

Appendix B – High quality urban design principles

The following principles are key drivers of sustainable growth management. These principles are considered to be critical tools for ensuring that the more intensively developed urban environments which underpin growth management are achieved, along with high quality urban design.

PRINCIPLE 1: *High quality urban design*

High quality urban design is that which demonstrates adherence to the New Zealand Urban Design Protocol (March 2005) Key Urban Design Qualities, including that the design:

- Demonstrates an understanding and recognition of scale and context – the relationship between the design elements of the built environment (houses, streets, blocks, neighbourhoods and towns) and the natural environment (topography, coast, streams and vegetation);
- Is sympathetic to, and builds upon, both the physical and cultural identity;
- Provides a choice of urban form that is flexible and adaptable;
- Acknowledges that there may be a need for a diverse range of housing to meet changing needs, especially the effects of ageing on communities;
- Provides a variety of connections between spaces and places, including provision for cars, cycles, buses, pedestrians and other transport modes;
- Is innovative and resource efficient;
- Provides lively and pleasant places for people to enjoy;
- Reflects the importance of community spaces;
- Provides a comfortable and safe urban environment;
- Contributes to the wellbeing of people and communities;
- Promotes collaboration between the design partners, local authorities, design professionals, communities and private developers;
- Takes into account issues of affordability and reverse sensitivity; and
- Promotes the protection of existing infrastructure (including public utility networks) and its ability to be upgraded so as to ensure its efficient integration with growth management.

PRINCIPLE 2: *The live-work-play policy approach to future development*

This principle supports a shift in growth management from focusing largely on accommodating low density suburban residential development to supporting a compact and balanced Live Work and Play approach. Live Work and Play is a concept that emphasises the need to achieve balance within the management of growth. It has relevance at different levels:

At the sub-regional level it includes the provision of land and services for housing, business, rural production, community activities and recreation. It emphasises the inter-relationships of these activities to provide for accessibility, minimised energy use and reduced vehicle emissions.

At the local level it includes providing the opportunity for people to meet most of their daily needs within their own community and promoting community cohesion and more harmonious lifestyles. It gives opportunity for people to remain active through all their stages of life, in a healthy and safe environment.

At site level it includes careful design to contribute more to the public domain, provide for privacy and diversity through mixed use development.

The Live Work Play principle therefore promotes an approach to future development through an association of land uses that:

- Promotes social cohesion, security and well-being;



- Efficiently links, by way of roads, cycle links and walkways, housing to people's places of work and play;
- Encourages use of travel demand management techniques to reduce travel by private motor vehicles;
- Provides employment opportunities close to housing;
- Demonstrates adherence to the New Zealand Urban Design Protocol (March 2005) Key Urban Design Qualities;
- Encourages the provision of mixed-use development where appropriate; and
- Creates a range of housing opportunities and choices.

