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## A Survey of Local Government Authorities Urban Design Capability

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*Disclaimer:*  
*This report was commissioned by the Ministry for the Environment to assist in benchmarking the current level of urban design skills and capacity in local government. The report is intended to provide background information for the ongoing implementation of the New Zealand Urban Design Protocol, and the development of tools and resources to assist in building urban design capacity. However, the Ministry is not responsible for the content or reliability of the report and does not necessarily endorse the views expressed within it. It does not represent government policy.*



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## 1.0 Executive Summary

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The New Zealand Urban Design Protocol sets the platform for making our towns and cities more successful through quality urban design. The Protocol calls for a significant step up in the quality of urban design in New Zealand and a change in the way we think about our towns and cities.

Concerns regarding the level and extent of urban design skills and capacity have been repeatedly raised across various professions and sectors. More specifically, it is also believed that the presence of urban design skills is not consistent across local government authorities, and that urban design is not seen as a priority for many authorities.

The Protocol reinforces the importance of local government capacity in achieving an increase in the uptake and delivery of quality urban design. In the 'Making it Happen' section of the Protocol, capacity support for local government and addressing skills shortages, are both areas identified as requiring further investigation by government.

### Introduction

A key part of the Ministry for the Environment's urban work programme is to support the development of better urban design skills and capacity amongst urban design signatories, as well as across the board. Against this background, the Ministry decided to commission research in order to **determine the level and extent of urban design skills, experience and knowledge in local government**. This report presents the results of this survey.

More specifically, the objectives of the research were:

- u To establish current in-house capabilities.
- u To determine what degree of outsourcing currently occurs.
- u To identify key issues around capability building.

Interviewing for the baseline survey was completed online, hosted on Research New Zealand's website, between the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May and the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 2006. Respondents were recruited for the survey with the direct assistance of the local government authorities that were invited to participate in the survey. In other words, the survey respondents were those people considered by their own employing organisations to be the 'most qualified' to complete the interview.



A total of n=74 local government authorities provided contact details for a nominated staff member prior to the survey going live. By the final close-off date for the survey, an overall response rate of n=55, or 74% had been achieved. Given that this represents more than one-half of the potential sample, we can be confident that the results presented and discussed in this report are representative of the sector.

## Main findings & conclusions

### Current urban design capacity

1. **Currently, the importance that local government authorities place on urban design is variable.**

When considering **current** urban design capacity, as well as the ability or commitment to develop further capacity in the future, it is important to do so within the context of the importance that local government authorities place on urban design at present, given the investment to date in this area, and the competing issues that local government authorities face.

Based on the total sample of n=55 respondents, less than one-fifth (n=9) indicated that their organisation considered urban design to be “Extremely important”. While another n=28 reported that their organisation considered urban design to be “Somewhat important”, this represents an important **reference point** or baseline.

In fact, in contrast to the total n=37 respondents who believed their organisation considered urban design to be important, n=10 expressed the view that their organisation considered it to be unimportant.

2. **Urban design is considered to be more important by Metropolitan and Provincial local government authorities than Regional and Rural local government authorities.**

To an extent, the variability of the importance placed on urban design (Point 1 above) is a function of the type of local government authority.

While the n=10 who expressed the view that their organisation considered urban design to be unimportant included many respondents representing Rural local government authorities, it also included one respondent representing a Metropolitan authority.



### 3. **The level of importance/unimportance placed on urban design is reflected at a strategic level.**

Although approximately two-thirds of respondents (n=37 of n=55) considered their local government authority placed some degree of importance on urban design, smaller numbers, still believed that:

- ∪ Senior management in (their) council strongly supported urban design (n=29 agreed that this was currently the case).
- ∪ Urban design concepts influenced new policy development in their council (less than one-half or n=27 agreed that this was currently the case).
- ∪ The elected representatives strongly supported urban design (less than one-half or n=26 agreed that this was currently the case).
- ∪ Urban design principles were taken into account in most major council projects (less than one-half or n=25 agreed that this was the case).

Supporting these results, with the exception of 'District Plans', less than one-half of all respondents reported that urban design principles are recognised and incorporated in council policies and plans such as "Long Term Council Community Plans", "Structure plans", "Open space and recreational strategies", "Urban development plans" and "Codes of Practice".

