

Appreciating the context

How urban design thinking interprets and builds upon historic character, natural resources and the aspirations of local communities, and arrives at a realistic vision of what a place might become.

Creating the urban structure

Working out the inter-relationship between development blocks, streets, buildings, open space, landscape and all the other features that make up urban areas.

Making the connections

Achieving sustainable movement systems – the roads, streets, footpaths, public transport routes, green corridors, and systems for providing service utilities, all of which improve urban life.

Detailing the place

Considering the detail of buildings and the public realm, and the crucial interface between them - the corner treatments, the roof-lines, the pavement, the street lighting etc.

Implementation and delivery

Managing the design process to ensure that a commitment to quality continues beyond completion of construction.

The Structure of the Compendium**The scope of the Compendium**

The Compendium has been designed to assist at three levels of project development :

1 Commissioning and setting up development projects

Ensuring that this complex process is done in a way that ensures that design is integrated throughout the evolution of a project. Therefore, at the very early stages of a project, the Compendium insists that urban design issues are considered, whether in respect of the economic appraisal, the preparation of an environmental statement, the development of a community participation strategy or other tasks.

2 Designing individual schemes

Within an overall development framework, the Compendium provides advice that will be useful in designing individual development schemes, from an entire block to an individual plot. For example, the guidance can be used to help construct individual site development briefs.

3 Evaluating project proposals in design terms

From major area regeneration schemes or town extensions to small applications for gap funding, individual buildings or spaces, the Compendium can provide the evaluating team with the triggers it requires to ensure a comprehensive assessment of a project's design potential and it can point funding bodies in the right direction. However it is not a substitute for project specific specialist advice.

The structure of the Compendium

The Compendium follows the chronology of the project development process (see left).

At times important advice is repeated but we make no apology for this. For example, issues that are crucial to making the right connections may also be essential to the pattern of the overall structure. To help the reader in making the right judgements as to what is relevant and what is not, and to assist the many readers who will want to 'dip into' the Compendium, rather than read it cover to cover, there are frequent cross-references.