Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities

Design Code Pathfinder Programme Support Grant Prospectus
Rev A_8 July 2022

1.0 Summary

1.1 In this prospectus, we will explain the new Design Code Pathfinder Programme Support Grant and provide the information required to complete your application. The information is set out in the following parts:

> Part 1: Grant summary
> Part 2: How to apply
> Part 3: Timelines and processes
> Part 4: Scoring processes
> Part 5: Guidance for completing the application form

1.2 If you have any questions, please refer to our frequently asked questions or please get in touch, using the email address below. We will do our best to help.

1.3 Please refer to Part 5 of this document for further guidance on completing the application form.

Contacting the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)

1.4 General enquiries: *DesignQuality@levellingup.gov.uk*

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Government is committed to supporting and funding local authorities to ensure the planning system delivers more beautiful and sustainable buildings and places. That is why we've made a number of amendments to national planning policy, and are seeking to introduce a duty for all councils to produce a design code, as part of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill. We want to ensure that we support local authorities across England to produce design codes, and ensure they have the right skills and resources to do so.

2.2 The Office for Place, which sits within the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), has already supported 14 local councils last year to test the application of the National Model Design Code (NMDC). Independent monitoring and evaluation of the programme was conducted by UCL and PAS, who were able to shed light on specific areas of difficulty where local councils and communities needed additional support. A further 25 organisations (21 local authorities and four neighbourhood planning groups) have received a share of £3 million this year to produce exemplar design codes and design coding processes, for other areas to follow. The Office for Place recognises that this cohort will need additional place specific expert support, guidance and review of gathered data, which cannot be provided internally by DLUHC, in order to produce exemplar design codes that can be shared widely and provide best practice and lessons for other organisations preparing design codes.

2.3 The Design Code Pathfinder Programme Support Grant, alongside other areas of support provided by DLUHC, will enable the 25 Design Code Pathfinders to build their capacity and produce design codes that provide certainty to local communities and developers.

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2.4 Beyond this current programme, the Office for Place will continue to support communities to turn their visions of beautiful design into local standards all new development should meet. Government is considering whether to establish the Office for Place as an independent body.

Part 1: Grant summary

3.0 What is the Design Code Pathfinder Programme Support Grant?

3.1 The grant will fund a new training and capacity building support programme for local planning authorities, (including a development company and a national park authority) and neighbourhood planning groups. Through the grant, the 25 pathfinders will be supported by a range of built environment experts, with a geographical spread and with specialist expertise, who will work collaboratively with the pathfinders to review and test their local design codes.

3.2 Monitoring and evaluation of the programme is a required deliverable of this prospectus. We expect grantees to consider the learning already gathered during this current programme and review learning from the Phase One NMDC Pilot Testing Programme, as outlined in the monitoring and evaluation section below.

3.3 The Design Code Pathfinder Programme Support Grant sits alongside a wider programme of support to the 25 pathfinder authorities, including 21 local planning authorities and 4 neighbourhood planning groups. This wider support package includes thematic workshops, one to one support provided by the Office for Place, collective roundtables and the peer-to-peer networks. All pathfinders have committed to preparing a project plan at the start of the programme, that has been shared with DLUHC. The pathfinders will update their project plans over the course of the programme, to reflect changes in their programme and resourcing. Each pathfinder will also submit monthly reports to DLUHC during the course of the programme.

Table 1: Design code pathfinder support packages

Support type	Content	Timing
Thematic workshops		Month 2-9
2 hour online presentations and Q&A, recorded accompanied by one page summary text for quick access	- Community engagement - Skills, capacity and consultants - Beauty and placemaking - Context, area types and planning for change - Landowners, developers and viability - Climate mitigation and adaptation - Nature and green infrastructure - Active and sustainable transport - Health and wellbeing - Digital design codes - Design coding for applicants and development management - Design code testing and refinement	

