



Urban Design Plan

Palmerston North

SMALL CITY BENEFITS, BIG CITY AMBITION

2018/21

Te Kaunihera o Papaioea
Palmerston North City Council



To fulfil the vision of small city benefits, big city ambition the Council has adopted five goals. The City Development Strategy was developed to achieve **Goal 1: An innovative and growing city**. This plan shows how the Council will contribute to achieving this goal.

Council has made good progress in applying urban design principles to city development. The District Plan has been reviewed and urban design principles incorporated into the residential and business zones. A variety of design-led planning documents, such as the City Centre Streetscape Plan and Manawatū River Framework, are available to inform public investment and encourage private development.

Council needs to do more internal work to ensure there is a multi-disciplinary approach to improving the quality, planning, and delivery of major Council change projects. It will work more closely with the development community to improve their understanding of the principles and value of good urban design. This should include collaboration on major private developments, urban design training opportunities for the private sector and a pre-application process for strategic developments.





**The purpose of the Urban Design Plan is to create and enable opportunities for employment and growth
(Priority 1: City Development Strategy).**



Where we are now

- The majority of the strategic catalyst urban design initiatives identified in 2010 have been completed and are now actively influencing positive city development throughout the city in a range of ways.
- The District Plan has been amended to give effect to good urban design performance at the city level and across the residential and business zones.
- Structure Plans and requirements for Comprehensive Development Plans are embedded in the District Plan on Residential, Industrial, Recreational and Airport zoned land, giving direction to connected and integrated development with co-ordinated infrastructure provision.
- Framework documents are giving design vision and co-ordinated direction to the development of the city centre, streets, arterial roads, city entrances, open public space and the Manawatū River.
- The City Centre Streetscape Plan and the Street Design Manual are in place to provide design guidance in delivering public investments including the city centre, streets, arterial roads, city entrances and public spaces. Some gaps in technical design guidance exist e.g. streets and water sensitive design. Plugging these technical gaps is required.
- Placemaking using 'ground up' principles as 'The Power of Ten' and 'Faster, Lighter, Cheaper' has emerged from a Council-led approach to raise confidence of community groups and businesses to actively engage with this agile city-making concept to now lead out change through the city centre. Council continues to nurture confidence in reclaiming public space, reduce 'red tape' barriers to facilitate street art, parklets, markets and festivals. Visible public life is increasing in the city centre through the launch of Palmy Unleashed.
- Urban Design promotion, advocacy and education through 'Delivering Change' is expanding urban design knowledge to mixed effect amongst private developers, designers and Council officers. Some good results have been achieved both internally and externally by those open to active engagement, new development opportunities or willing to embrace a collaborative, multi-disciplinary way of working. Council has hosted multi-disciplinary workshops with developers on key projects, often with positive feedback on the process and outputs created. Further work is required to get Council officers to engage in collaborative, multi-disciplinary working especially on the delivery of projects that do not require resource consent.
- Design review is a major urban design tool being used to good effect to drive change, though often in a post resource consent application context. Engagement with developers and designers post design review is often met with resistance however some good design outcomes for the city have been achieved. Other tools such as awards or incentives to encourage competitive and innovative design thinking have not been developed.



Where we want to be

- Increased knowledge of the principles and value of good urban design.
- The principles of good urban design are elevated to be an intrinsic and effective part of everyday city making and co-creation.
- Council officers across the organization operate in a multi-disciplinary capacity on a range of key projects .
- Council collaborates and co-create across a range of city development projects with:
 - a. strategic city partners
 - b. the private development community
 - c. the design and planning community
 - d. local community and interest groups.
- Palmerston North city-making environment encourages innovative design and development.
- Recognising and celebrating good urban design practice and development outcomes across a range of city projects.
- New development opportunities for 'brownfield' sites across the city and within the city centre are investigated.
- Urban Design Plan is implemented alongside the Economic Development Plan and Housing and Future Development Plan.



