

Explaining Design Intent: Design and Access Statement Template

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ABOUT	<p>This resource was produced by Abre Etteh as part of a year-long placement as a Public Practice Associate at Merton Council.</p> <p>Guidance for using the resource can be found below and within the worksheets.</p> <p>Feedback to help update this resource and inform future research is welcome. If you are interested in contributing, have any questions or comments, please send a message to abre@gmail.com</p>

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT TEMPLATE

This resource has been developed to improve the quality of information submitted as part of planning applications for new homes on small sites (0.25 Ha). Design and access statements are intended to help applicants convey the design thinking behind their proposals and to demonstrate that proposals will be accessible to all users. The information included in design and access statements can often be short on detail and the quality. This is especially the case for schemes on small sites.

The template prompts applicants to provide all the relevant information required in written and visual forms to successfully assess the planning application. This resource has the potential to improve the design quality of schemes by prompting designers to carefully consider the information submitted for planning approval.

OBJECTIVES

The critical objectives and functions of this resource are:

- To be nationally applicable but customisable to local context, allowing Authorities to input content that aligns with local priorities and/or policies e.g. net zero carbon, as well as site specific issues e.g. infrastructure;
- To address widely accepted attributes of good-quality, inclusive places and buildings, aligned with national legislation;
- To enable applicants provide information proportionate to the scale of the proposed development;

THE TOOL

The resource, titled '[Design and Access Statement Template](#)', is available as a downloadable Word file to be universally accessible.

It addresses the key design and access headings of:

- Brief;
- Context;
- Access;
- Layout and Use;
- Scale and Appearance;
- Landscape;
- Heritage, and;
- Sustainability.

A submission checklist is included at the end of the document, which summarises all required information noted in each section of the document. Authorities may amend this list to include additional items related to the local context.