One-to-one support	Month 1-15
Light touch critical friend role provided by DLUHC staff and handful of OfP TB members to support some pathfinders particularly with early project set-up or where support is needed most	Support might include: • Project set-up and procurement • Brief preparation • Consultant procurement • Community engagement • On-going responses to design code content
LA collective Roundtables and Peer-to-Peer support	Month 2-15
Quarterly collective roundtable sessions, in addition to flexible peer-to-peer sessions amongst teams sharing similar approaches	• Roundtable sessions in 3 groups allocated according to specific scales of design coding • Opportunity to network with other teams and build informal learning networks – peer-to-peer in groups of 3 and 4 • Templates for structured workshop sessions between matched teams, to discuss common issues and address possible solutions • Informal sessions with phase one testing teams to discuss common issues with coding and various scales, and how to overcome them • Neighbourhood Planning Groups to also be catered for with up to six flexible networking sessions
Neighbourhood planning group support package	Month 3-15
Locality appointed to deliver bespoke workshops and support to meet the specific needs of NPGs	• NPG-focused thematic workshops on skills and capacity, urban design principles, appointing consultants and the process for preparing neighbourhood design codes • One-to-one support • Learning network sessions
Virtual library of good practice examples	Month 1-15
Shared folder with all pilots to give access to presentations and recordings, as well as good examples of existing design codes for pilots to download and use	

3.4 We expect grantees to explain how the support offered through the grant programme will complement the work already ongoing (see table 1 above) to support the pathfinders.

4.0 Aims and objectives of the Design Code Pathfinder Programme Support Grant

4.1 The grant will ensure participating pathfinder organisations are able to produce exemplar design codes, which can serve as best practice to local authorities across England. The impact of the grant will:

a) Provide the opportunity for the pathfinder organisations to benefit from a range of technical expertise from built environment professionals with a wide geographical spread

b) Support the pathfinders to follow the coding process set out in the National Model Design Code

c) Enable the pathfinder organisations to set design standards which meet the aspirations of local communities who were engaged during the design coding process

d) Empower the pathfinder organisations to produce design codes which are clearly defined, concise and include well-illustrated design requirements

e) Ensure design codes are sensitive to local context and translate policy themes proposed by the pathfinder organisations into clearly illustrated and explicit parameters

f) Ensure completed design codes are concise, practical, easy to use and take into account viability considerations

g) Allow local authorities and community groups to access digestible and easy to use tools prepared as part of the monitoring and evaluation process

h) Ensure the lessons and examples from the programme are shared with all programme participants over the course of the programme period, and shared nationally so that other organisations can benefit from the learning and best practice.

5.0 Training and capacity building activities

5.1 By the time the successful bidder is ready to work with the pathfinder organisations, we expect each pathfinder to have a clear project plan that has been reviewed by The Office for Place, procured consultant support and have their design code documents underway. The proposed activities below should act as a guide to bidders, but we welcome innovative approaches to training and capacity building covering a wider spectrum of activities.

5.2 Proposals for training, capacity building and support activities should:

a) Allow the pathfinders to draw on expert input and advice, in a range of areas including planning, urban design, landscape design, architecture and street design

b) Provide place specific expertise, with the ability to draw on a network of experts based across England

c) Allow the pathfinders to test the technical content and the useability of their documents in a discursive and collaborative environment

d) Be complementary to the current programme of support that Office for Place are providing to the pathfinders, this includes peer-to-peer engagement, thematic workshops and collective roundtable workshops

e) Provide a setting where pathfinders can bring their draft design codes and coding challenges and questions and have opportunities to review and discuss alternative solutions

f) Help pathfinders to prioritise the areas in their code to mandate and those that need more flexibility, to ensure their code meets the local context.

6.0 Monitoring and evaluation
   Lessons so far

6.1 The Phase One NMDC Pilot Testing Programme ran for six months from April to September 2021. From the monitoring and evaluation of the testing programme, we identified several key findings that should inform the support, training and capacity building proposals responding to this

prospectus, that must include the monitoring and evaluation of the Design Code Pathfinder Programme.

6.2 Please refer to the summary lessons in point a) to e) below and the further suggested topics in points i) to iii) below.

