



Urban Design Protocol

ACTION PLAN

2008-2010

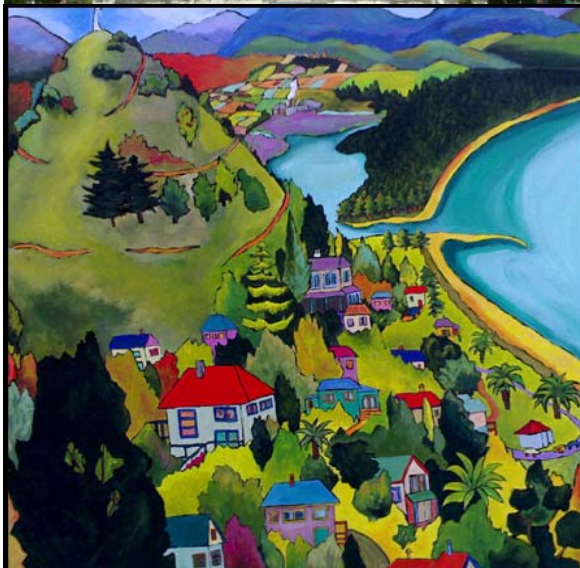


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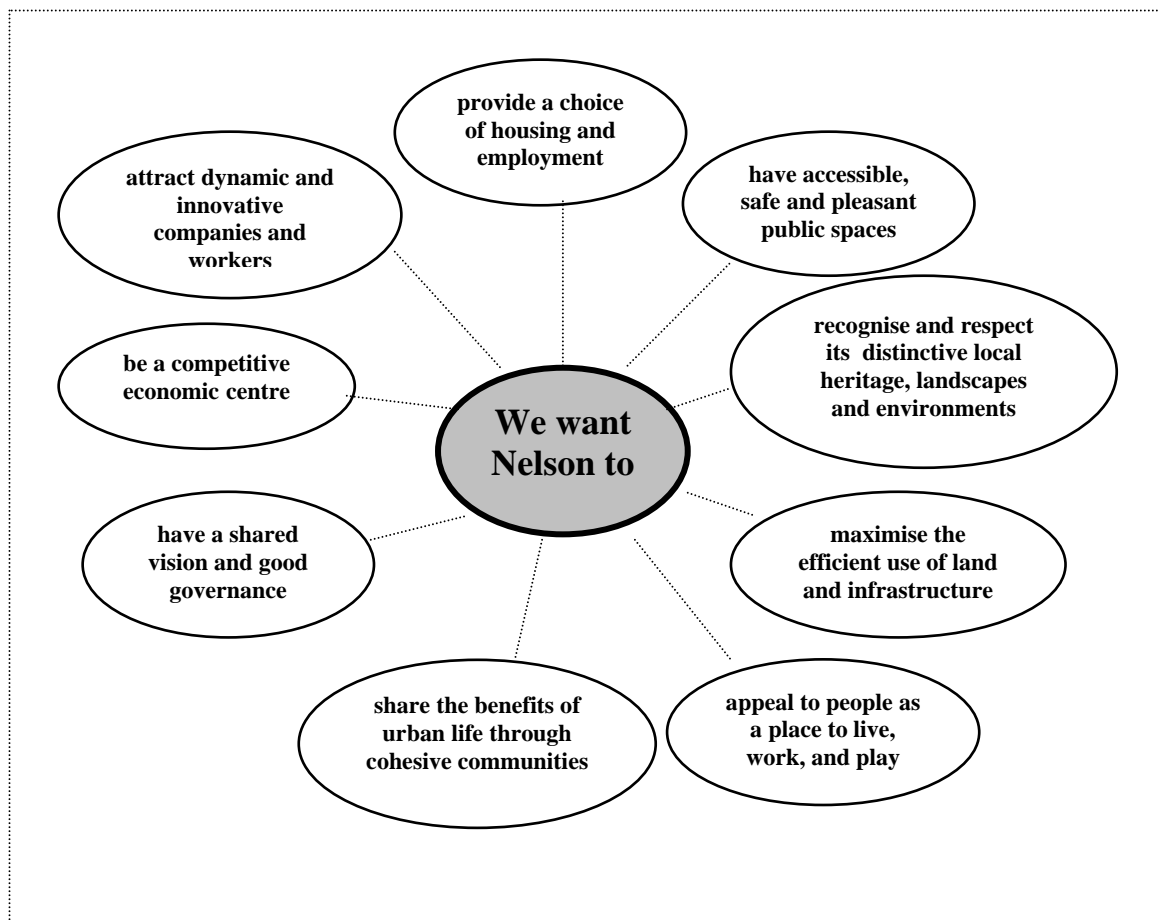
1) Introduction

