

Guildford Design Guide (2017) – progress and proposals

The Design and Conservation team and its Principal Urban Designer are setting out to create a new Guildford Design Guide, as set out in the Corporate Plan.

Reasons for a new guidance document:

The current Guildford Residential Design Guide is 13 years old and needs updating for a number of reasons:

- The policy context has changed, even since a separate 2010 update to policy context.
- The new guide should cover non-residential development and most urban design principles are applicable to a wide range of uses.
- The design content of the guide should be expanded to include all good design principles on a wider range of topics.
- The readability of the document can be improved to ensure the guidance is user friendly and may be used by a wider range of stakeholders.
- Text and images should give a clearer indication what designers should and shouldn't do and make it easier to assess design proposals.

Work so far:

We have analysed and compared other design guides. Good examples, for various reasons, include:

- [Surrey Design Guide](#)
- [Southampton Residential design Guide](#)
- [Swindon Residential Design Guide](#)
- [South Oxfordshire Design Guide](#)

These can inform the content, layout, writing style and type of illustrations for the new Guildford Design Guide.

Proposed sections:

We propose to include the following sections, broadly following the order of the design process and scale from large to small:

- Introduction
- Policy Context
- Context and Character
- Masterplanning
- Urban Design
- Street Design
- Building Design
- Appendices

Next steps:

We will present the analysis of existing documents and proposals for the new Design Guide at the upcoming EAB meeting.