### 4. **Importantly, the level of importance/unimportance placed on urban design is also reflected in terms of capacity.**

It is perhaps because of the overall level of importance/unimportance placed on urban design by local government authorities, that current urban design capacity is characterised by the following:

- ∪ Practitioners within local government authorities tend to be **generalists** rather than specialists. Given that survey respondents were recruited on the basis that they were in the best position to comment on urban design practice for their local government authorities, it is significant that over one-half (n=32 of n=55) held managerial rather than technical positions and only n=8 identified their background and experience as specifically urban design-based.

This was, in turn, reflected in their range of duties and responsibilities that tended to be either leadership oriented, mentoring and/or providing policy advice.



- ⌞ Overall, the numbers of people who are encouraged to have an understanding of urban design in local government authorities is **small**. This is, in turn, reflected in an even smaller number providing urban design advice.
- ⌞ Relatively **few** people, including practitioners, have formal urban design qualifications. Only n=11 of n=55 respondents reported that either they or others within their local government authorities had specific urban design qualifications. A similar number (n=14) reported that either they or others had related qualifications.

##### 5. **Current capacity is, in turn, reflected in current urban design operational practice.**

Because most urban design practitioners are generalists rather than specialists, current operational practice is characterised by the following:

- ⌞ Most local government authorities (n=43 of n=55) do **not** have a specific urban design team or section.
- ⌞ There is a tendency for local government authorities to take a **multi-disciplinary approach** to the delivery of urban design advice.
- ⌞ There is a significant use of **external consultants**. A significant number of respondents (n=43 of n=55) indicated that their council had employed consultants or contractors to provide urban design advice in the last 12 months, with n=23 of these reporting they had done so at least twice, or more frequently, during this period.

Many respondents (n=28) specifically indicated that their local government authorities had employed external consultants because of capacity issues.

### Building urban design capacity

First of all, many local government authorities (n=37 of n=55) recognise **there is currently an issue** in terms of urban design capacity. In this regard, locality and an ability to attract specialists to New Zealand are believed to be major problems.

However, as indicated above, building urban design capacity needs to be considered in the light of the importance that local government authorities currently place on urban design (relative to competing issues) and how this manifests itself at a strategic and operational level. Currently, this importance is most apparent amongst Metropolitan and Provincial local government authorities and less so amongst Regional and Rural local government authorities.



Also of significance, is the current base or platform from which such a capacity-building exercise would be based. At present, there are relatively few practitioners, most practitioners are generalists rather than specialists, few have specific urban design qualifications and there is a major use of external consultants and contractors.

Against this background, building urban design capability needs to occur at a number of different, but related levels:

- u First of all, it would appear that there is a **need to raise the awareness and understanding of the importance** of urban design amongst elected representatives and senior management within local government authorities. This implies an education strategy of some type that does more than simply raise awareness and knowledge, but focuses in particular on the practical or real value of urban design to local government authorities.
- u Second, consideration will need to be given in terms of focusing strategy on **Regional and Rural local government authorities**, as well as Metropolitan and Provincial local government authorities. That is, different strategies may be required for different types of local government authorities.
- u Should the strategy of raising the value that local government authorities place on urban design be successful, we would expect to see natural **flow-on effects at an operational level**, including possibly a commitment to invest in internal capacity-building. However, in this regard, we note the following:
  - u Currently, keeping up to date with urban design principles is usually undertaken by practitioners at a **passive** rather than an active level, by reading “Books and periodicals”, using the “Internet”, and/or by “Attending conferences, seminars, and workshops”.
  - u A significant number of respondents claimed that their organisation was **not** currently investing in developing capacity. At best, n=22 of n=55 respondents reported that their organisation **sponsored** staff and elected members to attend urban design training courses.
  - u Fewer respondents reported that their local government authorities were **advertising** for staff with urban design knowledge and experience (n=11 of n=55), although this might be a function of the fact that generalists are preferred, and/or that they were receiving **job training or peer mentoring** to develop their own understanding of urban design principles (n=12).
  - u Relatively few practitioners were satisfied with their continuing education opportunities. In fact, as many were more or less satisfied (n=16 of n=55) as were dissatisfied (n=11), while another n=14 did not participate in continuing education.



