should include plans to ensure the designed landscape fulfils its roles, including providing habitats and recreational space.

Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) is a comprehensive strategy designed by communities of local authorities to safeguard the biodiversity of a specific region.

M
Management Plan - A Landscape Management and Maintenance Plan outlines the strategies for preserving the existing ecology and maintaining the landscaped areas within a development. This comprehensive document encompasses measures to ensure that the planned landscape functions effectively, serving purposes such as creating habitats and offering recreational zones.

Mono-pitch roof is a single-sloped roof surface which slopes from one side of a building, or building element, to another (also known as a lean-to roof)

N
National Design Guide is a UK Government publication which illustrates how to achieve well-designed places

Notification for Prior Approval is a process of informing the Local Planning Authority of intentions to exercise certain permitted development rights prior to the development taking place, sometimes taking the form of a fast-track planning process

O
Obscure glazing is glass used in windows and doors which cannot be seen through in order to protect privacy, such as frosted or patterned glass. Obscurity is measured on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 offers very low levels of privacy and 5 offers very high levels of privacy. Level 3 will normally be the minimum expected when obscure glazing is requested to mitigate privacy issues.

Offshoot is a protruding section of a dwelling, common in terraced houses which extends into the rear garden or yard on one side of the property, often housing a kitchen and/or bathroom.

Original building is defined as the dwelling as it was first built, or as it stood on 1st July 1948 if the structure was first constructed before 1948.

Outlook is the external space that

can be viewed from a habitable window, which is protected by planning controls to prevent a sense of excessive enclosure or loss of openness: this is different to a view, which is related to a specific object or scene visible from the window, and which is not protected by planning controls

Overdevelopment is defined as a quantity of built form or intensity of use on a particular site which is excessive in terms of its impact on local amenity and character

P
Pedestrian priority interventions are features such as buildouts of landscape and street trees, visual narrowing, controlled and uncontrolled pedestrian crossings.

Private drive is an access street or driveway that has not been designed to adoptable standards.

Party Wall Act is a legal framework for preventing and resolving disputes in relation to party walls, property boundaries and excavations near neighbouring buildings: these disputes are not relevant to planning processes or decisions

Permeable surface is where a material allows liquids or gases to pass through it or in-between, such as permeable paving which allows natural drainage

Permitted Development
A type of development covered by the General Permitted Development Order, which can be carried out without the need for a planning submission.

Q

R
Rain gardens are relatively small, planted areas designed to receive rainwater flowing from paved surfaces or from drainpipes. Rain gardens are designed to intercept and slow the flow of water that might otherwise directly enter conventional drains

Rainwater harvesting is a technique of collection and storage of rainwater for re-use on-site rather than allowing it to run off.

Resilient trees and planting can survive and thrive in the face of climate change and other environmental pressures.

Rooflight is a window built into a roof to admit light and ventilation (also known as a skylight)

S
Segregation sandwich is a publicly accessible route through the centre of two parallel private drives and/or adopted vehicle surfaces, often physically segregated and contained by fencing. Surface run-off is where water that flows over the surface of the ground instead of being absorbed by the soil.

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) are a collection of water management practices that aim to align modern drainage systems with natural water processes as part of a larger green infrastructure strategy.

Section drawing is a 2D drawing which shows a view of a building or structure as though it had been sliced in half or cut along another imaginary plane (usually a

vertical plane).

Street scene is the appearance and character of an area (usually a linear street) created by the form of buildings and open spaces, relating to the massing and scale of building but also to floorspace and street furniture details

Subservient

Where a certain part of the building (generally an extension) appears less important or prominent than the rest of the building due to its massing, placement or materials.

Surface run-off is water that flows over the surface of the ground instead of being absorbed by the soil.

Terracing effect is a term used to describe the closing of gaps between houses by extending the houses sideways, thus giving the appearance of a continuous building mass

Thermal transmittance

Is a measurement of how well a building element, such as a wall, roof, or floor, resists heat loss. It's sometime referred to as a u-value and expressed in units of W/m²K, which represents the rate of heat flow through 1 square meter of a structure with a temperature difference of 1 degree. A lower U-value indicates better insulation, and is important because Building Regulations set maximum permitted U-values for each element.

Topography is the shape and

features of land surfaces, such as slopes, hills and mountains

Townscape

The appearance of an urban area; an urban landscape

Tree Preservation Order (TPO)

An order made by a Local Planning Authority to protect a specific tree or group of trees

U

V

W

Walkability helps to connect communities and provide alternatives to driving.

