



THE MASTER PLANNING PROCESS

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A master plan is an overarching planning document and spatial layout which is used to structure land use and development.

'Master plan' is an all-encompassing term. Its scope can range from 10 year implementation at the regional scale, to an illustrative plan of small scale groups of buildings.

There is no formal process for master planning and every design team will have their own individual approach. In order to demonstrate the opportunities for maximising the benefits of combining SuDS with the design vision, a typical master planning process has been developed, and it is shown here.

Stages A – B form the preparation stages of the process, where the brief for the master plan is developed and the baseline analysis is conducted. Stages C – E step through the design process, moving from strategic land use arrangements to a concept design of streets and buildings. Broadly speaking, there are three key land use components to consider in the master planning process as design moves towards more detailed proposals:



Prepare. Define. Design

	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	document aspirations
A	OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE	viability, feasibility, pragmatic
	CONTEXT APPRAISAL	understanding the baseline and how a place works
В	SPATIAL FRAMEWORK	opportunities and constraints
	ASSEMBLE MASTER PLANNING TEAM	the right range of skills for the team

INITIAL TESTING	
LAND USE & DESTINATION	land use distributions and relationships
KEY CONNECTIONS	strategic connections between destinations
OPEN SPACES	connected green infrastructure
MASTER PLAN OPTION TESTING	

	PREFERRED STRATEGY	
	BLOCK STRUCTURE	patterns of blocks and density areas
D	MOVEMENT FRAMEWORK	street hierarchies and the character of routes
	OPEN SPACE NETWORK	functions and characters of open space
	BUSINESS CASE	

	DESIGN REFINEMENT	
	CONCEPT ARCHITECTURE	character areas and building typologies
	CONCEPT STREET DESIGN	highways and streets
	CONCEPT LANDSCAPES	open spaces and public realm
	DEVELOPER BRIEF OR GUIDELINES	