## 3.5 Desktop publishing (DTP)

Desktop publishing (DTP) combines all of the figures, diagrams, photographs, drawn images and visualisations produced as a single or a series of convenient documents.

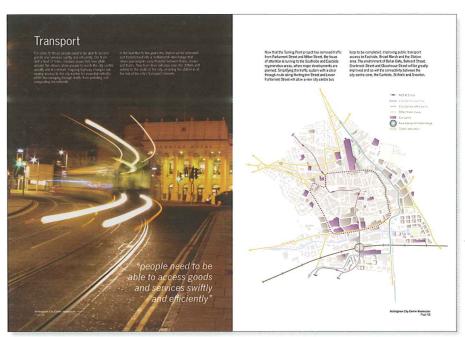
Modern DTP programs give designers full control over document layout, typography and colour in a program that can be run on a basic computer. Documents can be printed using a laser printer or other print processes. It is also common to create portable document formats (PDFs) for printing, viewing on-screen or downloading from the internet.

The graphical quality of documents continues to rise as DTP packages become more sophisticated. They provide opportunities to brand and package projects for the client or the intended audience. This can be done by either creating standard templates in word-processing packages to customise the look and 'feel' of all documents, or producing bespoke designs in professional DTP software to give each project its own brand and identity. Whichever is preferred, graphic devices can help make documents eye-catching and easy and enjoyable to read.

## Watchpoints

- There is a limit to the graphical capability of word processing applications, although very basic DTP is possible.
- · DTP requires training.
- Other software applications are normally used in conjunction with DTP – photo bitmap editing software to enhance imagery for example.
- Spell-check text at each stage of the DTP process.
- Start DTP when text and images are complete.





DTP spread combining text, photography and illustration