How we're going to get there

Day to day / ongoing actions to achieve the purpose

- Promote and provide 'Pre-application' urban design advice to the public across a range of city development projects.
- Administer the 'Delivering Change' budget to assist in realising successful delivery of key city development projects.
- Undertake urban design review as a part of resource consent applications.
- Re-establish the internal urban design working group for Council led projects.
- Provide Urban Design support to Council officers on Council-led projects.
- Visit, talk with and do presentations to developers, designers, businesses and interest groups to increase public knowledge and understanding of the principles and value of good urban design.

New ongoing actions to achieve the purpose

- Provide technology to enable increased efficiency and mobility in co-creating and monitoring urban design change.
- Define a set of guiding urban design principles by which the city shall actively work towards in the implementation of co-creation.
- Develop an agile co-creation outreach programme to actively engage with city partners, developers, investors, designers and community groups.
- Apply 'Placemaking' concepts and knowledge to pilot city-wide urban design change on a range of public realm assets and infrastructure before committing to upscaling or permanent change.
- Undertake character studies of residential streets to inform Residential District Plan provisions.
- Develop a visual resource that supports development opportunities possible under Business and Residential Zone District Plan provisions.
- Design and develop a user friendly online portal where a range of city planning and urban design resources can be easily accessed by the public.
- Develop and implement an urban design induction programme for relevant Council staff and elected Councillors.
- Promote good urban design stories from across the city.
- Review strategic urban design framework documents to update and communicate city development progress.
e.g. Manawatū River Framework .
- Review strategic urban design technical documents to plug any technical gaps so as to have effective design direction to city making e.g. Street Design Manual.
- Review the Street Design Manual to plug technical gaps so as to have effective design direction to city making.
- Identify other technical gap areas that can provide effective urban design guidance and develop new technical documents to be context specific for Palmerston North.
- Investigate incentives that promote competitive application of good urban design practice and innovative thinking.
- Investigate rewards/awards programme that recognises positive urban design change and innovation city making.
- Review Street Naming Policy.
- Enhance Delivering Change Programme.



Actions contributing to Council's strategic themes

a) Smart city practices

- Collaboration and co-creating.
- Highly agile, mobile and efficient work tools.
- City development dashboard.

b) Sustainable practices

- Implement Urban Design Principles.
e.g. Seven Cs – Context, Character, Choice, Connections, Creativity, Custodianship, Collaboration, Continuity and Enclosure, Diversity, Quality Public Realm, Legibility, Movement, Adaptability.
- Holistic approach to site planning and development.
- Adaptive reuse of existing building stock and brownfield development.
- Promote intensification of housing within existing urban environment.
- Mixed use and compact City centre with more people living in or near the city centre.
- Retention & promotion of heritage to bridge past and future.
- Low carbon materials, green architecture and water sensitive urban design.

c) Iwi partnerships

- Support physical presence and expression of Rangitāne o Manawatū within the built environment of the city.
- Collaborate and support Iwi to investigate development opportunities post settlement.
- Consultation on major city developments.
- Use Te Aranga Māori Design Principles as a tool to engage and support the expression of tikanga Māori in the built environment.

d) Strategic partnerships

- Rangitāne o Manawatū, Massey University, UCOL, Mid Central DHB, New Zealand Defence, Ministry of Education, private developers.



Measures of success

- Greater knowledge and understanding of the principles and value of good urban design
- Increased participation in pre-application meetings by private development community
- Increase in medium density housing and city centre living
- Increase in adaptive reuse of existing building stock and mixed used development in City centre
- Increased city life and city centre vibrancy
- Public recognition of positive urban design change
- Increased community led design solutions and outcomes
- Increased use of energy efficient and low carbon construction methods and building technologies
- Increased application of green architecture and water sensitive urban design



Related policies



- District Plan
- City Centre Framework
- City Centre Streetscape Plan
- Manawatū River Framework
- Vegetation Framework
- Street Naming and Numbering Policy
- Reserve and Walkway Naming Policy
- Local Area Traffic Management Policy
- Sun Protection Policy

Long-term Plan levels of service

Council uses and promotes the principles of good urban design to have high quality public and private developments.

Long-term Plan KPIs

Council development projects reflect principles of good urban design.





Palmerston North City Council

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