X

Y

Z

Credits

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Figures to follow

Worksheet Maps

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Analytical Maps

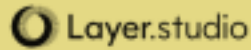
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**Appendix 2: Draft Rushcliffe Design Code Supplementary
Planning Document – Sustainability
Appraisal and Appropriate Assessment
Screening Opinion Report**



**Draft Rushcliffe Design Code
Supplementary Planning Document**

**Strategic Environmental Assessment
and Appropriate Assessment**

Screening Opinion Report

Date TBD

Contents

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Legislation
 - 2.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment
 - 2.2 Habitats Regulation Assessment
- 3 Rushcliffe Design Code Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)
- 4 Rushcliffe Design Code SPD SEA screening assessment
- 5 Rushcliffe Design Code SPD HRA appropriate assessment screening

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This screening report has assessed the contents of the Draft Rushcliffe Design Code Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) in order to identify potential environmental impacts that would require a Strategic Environmental Assessment in accordance with the European Directive and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. If significant modifications are made following consultation on the draft SPD or advice from statutory consultees, the plan will be screened again to identify environmental impacts.
- 1.2 It also determines whether or not the contents of the draft SPD would require a Habitats Regulations Appropriate Assessment in accordance with European Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, i.e. the 'Habitats Directive' and the associated Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (otherwise known as the 'Habitats Regulations').
- 1.3 European Directives have been transposed into national law through UK legislative statutory instruments (further details of which will be provided in section 2 below) to determine whether they would have significant environmental effects (SEA) or have an impact on any internationally designated wildlife sites (HRA). This has resulted in the SPD needing to be screened in relation to whether it needs to be supported by a Strategic Environmental Assessment and / or a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), i.e. an 'appropriate assessment'.
- 1.4 It should be noted that the adopted Rushcliffe Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy (December 2014) has been subject to a full Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal in accordance with the legislation, as well as an appropriate assessment scoping report in relation to the Habitats Regulations (which concluded that a full Appropriate Assessment of it would not be required). As this SPD provides additional guidance that delivers the Rushcliffe Design Code requirements as set out in the Core Strategy (notably Policy 10 Design and Enhancing Local Identity), these assessments will be taken into account in providing this screening opinion.
- 1.5 In addition, the Local Plan Part 2: Land and Planning Policies was adopted in October 2019. This document is also supported by a Sustainability Appraisal which includes the Strategic Environmental Assessment, and Habitats Regulations Assessment. These will also be taken into account where appropriate.

- 1.6 This screening report details whether the draft SPD is likely to require an SEA or HRA. It is concluded that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment are not required to accompany the draft SPD. Details of the reasoning behind these conclusions are provided within sections 4 and 5 of this report.
- 1.7 This SEA and HRA Screening Opinion will be sent to the three statutory consultees (Historic England, Natural England, and Environment Agency) to seek their views on its contents.

2 Legislation

2.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment

2.1.1 The basis for requiring Strategic Environmental Assessment is European Directive 2001/42/EC and was transposed into English Law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

2.1.2 Detailed guidance of these Regulations can be found in the Government publication, 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' (ODPM 2005). Further information on SEA is contained within the Government's National Planning Practice Guidance.

2.1.3 The objective of the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) is set out in Article 1 therein, which states:

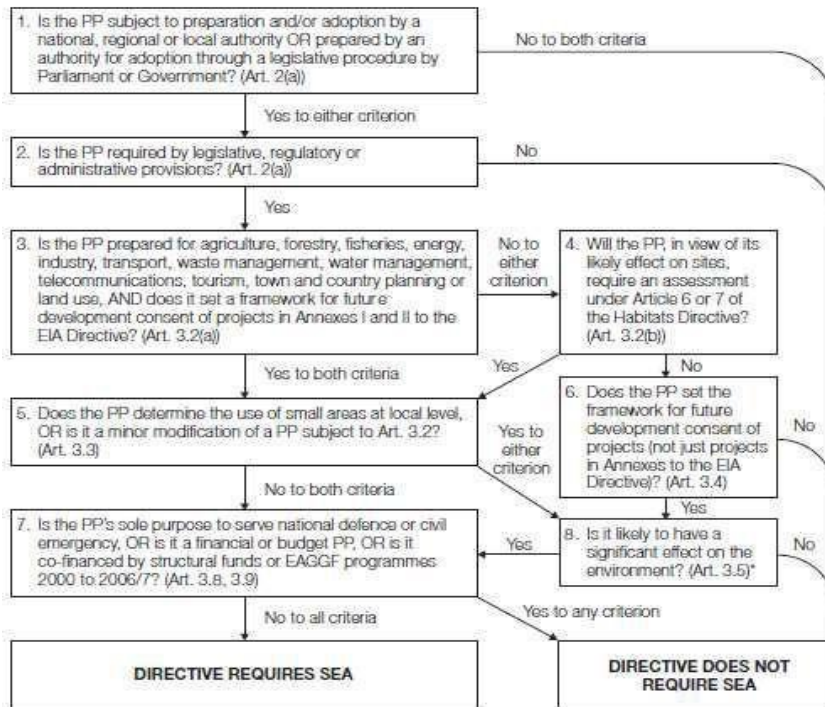
'The objective of this Directive is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development, by ensuring that, in accordance with this Directive, an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.'

2.1.4 To establish if a 'plan' or 'programme' needs to be accompanied by a full SEA, a "screening" assessment is required against a series of criteria set out in the SEA Directive. These are illustrated in Figure 1 below.

2.1.5 National Planning Practice Guidance states that an SEA will only be required in exceptional circumstances.¹

¹ Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 61-008-20190315

Figure 1: Criteria against which the requirement for SEA to be screened



2.1.6 Assessing the significance of the environmental effects (as set out within stage 8 of Figure 1 above) that an SPD will have depends on the requirements within it. The criteria for assessing significance are referred to in Article 3.5 and set out within Annex II of the SEA Directive, as shown below:

Figure 2: Criteria for assessing significance

1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to
 - The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regards to location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;
 - The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;
 - The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;
 - Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme;
 - The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. Plans and programmes linked to waste- management or water protection)
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to
 - The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;
 - The cumulative nature of the effects;
 - The transboundary nature of the effects;
 - The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents);
 - The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:
 - Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;
 - Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values;
 - Intensive land-use;
 - The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.

