

19. SUBMISSION ON THE SCOPE OF A NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT – URBAN DESIGN

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Strategy and Planning, DDI 941- 8177
Officer responsible:	Programme Manager Liveable City
Author:	Karen Banwell

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to report and recommend a submission to the Ministry for the Environment on the proposal for a National Policy Statement on Urban Design.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) is seeking responses from a wide range of stakeholders on the background paper “*Scope of a National Policy Statement on Urban Design*” (Attachment Two). This paper seeks views on a possible National Policy Statement (NPS) on urban design. An NPS would be prepared under the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Council would be required to give effect to it through its District Plans. MfE see this as being complementary to the existing voluntary non-statutory initiatives such as the New Zealand Urban Design Protocol.
3. The Council has been supportive of initiatives on urban design and is a signatory to the New Zealand Urban Design Protocol.
4. MfE is specifically seeking comments on the scope, alternative methods, direction, the level of direction, scale and potential risks of not acting. Submissions are due on Tuesday 30 September 2008.
5. The draft submission (Attachment One) supports the preparation of a National Policy Statement on Urban Design. An NPS would provide the additional guidance the Council is seeking to help facilitate high quality development within the city. Our response includes the list of issues the Council would like to see addressed, the principles to be applied at the different scales and some possible methods. A National Policy Statement on urban design would provide support for a number of City Plan changes such as Elderly Persons Housing, L3/L4 and B2/Central City Business Zone as well as the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement Plan Change 1.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2006-16 LTCCP budgets?

6. A National Policy Statement on Urban Design may result in additional resources being required to amend statutory planning documents to ensure alignment to the Statement. But given the design led changes currently underway this is likely to be minimal.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

7. Part 5 of the Resource Management Act (RMA) section 75 states that District Plans must give effect to a national policy statement and therefore Council would need to ensure the policies and objectives of the City Plan relating to urban design align with the principles of a national policy statement. There are also legal considerations as per section 104 of the RMA that states that when considering a resource consent application Council must have regard to a national policy statement.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2006-16 LTCCP?

8. Not applicable.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

9. Yes - the submission is consistent with the objectives of the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy, Central City Revitalisation Strategy and the terms of reference established for the Urban Design Panel as well as many of the policies and objectives of the City Plan.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

10. External consultation not required.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council approve the attached submission on the Ministry for the Environment's paper "Scope of a National Policy Statement on Urban Design".