6.3 There will need to be flexibility to reflect issues faced by the current design code pathfinders, but the following are suggested themes to monitor and evaluate:

a) **Time and Resources required to code**
   Pilots in the Phase One NMDC Testing Programme found difficulty with the amount of time and resources required to produce a design code, including carrying out effective engagement.

b) **Area types**
   There are multiple approaches that could be taken to applying area-types as suggested in the NMDC. Some local authorities had difficulty using area types and needed more guidance or support to define and apply them effectively.

c) **Skills and capacity**
   Most local authorities without in-house urban design capacity were reliant on consultants to lead the coding process. In-house skills that were lacking included urban design, graphic presentation and communication, financial viability and digital engagement.

d) **Working with consultants**
   Consultants provide external expertise which can bring in wider knowledge and perspective. The Pilots in the Phase One NMDC Testing Programme felt further support/guidance on selecting and working with consultants would be helpful. Regardless of the need for external consultancy support, inhouse skills are important to manage the preparation, adoption and implementation of a design code and client leadership skills are also essential.

e) **Viability**
   Testing viability and effective engagement with developers and landowners was an important finding from the Pilots in the Phase One NMDC Testing Programme, to ensure the expectations of design codes are deliverable.

6.4 We have also identified further topics of potential exploration in the Pathfinders' monitoring and evaluation:

i) **Digital tools**
   This could be a review of Pathfinders who specifically adopted digital platforms to help with the production of their codes – this should help us to understand the role of digital templates and the level of standardisation that is possible.

ii) **Incorporating key policy themes**
   The Pathfinders have identified several policy themes to explore in their local design codes, including net zero, health and wellbeing, biodiversity and active travel. We would like to understand how these policy themes are considered throughout the coding process and incorporated into design coding documents.

iii) **Implications for future support programmes**
   We would like to identify any wider support that local authorities and communities would benefit from in order to facilitate the creation and use of design codes.

6.5 Proposals for the programme of monitoring and evaluation should:

   a) Show how the grantee will engaging with the pathfinders through the current programme of support as well as during the programme set out under training and capacity building activities, above

   b) Show how the grantee will prepare succinct and easy to use tools and guidance that will help other local authorities and neighbourhood planning groups preparing design codes, across England

   c) Show how the grantee will gather and share the learning from the programme of support within the programme and more widely, so that lessons can be shared promptly and in an easily digestible format, be it digitally or as short papers produced during the programme rather on completion.

6.6 The commitment for this funding represents a potential of investment of up to £450,000 covering the period July 2022 to May 2023, though this is subject to satisfactory performance as part of on-going monitoring of progress and continued funding available from the new Design Code Pathfinders Programme Support Grant. Prospective bidders should endeavour to illustrate excellent value for money, and a strong focus on achieving sustained outcomes for local authorities and communities.

6.7 The indicative budgets are a guide for bidders. We expect bidders to cost accordingly; specifying the amount of contact time spent with each pathfinder, define the types of support, capacity building, monitoring and evaluation activities which will be offered and demonstrate when support will occur (including a project programme), and how the support programme will be administered. The application form will give bidders the opportunity to provide costs for activities that will be undertaken to facilitate the delivery of the objectives. DLUHC will seek to ensure that bids are cost effective and present best value for money.

7.0 Audience

7.1 The 25 pathfinder organisations were selected on the merits of their expression of interest and in order to obtain a geographical spread across England. There are four neighbourhood planning groups and 21 local planning authorities (see annex). We expect that this support package will be aimed primarily at the 21 local authorities, which includes a number of district councils and county councils, as well as a development corporation (covering five local planning authorities) and one national park authority; however; we would like the four neighbourhood planning groups to also benefit from this support, even if their design codes haven't made sufficient progress within the timescale of this programme. We expect bidders responding to this prospectus to give some consideration to the specific challenges encountered by specific pathfinder groups, and to propose an approach to support which takes these factors into account eg the challenge of producing an area wide design code which spans a number of markedly different contexts and area types.

8.0 Outputs and outcomes

8.1 We would like to see applicants specifying the outputs they will deliver from the grant, for example in terms of the number of design codes effectively reviewed, the types of training and

support provided, time spent with planning officers. We expect applications to outline the outcomes secured at the end of the 12 month work programme, and want to see an indication of how these might be measured and monitored.

9.0 What are we looking for?

9.1 We would like to hear from applicants who have previously played a role in providing expert enabling support to local authorities and community groups across the country, to help them improve design outcomes in their local area.

9.2 We would like to see evidence demonstrating your organisation has championed the role of good design and has a national reach to be able to draw on a range of expertise including urban design, landscape design, planning, architecture, masterplanning and street design.

9.3 The bidding organisation must be able to demonstrate experience of engaging organisations in issues around climate change and net zero, sustainable travel, community engagement (including diversity and inclusion). We want to see demonstration of addressing these issues in project work as well as research.