- u While support for a web-based information source (as promoted by the Ministry) was relatively high (n=33 of n=55), this is again a passive methodology.
- u Relatively few respondents (n=9 of n=55) indicated that external consultants and contractors were employed to “**Assist developing internal capability**”.



## 2.0 Introduction

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The New Zealand Urban Design Protocol sets the platform for making our towns and cities more successful through quality urban design. The Protocol calls for a significant step up in the quality of urban design in New Zealand, and a change in the way we think about our towns and cities. Exemplar projects that demonstrate good urban design play an important role in setting goals and raising the quality of the built environment. However, the multitude of decisions made by local government authorities, as part of their everyday work, have the largest overall impact on the quality of our towns and cities.

Concerns regarding the level and extent of urban design skills and capacity have been repeatedly raised<sup>1</sup> across various professions and sectors. More specifically, it is also believed that the presence of urban design skills is not consistent across local government authorities (for example, many local government authorities do not have specific in-house urban design expertise or knowledge), and that urban design is not seen as a priority for many local government authorities (particularly those that are not currently subject to high urban development pressures).

The Protocol reinforces the importance of local government capacity in achieving an increase in the uptake and delivery of quality urban design. In the 'Making it Happen' section of the Protocol, capacity support for local government and addressing skills shortages, are both areas identified as requiring further investigation by government. These factors highlight the need to gain a better understanding of the nature and extent of the issue, including a better understanding of how central government may be able to help in bridging any gaps.

A key part of the Ministry for the Environment's urban work programme is to support the development of better urban design skills and capacity among urban design signatories, as well as across the board. In this regard, the Ministry is committed to help increase urban design skill levels and capacity by developing initiatives such as the national programme of urban design continuing professional development (identified in its Action Plan).

Against this background, the Ministry decided to commission research in order to **determine the level and extent of urban design skills, experience and knowledge in local government**. This report presents the results of this survey.

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<sup>1</sup> Urbanism Down Under Conference August 2005, and a key discussion topic at various other forums including the Auckland Urban Form Design and Development work strand (UFDD), and the first Urban Design Champions workshops held by the Ministry.



## 2.1 Research objectives

As stated in the previous section, the overall objective of research was to form a comprehensive picture (i.e. a **benchmark**) of the level and extent of urban design skills, experience and knowledge in local government.

More specifically, the objectives of the research were:

### 1. To establish current in-house capacities:

- u What is the extent of specialist in-house urban design skills within local government authorities (i.e. how many urban designers are there in local government)?
- u What are the professional qualifications, training, professional affiliations and experience of staff providing urban design advice (i.e. how many are qualified vs. non-qualified, and where did they receive their training)?
- u What are the roles and responsibilities of urban design staff and consultants, the department they sit within and the types of projects they get involved in?
- u What is the use of innovative/creative urban design initiatives within local government authorities, including training opportunities provided/encouraged (these could include councillor training, targeted staff or organisation-wide training, advisory panels or multi-disciplinary review groups)?
- u What are the shortfalls in urban design skills/knowledge/expertise within local government authorities?

### 2. To determine what degree of outsourcing currently occurs:

- u To what extent do local government authorities use contracted (i.e. external) specialist skills and expertise (including skills and disciplines sought, specific consultancies used)?
- u What other sources of urban design skills, expertise and information are utilised by local government authorities?
- u To identify key recruitment issues:
  - u What issues or difficulties have local government authorities encountered in relation to recruiting urban design professionals?



### **3. To identify key issues around capacity building:**

- u What urban design related skills do local government authorities see as being necessary to take them forward into the future (i.e. what do they currently have and what is missing)?
- u What are the barriers to greater uptake of urban design in local government authorities?
- u What additional needs and requirements do local government authorities have to enable them to achieve the aims of the NZ Urban Design Protocol?

### **4. Contextual information:**

- u What are the specific local factors that determine the relative priority of urban design for local government authorities?
- u What organisation and institutional support is there for urban design?



## 3.0 Methodology

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Given the nature of the survey population and the nature of the information outlined in the previous section of this report, the benchmark survey of urban design capacity was completed online. This was considered to be the most appropriate methodology due to being more convenient for respondents (i.e. because of their work commitments, etc.), being more able to survey the entire population of interest, and being more time and cost-efficient.

