



Building Portal (BP)

Key Benefits:

- Web 2.0 interface
- Local Authority specific
- Simple Wizard interface
- Applications can be saved at any point and returned to at a later date
- Quick & Accurate Calculations
- Automatic fee calculation based on simple questions to the user
- Unlimited number of attachments per application
- Email notification of newly submitted applications
- DEF hosted and managed meaning no additional hardware or comms

The Only Complete Building Control Portal

The DEF Building Portal is the only system on the market that offers full end-to-end functionality for members of the public to process building control applications. It has been designed from the ground up to be simple and user friendly for both the public and council officers alike.

Public Facing Module

The public facing module is a Web 2.0 portal available 24/7.

Once public users have created a login for the Building Portal site, they can easily create a building control application using the workflow wizard. The wizard is essentially a series of defined steps taking the user through the staged application process, ensuring that the correct configuration of subsequent questions is driven from each response. As an additional level of support to the wizard itself, a comprehensive, user friendly help system is incorporated throughout the site.

Where a member of the public is pressed for time or needs to source further information, the ability to save an application at any point is available. On return, the user is presented with a list of all building control applications which they have previously created. This list can then be filtered for incomplete, submitted or transferred applications. Additionally, this feature allows agents to easily manage their growing list of applications.

The application process can be tailored to the individual needs of your Authority. At the point where the member of the public selects you as their building control authority, relevant questions and requirements can be subtly altered on the form so that it suits your unique data and process needs. The fields that can be changed include the application type, various text explanation fields and the attachment types required.



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The uploading of attachments is handled via a list of requirements as defined by you. For instance, you might require location plans at 1:1250 for all application types, and further detailed plans and a site plan 1:500 for 'Full Plans' applications. The file types allowed for each upload are also defined by you – for example, you may decide to accept only PDFs or jpgs for site plans. Prior to final submission, the Building Portal will then check to ensure all mandatory attachment types have been successfully uploaded.

Once the wizard is complete, the Building Portal will either route the member of the public to a checklist showing any areas missed, or will route them through to the fee calculation page where the application has met all criteria.

Fee Management

The fees are calculated using a series of questions which alter depending on the result of the previous question. This clear process is designed to effortlessly lead the user through the complex fee structures for each local authority.

Disabled amendments to existing properties are also handled, as are minimum fees for certain schedule C fees. VAT is calculated automatically with any rate changes managed at source by DEF.

The Building Portal directs the user to the appropriate payment engine for the authority, and waits for a payment authorisation code before allowing the user to submit their application.

Government User Module

Local authority users access the Building Portal using the same Web 2.0 interface as the public users. However, an additional menu is made available which allows you to adjust your fee schedules in a spreadsheet style interface on the website and download any submitted applications. When an application is submitted, an email is sent from the Building Portal to the local authority with a link to the download area for easy access.

Downloaded applications take the form of a zip file containing a PDF form of the application, a PDF form for public viewing with sensitive information removed, an attachments summary sheet, fee calculation sheet and all relevant attachments.

DEF Software Building Control users can download applications and attachments directly into the Building Control application. Where Authorities utilise competitor systems, DEF can provide an interface to achieve the same results. Please note that DEF provide all of our software competitors with the Connector at no cost to them. This will allow Authorities who utilise competitor Building Control software to integrate with the Building Portal cost effectively.



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Security

Having been written using the latest Microsoft .NET technology incorporating AJAX partial page updates, the Building Portal is extremely secure, using industry standard best practice to foil any potential hacker. Cross-site scripting and SQL injection attack prevention have been built into the system from its initial design. All passwords are fully encrypted in fact even we here at DEF cannot view anyone else's password.

Features & Benefits

Local Authority Benefits

- No installation required
- Web 2.0 interface for intuitive use
- Latest .NET security model
- DEF hosted and managed meaning no additional hardware or comms.
- Unlimited number of Local Authority users
- Council branded forms
- Full form validation
- Council configurable wizard and workflow
- Council specific required attachments list (per application type)
- Automatic Fee Calculator which is unique to each Authority
- Full integration to Payment Engines
- Pro-active email notification of new applications
- Full e-delivery of the application (ZIP file)
- NLPG property reference returned to the Authority
- LABC updates included at no cost
- Full integration with MasterGov
- Open interface for all major Building Control Systems (integration web service given at no cost)
- Full history of Applications
- Full Authority and General Public support



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Features & Benefits

Public & Agent Benefits

- The Building Portal is free to use for both the General Public and Agents
- Wizard driven and amazingly easy to use
- Postcode look-ups to easily access your property details
- List and 'Smart' searching to find your Authority
- Highly secure
- Available at all times, day or night
- Environmentally friendly - Removes the need for paper and postage
- Manages all kinds of attachments, documents and plans
- Unlimited number of attachments per application
- Save and Return to your application at any point
- Full process validation and omission/error highlighting
- Manage multiple applications from one place
- Fees are automatically calculated for you
- Pay your fees online (where the service is provided by the Authority)
- Buy plans online
- Unique User profile with all details securely stored
- Web service available to Agents at no extra cost

So How much does it cost?

The annual maintenance cost is **£890** including full hosting, management, security and updates. We also offer per application and lease based pricing.

How can I see the Building Portal working?

You can go to <http://demo.buildingportal.co.uk/>, make a login and have a go. If you require access to the Government area, please contact us and we can change the security settings for your user to allow access.

How do I get in touch with DEF?

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