9.4 The expert input must demonstrate skills and experience to test and review different types of design code.

The expert input must be drawn from across England.

An eligible organisation may wish to involve other partners in a consortium bid. The application should highlight the role envisaged for each body and the skills that they bring.

10.0 Eligibility

10.1 An organisation is eligible to apply for grant funding if:
- It is a third sector organisation that falls within the scope of the Charities Act 2006 definition of being a charitable, benevolent or philanthropic institution.
- The total grant received from Government (including this grant application) is less than 50 percent of the organisation's annual income in its accounting year ended in 2022, as demonstrated through its audited annual accounts. This is to ensure that the organisation does not become liable for consideration as an Arms Length Body.
- It is a corporate body or has a formal constitution if not incorporated.
- It has a proven track record of delivering training and support to local authorities and community groups that will improve their inhouse capacity to produce design codes.
- It has a proven track record of monitoring and evaluating outcomes from engagement.

10.2 This list is not exhaustive. Advice should he sought if an applicant believed that the status of their organisation is not listed.

11.0 Process for assessing applications

11.1 A gateway criteria assessment will be applied to all applications received by the closing date. This process will involve confirmation of eligibility and completion of due diligence checks using standard government tools and procedures.

11.2 Applications passing the gateway assessment will be evaluated against four specific categories: The Applicant, The Proposal, Outputs and Outcomes, and Cost and Value for Money.

11.3 The evaluation process is described in Part 4 of the prospectus. The evaluation will lead to the identification of a preferred bidder. We will then begin a process of negotiation and refinement of the proposals to assist in the development of the Grant funding award and agreement. The negotiation will include a review of the proposed pricing schedule and responses to the application information.

11.4 Bidders should be aware that their application should not be seen as a full and final offer, DLUHC reserves the right to negotiate and amend bids accordingly with successful applicants. Applicants should also be aware that DLUHC reserves the right to invite multiple preferred bidders for negotiation and refinement of any bids made.

11.5 DLUHC reserves the right not to award the Grant.

12.0 Roles and responsibilities

12.1 DLUHC is providing funding for the new Design Code Pathfinders Grant. DLUHC will assess bids and provide funding to directly chosen organisations. Roles and responsibilities for both parties are detailed below:

DLUHC role:
- Promote the new Design Code Pathfinders Grant
- Review funding proposals against the scoring criteria set out in Part 4 of this document
- Undertake due diligence
- Determine allocation of funding based on the published scoring criteria
- Notify applicants of funding decisions.
- Establish Grant Funding Agreement with selected organisation
- Provide funding as agreed in the Grant Funding Agreement
- Co-design the programme of training and support with the grantee
- Establish and undertake a monitoring and evaluation regime for the duration of the project
- Host the monthly reporting meeting, of which grantees will attend

Organisation's role:
- Ensure proposals submitted are in the standardised form and contain clear costings, milestones, outputs and outcomes for activities
- Co-operate fully with the assessment and due diligence process
- If selected for funding, grantee must sign a Grant Funding Agreement with DLUHC
- If selected for funding, grantees must deliver proposals in line with agreed plans, within timescales and to budget
- If selected for funding, grantees must work collaboratively with DLUHC to prepare a programme of support that meets the needs of the pathfinder organisations
- Grantees must participate in monitoring and evaluation as set out in Section 5
- Grant recipients will observe the requirements of PCR 2015 Public Contract Regulations

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13.0 VAT statement

13.1 DLUHC intends to award a Grant to stimulate this activity. This Grant will be governed by a Grant Funding Agreement. DLUHC does not intend for there to be a contractual relationship with the Grant Recipient. It intends paying the Grant on the receipt of acceptable progress reports, a Grant claim form, and the delivery of agreed outcomes. It will not pay the Grant on the basis of an invoice. In consequence, applicants must reassure themselves as to their VAT liability – either to be paid or unable to be recovered.

13.2 Any Grant award will not be increased subsequently to meet unforeseen VAT costs. The proposed budget submitted by the applicant should be based net of recoverable VAT costs in line with VAT rules of grant payments.

14.0 Governance, monitoring and evaluation

14.1 Grantees must comply with the Design Code Pathfinders Support Programme Grant governance, monitoring, and evaluation requirements, which are as follow:

Governance

14.2 Grantees will be in regular contact with DLUHC to both co-design the programme of support and monitoring evaluation and to report on expenditure and progress.