### 3.1 Overview of research approach

Interviewing for the benchmark survey was completed online, hosted on Research New Zealand's website, between the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May and the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 2006.

The research approach used is detailed in the following sections.

#### 3.1.1 Respondent definition

Respondents were recruited for the survey with the direct assistance of the local government authorities that were invited to participate in the survey. In other words, the survey respondents were those people considered by their own employing organisations to be the 'most qualified' to complete the interview.

#### 3.1.2 Sample selection & recruitment, sample size

The recruitment process was as follows:

- ⌞ All local government organisations (n=85) were first sent a letter from the Ministry for the Environment informing them of the survey, asking them to nominate and provide the contact details for the person within their council who would be in the best position to respond to the survey.
- ⌞ The Ministry then followed up with non-responding local government organisations in order to maximise the number of participating organisations.
- ⌞ A total of n=74 local government authorities provided contact details for a nominated staff member, prior to the survey going live.



### 3.1.3 Interviewing process

The survey interviewing process was as follows:

- u The survey questionnaire was designed in consultation with the Ministry for the Environment, and once a preliminary version had been agreed to, it was then converted to an online format and piloted.
- u Following the piloting, minor changes to the wording of some questions were recommended before being implemented (see Appendix A for a copy of the questionnaire).
- u All participating local government authorities were then sent an email inviting them to respond to the online survey on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2006. This email briefly outlined the purpose of the survey and provided a link and password to the survey.
- u Two reminder emails were then sent, encouraging those who had not yet responded to the survey, to do so.
- u The survey was effectively held open for three weeks and closed off on the 6<sup>th</sup> June.

### 3.1.4 Survey response

An overall response rate of n=55, or 74% was achieved for this survey and as such, we can be confident that the results presented and discussed in this report are representative.

The sample was divided into the following four 'sector groups' as defined by local government New Zealand (LGNZ).

- u Metropolitan Group (populations exceeding 90,000).
- u Provincial Group (populations between 20,000 and 90,000).
- u Rural Group (populations below 20,000).
- u Regional Group (regional local government authorities and unitary authorities).

Given that this breakdown is widely recognised by local government authorities and used by LGNZ for its analysis and reporting, the Ministry decided that categorisation was the most appropriate to use.



The following table breaks down this response by sector group, in relation to the potential sample that could have responded to the survey.

Table 1: Survey response

	Total population of local government authorities n=85	Achieved sample n=55	Maximum margin of error %
Metropolitan	15	11	+/- 16.0
Provincial	27	21	+/- 10.3
Regional	16	7	+/- 30.0
Rural	27	16	+/- 16.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>+/- 3.9</b>

### 3.1.5 Respondent profile

The key characteristics of the n=55 respondents who completed the survey may be summarised as follows (Table 2 to Table 4):

- u As noted earlier, the sample is well represented in terms of Metropolitan and Provincial local government authorities, given the original numbers approached to participate in the survey. Reflecting this, more than half of the total sample of n=55 respondents comprises respondents from Metropolitan (n=11) and Provincial (n=21) local government authorities.
- u In terms of position title, one in three survey respondents (n=18) were Managers, about one in four (n=13) were Senior technical advisors (non-management positions), and approximately one in five (n=10) reported their role within their local government authority as a Director.
- u In line with this, the main background of the survey respondents varied. Most respondents (n=36) reported their main background as being District planning or resource management planning, while one in three (n=18) reported that their main background was in Strategic planning. Transport planning or engineering was also the main background for a further one in four (n=13) respondents.
- u The length of time respondents claimed that they had been in their current role also varied. One in ten (n=6) reported that they had been in their current role for less than one year, one in three (n=20) reported that they had been in their current role for 1-2 years, and more than one in four (n=15) respondents claimed that they had been in their current role for 3-5 years. A further one in four (n=13) claimed that they had been in their current role for 6 or more years.



Table 2: Position title

Q1. First of all, which of the following best describes your current role within your council?

	Total n=55	Metropolitan n=11	Provincial n=21	Regional n=7	Rural n=16
Chief Executive	1	0	0	0	1
Director	10	1	6	2	1
Manager	18	4	9	0	5
Team leader	3	0	0	2	1
Senior technical advisor (non-management position)	13	5	4	1	3
Technical advisor	4	1	1	1	1
Other	6	0	1	1	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16</b>

Table 3: Main background of respondent

Q3. What is your main background (i.e. training, experience, qualification)?

