



How to create a successful Multidisciplinary Team

“The best multidisciplinary teams bring together problem solvers and technical specialists. They find creative ways to deliver what their clients need.”

Choosing multidisciplinary teams to deliver development has clear advantages. Procurement is simplified and the right specialists can be brought together for a holistic project approach. Greater communication and established relationships within the team can lead to better solutions and a smoother process. Set up well, day-to-day liaison, monitoring and administration can be entirely outsourced leaving clients time and space to take the long view.



The Lyng Masterplan review

“Start with a strong brief that is clear on outcomes. Outsource the day-to-day work and leave the ‘how’ to your team.”

1 Start with a clear brief

What outcome do you want to achieve? What problems do you need to solve? Provide as much information as you can from the start about what you need and how you see success.

What is your long term aim? Creating long term value and developing an effective exit strategy will lead to very different solutions. Your team needs to know.

What is important to your organisation? A placemaking approach can make planning more straightforward and minimise risks – if transparency is important this may be a deciding factor.

What is your budget? A good consultant will be trying to maximise the value they can bring to the project. The more they understand your budget the more they can help. Plus, you’ll get workable proposals from people in a position to deliver exactly what you need.

2 Be open

Tackle issues straight away. Issues being raised early on in the procurement process may not always be welcome, but the sooner they are identified, the quicker a solution can be found, saving time and money. A specialist team will ask the right questions – and then offer solutions.

Be proportionate. There are times when a project is complicated and conducted under a spotlight. Then, of course, your team needs to put forward an in-depth proposal can potentially meet many complex needs. But if it is a high level project with a small budget where speed is the key, set expectations – and the brief – accordingly. The responses that come in will be more appropriate and you will save time assessing gold-plated proposals that are beyond your budget.



Lightmoor Village Masterplan

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3 Engage

Good consultants want to get under the skin of a place, its people and the issues they face. They want to understand you as a client, what you need and how they can help. Open days with presentations and Q&A sessions do take time, but they bring potential consultants to a greater understanding of your needs. Better proposals, and ultimately better projects outcomes, will follow.

Get advice. If you can, get informal updates from those who have undertaken similar work before. Seek recommendations; take and follow up references.

4 Select your team carefully

No two projects are the same. You want a team of specialists that has been hand-picked to address each particular challenge.

Experience isn't enough. Practical skills and an aptitude for solving the issues you face are vital.

Leadership is important. Someone who can bring the different elements together and foster collaborative working, but can also understand each sub-consultant's role – and manage their respective fee proposals and inputs on your behalf.

Technical project management isn't everything. Yes, procurement, contract management and contract administration need to be done well. But also consider the softer skills that are just as important in delivering good places: listening, empathy, understanding, and, ultimately, people everyone can work with day-to-day.

Building relationships. You want a team that cares and that can retain focus on what is really important for your project and not just go through the motions or established methodologies.

Further information

Click a link below to find out more:

- Fenstanton Schools Sites
- Lightmoor Village
- The Lyng
- The Tybalds Estate



Tybalds Estate Regeneration

“Choosing an urban design practice to lead your team means that people and placemaking (rather than spreadsheets and numbers) will sit at the heart of your project.”

Contact

Sue Rowlands is an architect and town planner who brings strategic planning expertise and extensive experience together to create integrated masterplans, regeneration strategies and development frameworks. From strategic masterplanning to detailed design, she works across both the public and private sectors and has considerable experience of negotiating on design-related planning matters for both Local Planning Authorities and applicants.



e: sue.rowlands@tibbalds.co.uk
t: 020 7089 2132

Contact

Hilary Satchwell is an urban designer and architect who leads strategic masterplanning and urban regeneration projects, providing high quality design, practical advice and deliverable plans. She takes projects from early conceptual stages through to detailed implementation, across a broad range of types and scales of work in both the public and private sectors. She is passionate the benefits good design can achieve, unlocking sites and bringing forward new development.



e: hilary.satchwell@tibbalds.co.uk
t: 020 7089 2133