14.3 The grant outcomes and expenditure will be recorded and monitored on a monthly basis. The monitoring meeting attendance will comprise of:
- Chair (DLUHC Lead)
- Programme Manager (DLUHC)
- Programme Providers Representatives

Monitoring

14.4 On a monthly basis, the grantee will be expected to provide a reporting update to DLUHC. The grantee will be expected to provide a report based on monthly performance against the agreed outputs.

15. Success and impact

15.1 Success and impact of the programme will be evaluated against the core outputs listed in table 2 during the monthly review meetings. The evaluation process will be comprised of the following methods:
The grantee will be expected to complete an evaluation at the end of the delivery period. DLUHC will provide a template for the programme. The grantee will also be asked to produce a statement of Grant usage upon the completion of the Grant period.

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Part 2: How to apply

To apply, please email: DesignQuality@levellingup.gov.uk and attach pdf documents setting out your response to the questions included below by **5pm on 18 July 2022**, noting the page limits for each question.

Applicants will be able to raise questions and concerns with DLUHC's Design Quality Team whilst the competition is open. All relevant questions and answers will be published on GOV.UK on a weekly basis. We recommend regularly checking the website whilst the competition is open.

Part 3: Timelines and process

Competition launch date	20 June 2022
Competition end date	18 July
Scoring bids: week commencing	18 July
Interviews with preferred bidders	w/c 25 July
Approval and confirmation of awards	w/c 1 August
Grantee mobilisation and completion of grant funding agreement	w/c 1 Aug – 5 Sept
New Design Code Pathfinder Support grant agreement to commence	5 Sept 2022

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Part 4: Scoring process

16.0 Marking guidance and scoring

16.1 Bids will be assessed by a panel comprised of representatives from DLUHC against the criteria listed in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Assessment criteria

1. The Organisation			Scoring
Governance of the organisation including financial resilience	1a	• Provide a charity registration number (if applicable) or company registration (number if applicable) • Detail the governance structure of the organisation and a statement setting out the purpose of the organisation. • Provide an organisation organogram *DLUHC will conduct its own due diligence as to the financial resilience of the organisation. Organisations failing this criteria will be disqualified*	Pass or Fail
Relevant knowledge and experience (5 pages max)	1b	Describe your understanding of the related issues in improving design outcomes in the built environment and the stakeholders involved	Out of 5
	1c	Describe your recent experience of managing similar projects, specifically projects relating to design coding and local authority support	Out of 5
	1d	Describe your experience delivering a national support offer, setting out the values, and the outcomes achieved	Out of 5
	1e	Briefly describe the experience and qualifications of key individuals who will make up the project team. We welcome consortium bids: please briefly describe the experience and qualifications of key individuals in the consortium team, summarise the scope of each partner's work, the proposed roles and responsibilities for each organisation	Out of 5
			Max score **20**
2. The Proposal – outputs			
The proposed activity (5 pages max)	2a	Provide details of the proposed activity including: The type of support and training to the pathfinder organisations and how this will be delivered, and how this will complement the wider support package offered by DLUHC and the Office for Place	Out of 10
	2b	A description of the range of expertise that will be deployed to respond to different design codes in different locations, setting out how pathfinders benefit from a range of technical expertise from built environment professionals with a wide geographical spread	Out of 10
	2c	Provide details of the monitoring and evaluation activities that will ensure lessons are applicable not only to the 25	Out of 10

		pathfinders participating in this programme but that short, digestible tools and guidance are available to others preparing design codes, nationally	
Timetable for delivery (1 page)	2d	Provide a project programme plan showing the key milestones and how the programme of support will overlap with the rest of the support package (workshops, peer to peer)	Out of 10
			Max score **40**
3. Outcomes			
Outcomes and realisation (2 pages max)	3a	Describe the benefit of the programme for pathfinder organisations. Applicants should describe how they intend to monitor the effectiveness of the programme on the delivery of outcomes. Applicants should also describe how the outcomes are sustainable and long lasting, and how they will impact other local authorities outside of the pathfinder cohort	Out of 10
			Max score **10**
4. Costs and Value for Money			
Cost	4a	Provide a programme budget by quarter which includes a breakdown of the costs of staffing, supplies and services, contribution to overheads, and any irrecoverable VAT. *DLUHC will assess this criterion based upon its quoted costs for the work*	Out of 10
Value for Money	4b	DLUHC will assess value for money by comparing the anticipated outcomes and outputs with the cost	Out of 10
Risk assessment (1 page max)	4c	Provide a risk assessment highlighting the key risks, including fraud, to the programme and the way in which they are to be managed. Please list your top three risks and how you intend to mitigate them.	Out of 10
			Max score **30**
			Total max score 100