	Total n=55	Metropolitan n=11	Provincial n=21	Regional n=7	Rural n=16
Urban design	8	6	1	1	0
Architecture	5	2	1	0	2
Landscape architecture	1	1	0	0	0
Strategic planning	18	5	7	2	4
District plan/resource management planning	36	7	15	5	9
Resource consents processing	20	2	8	4	6
Strategic planning	1	0	0	1	0
Transport planning/engineering	13	1	4	1	7
Sub division planning/engineering	2	0	0	0	2
Surveying	7	1	3	0	3
Recreation/open space planning and management	7	3	2	0	2
Heritage planning and management	0	0	0	0	0
No response	8	0	2	1	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>

Table 4: Length of time in current role

Q2. And how long have you been in this role?

	Total n=55	Metropolitan n=11	Provincial n=21	Regional n=7	Rural n=16
Less than 1 year	6	1	3	1	1
1 to 2 years	20	7	4	2	7
3 to 5 years	15	2	7	3	3
6 to 10 years	6	0	3	1	2
More than 10 years	7	1	3	0	3
No response	1	0	1	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16</b>



### 3.1.6 Survey accuracy (constraints & limitations)

In our professional opinion, there are no major limitations or constraints impacting on the results of this survey. As noted earlier, with a response rate of 74%, the overall results can be considered to be representative of the sector.

However, because the response from Rural and particularly Regional local government authorities (less than half the potential sample) was below that for Metropolitan and Provincial local government authorities, the results for these local government authorities must be treated with caution.

### 3.1.7 Approach to analysis

The results of the survey have primarily been analysed in terms of the four 'sector groups' (viz. Metropolitan, Provincial, Regional, Rural), as agreed with the Ministry for the Environment.

Reflecting the objectives of this baseline survey, this report is divided into the following **two** sections:

1. Current urban design capacity.
2. Building urban design capacity.

These sections contain an overview of the main findings against the research objectives, as well as providing the results to key questions in tabular form.



## 4.0 Current urban design capacity

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The survey results presented in this section of the report outline the current urban design capacity within local government authorities responding to the survey.

The results point to the fact that urban design advice is currently provided by relatively few individuals within local government authorities who have specific or related urban design qualifications, and that these people represent a very diverse group with different position titles and backgrounds, and therefore, with different job responsibilities.

### 4.1 Providing urban design advice

As noted in the Methodology section of this report, survey respondents were recruited with the direct assistance of the local government authorities invited to participate in the survey. In other words, the survey respondents were those people considered by their own organisation to be the 'most qualified' to complete the interview. This should be kept in mind when considering the following results.

As noted previously in Section 3.1.2, respondents varied in terms of position and title and therefore, in their background. Reflecting this, when invited to identify the areas covered by their current role, these also varied considerably (Table 5). The areas most frequently identified in this regard were as follows:

- Providing policy advice on land use planning and policy (n=42 of n=55).
- Providing policy advice as part of strategic policy development processes (n=38).
- Providing policy advice as part of spatial planning processes (n=37).
- Providing a mentoring role for new staff or staff interested in upskilling (n=33).
- Providing executive leadership, contributing to organisation direction (n=28).
- Providing or assisting with training for council staff, consultants (n=25).



Against this background, respondents were then asked to identify the areas in which they provided urban design advice (Table 6):

- u Less than one-half of all respondents who considered their current role covered each of the areas outlined above, reported that they provided urban design advice in relation to these areas. For example:
  - u n=42 respondents reported that their work involved providing policy advice on land use planning and policy, and n=17 (or 40%) also reported that they provided urban design advice in relation to this work.
  - u Similarly, n=38 respondents reported that their work involved providing policy advice as part of strategic policy development processes, and n=16 (or 42%) also reported, they specifically provided urban design advice in relation to this work.
- u Although urban design advice was **not** frequently provided in relation to the most frequently identified areas of work, note that urban design advice was provided in relation to some other areas. For example, and as one would expect:
  - u n=16 respondents reported that their work involved providing design advice or input into the design of projects, and n=14 (or 87%) also reported that they specifically provided urban design advice in relation to this work.
  - u Similarly, n=13 respondents reported that their work involved processing resource consent applications for land use and subdivision activities, and n=9 (or 69%) also reported that they provided urban design advice in relation to this work.
  - u n=20 respondents reported that their work involved the preparation of (providing) advice on the development of design guidelines, and n=11 (or 55%) also reported that they specifically provided advice on urban design in relation to this work.