2.2 Habitats Regulations Assessment

2.2.1 A Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) is required for a plan or project to assess the potential implications for European wildlife sites, i.e. 'European sites' or 'Natura 2000 sites'. It explores whether the implementation of a plan or project would harm the habitats or species for which the European sites are designated. The European sites are:

- Special Protection Areas (SPAs) – designated by the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC as amended and 2009/147/EC), and:
- Special Areas of Conservation – designated by the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).

2.2.2 In addition to SPAs and SACs, Ramsar sites are designated under the Ramsar convention. The Ramsar convention's mission is to conserve and sustainably utilise wetland habitats. Although Ramsar sites are not covered by the Habitats Regulations, as a matter of Government Policy, they should be treated in the same way as European wildlife sites (i.e. SPAs and SACs). European wildlife sites and Ramsar sites are collectively known as internationally designated wildlife sites.

2.2.3 The basis for requiring a Habitats Regulations Assessment stems from the European Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. This has been transposed into UK legislation by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.

3 Rushcliffe Design Code Supplementary Planning Document

- 3.1 If adopted, the Rushcliffe Design Code SPD will provide guidance on the application of Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy Policy 10 (Design and Enhancing Local Identity) in particular and pertinent national policy and guidance within the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance. Its role is to provide code and guidance to support the delivery of well-designed new development.
- 3.2 The table below lists those issues and design topics that the SPD addresses:

Design issues covered in the SPD
Rural development
Design process and masterplanning
Street hierarchy and servicing
Householder proposals
Infill and intensification
Multi-dwellings and taller buildings
Landscape matter
High Street and retail development

4. Rushcliffe Design Code SPD SEA screening assessment

- 4.1 The issues and guidance in the draft SPD (those listed in Section 3) have been used to undertake this screening exercise against the criteria in Figures 1 and 2 in Section 2 above. If the content of the SPD is amended significantly following consultation and prior to adoption, the SPD would be subject to a further screening exercise to explore whether any significant effects would occur.
- 4.2 An SEA was completed as part of the adopted Rushcliffe District Council Local Plan Part 1 (Core Strategy) (December 2014) and submitted Local Plan Part 2 (Land and Planning Policies) and this has been taken into account in this screening assessment.
- 4.3 Table 1 (below) outlines the results of the assessment against the criteria in Figures 1 and 2 in Section 2.

Table 1: SEA Criteria for determining whether an Environmental Report is required.

Stage	Yes / No	Reason
1. Is the SPD subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional, or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))	Yes (go to Q.2)	The SPD will be adopted by Rushcliffe Borough Council as part of the statutory development plan following consultation on the draft SPD.
2. Is the SPD required by legislative, regulatory, or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	Yes (go to Q.3)	The preparation and adoption of an SPD is optional. However, once adopted by Rushcliffe Borough Council, it will become a material consideration during the determination of planning applications. It is therefore important that the screening process considers whether the SPD is likely to have a significant effect and hence whether an SEA is required.
3. Is the SPD prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use <u>AND</u> does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive? (Art 3.2(a))	No (go to Q.4)	SPD seeks to help ensure developments (which accord with the Local Plan) complies with the Rushcliffe Design Code as far as is possible (based on applicable Local Plan requirements). It does not set a framework for future consents of either Annex I or Annex II of the EIA Directive, which are, as a rule major infrastructure, agricultural or tourism and leisure developments.

Stage	Yes / No	Reason
4. Will the SPD, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art. 3.2 (b))	No (go to Q.6)	Screening by Rushcliffe BC of development sites in Core Strategy and Land and Planning Policies did not identify any impacts on habitats. Notwithstanding this, the provision of Rushcliffe Design Code is unlikely to have implications upon internationally protected sites. As the SPD does not contain 'policies', including allocations and the Borough is a considerable distance from the nearest internationally protected site or prospective site, it is concluded that it is also unlikely to significantly affect them (see HRA screening below).
6. Does the SPD set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)	Yes (go to Q.8)	Although the SPD does not form part of the development plan, it is a material consideration that will inform decisions on those applications where Core Strategy Policy 10 (Design and Enhancing Local Identity) in particular is applicable. Whether the plan requires a full SEA will depend on whether the policies would have a significant effect on the environment.
8. Is the SPD likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (AnAnex II of the European Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of certain plans and programmes on the environment sets out the criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment. This section will assess the SPD against these criteria)	No	The SPD will not have a significant effect on the environment. The SPD does not allocate sites or contain criteria which will influence the location of development. These policy decisions were taken through the Local Plan process. Rather the SPD seeks to help ensure developments (which accord with the Local Plan) conform with the Design Code as far as is possible (based on applicable Local Plan requirements). The provision of Rushcliffe Design Code will not have significant (negative) effects on biodiversity, historic environment, landscape, natural resources, water or flooding, or air quality. The provision of well design development should have a positive effect on human health and wellbeing.
SEA IS NOT REQUIRED		

Conclusion

- 4.4. On the basis of the SEA screening exercise in Table 1 above, it is considered that significant effects are unlikely and therefore, the draft Rushcliffe Design Code SPD does not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).
- 4.5. Overall the SPD would have neutral or even positive effect on the environment (on health and wellbeing).
- 4.6. If, following consultation on the draft SPD, modifications to the SPD have

implications for the environment, these should be screened again to ensure a full SEA is not required.