Nelson City Council is a signatory to the New Zealand Urban Design Protocol. The Urban Design Protocol was established in 2005. It aims to foster improvements in the way our towns and cities are designed and developed. As a signatory, Nelson City Council is committed to monitoring and reporting on its progress against this Action Plan every two years.

2) What is Urban Design?

- Urban design considers the design of our town and cities. It includes the design of and relationships between the buildings, spaces and networks (e.g. streets).
- Good (and bad) urban design directly affects how our towns look, feel and function.
- Urban design has a significant influence on people, because our everyday lives are connected by the environments we share in our towns and cities.
- Urban design is concerned with the environmental, economic, social and cultural consequences of the way our towns are designed and developed.

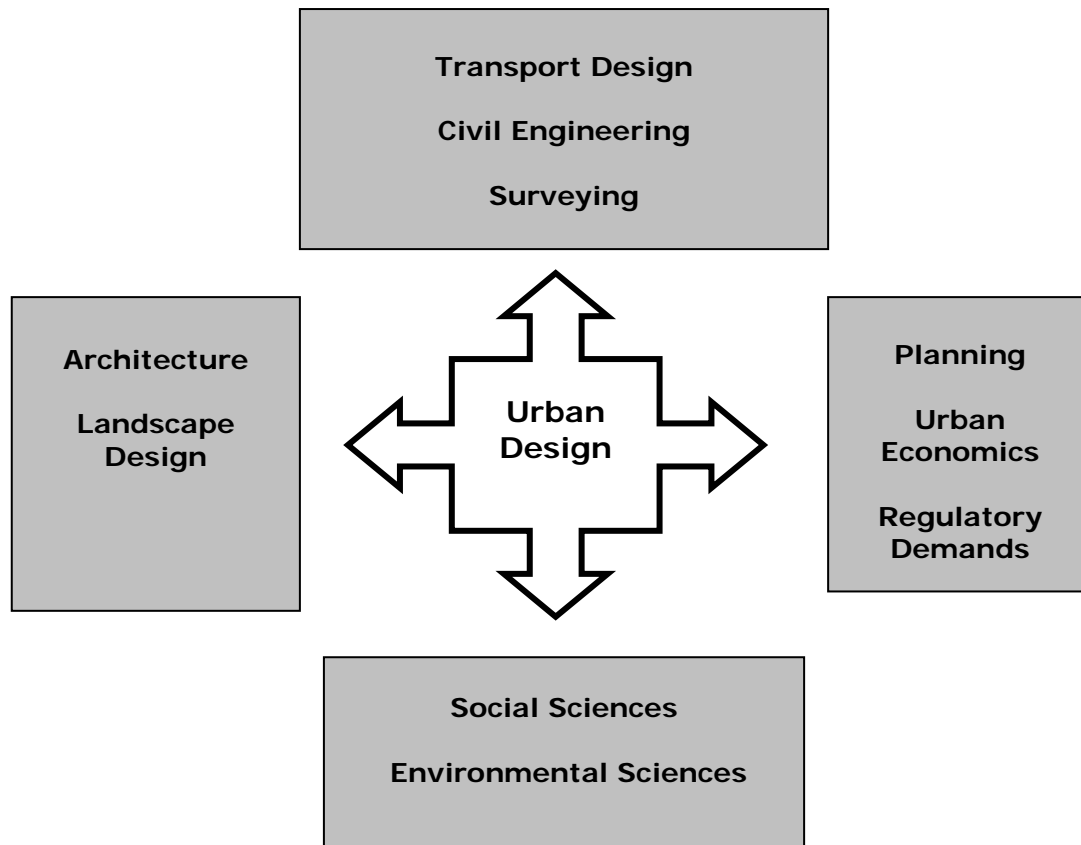
Urban design seeks a range of positive outcomes for towns and cities. The following diagram shows the types of outcomes sought for Nelson.



