# What is a design code?

A design code is a set of simple, concise, illustrated design requirements that are visual and numerical wherever possible to provide specific, detailed parameters for the physical development of a site or area.

Because they are visual and numerical, rather than detailed policy wording, design codes can provide a more specific steer on what is acceptable, rather than relying on detailed policy wording, as well as being easier to engage with.

They can also give developers greater certainty about what may be acceptable when seeking planning permission and can help lead to faster decisions based on whether a proposal complies with a code, which can help. This in turn helps to speed up the delivery of development.

The content and level of detail in design codes will vary according to the scale at which a code is applied.