5 Rushcliffe Design Code SPD HRA appropriate assessment screening

- 5.1. This is the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the draft Rushcliffe Design Code SPD. It accompanies the draft SPD and comprises the screening of likely significant effects of this guidance (which is a material consideration when determining planning applications) on designated and prospective European or internationally protected nature conservation sites.
- 5.2. As the SPD is subordinate to the adopted Local Plan Part 1 (Core Strategy) and Local Plan Part 2 (Land and Planning Policies), provided the SPD does not amend the policies within them (which it cannot), the conclusions of their respective HRAs provides a clear indication of the likelihood of significant effects upon an internationally designated site.

Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy

- 5.3. Rushcliffe Borough Council adopted the Core Strategy in December 2014. This Development Plan Document contains strategic land allocations and planning policies which determine the minimal level of development at Ruddington. The Core Strategy also contains general policies on sustainable development, climate change, green belt, housing mix and tenure, design, transport, green infrastructure and biodiversity.
- 5.4. In accordance with the European Habitats Directives and Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, the Core Strategy underwent a Habitats Regulations Assessment which determined that the plan would not significantly affect any European protected nature conservation site.

Local Plan Part 2: Land and Planning Policies

- 5.5. Local Plan Part 2 was adopted in October 2019, it was submitted for examination with a HRA Screening that concluded that the Plan would not result in likely significant effects alone or in combination. An addendum to the HRA assessed whether the Court of Justice of the European Union (12 April 2018) affected this conclusion. It was determined that it did not.
- 5.6. The conclusion that the Plan would be unlikely to have significant effects was supported by Natural England, was not challenged at examination. The

inspector agreed with this conclusion.

Screening of Likely Significant Effects

- 5.7. Given the conclusions of the Local Plan HRAs it is unlikely that a subordinate SPD, which accord with the policies within the Local Plan, would significantly affect an internationally protected nature conservation site and trigger the requirement for an appropriate assessment.



Cabinet

Tuesday, 14 January 2025

Simpler Recycling Update

Report of the Director – Neighbourhoods

Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment and Safety, Councillor R Inglis

1. Purpose of report

To update the Cabinet on the requirements of the Environment Act 2021, in relation to household waste collections and in particular the development of a Nottinghamshire wide approach regarding the requirements of the 'Simpler Recycling' regulations, including weekly food waste collections and a new kerbside glass collection service. The report also outlines the next steps towards operational delivery of these potential service changes.

2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet:

- a) endorses the approach set out in paragraph 4.17 to align the Council's household waste collection arrangements with the 'Simpler Recycling' requirements;
- b) supports the continuation of work with the Nottinghamshire Joint Waste Management Board to progress the wider operational planning for 'Simpler Recycling' implementation across the County; and
- c) recommends that the Medium Term Financial Strategy (to be approved by Full Council) incorporates the financial implications (in Appendix A) and in particular the creation of a Simpler Recycling Reserve.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1. The collection of household waste is a statutory function of the Council as a defined Waste Collection Authority (WCA) and as such it must comply with any legislative requirements, which specify the arrangements for collections.
- 3.2. The Council must also work in conjunction with Nottinghamshire County Council who are the Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) in relation to any collection arrangements to ensure a system approach is adopted.

- 3.3. A decision on the Council's approach to 'Simpler Recycling' is also required to give sufficient time for the ordering of new vehicles, receptacles and operational planning.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1. On 21 October 2023, Government announced its plans for the introduction of 'Simpler Recycling', which intends to ensure all homes in England recycle the same materials at the kerbside. This is effectively a rebranding of the former "consistency in collections" proposals contained in the Resources and Waste Strategy (RWS) for England 2018.
- 4.2. The plans propose that by 31 March 2026, local authorities will be required to collect the following recyclable household waste streams from the kerbside: paper and card, plastic bottles, plastic pots, tubs and trays, metal, foil, glass, food waste and garden waste. The new proposals allow consideration that, the dry recyclables can be collected in separate containers or co-mingled in one bin and this was confirmed in new guidance which was issued by DEFRA on 29 November 2024.
- 4.3. By 31 March 2027 the dry recycling specification will be further expanded as WCAs will also need to collect plastic film and plastic bags as part of their kerbside collection service.
- 4.4. For non-household municipal premises (such as hospitals, schools and businesses but excluding micro-firms) this comes a year earlier, as they will be required to recycle the same recyclable waste streams (excluding garden waste) by the 31 March 2025. It will be important that these premises work closely with their chosen trade waste collection provider to ensure compliance readiness.
- 4.5. Micro-firms (businesses and relevant non-domestic premises with fewer than ten full time equivalent employees) will be temporarily exempt from this requirement and will have until 31 March 2027 to arrange for recycling of these core recyclable waste streams.
- 4.6. The collection of additional materials from households at the kerbside, including plastic film, is linked to the broader Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Scheme for Packaging, which will see producers of packaging waste having to pay fees linked to the amount of packaging waste produced and therefore requiring collection by WCAs. The scheme is designed to drive a reduction in the production and use of packaging material on the consumer market, as well as encourage producers to use packaging that has a sustainable end market for future re-use or recycling. Further information on EPR payments being made to the Council is covered in the funding section of this report.
- 4.7. The Government has also committed to providing new burdens funding for the introduction of 'Simpler Recycling' requirements to collect food waste from domestic premises. Capital transitional funding has already been

