

**BOX 1.1 PUBLIC SPACE, THE KIT OF PARTS**

**Buildings**

- Walls
- Structure
- Windows
- Entrances/exits
- Balconies/projections
- Shopfronts
- Signage
- Building lighting
- Floodlighting
- Artwork
- Decoration
- Canopies
- Colonnades
- Skyline/roofscape
- Corners
- Flags and banners
- Monuments/landmarks

**Infrastructure**

- Roads and cycle lanes
- Bus stops/shelters
- Tram/bus lanes
- Traffic lights/road signage
- Telegraph polls
- Telecommunications equipment
- Street lighting
- Telematics
- Parking bays/meters/car parks
- Public toilets
- Waste and recycling bins
- CCTV polls and cameras
- Telephone/post boxes
- Gutters/drainage
- Utilities boxes
- Underground services
- Servicing bays/turning heads

**Landscape**

- Trees
- Planting beds and areas
- Lawns and verges
- Planters/hanging baskets
- Paving
- Road surfaces
- Traffic calming
- Steps
- Boundary walls/fences/railings
- Fountains/water features
- Public art
- Signage
- Advertising
- Street furniture
- Bollards
- Shelters/band stands
- Festive decorations

**Uses**

- Events
- Gatherings
- Street entertainment
- Street trading
- Markets
- External eating/drinking
- Kiosks
- Play grounds
- Parks
- Sports facilities
- Retail uses
- Leisure uses (active/passive)
- Community uses
- Homes
- Workplaces
- Industrial uses
- Tourism



The first three categories are entirely physical in nature, whilst the last encompasses a set of human activities and is therefore perhaps the most challenging to manage, and also – arguably – the most significant in giving public space its character. The first three also delineate the physical urban form (the streets, spaces, urban blocks, and key routes and connections) that define the limits of external public space, and which between them create the venues for human activity.

When considered by management responsibility, buildings and uses tend to be privately owned, with responsibility for their upkeep largely in the hands of companies, institutions and individuals. Motivations for

managing these assets will therefore be influenced by an assessment of their economic value and the costs and benefits of maintaining them. Conversely, most of the landscape between buildings in urban areas, and much (although not all) of the infrastructure will be owned and managed by the public sector, whose motivations for its management will be determined by competing local and national priorities and available resources. The distinction reinforces the fact that despite perceptions to the contrary, in almost all environments effective management will be a direct result of a formal or informal partnership between public and private interests.