

4. PEOPLE + PLACES + SPACES: A DESIGN GUIDE FOR URBAN NEW ZEALAND

Officer responsible Simon Markham, Director	Author Janet Reeves, Urban Design Team Leader, DDI 941-8351
---	---

The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee about a recent Ministry for the Environment publication and an associated urban design workshop.

BACKGROUND

In May 2001 the Ministry for Environment appointed consultants to prepare an Urban Design guide for New Zealand. A discussion group was held in Christchurch in August 2001, to which a cross section of professionals in the field were invited. These included staff from the City Council, Ecan and Lincoln University, local consultant architects, surveyors and developers. Feedback was also given to the authors from a group of Council Officers who debated the draft document.

The design guide was launched by Marian Hobbs, Minister for the Environment in March 2002. A workshop to familiarise people with the use of the guide was held in Christchurch in April 2002, which was attended by a number of Council staff, the chair of this Committee, a Community Board member and local landscape architects, architects, engineers, surveyors and other professionals.

THE PURPOSE OF THE GUIDE

The purpose of the guide is “to give all people interested in more liveable and prosperous urban areas – professionals, Councillors, business people and the wider community – a taste of what urban design is, and how to achieve better urban design. Urban design aims to make our towns and cities more economically prosperous, socially inclusive and environmentally friendly, while also making them look and work better for people”. The guide provides a broad overview of urban design processes and principles that are appropriate for New Zealand. The guide explains that processes need to be community-led, place-based, design-informed, multi-disciplinary and where appropriate, a partnership between the public and private sectors. People+Places+Spaces, A Design Guide for Urban New Zealand is available from the MfE at a price of \$15.

THE WORKSHOP

The workshop, run by Kobus Mentz a Consultant Urban Designer and co-author of the report, was held to enable participants to become familiar with and explore, the issues, process and design principles set out in People+Places+Spaces. Some local case studies were reviewed in the context of the guide, a hands-on design session was held and there was a discussion on the perspectives of community groups, professionals, developers and councils. The workshop outcome was “to provide a better understanding of sustainable urbanism issues and practices”.

NATURAL + PEOPLE + ECONOMIC STEP ASSESSMENT

#	CONDITION:	Meets condition ✓✓0*	HOW IT HELPS MEET CONDITION:
The Natural Step			
N1	Reduce non-renewable resource use	✓	Good urban design encourages this
N2	Eliminate emission of harmful substances	✓	Good urban design encourages this
N3	Protect and restore biodiversity and ecosystems	✓	Good urban design encourages this
N4	People needs met fairly and efficiently	NA	NA - See People Step + Economic Step
The People Step			
P1	Basic needs met	✓	Good urban design encourages this
P2	Full potential developed	✓	Good urban design encourages this
P3	Social capital enhanced	✓✓	Good urban design encourages this
P4	Culture and identity protected	✓✓	Good urban design encourages this
P5	Governance and participatory democracy strengthened	✓✓	Good urban design encourages this
The Economic Step			
E1	Effective and efficient use of all resources	✓	Good urban design encourages this
E2	Job rich local economy	✓	Good urban design encourages this
E3	Financial sustainability	✓	Good urban design encourages this

Staff

Recommendation: That Kobus Mentz or the co-author of the report, David Mead, be invited to Christchurch to conduct a workshop for members of this Committee and other interested Councillors and Community Board members.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That staff develop a costed programme to bring Kobus Mentz to Christchurch to conduct a seminar on Urban Design and other related work for elected members.