provided to the Council; however, ongoing resource costs are likely to be delayed linked to the transition arrangement detailed in paragraph 4.15 of this report.

- 4.8. A further element of the RWS was the creation of a National Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) which would allow residents to return their waste plastic bottles and cans into a national network for recycling. It is currently understood that the scheme has been delayed until at the earliest 2027, therefore its impact on materials presented for kerbside recycling and on street waste collection cannot be fully assessed at this time and will need to be the subject of a further report if significant implications are identified.

Joint Working and the Nottinghamshire Waste Partnership Options Appraisal for Waste and Recycling

- 4.9. To meet the 'Simpler Recycling' requirements and to ensure that kerbside services across the County are efficient and effective whilst minimising overall system costs for waste collection and disposal for the public, it is essential that a consistent collection methodology is used by all seven WCAs in the County.
- 4.10. Through the Nottinghamshire Joint Waste Management Board a county wide project has been in place since 2022, working with Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and Resource Futures (a private consultancy firm appointed by WRAP to undertake the project), to model the future of waste collections in Nottinghamshire, including changes to the dry recycling stream and the introduction of a weekly food waste collection service.
- 4.11. The modelling focussed on assessing the impact of service changes for the WCAs, in meeting the requirements of 'Simpler Recycling'. The project considered the operational effects of change, the impact on different household types, the financial implications, the potential carbon savings, suitability of current infrastructure, public acceptance and alignment with government requirements.
- 4.12. A number of collection options were considered for the dry recycling changes including a dual bin recycling service with paper and card in one two-week cycle, and plastics, metals and glass in the other. However, when taking a Notts wide 'waste system' approach the preferred option that emerged was to retain the existing single mixed recycling wheeled bin with an expanded range of materials (i.e. cans, plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays etc) and to collect glass through a separate kerbside service.
- 4.13. The separation of glass into a single collection stream is important as in addition to being a valuable resource, it is also a major contaminant in the paper and cardboard recycling industry. This collection methodology will also help to ensuring that Rushcliffe and the other Nottinghamshire WCAs have a consistent, reliable income stream from the prospective Extended Producer Responsibility payments which are explained further in paragraph 4.32.

- 4.14. However in accordance with the latest DEFRA guidance this preferred option for dry recycling collection methodology will need to be subjected to a refresh of the existing 'Technically, Environmentally and Economically Practical Assessment (TEEP) that is in place across the county.
- 4.15. In terms of food waste and due in part to the complex and contractual nature of the waste disposal arrangements between the WDA and their waste disposal contractor, a collective decision was taken with the support of JWMB that kerbside food waste collections should be delayed across Nottinghamshire until 1 October 2027. This Transitional Arrangement has since been agreed by DEFRA and will give additional time and opportunity for effective collection and disposal arrangements to be put in place across the county.
- 4.16. A key element for the successful implementation of these significant changes will be an effective communication and education campaign which will be enhanced and facilitated by having the same arrangements across the county. This will allow coordinated and consistent communication and educational products to be prepared with the support of the WDA and their contractor.

Waste Service Implications for Rushcliffe BC

- 4.17. The impact of 'Simpler Recycling' will require the Council to make several changes to its current waste collection service and these are summarised below:
- a) Deliver a separate kerbside glass collection service by 31 March 2026 (current target date is 1 December 2025).
 - b) Publicise the wider range of dry recycling materials that can be placed in the blue recycling bin by 31 March 2026.
 - c) Continue to work with JWMB on the plans for a weekly food waste collection service by 1 October 2027.
 - d) Continue to work with JWMB on a county wide approach for the inclusion of plastic film and plastic bags in the dry recycling collection kerbside collection service by 31 March 2027.
- 4.18. The Council already has the highest recycling rate in the County of nearly 50% each year; however, by implementing these changes, required by 'Simpler Recycling', this should provide a further opportunity for residents to recycle their waste and with high participation rates could increase the Council's recycling rate to nearly 60% in 2028/29 when the weekly food waste scheme is launched.
- 4.19. To understand the service changes in more detail the following paragraphs cover the key elements of 'Simpler Recycling' and the necessary changes for the Council's waste collection service.

