

July 2024

Issues and options consultation document

Managing development

Incorporating High-Quality Design into Urban Planning

High-quality design serves as the cornerstone of our council's approach to urban planning and development. It transcends mere aesthetics, encompassing functionality, sustainability, and the creation of a distinct sense of place within our community. By integrating the principles of good urban design, we strive to craft environments that are not only visually appealing but also conducive to the well-being and prosperity of our residents. Here's how our council will incorporate high-quality design into our urban planning endeavours:

Functionality

Our urban planning initiatives prioritise functionality to ensure that our built environment serves the needs of residents and visitors alike. This entails thoughtful consideration of factors such as transportation infrastructure, land use zoning, and public amenities to create spaces that are efficient, accessible, and conducive to daily life. By designing neighbourhoods that offer a mix of residential, commercial, and recreational opportunities within close proximity, we aim to enhance convenience and quality of life for all members of our community.

Sustainability

Environmental sustainability is a fundamental aspect of high-quality design in our council's urban planning efforts. We are committed to reducing our carbon footprint, conserving natural resources, and promoting resilient, eco-friendly development practices. This includes incorporating green infrastructure such as parks, greenways, and urban forests into our urban fabric to enhance biodiversity, mitigate climate change, and improve air and water quality. Additionally, we prioritise the use of renewable energy sources, energy-efficient building materials, and sustainable transportation options to create a greener, healthier environment for current and future generations.

Sense of place

Our council recognises the importance of fostering a distinct sense of place within our community, rooted in its history, culture, and identity. We celebrate our unique heritage and architectural heritage while embracing innovation and modernity in our urban design endeavours. Through placemaking initiatives and community engagement efforts, we seek to create spaces that resonate with residents and visitors, instilling a sense of pride, belonging, and attachment to our locality. Whether through the revitalisation of historic landmarks, the creation of vibrant public squares, or the promotion of local arts and culture, we endeavour to cultivate a sense of place that reflects the diverse perspectives and values of our community.

Fostering Social Interaction

Our council recognises the importance of fostering social interaction and community cohesion through urban design. We prioritise the creation of public spaces such as parks, plazas, and community centers that serve as gathering places for residents to connect, engage, and build relationships. Additionally, we support mixed-use development projects that combine residential, commercial, and recreational amenities to create vibrant, walkable neighbourhoods where people live, work, and play in close proximity. By facilitating opportunities for social interaction and community engagement, we aim to cultivate a sense of belonging and solidarity among our residents, strengthening the fabric of our community.

Creating Safe and Accessible Environments

Safety and accessibility are paramount considerations in our council's urban planning initiatives. We prioritise pedestrian-friendly design, incorporating features such as wide sidewalks, well-lit pathways, and accessible crossings to promote safe and convenient walking and cycling. Additionally, we invest in accessible public transportation infrastructure, including bus stops, train stations, and bike lanes, to improve mobility and connectivity for all residents, regardless of age or ability. By designing streetscapes that prioritise the needs of pedestrians and cyclists over vehicular traffic, we aim to create vibrant, liveable neighbourhoods where active travel is encouraged and celebrated.

Inclusive and safe design

At the heart of our local plan lies a fundamental commitment to inclusive and safe design. We recognise that the physical environment plays a pivotal role in shaping the experiences and opportunities available to residents, and it is our responsibility to ensure that our communities are welcoming, accessible, and secure for all.

Creating welcoming communities

Inclusivity begins with creating spaces where all residents feel valued, respected, and included. Through thoughtful design, we strive to foster a sense of belonging and connection among individuals from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and abilities. This means designing public spaces that are inviting and inclusive, with features that cater to the needs and preferences of all community

members. From accessible seating areas and sensory gardens to multilingual signage and cultural programming, we aim to create environments where everyone feels welcome and appreciated.

Ensuring accessibility for all

Accessibility is a cornerstone of inclusive design, and it is essential that our built environment is accessible to individuals of all ages and abilities. Our local plan prioritises the removal of physical barriers and the provision of equitable access to public spaces, amenities, and services. This includes ensuring that sidewalks are wide and well-maintained, buildings are wheelchair accessible, and transportation options are inclusive of individuals with mobility challenges. By embracing universal design principles, we aim to create environments that are usable and enjoyable for everyone, regardless of their physical or cognitive abilities.

Promoting safety and security

Safety is paramount in creating thriving and inclusive communities. Our local plan incorporates measures to enhance public safety and security, including the design of well-lit and well-maintained public spaces, the installation of CCTV cameras in high-traffic areas, and the implementation of crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) principles. We work closely with local law enforcement agencies and community organisations to identify and address safety concerns, ensuring that residents feel safe and secure in their neighbourhoods.

Equity and social justice

Inclusivity goes beyond physical accessibility; it also encompasses social and economic equity. Our local plan is guided by principles of social justice, with a focus on addressing systemic inequalities and creating opportunities for all residents to thrive. This includes providing affordable housing options, supporting local businesses owned by underrepresented groups, and investing in education, healthcare, and social services that promote equality and opportunity for all. By fostering an environment of fairness and inclusion, we strive to build communities where everyone has the chance to succeed and prosper.

Community engagement and collaboration

Creating inclusive and safe communities requires collaboration and partnership with residents, stakeholders, and community organisations. We actively seek input from diverse voices and perspectives in the planning and design process, ensuring that the needs and priorities of all residents are considered and addressed. Through ongoing dialogue and engagement, we build trust, foster collaboration, and empower communities to actively participate in shaping their own futures.



Public realm and connected places

The public realm forms the heart of our communities, encompassing a diverse array of interconnected elements such as streets, squares, parks, and waterfronts. At Arlen Hill, we recognise the critical role that these spaces play in shaping the identity and vitality of our locality. Our commitment to enhancing the public realm and connecting places is grounded in principles of inclusivity, accessibility, and placemaking.

Facilitating movement

One of our primary objectives in enhancing the public realm is to facilitate movement and connectivity within our community. Through careful urban planning and design, we aim to create pedestrian-friendly environments that prioritise the safety and comfort of residents and visitors alike. This may involve measures such as widened sidewalks, designated pedestrian zones, and enhanced way-finding signage to encourage walking and cycling as viable modes of transportation. By prioritising active travel, we not only promote physical health and well-being but also reduce congestion and improve air quality in our urban areas.

Encouraging social interaction

Streets, squares, and parks serve as dynamic social hubs where individuals come together to interact, engage, and connect with one another. Recognising the importance of social cohesion and community bonds, we are committed to creating public spaces that foster meaningful interactions and relationships. This may involve the design of inviting gathering spaces, such as vibrant town squares or bustling marketplaces, where residents can come together to socialise, celebrate, and participate in cultural events. Additionally, we support the activation of public spaces through

programming and events that cater to diverse interests and demographics, ensuring that our community spaces remain vibrant and inclusive hubs of social activity.

Fostering a sense of community belonging

At the heart of our efforts to enhance the public realm is the goal of fostering a sense of community belonging and ownership among residents. We believe that well-designed and well-maintained public spaces contribute to a shared sense of pride and identity, strengthening the bonds that unite us as a community. Through initiatives such as community-led placemaking projects, participatory design workshops, and public art installations, we empower residents to shape and co-create their local environment, instilling a sense of ownership and stewardship over public spaces. By nurturing a collective sense of belonging, we create environments where individuals feel valued, connected, and invested in the well-being of their community.

(this is an example document)