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| DESIGN SKILLS AND RESOURCES IN LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITIES - 2021 |
| With changes to national policy ushering in a more design-led planning system, this Freedom of Information request aims to understand the capacity within local planning authorities in England to address these concerns.The data will be used to update the national picture since the last analysis was conducted in 2017 and will be made publicly available, including to Government.Thank you for taking the time to respond. We understand that surveys can be an imposition on valuable time, but robust data on this crucial subject is otherwise impossible to gauge.If you would like to receive a summary of the results, please provide a suitable e-mail address in the box below.PRIVACY NOTE: Your e-mail address will only be used for this purpose and will not be shared with any third parties. The data gathered will be aggregated and individual responses will remain confidential.1. Contact email:planning@leicester.gov.uk\* 2. The following information will only be used to better analyse the results. Please indicate:Your RegionEast MidlandsYour Local AuthorityLeicester City Council Your DepartmentPlanning Your Role |

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| \* 3. What in-house Urban Design skills do you currently have? Please specify the number of:0 1 2 3 4 5+Those with an Urban Design qualification 3 officers      Landscape Architect(s) 1 officer      Architect(s) 2 officers     Other       Other (please specify)\* 4. If you don't have any in-house Urban Design skills, how do you cover these skills requirements? Pleas select as many as apply.Non-specialist planning staff Conservation officer Highway or Traffic engineer External consultants Agency staffShared resources with another Local Authority Design review panelOther (please specify) |
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| \* 5. What has been the change in your in-house design capacity in the last 5 years (since January 2016)? Please select one.100% 75% 50% 25% 0 – No 25% 50 % 75% 100%reduction reduction reduction reduction change increase increase increase increase N/A       Comments |


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\* 6. How do you deal with design issues relating to (please select as many as apply):

Shared resources with

Other (if

Internal staff

External consultants

Agency staff

another Local Authority

Another Local Authority

Rely on developers

Temporary staff

possible specify below)

Major planning applications

Minor planning applications

Development of your own schemes

e.g. social housing

Highway concerns

Public realm projects

Preparation of design guidance and frameworks

Preparation of Design Codes

Landscape Concerns, including trees and SUDs

If you have selected "Other" please specify: All the above activities are undertaken by internal staff, supplemented by external where necessary

# \* 7. How easy do you find it to recruit and retain design specialist staff? Please select one

 Easy

 Challenging Impossible

What are the challenges (if any) you face?

# 8. Do you favour the use of temporary placement/ secondment/ enabling/ schemes to bolster your internal design resources?

 Yes No

 Don't Know Please explain why permanent staffing is required

# 9. Does your Local Authority make use of a Design Review panel of any kind in assessing the design quality of planning applications?

 Yes No

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| \* 10. How often does your Local Authority make use of a ~~Design Review~~ Undertaken as part of Conservation Advisory Panel? Please select one. Yes - Monthly  Yes - Quarterly Yes - Occasionally (when needed)  Yes - Very rarely No - Never\* 11. Who manages the design review service that you use? Please select as many as apply:Your own in-house panelAnother public sector panel (please specify below) A third party panel (please specify)You use more than one panel (please specify below) None (we do not use Design Review)Other (please specify) |
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| \* 12. Does your authority uses design codes? Please select one. Yes - We produce them in-house Yes - We require developers to produce them for appropriate schemes  No - We encourage their production but don't require it No - We never use them\* 13. How will you respond to the new national requirement to produce design codes? Please select one. We will produce them in-house and consider use of external support We will hire external consultants to produce them We will require developers to produce them for appropriate schemes  Other (please specify) |
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| \* 14. At what scale will you use design codes? Please select one. Authority-wide For specific areas  For specific sites |

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| \* 15. How does your local authority engage communities on the design of major new developments? Pleas select as many as apply.Statutory consultation processes Public consultation events Opinion surveysTechnological means e.g. social mediaHands on design engagement exercise e.g. charrettes or enquiry by design Community panelOther (please specify) |
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| \* 16. What are the limitations you face in doing more to engage communities on design? Please select as many as apply.NoneLack of resources Lack of knowhowUnwillingness of developers or landownersOther (please specify) |
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| \* 17. Other than policies in your local plan, what other design guidance does your authority regularly use? Please select as many as apply.National Planning Practice Guidance National design guide 2019Building for Life 12 / Building for a Healthy Life Councillor's Companion for Design in Planning Design Companion for Planning & Placemaking Urban Design CompendiumBy DesignManual for Streets Local design guides Other (please specify) |
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| * 18. Do your non-design officers and councillors receive any design training?

Yes No* 1. Officers  If you answered yes, can you please specify what is the nature of this training?
	2. Councillors Yes   If you answered yes, can you please specify what is the nature of this training?

19. Do you have a Local Authority Design / Place Champion? No Yes. Please explain the nature of this appointment in the text box below |
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