Dry Recycling Service (blue wheeled bin)

- 4.20. As stated in paragraph 4.12 the continuation of the kerbside collection of comingled dry recycling on an alternate weekly basis will continue in Rushcliffe subject to the county wide TEEP Assessment refresh. The expansion to include a wider range of materials such as tetra pak, plastic tubs, foil, etc. by 31 March 2026 will not require changes to the collection methodology or the resources required by the Council apart from a potential increase in second blue wheeled bin requests as residents seek to recycle the wider range of packaging materials.
- 4.21. There will be a need to support a county wide recycling communication campaign to help residents understand the changes and to ensure they are maximising the broader recycling opportunities.
- 4.22. Looking ahead, further work is required on a county wide basis to develop the most efficient and effective approach for the inclusion of plastic film and plastic bags in the dry recycling collection kerbside collection service by 31 March 2027. A number of options are being considered; however, in addition to making it 'simple' for residents, the end sorting and processing will also need to be considered as these materials are often difficult to sort in a comingled stream.

Glass Recycling Service

- 4.23. The Council's current and extensive bring site service for glass, collects around 2,500 tonnes each year, which is colour separated throughout the collection and disposal process, which allows the glass to then be remanufactured into new glass bottles and jars.
- 4.24. The new kerbside collection will allow glass to be placed into a 180 litre wheeled bin (existing bins are 240 litres) which will then be collected from the kerbside on a six weekly cycle on the same day as the grey residual wheeled bin. Under this new service the glass presented for recycling will be collected mixed as there have been recent and significant improvements in separation technology, which now allows glass to be colour sorted at the glass reprocessing stage. Importantly, this will help to ensure that the glass collected from this new service will continue to be made into new glass vessels and jars, which has always been an important factor for the Council.
- 4.25. It is intended that the new service will be an 'opt out' arrangement as it expected that the 'simpler' kerbside service should make it even easier for local residents to recycle their glass particularly for those living in rural communities who may not be close to an existing bring site. Further work will be undertaken on the best collection methodology for communal bin stores and flat complexes where different receptacles may be more appropriate.
- 4.26. The service will require two full time collection crews (six people) with two new freighters of appropriate specification and will require approximately 50,000 new 180 litre wheeled bins. To help mitigate the service and budget

pressure it is intended that the new rounds will absorb staff from the existing bring site service, which will also be phased out shortly after the new service is launched. The project roll out plan will identify any needs for consultation with potentially affected staff.

- 4.27. The glass collected from the kerbside will continue to be temporarily stored at the Eastcroft Depot where the Council's recycling2go service is based prior to collection by the glass reprocessing company. Work will also continue with Nottingham City Council who own the Eastcroft depot site to ensure that the space requirements for all the 'Simpler Recycling' changes can continue to be accommodated at the depot site including the weekly food waste service.

Food Waste Collection Service

- 4.28. As stated earlier in the report a Transitional Arrangement has been agreed with DEFRA, which will see a new weekly food waste collection service being delivered from 1 October 2027 across the county. This launch will be supported by a newly formed food waste project group, reporting to JWMB, which will seek to maximise the opportunities for joint working on specifications, operational arrangements and purchasing, linked to the new service.
- 4.29. The current proposed option will allow appropriate food waste to be promptly taken from the kitchen and stored in a hygienic manner through the provision of a 23 litre caddy bin for each household. This will allow the external storage of food waste ready for collection on a weekly basis.
- 4.30. There are currently no plans to allow the inclusion of food waste into the garden waste wheeled bin since the latter service is an optional 'paid for' service and the addition of food waste would require the whole receptacle to be collected on a weekly basis and without a charge notwithstanding the significant costs and further complexities in terms of disposal of a mixed food and garden waste stream via anaerobic digestion.

Funding and Costs

- 4.31. Full details of how the 'Simpler Recycling' proposals will be funded have emerged in stages over the last 12 months and there are still some elements that are awaited. However, the current known position is set out in the following paragraphs, and it highlights that the current funding does not meet the full costs of the responsibilities now mandated by Government.
- 4.32. In late November 2024, the Council was informed by DEFRA of our estimated 2025/26 payments from producers under the EPR scheme. The amount is currently projected to be £1,407,000; however, it could change due to further quality assurance processes as it has been produced from a complex formula that takes into account the following Rushcliffe specific factors:
- The frequency, pattern and type of collections of household packaging waste.

- The population density.
 - The type and accessibility of dwellings.
 - The levels of deprivation.
 - Government policies and the regulatory requirements affecting waste management in Rushcliffe.
- 4.33. The current known revenue costs of the changes that are required to the dry recycling service, which will be funded by the EPR payments are principally around the new kerbside glass recycling service and these are set out in Appendix A. When the scheme is fully operational the additional budget pressure is expected to be circa £190k per annum net of existing bring site budgets.
- 4.34. In addition to the revenue costs there are significant capital costs that will be incurred. The estimated cost of two new refuse freighters (offset by the sale of the two existing glass bring site vehicles) plus the acquisition of approximately 50,000 new 180L wheeled bins will be £1.69m (details in Appendix A).
- 4.35. It should also be noted that the Council is currently in negotiations with its glass processor on the rate per tonne paid for mixed glass and it is likely that a further tender exercise will be required in 2025. Although not associated with the change in regulations the additional income (estimated at £85k per annum) will help offset the additional costs above, and the increased income will be factored into the Council's budget upon completion of the exercise. This increase is not included in Appendix A.
- 4.36. On the 9 January 2024, all WCAs were contacted by DEFRA with information about the indicative capital funding allocated to each WCA for the introduction of weekly food waste collections. For Rushcliffe the amount was £1,156,919 which is expected to cover the cost of kitchen caddies, kerbside caddies, communal wheeled bins and 10 new collection vehicles. Any spare capacity WCAs require is also expected to be covered within this funding allocation. However, the funding is not index linked and this is particularly relevant given the transitional agreement in place until 1 October 2027 as the costs of receptacles and vehicles are likely to increase particularly as demand will also increase following these national changes.
- 4.37. The capital funding has been calculated in collaboration with the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), using a model that rather like the EPR assessment considers cost profiles of different housing stock, rurality, levels of deprivation, expected food waste yields, vehicle and container unit costs, and average collection round sizes. The model makes use of data inputted by local authorities on WRAPs Local Authority Portal.
- 4.38. In addition to the capital costs of the new food waste service there will be significant revenue costs associated with the employment of new collection staff (20 new posts), plus an additional co-ordinator post, fuel and vehicle maintenance etc. It is hoped that these costs will be covered by 'new

