

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 that is attractive, well-designed and compact easy to live in; where our people thrive; with a strong sense of place. The District Plan central city where people love to be; that is a 'design led' plan which fun city with lots to do; that is 'outcome' focused a green city. 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 [Good 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 [Good 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 [\(Link, 18626,urban design 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 [\(Link, 18626,urban urban design principles elements](#) considered fundamental to Hamilton’s development as a prosperous, memorable and sustainable city. These elements are:
 - i. Design Quality - Hamilton is a place that engages the imagination of our people and our visitors – everything is an opportunity for delight and innovation
 - ii. Sense of Place - Development should enhance and celebrate Hamilton’s character and reflect special features of the site
 - iii. Access - Development should ensure that Hamilton is easy to get around so everyone can access services and facilities
 - iv. Public Spaces - The spaces between buildings should provide a quality urban environment for the people of Hamilton to enjoy
 - v. Lifestyle - Places within Hamilton should reflect the diversity and the rich lifestyles of its population, and encourage a vibrant mix of people, ages, uses and activities
 - vi. Sustainable Environments – Hamilton promotes the development of memorable and successful places that are environmentally, economically, socially and culturally sustainable
- 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 [\(Link, 18626,urban 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 [\(Link, 18626,urban 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</p>	<p>25.15.2.1a Streetscape quality, public open spaces and pedestrian amenity are improved through appropriate streetscape and built-form form which enhances the appearance, functionality, comfort and safety of the pedestrian environment.</p>

and recreational values.	<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>

Explanation

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.

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.

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>

Explanation	
<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	
<p><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></p>	
Objective	Policies
<p>25.15.2.4 Subdivision and development which is well connected, legible and promotes sustainable energy use.</p>	<p>25.15.2.4a Subdivision and development <u>design responds</u> patterns <u>respond</u> positively to <u>any existing local amenity and character values (such as an open space)</u> and promote <u>the</u> use of renewable energy sources.</p>
	<p>25.15.2.4b Subdivision and development patterns, through <u>the use of</u> good through site linkages and <u>the</u> consideration of site context, promote walking, cycling and other active modes of transport.</p>
	<p>25.15.2.4c <u>Subdivision and development patterns contribute towards the creation of continuous building frontages, including limiting the number of vehicular access points along key transport corridors, where appropriate, practical and</u></p>

<u>necessary.</u>	
Explanation	
<p><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></p>	
Objective	Policies
<p>25.15.2.5 Urban environments that integrate land use with transport planning to provide permeable, highly connected and sustainable transport networks.</p>	<p>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.</p>
	<p>25.15.2.5b Development promotes connectivity and accessibility with pedestrian routes, cycleways, public reserves and green corridors.</p>
Explanation	
<p><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></p>	

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