

25.15 Urban Design

25.15.1 Purpose

- a) Good quality urban design is fundamental in delivering the Council's Vision for a smart, liveable city which is attractive, well-designed and compact with a strong sense of place. The District Plan is a 'design led' plan which is 'outcome' focused. The consideration of urban design throughout the Plan chapters is required to ensure that urban design principles are applied consistently throughout all zones.
- b) Urban design applies not only to the appearance but also the function and feel of buildings and public spaces including streets. It focuses on public frontages and spaces and addresses elements such as streetscape, walkability, sustainable design, mixed-use development, 'active edges' of building frontages, and people's safety and accessibility.
- c) Quality urban design is recognised as having economic, environmental, cultural and social dimensions (*The Value of Urban Design: The economic, environmental and social benefits of urban design, Ministry for the Environment, 2005*). Good quality design increases economic value, producing higher returns on investment. It can also reduce management and maintenance costs, lead to more productive workplaces, and enhance image and prestige.
- d) Quality urban design assists to enhance environmental, social, cultural and economic wellbeing by establishing urban environments that:
 - i. Are competitive, thrive economically and facilitate creativity and innovation.
 - ii. Provide a choice of housing, work and lifestyle options.
 - iii. Are healthy and assist to sustain people and nature.
 - iv. Are inclusive and offer opportunities for all citizens.
 - v. Are distinctive and have a strong identity and sense of place.
 - vi. Are well-governed and have a shared vision and sense of direction.
 - vii. Are well connected and accessible for a range of users.
- e) Within some zoning chapters outlined in this plan new buildings are to have matters such as design quality, appearance and amenity considered as controlled or restricted discretionary activities. This is combined with design led assessment criteria which combines international best practice urban design principles with factors considered to be of special importance to the City of Hamilton and its surrounding environments. The design principles identified within the plan also reflect New Zealand's national Urban Design Protocol of which Hamilton City has been a signatory since 2006.
- f) The *City Design Guide VISTA* further outlines Hamilton's expectations for better designed environments – describing how a well-designed place should look, feel and function. The non-regulatory guide highlights key urban design principles considered fundamental to Hamilton's development as a prosperous, memorable and sustainable city.
- g) Objectives, policies, rules and assessment matters within this District Plan, along with other methods adopted by Council, seek to facilitate and encourage

subdivision and development design in a manner that will continually enhance the quality of the City's urban environments. While many urban design matters are responded to directly within the chapters of this District Plan, including specific topic and area based design guidance, this section provides the objectives and policies for those urban design matters that need to be considered throughout Hamilton regardless of the zoning that may apply.

25.15.2 Objectives and Policies: Urban Design

Objective	Policies
<p>25.15.2.1 Urban environments that promote the retention and enhancement of urban amenity values, i.e. pleasantness, aesthetics, coherence, cultural and recreational values.</p>	<p>25.15.2.1a Streetscape quality, public open spaces and pedestrian amenity are improved through appropriate streetscape and built-form which enhances the appearance, functionality, comfort and safety of the pedestrian environment.</p>
	<p>25.15.2.1b Built form and public amenity features, including public art, are encouraged to enhance public awareness of historic and contemporary heritage and culture.</p>
	<p>25.15.2.1c A high standard of internal and external amenity for commercial and community buildings and a high standard of external amenity for residential buildings are provided, including provision of natural ventilation, recreation space, daylight and sunlight access, and adequate living space for residential units.</p>
<p>Explanation</p>	
<p><i>The pleasantness, aesthetics, coherence, cultural and recreational values of an urban environment can assist to enhance the environmental, social, cultural and economic wellbeing of the community.</i></p> <p><i>Through the District Plan, for both controlled and restricted discretionary activities, matters such as design quality, scale, appropriate streetscape, provision of active frontages, articulated facades and safe, legible pedestrian connections will be considered as part of the assessment criteria. Other methods such as area specific design guides, will also be used. Council can facilitate discussion, encourage and provide for design responses that will continually increase these values and the wellbeing of the Hamilton community.</i></p>	

Objective	Policies
<p>25.15.2.2 Urban environments that promote a positive sense of place and are reflective of the characteristics of the surrounding local environment.</p>	<p>25.15.2.2a Development within residential, business and City living areas is encouraged to promote a sense of human scale.</p>
	<p>25.15.2.2b Development will be expected to respond positively to the character of the area, the scale and proportion of buildings and spaces in which it is situated.</p>
	<p>25.15.2.2c Public and private development is encouraged to provide for attractions or focal points (including 'gateways') that assist in enhancing community identity.</p>
	<p>25.15.2.2d Sympathetic, contemporary design responses to cultural and heritage character within the surrounding local environment is encouraged.</p>
	<p>25.15.2.2e Distinctive architectural styles within identified character areas are retained.</p>
<p>Explanation</p>	
<p><i>It is important that the positive characteristics of the local urban environment are embraced in future subdivision and development so that the local environment retains its distinctiveness, and from this, its unique sense of place.</i></p> <p><i>Through the District Plan and other methods such as the Urban Design Panel, Council can facilitate and encourage design which reflects those positive attributes to enhance the sense of place and local identity.</i></p>	
Objective	Policies
<p>25.15.2.3 Continued enhancement of public and personal safety throughout the City, by reducing opportunities for crime to occur.</p>	<p>25.15.2.3a The assessment of and appropriate responses to Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles is required within subdivision and development proposals, to reduce threats to personal safety and security and to promote the delivery or development of environments where people feel safe.</p>
	<p>25.15.2.3b The concepts and philosophy of CPTED are included in the Council's design, planning, management and use of public space and community facilities.</p>

Explanation	
<i>Public and personal safety is essential to develop and sustain an inclusive City in which all ages and genders can feel comfortable. The use of CPTED principles in subdivision and development proposals such as the provision of linkages, accessibility in subdivision design and active surveillance, will assist in creating and maintaining such a city.</i>	
Objective	Policies
25.15.2.4 Subdivision and development which is well connected, legible and promotes sustainable energy use.	25.15.2.4a Subdivision and development design responds positively to local amenity and character values and promote use of renewable energy sources.
	25.15.2.4b Subdivision and development patterns through good through site linkages and consideration of site context promote walking, cycling and other active modes of transport.
Explanation	
<i>Sustainable energy use in subdivision and development has positive impacts on people economically, socially and culturally, as well as benefitting the natural environment. Through the District Plan and other methods Council can encourage subdivision and development which promotes sustainable energy use, either through the design and orientation of buildings, windows and open space, provision of through-site links for pedestrians and cyclists, or on-site water conservation measures.</i>	
Objective	Policies
25.15.2.5 Urban environments that integrate land use with transport planning to provide permeable, highly connected and sustainable transport networks.	25.15.2.5a Activities that are well located in respect of travel demand promote an efficient transport hierarchy and compact City around key nodes and circulation networks.
	25.15.2.5b Development promotes connectivity and accessibility with pedestrian routes, cycleways, public reserves and green corridors.
Explanation	
<i>Integrating land use in subdivision and development design has positive impacts on people economically, socially and culturally, as well as benefitting the natural environment. Through the District Plan and other methods Council can encourage an integrated approach to land use and transport planning which promotes sustainable travel patterns and energy use, either through integration of existing circulation networks including transport corridors, cycleways, public reserves and green corridors or a highly connected and permeable road hierarchy.</i>	

25.15.3 Other Resource Consent Information

Refer to Volume 2, Appendix 1: District Plan Administration for the following urban design criteria and guidance.

- Controlled Activities – Matters of Control
- Restricted Discretionary, Discretionary and Non-Complying Activities Assessment Criteria
- Design Guides