3) Urban Design - A Team Approach

Urban Design is an approach that draws together many different sectors and professions. It is concerned with the process of decision making as well as the outcomes of design.

To be effective, urban design requires alliances across professions and for the Council this will mean more cross-team working and multi-disciplinary project teams.



4) Urban Design Objectives

The Nelson City Council Urban Design Objectives have been informed by the 'Seven Cs' which are broad design objectives adopted by the Ministry for the Environment in its work on urban design. The 'Seven Cs' are Context, Character, Choice, Connections, Creativity, Custodianship, and Collaboration.

The following Urban Design Objectives for Nelson City will support and guide the work associated with this action plan.

RECOGNISING THE LOCAL CONTEXT:

Development should reflect its local environment.

- We will encourage development that relates to local topography, climate, heritage, culture, local building materials and local development patterns.

IMPROVING ACCESS:

Development should ensure that Nelson is easy to get around.

- We will ensure safe and pleasant transport networks are created for all – e.g. pedestrians, cars, cyclists, buses.
- We will ensure there are logical and effective connections between different transport networks and between different parts of the City.

CREATING QUALITY PUBLIC SPACES:

Public spaces should be high quality environments for all people.

- We will encourage quality detailing in landscape and streetscape design.
- We will ensure buildings surround spaces with appropriate activities.
- We will provide a variety of distinctive spaces that function well as places for meeting, relaxing, and walking through.

OFFERING CHOICES:

Nelson residents should have a choice of housing types, employment types, and leisure and cultural activities.

- We will promote mixed use developments that support a variety of compatible land uses and reflect local need.
- We will encourage the development of buildings and spaces that are flexible and can support a range of uses now and in the future.

MAKING INSPIRING PLACES:

Nelson should have buildings and places that are distinctive, enriching, beautiful, and outstanding.

- We will support innovative architectural and landscape design.
- We will encourage the use of new technologies.
- We will demand best quality design solutions.

MAKING SUSTAINABLE PLACES & COMMUNITIES:

Development must meet our current needs without compromising the needs of future generations.

- We will demand the efficient use of resources.
- We will consider the environmental, social, cultural and economic consequences of development.
- We will support the use of renewable energy sources and sustainable building materials.
- We will seek to improve the resilience of our region to face the future.

5) Structure of the Action Plan

The Action Plan is organised into the following areas:

- Increase awareness, understanding and capacity within the Council;
- Championing urban design within the community;
- Developing strategy and policy;
- Establish tools to help deliver urban design objectives;
- Monitor and review.

We have prioritised actions, to aid a logical implementation process. For example, high priority is given to establishing new tools to assist staff (such as an urban design checklist), and establishing cross-team project groups.

6) Responsibility for Implementing the Action Plan

The Urban Design Champions, Councillor Derek Shaw and the Divisional Manager Planning and Consents, are responsible for overseeing implementation. Given the wide scope of the Action Plan and its team approach, staff in all divisions of the Council will have a role in its implementation.

