



Courtesy: PTE Architects

Creating & Applying Codes

05/04/2022

- **The focus, objectives, and scope of the code should be clear and concise, while allowing flexibility for certain elements.** The scope will shift as the project progresses and policy and guidance might change as the project is underway, so it's important to look ahead and mitigate any program delays. Having some contingency funding if possible will facilitate divergent work streams or building synergies in this case, and speaking to potential suppliers in regards to budget and resourcing will help better shape the scope for your tender.
- **Undertake a character assessment and analysis if needed and ensure clarity on the architectural response/style.** This is a key first step of the procurement of codes when there is no existing character work or when the existing work needs to be updated to include missing aspects of character and conform to latest guidance. Design codes can then be used as site specific tools to build upon the masterplan by adding a further layer of detail, thus shaping and developing the design vision, which will set clarity of expectation of standards.
- **When writing the tender you should set the foundations for strong partnership working, with both your consultant and client team.** Discuss the shared vision for the output of the character study and code with your colleagues and engage the public in this process through consultation early on. This will inform the direction and approach of the study and design coding. It is also important to define which stakeholder groups need to be engaged from the outset and whose responsibility it is to build capacity. Consider any tasks the client team can undertake in advance and feed into the process.
- **Consider the intended audience when formulating the structure, content, tone, and status of the output and interrogate it,** especially when the code might be utilised to assess applications and provide feedback to applicants. Digital outputs can be a really engaging tool and succinct, short, coherent, and usable documents are desirable, while a modular approach should be taken when the document needs to be longer. There is an opportunity in digital coding to also build up certain compliance measures that can be automated, such as a compliance tracker, which set up clear expectations and speed up compliance assessment. Having nation wide access to that type of tech can also ensure more consistency.



Courtesy: PTE Architects

Speakers:

Garreth Bruff, Principal Consultant, PAS

Mark Leitner-Murphy, Associate, Allies & Morrison

Louisa Facchino-Stack, Principal Urban Design Project Officer, LB Hounslow

Trovine Monteiro, Manager, Built Environment for Cambridge City and SCDC, Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service

Sarah Christie, Swindon BC

Nicole Gillett, Senior Planner, Swindon BC

Georgina Murray, Digital Planning Content Lead, Open Systems Lab

Attendees: 88