



Title: Draft Buckinghamshire Design Code consultation.

Open date: 14 April 2026

Close date: 12 May 2026

Name: Planning Policy Team

Phone: 01296 383698

Email: planningpolicyteam.bc@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Overview

We want to hear your views on the draft Buckinghamshire Design Code for new developments in Buckinghamshire.

About the Design Code

The Design Code sets out county-wide design requirements for all new development to ensure that new development in Buckinghamshire is of high quality.

The requirements in the Design Code will give applicants greater certainty about the council's expectations for the approach to design and the quality of outcomes.

The Design Code is not location specific. For larger developments, applicants will be required to prepare detailed location specific design codes or guides to support their developments.

How we developed the Design Code

Much of the content of the design codes has come from existing local design guidance, including the Aylesbury Vale Design Guide and the Wycombe District

Residential Design Guidance, which has been used and tested through examination.

The Design Code has also been developed with regard to the content and principles contained in national design guidance.

Relationship of the Design Code with the new Local Plan for Buckinghamshire

The Design Code will compliment and work together with design related policy in the new Local Plan for Buckinghamshire.

The Design Code will sit as an appendix to the local plan and be directly linked to policy. The Design Code will have the same weight as local plan policy in decision making.

Related documents and links

Before you respond to this activity, please have a look at the Draft Buckinghamshire Design Code, which is available on Your Voice Bucks at yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/planning/design-code

How to have your say

You can tell us your views by

- completing the online survey at Your Voice Bucks: yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/planning/design-code
- complete, and return, a printed copy of this document to Draft Buckinghamshire Design Code, Planning Policy, Buckinghamshire Council, Walton Street, Aylesbury, HP20 1UA
- email us at planningpolicyteam.bc@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

If you have any questions about this activity, or require this information in another format or language, please email us at planningpolicyteam.bc@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Please tell us your views by 11:59pm on 12 May 2026.

What happens next

We will use the feedback you provide in this consultation to update the Buckinghamshire Design Code, which will be published as part of the Local Plan for Buckinghamshire for final feedback in July 2026. The Design Code and the Local Plan and any amendments will then be submitted to the government's Planning Inspectorate in December 2026.

Privacy

We will use the information you provide here only for this activity. We will store the information securely in line with data protection laws and will not share or publish any personal details. Survey responses will be analysed using Microsoft products including Copilot, Excel and Word. For more information about data and privacy, please see our [Privacy Policy](#).

If you have questions about data and privacy, please email us on dataprotection@buckinghamshire.gov.uk or write to our Data Protection Officer at Buckinghamshire Council, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8FF.

The draft Buckinghamshire Design Code – printed survey

The draft Buckinghamshire Design Code sets out requirements for selected key design topic areas, including:

- Context
- Identity
- Built Form
- Movement
- Nature
- Homes and Buildings
- Resources

Please respond on as many or as few topics as you wish.

Context

Well-designed places are those that are grounded in a thorough understanding of their site, context, history and culture, ensuring new development integrates positively with its surroundings, strengthens local character, and fosters a strong sense of place, belonging and community cohesion.

1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the requirements in the 'context' topic area?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

If you have any comments on the 'context' topic area, including the reasons for your answer above, please tell us here:

Identity

A place's identity arises from the combined experience of its buildings, spaces, landscape and community, with well-designed, sustainable and visually attractive environments that reflect local character fostering pride, well-being, inclusivity and a strong sense of belonging.

2. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the requirements in the 'identity' topic area?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

If you have any comments on the 'identity' topic area, including the reasons for your answer above, please tell us here:

Built form

Built form is the three-dimensional arrangement of buildings, streets and spaces that together shape a place's character, supporting walkable, sustainable, recognisable and memorable environments where people can comfortably live, work and visit.

3. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the requirements in the 'built form' topic area?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

If you have any comments on the 'built form' topic area, including the reasons for your answer above, please tell us here:

Movement

A well-designed movement network creates safe, accessible and sustainable connections that shape the character and quality of places by prioritising walking, cycling and public transport, supporting social interaction and well-being, and integrating green infrastructure while efficiently linking people to destinations within and beyond a site.

4. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the requirements in the 'movement' topic area?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

If you have any comments on the 'movement' topic area, including the reasons for your answer above, please tell us here:

Nature

Well-designed places integrate existing and new natural features into accessible, multifunctional green networks that enhance quality of place, support biodiversity and climate resilience, and promote health, well-being, and social inclusion.

5. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the requirements in the 'nature' topic area?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

If you have any comments on the 'nature' topic area, including the reasons for your answer above, please tell us here:

Homes and Buildings

Well-designed homes and buildings create healthy, inclusive, adaptable and attractive environments that meet diverse user needs, support wellbeing and social interaction, and integrate unobtrusively into their surrounding spaces.

6. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the requirements in the 'homes and buildings' topic area?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

If you have any comments on the 'homes and buildings' topic area, including the reasons for your answer above, please tell us here:

Resources

Well-designed places use land and resources efficiently, minimise carbon emissions, and enhance climate mitigation and adaptation by creating compact, walkable, adaptable environments that reduce energy demand, support ecosystems, and lessen risks such as flooding, overheating, and pollution.

7. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the requirements in the 'resources' topic area?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

If you have any comments on the 'resources' topic area, including the reasons for your answer above, please tell us here:

General comments

8. If you have any other comments on the Design Code, please tell us here.

About you

We will use the information you provide here only for the purpose of this activity. We will store the information securely in line with data protection laws and will not share or publish any personal details.

9. Which of the following describe you?

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- I live in Buckinghamshire
- I work in Buckinghamshire
- I study in Buckinghamshire
- I represent or own a business in Buckinghamshire
- I am a developer or planner in Buckinghamshire
- I represent a community or voluntary group in Buckinghamshire
- I am an elected representative in Buckinghamshire
- I represent a Parish / Town Council or Town Committee in Buckinghamshire
- I work for Buckinghamshire Council
- Other (please give details below):

10. How did you find out about this consultation?

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- Local media (newspaper, radio, TV, website or newsfeed)
- Social media (Facebook, Twitter/X, Instagram, Nextdoor or LinkedIn)
- Buckinghamshire Council website or Your Voice Bucks website
- Email or newsletter from Buckinghamshire Council
- Buckinghamshire Council staff or other professionals
- Through working at Buckinghamshire Council
- Poster or leaflet
- Friend or family member
- Local community or special interest group
- Councillor, town/parish council or community board
- Other (please give details below):

11. Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation (e.g. a business or a voluntary group)?

Please tick (✓) one option

- As an individual (go to question 13)
- On behalf of an organisation

On behalf of an organisation

12. Please provide the following details:

Name of organisation:

Your job title:

End of survey if responding on behalf of an organisation

More about you

We want to hear from as many people as possible to understand the views and needs across Buckinghamshire. The following questions help us see if the communities we serve have had the opportunity to be heard through this activity.

All questions are optional. You can skip any questions you do not wish to answer.

13. What is your postcode?

We want to understand the views of people living in different areas. You don't have to provide your postcode, but it helps us plan and make considered decisions.

14. What is your age?

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of different age groups.

Please tick (✓) one option

- Under 16
- 16 to 24
- 25 to 34
- 35 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65 to 74
- 75 to 84
- Over 85
- Prefer not to say

15. Do you consider yourself to have a disability / disabilities, impairment(s) or long term health condition(s)?

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of disabled people, people with impairments and people with long term health conditions.

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- Disability / disabilities
- Impairment(s)
- Long term health condition(s)
- No
- Prefer not to say

16. Are you:

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of different sexes.

Please tick (✓) one option

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to say

17. How would you describe your ethnicity?

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of different ethnicities.

Please tick (✓) one option

- Asian - British
- Asian - Bangladeshi
- Asian - Chinese
- Asian - Indian
- Asian - Pakistani
- Any other Asian background - Please give details below
- Black - African
- Black - British
- Black - Caribbean
- Any other Black, African or Caribbean background - Please give details below
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Asian
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black African
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black British
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black Caribbean
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - Mixed or Multiple Ethnic backgrounds British
- Any other Mixed or Multiple ethnic background - Please give details below
- White - English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British
- White - Irish
- White - Gypsy or English traveller
- White - Irish Traveller
- White - European
- Any other White background - Please give details below
- Other ethnic group - Arab
- Other ethnic group - Arab British
- Other ethnic group - Please give details below
- Prefer not to say

Please give other details here:

End of the survey

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

Please return your completed survey by 11:59pm on 12 May 2026.

You can:

- email it to planningpolicyteam.bc@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
- post it to Draft Buckinghamshire Design Code, Planning Policy, Buckinghamshire Council, Walton Street, Aylesbury, HP20 1UA