No.	Action	Timeframe	Status	Resource Impact	Priority	Notes
INCREASE AWARENESS, UNDERSTANDING AND CAPACITY WITHIN NELSON CITY COUNCIL						
1	Appoint an Urban Design Champion.	April 2008	Done	-	-	The Champion is Councillor Derek Shaw.
2	Executive Team appoint a staff member with lead responsibility for implementing the Urban Design Action Plan.	June 2008	Done	LOW – reallocation of existing staff resource	HIGH	Richard Johnson, Divisional Manager Planning and Consents is the staff member with lead responsibility.
3	Prepare and circulate Staff Guidelines on Urban Design: to include examples of good design and best practice; stress the links between urban design and the many existing functions of the Council; and refer staff to other available resources.	To be confirmed	Under-way	LOW Staff time to prepare	HIGH	Opportunity costs are incurred if possible application of urban design principles is missed because staff are unaware of them.
4	Prepare a regular (six monthly) Urban Design Update for circulation to staff, councillors and external parties via email, to highlight new examples of best practice and new urban design research findings that are relevant to Nelson.	Ongoing		LOW Ongoing staff time	MEDIUM	Will be programmed for March and September.
5	Arrange regular staff and councillor training opportunities, involving guest speakers/specialist experts.	Ongoing	Under-way	MEDIUM Ongoing staff time	HIGH	Developing the Central City Strategy will provide opportunities.
6	Train Nelson City Council Hearing Commissioners specifically on urban design provisions in Nelson Resource Management Plan (NRMP).	March 2009		LOW Staff time	HIGH	Hearings Panel has a key decision making role in applying the urban design provisions of the NRMP.

No.	Action	Timeframe	Status	Resource Impact	Priority	Notes
CHAMPIONING URBAN DESIGN WITHIN THE COMMUNITY						
7	Organise urban design seminars/workshops/training for built environment professionals, contractors, and relevant business and community leaders. (Can be combined if appropriate with action number 5.)	Ongoing	Under-way	MEDIUM Ongoing staff time	MEDIUM	Will tie in with existing policy/strategy programmes for the Central City Strategy and NUGS implementation projects.
8	Develop urban design demonstration projects and promote them using local business, community and media networks.	Ongoing	Under-way	HIGH to VERY HIGH Depends on approach taken and whether project development costs included	HIGH	Options include: 1. Advice to developers 2. Joint ventures with developers 3. Council projects
9	Establish an annual Urban Design Forum, to incorporate a lecture series, awards, and inspirational exhibitions to raise the community's expectations. Could be with Tasman District Council.	To be confirmed		HIGH Cost estimate \$10,000 – staff time for 2 weeks	MEDIUM	Will investigate option of building on to an existing Council event (e.g. Ecofest) and report to Council. Requires confirmation in 2009-19 LTCCP.
10	Share best practice examples of the urban design outcomes our Council has achieved (i.e. systems and processes as well as end products), to allow other Councils and organisations to access it.	As required	Under-way	LOW Staff time, ongoing	LOW	Examples to be put on Council's website, presented at conferences, and apply for awards where appropriate.
11	Encourage and develop sound working relationships and partnerships with design professionals operating in the region.	Ongoing	Under-way	LOW Staff time ongoing	LOW	E.g. NZIA, NZILA, NZPI, IPENZ, Urban Design Forum. Invite to show and tell sessions and attend association meetings.