16.2 Scores out of 5 will be assessed as follows:
  0   Failed to demonstrate an understanding of any of the requirements
  3   Met some of the requirements but did not demonstrate a full understanding of all the requirements
  5   Demonstrated a full understanding and meet all the requirements asked for in the brief

16.3 Scores out of 10 will be assessed as follows:
  0   Failed to demonstrate an understanding of any of the requirements
  5   Met some of the requirements but did not demonstrate a full understanding of all the requirements
  10 Demonstrated a full understanding and meet all the requirements asked for in the brief

16.4 The scores for all the criteria will be added to give a total score for the application. The maximum total score is 100. The total score will be used to compare against other applications.

16.5 The score against each criterion will also inform the interview stage. The interview will help to clarify any questions raised by the initial submission and adjustments may be made to the original score. The application with the highest total score will be selected as the grant recipient.

16.6 DLUHC reserves the right to vary these conditions and the right to either withdraw or reduce the funding if reasonably required, in line with the terms and conditions set out within the Grant Funding Agreement.

Part 5: Guidance for completing the application form
Completing the form
- The application form can be downloaded from the GOV.UK website
- We will only accept applications from organisations that meet the eligibility criteria as detailed in Part 1 of this guidance.
- Please complete all the questions on the application form. Incomplete applications forms will not be considered.
- Proposals submitted are not final documents and DLUHC reserves the right to amend bids accordingly with successful applicants.

PCR 2015 Public Contract Regulations
Please check the box to confirm that if your application is successful, and you become a Grant recipient, you will observe the requirements of PCR 2015 Public Contract Regulations.

Freedom of Information
The Freedom of Information Act 2000 gives members of the public the right to request any information that we hold. This includes information received from third parties, such as, although not limited to grant applicants, grant holders, contractors and people making a complaint.

If information is requested under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 we will release it, subject to exemptions; although we may choose to consult with you first. If you think that information you are providing may be exempt from release if requested, you should let us know when you apply.

Deadline for applications
All applications must be completed in full and received by **5pm on 18 July 2022**.
Please ensure you submit:
- Completed application form
- Project plan Gantt Chart
- Organisation organogram
- Confirmation the organisation holds public liability insurance, evidence of adequate insurance (see Annex A)

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Annex A

Policy	Insurer/Broker	Policy No.	Limit (£m)	Exces s (£)	Next Renewal Date
Employers' Liability					
Public Liability					
Professional Indemnity					
Other:					

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Responses to questions

1. *Are you able to share the Pathfinder Authorities development plans?*

   We cannot share these at this stage of the application process, but we will share them with the successful bidder(s).

2. *Are you able to provide further details of DLUHC's programme plan including details of any engagement with pathfinders, including whether the engagement specified as part of this package has been scheduled?*

   Please see the table below:

   Summary project timetable

Activity	Description	Timescale
Programme set up	Prepare briefs and set up pathfinder support activities	February to August 2022
Pathfinder project plan preparation	Short documents setting out project aims, objectives, resourcing and programme	April to end May 2022
Nhd Planning Group support programme	Locality running Nhd Plan focused workshops, direct support and learning network sessions	Set up: April to end June 2022 Programme delivery: July 2022-end May 2023
Direct support to all pathfinders	Progress review meetings including visits to pathfinder organisations	June 2022 to end May 2023
Thematic workshops	Presentation sessions on a range of themes relevant to pathfinder organisations	April to October 2022
Collective roundtables	Pathfinders grouped as: • Authority-wide design codes • Mixed use, town centres, brownfield • Urban extensions, new settlements, estates	June 2022 – May 2023
Peer-to-peer support	Groups of three to four LA pathfinders, meeting monthly to learn from each other	June 2022 – May 2023

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3. *Was there a baseline established at the beginning of the programme in terms of the Pathfinders capacity, skills and maturity of existing coding?*

Yes, as part of the expression of interest for the design code pathfinder programme, we asked each pathfinder to describe how they will resource the preparation and management of the design code, and to describe their ambitions for their design code, including whether/how it will be adopted. The project plans that each pathfinder prepared, and will continue to update, includes considerations around resourcing, project programme as well as managing the quality of the design code and how it will meet the aspirations of the community, and how communities will engage with its preparation.