burdens' food waste transitional grant funding in 2025/26 and the Council is expected to be notified of what this will be in early 2025. Estimated high level revenue costs are included in Appendix A and are expected to total £1.26m

- 4.39. In order to support the financial impact of these changes and due to the staged approach to implementation, it is proposed to create a Simpler Recycling Reserve which will be detailed in the forthcoming budget report and Medium-Term Financial Strategy. This reserve will be used to smooth the effect of the additional costs utilising the EPR funding, The Collection Fund Reserve Balance is to be appropriated to the Simpler Recycling Reserve to 'gap fund' the extensive capital commitment required.

5. Alternative options considered and reasons for rejection

The main body of the report has already detailed how various collection options to comply with 'Simpler Recycling' requirements have been assessed and discounted along with the rationale.

6. Risks and Uncertainties

The changes required by 'Simpler Recycling' represent the biggest change in waste collection arrangement since the launch of the wheeled bin service in 2003. As a result there are a significant range of risks and uncertainties that will need to be fully considered in the project management of this change. However, for the purposes of this report the following represent the current situation:

- a) Capital and revenue financial uncertainty, in particular new burdens funding for food waste, which we await further information.
- b) Capacity of supply chain to meet unprecedented nationwide demand for specialist vehicles, caddies, and bins.
- c) Capacity and suitability of existing Depots to accommodate increased number of collection freighters and vehicles.
- d) Resident participation and engagement thus affecting anticipated recycling rates.
- e) Working with the JWMC and in particular the WDA and their contractor in terms of supporting infrastructure (waste transfer stations / anaerobic digestion facilities). Albeit the former has been mitigated by the opening of the new Colwick Transfer Station which is 'Simpler Recycling' compliant.
- f) Potential loss of garden waste income if customers cease to be part of the scheme as a result of the space needed for additional waste receptacles for food and glass.
- g) EPR and Food Waste grant income reduces over time or funding is lost within other wider government funding reforms.
- h) Inflation results in higher future costs.
- i) A larger fleet creates pressure on the future capital programme (in seven years time) with it being unlikely that further capital grants will be provided.

7. Implications

7.1. Financial Implications

7.1.1. Paragraphs 4.31 to 4.39 and Appendix A covers both revenue and capital financial implications. There is an overall revenue pressure of £318k, that maybe offset by the anticipated new burden Food Waste grant assuming this is recurrent annual grant.

7.1.2. Capital funding is not sufficient to meet the anticipated capital pressures of £3.31m for both food waste and glass kerb recycling collection. Due to the timing mismatch of receiving grants and delivering the service, a Simpler Recycling Reserve is proposed to drawdown and meet expenditure costs for capital acquisition (although not exclusively). Due to insufficient funding an appropriation from the current Collection Fund Reserve is proposed of £0.746m.

7.2. Legal Implications

7.2.1. The Environment Act 2021 amends section 45A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to include the requirement for waste collection authorities to collect glass, metal, plastic, paper and card, food waste, garden waste for recycling from all households. The introduction of 'Simpler Recycling' requirements is statutory, so failure to implement appropriate arrangements will be a breach of the Council's statutory duties. It is expected that Government will introduce statutory guidance for local authorities on waste collection which, when introduced, the Council need to have due regard to.

7.2.2. Any variation to existing contracts and / or procurement of new goods and services will need to be properly documented and undertaken in accordance with the relevant procurement legislation and the Council's adopted Contract Standing Orders.

7.3. Equalities Implications

The Council already has a comprehensive assisted collection scheme, which supports those with disabilities or other conditions which makes presenting their waste to the kerbside more difficult. Any changes required by 'Simpler Recycling' would be assimilated into this scheme and a refreshed Equalities Impact Assessment will be undertaken.

7.4. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Implications

Councillors have previously expressed concerns about moving to a kerbside separate glass recycling collection service, citing a risk of anti-social behaviour from the misuse of glass containers stored in open receptacles. The option presented within this report would ensure that glass put out for

collection is contained in a lidded wheel bin which should help to minimise any risk of misuse.

7.5. Biodiversity Net Gain Implications

No Biodiversity Net Gain implications.