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DEVELOPING STRATEGY & POLICY						
12	Develop a Central City Strategy which will consider urban form, land uses, intensification, building design, open spaces, linkages etc.	Draft by Nov 2008, final by March 2009	Under-way	HIGH – (resource already allocated for strategy) but also in terms of implementing	HIGH	Provide for implementation in 2009 LTCCP.
13	Consider ‘high-level’ urban design issues in the LTCCP and Regional Policy Statement when doing reviews, and ensure funding for implementation.	LTCCP 2009 RPS review to be set	Under-way	To be considered as part of normal review processes	HIGH	These issues need to be addressed in any review of the community outcomes.
14	Carry out plan changes to the Nelson Resource Management Plan to include explicit urban design objectives and policies, and ensure that rules support these objectives.	2009		HIGH – significant staff time	MEDIUM	Allocation for Senior Policy Planner in the 2008-09 budget.
15	Build on existing relationships with Tasman District Council staff to ensure joint work on strategic urban design policies and issues.	Ongoing	Under-way	LOW	HIGH	E.g. Nelson-Richmond Futures Projects for Nelson South Structure Plan and residential intensification, RLTS, Public Transport Plan, Saxton Field.
16	Develop and implement plan to provide connectivity throughout Nelson and adjacent districts, and linked structure plans and master plans to guide the development of key sites including Nelson South, Stoke Valleys, Tahunanui, Hira, and areas of intensification.	Ongoing	Under-way	HIGH	MEDIUM	Presently working with TDC on Nelson South structure plan. Consider in work programme for 2009 LTCCP.
17	Develop and adopt a series of specific Urban Design Guidelines under the NRMP, which will provide additional statutory guidance for specific areas or issues.	2009/2010		HIGH Significant staff time and consultants	MEDIUM	Some Guidelines are likely to come from the Central City Strategy and heritage review work.

No.	Action	Timeframe	Status	Resource Impact	Priority	Notes
18	Advocate, encourage and provide for a wider range of choice in housing, commercial and industrial premises.	Ongoing	Under-way	LOW	MEDIUM	One example action is the Affordable Housing Strategy, involving Community Services.
ESTABLISH TOOLS TO HELP DELIVER URBAN DESIGN OBJECTIVES						
19	Develop process to ensure Council's urban design objectives are considered in relevant Council decision making.	To be confirmed		LOW	HIGH	
20	Establish a checklist of urban design criteria for staff to apply to relevant projects.	To be confirmed		LOW Staff time	HIGH	This checklist will be the practical application of the strategic urban design objectives set out in action No. 12.
21	Apply the checklist of urban design criteria to the design of major Council facilities, amenities and infrastructure at the project brief writing stage, to ensure the brief achieves urban design objectives.	Begin once checklist is approved		MEDIUM Staff time to adopt new process, and potentially expert advice	HIGH	
22	Investigate best practice models for Design Review Panels and consider issues surrounding the implementation of a Design Review Panel for Nelson City Council.	Dec 2008		LOW Staff time	HIGH	Will require a report to Environment Committee, including considerations of its relationship to NRMP.
23	Establish an in-house 'Major Projects Team,' that includes staff from all relevant departments, to review and advise on urban design content of major public and private capital projects.	August 2008		LOW But is a new way of using existing staff time	HIGH	This group's relationship with an eventual Design Panel would be considered under action No. 23.
24	Establish smaller cross-team project groups as needed, to ensure effective collaboration can occur on design of smaller projects.	Ongoing	Under-way	LOW But is a new way of using staff time	MEDIUM	Requires collaborative processes such as identifying common objectives and means to achieve these.

No.	Action	Timeframe	Status	Resource Impact	Priority	Notes
25	Establish a working relationship with urban design experts who can provide expert advice, as necessary, on incorporating urban design objectives into projects, policies and plans	Ongoing		HIGH \$10,000 estimated in first year	HIGH	Cost may be less in future years, as first year requires establishing new processes, policies and checklists. Requires confirmation in 2009-19 LTCCP.
MONITOR AND REVIEW / REPORTING						
26	Monitor implementation of the Urban Design Action Plan and promote achievements/identify factors hindering achievement of actions.	Annually by 30 Nov	First review Nov 2009	LOW Staff time	LOW	Must report to Ministry bi-annually.
27	Share all monitoring and audit results with the community.	Annually	Nov 2009	LOW Staff time	LOW	Via website.
28	Invite and monitor public feedback on urban design issues – to gauge if people perceive any improvements or notice new examples of quality urban design?	Bi-annual		LOW Staff time	LOW	Link with action point 9, see public feedback at forum/exhibition/lecture events. Use Resident’s Survey.