4. *Can you provide details of the type of codes each of the Pathfinders will be developing in terms of scale, typology, focus?*

Name	Region	Context	Code type
Darlington Borough Council	North East	Suburban	Urban extn, new settlement, estates
Carlisle City Council	North West	Suburban	Urban extn, new settlement, estates
Lake District National Park Authority	North West	Rural	Authority wide
Trafford Council	North West	Suburban	Authority wide
City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council	Yorkshire and Humber	Urban	Authority wide
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	Yorkshire and Humber	Urban, suburban, rural	Authority wide
East Midlands DevCo	East Mids	Suburban	Town centre/ brownfield sites
Gedling Borough Council	East Mids	Urban	Authority wide
Mansfield District Council	East Mids	Urban	Town centre/ brownfield sites
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council	West Mids	Urban, suburban	Town centre/ brownfield sites
Shropshire Council	West Mids	Urban	Town centre/ brownfield sites
Epping Forest District Council	East of Eng	Suburban	Urban extn, new settlement, estates
Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service	East of Eng	Suburban	Urban extn, new settlement, estates
Uttlesford District Council	East of Eng	Rural	Authority wide
Brent Council	London	Urban	Town centre/ brownfield sites
London Borough of Barking and Dagenham	London	Suburban	Urban extn, new settlement, estates
Medway Council	South East	Urban	Town centre/ brownfield sites
Reigate and Banstead Borough Council	South East	Urban	Authority wide
Surrey County Council	South East	Urban, suburban, rural	Authority wide

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Name	Region	Context	Code type
Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole Council	South West	Urban	Town centre/ brownfield sites
Teignbridge District Council	South West	Suburban	Urban extn, new settlement, estates
Bacup & Stacksteads Neighbourhood Forum	North West	Urban, suburban, rural	Nhd Plan area wide
Finsbury Park and Stroud Green	London	Urban	Nhd Plan area wide
South Woodford Neighbourhood Forum	London	Suburban	Nhd Plan area wide
Weymouth Town Council	South West	Urban, suburban, rural	Nhd Plan area wide

5. *Can you advise whether the Pathfinder Authorities have already been organised into cohorts and if so the rationale behind the groupings?*

Please see response to Q4 above.

6. *Can you confirm what additional support as part of the packages provided by The Office for Place has already taken place. Please can you also confirm what content and data has been collected from these?*

DLUHC-led support programme

DLUHC-led support	Description	Timing/ frequency
Individual pathfinder updates	DLUHC/individual pathfinders to discuss progress, including visits to individual pathfinder organisations. Notes and tracking sheets recording progress	Fortnightly (flexible based on requirements by Pathfinders)
Feedback reports	Progress gathered via Microsoft Form from each pathfinder and data collated to compare	Monthly
Thematic workshops	Sessions invite experts to present and answer questions on key themes, technical coding processes and topics covered in the NMDC. (Online, recorded sessions)	12 currently planned (Between April and October 2022)
Collective Roundtables	Pathfinders are grouped based on the coverage and themes of their design codes and can present and talk collectively about their challenges at each of the coding stages (as described in NMDC). (Online, recorded sessions)	Quarterly (flexible)
Peer-to-peer support	Groups of three to four LA pathfinders sharing learning with each other. (Unrecorded sessions and not attended by DLUHC)	Monthly (or to suit pathfinder groups)

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7. *Can you clarify who will hold the main relationship with the Pathfinder Authorities? Would this be held directly by the Department for the duration of the programme?*

DLUHC will continue to hold the main relationship with the pathfinder authorities and welcomes proposals for how the bidding organisation(s) will support and add to this relationship and what level of independence is required in order for the prospectus outcomes to achieved.

8. *Are partial bids acceptable for particular sections of the prospectus, such as the Monitoring and Evaluation stage?*

We cannot accept partial bids as part of this process. We will accept consortium bids as described in the prospectus.