8. Link to Corporate Priorities

The Environment	Minimising the impact on the environment including carbon management considerations is key factor in all aspects of delivering the new 'Simpler Recycling' collection service Such examples include the continued use of HVO to fuel the vehicles, the use of recycled plastic in the new receptacles and the organisation of new collection rounds to minimise mileage and emissions
Quality of Life	The collection of waste and recycling is an important statutory duty and basic public health requirement, which helps to ensure the quality of life for local residents
Efficient Services	The design changes required by 'Simpler Recycling' to the Council's collection arrangements must take into account of the need for efficient and effective service delivery
Sustainable Growth	None

9. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet:

- a) endorses the approach set out in paragraph 4.17 to align the Council's household waste collection arrangements with the 'Simpler Recycling' requirements;
- b) Supports the continuation of work with the Nottinghamshire Joint Waste Management Board to progress the wider operational planning for 'Simpler Recycling' implementation across the County; and
- c) Recommends that the Medium Term Financial Strategy (to be approved by Full Council) incorporates the financial implications (in Appendix A) and in particular the creation of a Simpler Recycling Reserve.

For more information contact:	David Banks Director Neighbourhoods and Deputy Chief Executive
Background papers available for inspection:	The Environment Act 2021 (legislation.gov.uk) The Extended Producer Responsibility Regulations Resources and waste strategy for England - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

	25 Year Environment Plan: progress reports - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) Government response to the Consultation on requirements within The Environment Act 2021 - Government response - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
List of appendices:	Appendix A – ‘Simpler Recycling’ Revenue and Capital Costs

‘Simpler Recycling’ Revenue and Capital Costs

Revenue

(a) Glass Collection Revenue Budget

Costs are already included in the budget for the existing Glass Bring Sites, this includes two existing employees, therefore the costs in the table below are the *additional* costs of delivering a kerbside collection.

	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
Staffing	73,300	183,500	186,600	189,800	193,100
Vehicle	5,500	27,200	37,200	37,200	37,200
Other Exp	-7,200	-6,300	8,700	33,700	33,700
Recycling Credits / EPR	-31,300	-75,000	-75,000	-75,000	-75,000
Total	40,300	129,400	157,500	185,700	189,000

- Staffing increase of 1 driver and 3 loaders (to make 2 drivers and 4 loaders in total) and associated on costs plus additional overtime, training, agency cover, PPE and the car parking levy at the Eastcroft Depot.
- Vehicle maintenance, fuel and tyres for the two larger new vehicles and much greater usage.
- Other expenses are the additional burden of replacements bins offset by savings in no longer providing the bring sites.

(b) Food Collection Revenue Budget

Costs below are based on 10 rounds

	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
Staffing	505,600	1,028,900	1,046,800
Vehicle	81,500	163,000	163,000
Other Exp	26,100	46,200	51,200
Total	613,200	1,238,100	1,261,000

- The smaller food waste vehicles require a team of 1 driver and 1 loader per vehicle, It is estimated that we will need 10 teams in total. With 20 new members of staff (plus the glass collection) an additional co-ordinator post will also be required.

- Within the staffing budget allowance has also been made for additional overtime, training, agency cover, PPE, car allowances and the car parking levy at the Eastcroft depot.
- Increases are required for Vehicle maintenance, fuel, tyres, licences, tachograph and insurance.
- Other expenditure are mainly increases to the depot costs.

(c) Summary Revenue Position

Revenue	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
Glass	40,300	129,400	157,500	185,700	189,000
Food *			613,200	1,238,100	1,261,000
Total	40,300	129,400	770,700	1,423,800	1,450,000
Loss of Recycling Credits **	231,300	275,000	275,000	275,000	275,000
EPR ***		(1,407,000)	(1,407,000)	(1,407,000)	(1,407,000)
New Burdens Funding ****					
Net Budget Pressure	271,600	(1,002,600)	(361,300)	291,800	318,000

*Early high-level estimate

** It is expected that recycling credits will be replaced with EPR grant

*** EPR only 2025-26 value guaranteed,

**** Announcements expected in March for 2025-26 and future years in the annual finance settlement.

Capital

(a) Glass Collection Capital Costs

The estimated cost of two new vehicles is £460,000.

Purchasing 50,000 new bins is estimated to cost £1,250,000.

Making a total capital commitment of £1,710,000 *

* Provisionally funding from EPR grant in draft capital programme and topped up with using some of the collection fund reserve.

Within the previous capital programme, we had already identified a replacement vehicle cost of £240k, this is now replaced with the costs in the table below.

(b) Food Collection Capital Costs

The estimated cost of ten new vehicles £1,100,000.

Purchasing 50,000 new bins (2 receptacles per household) would cost £ 500,000.

Making a total capital commitment of £1,600,000 *

* Provisionally funded Simpler Recycling capital funding grant of £1.157m and topped up with the EPR grant in draft capital programme and Collection Fund Reserve.

(c)Summary Capital Position

Capital	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Glass	1,710,000		
Food			1,600,000
Total	1,710,000	0	1,600,000
Simpler Recycling Capital funding	(1,157,000)		
EPR	(1,407,000)		
Collection Fund Reserve	(746,000)		
Capital Balance	(3,310,000)	0	0

Agenda Item 9

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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