Table 5: Areas of current role

Q4. In your current role, which of the following do you do?

	Total n=55	Metropolitan n=11	Provincial n=21	Regional n=7	Rural n=16
Provide policy advice on land use planning and policy, e.g. district plans, regional land use, regional coastal plans, open space and recreation plans, reserve management plans	42	8	17	5	12
Provide policy advice as part of strategic policy development processes (excludes RMA land use policy and planning), e.g. urban development, transport, economic development, housing, community outcomes, built environment	38	9	13	6	10
Provide policy advice as part of spatial planning processes e.g. structure planning, master planning, place making, planning for the development of communities	37	10	16	4	7
Provide a mentoring role for new staff or staff interested in upskilling	33	7	12	5	9
Provide executive leadership, set or contribute to organisational direction, champion new council initiatives and strategic directions	28	6	11	3	8
Provide or assist with training for council staff, politicians, consultants or developers	25	6	9	1	9
Prepare or provide advice on the development of design guidelines	20	8	7	2	3
Provide specialist advice for resource consent application assessment, e.g. heritage, roading, engineering, urban design, landscape, open space	16	4	7	1	4
Provide design advice or input into the design of Council projects throughout the design and construction phases e.g. new facilities and buildings, parks and reserves, street improvements, roading proposals, other infrastructure	16	6	6	0	4
Process resource consent applications for land use and subdivision activities	13	2	4	0	7
Prepare or provide advice on the development of council asset management and operational policy, e.g. asset management plans, safety audits	13	3	6	1	3
Other	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>



Table 6: Areas of role specifically providing urban design advice

Q4. And in which areas (if any) do you specifically provide advice on urban design?

	Areas of current role	Areas specifically providing urban design advice				
	Total sample n=55	Total n=55	Metropolita n n=11	Provincial n=21	Regional n=7	Rural n=16
Provide policy advice on land use planning and policy, e.g. district plans, regional land use, regional coastal plans, open space and recreation plans, reserve management plans	42	17	7	5	3	2
Provide policy advice as part of strategic policy development processes (excludes RMA land use policy and planning), e.g. urban development, transport, economic development, housing, community outcomes, built environment	38	16	7	5	3	1
Provide policy advice as part of spatial planning processes e.g. structure planning, master planning, place making, planning for the development of communities	37	17	6	7	3	1
Provide a mentoring role for new staff or staff interested in upskilling	33	10	4	3	2	1
Provide executive leadership, set or contribute to organisational direction, champion new council initiatives and strategic directions	28	9	3	4	1	1
Provide or assist with training for council staff, politicians, consultants or developers	25	10	5	4	0	1
Prepare or provide advice on the development of design guidelines	20	11	6	3	2	0
Provide specialist advice for resource consent application assessment, e.g. heritage, roading, engineering, urban design, landscape, open space	16	7	4	3	0	0
Provide design advice or input into the design of Council projects throughout the design and construction phases e.g. new facilities and buildings, parks and reserves, street improvements, roading proposals, other infrastructure	16	14	6	6	0	2
Process resource consent applications for land use and subdivision activities	13	9	5	4	0	0
Prepare or provide advice on the development of council asset management and operational policy, e.g. asset management plans, safety audits	13	6	4	2	0	0
Other	0	2	0	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>



## 4.2 Keeping up to date with urban design issues

Respondents were invited to identify all the different ways they currently kept up to date with urban design issues (Table 7).

- v In this regard, respondents reported using a wide range of different methods, with the most frequently mentioned being passive methods such as reading books and periodicals (n=48) and using the Internet (n=48).
  
- v Also frequently mentioned were attendance at seminars (n=46), and networking at formal events (n=43). While regional meetings were the least frequently mentioned method, it is important to note that a significant number of respondents (n=39) also identified this as a method that they used.

Table 7: Methods used to keep up-to-date

Q5 Which do you personally use, to keep up-to-date with urban design issues?

	Total n=55	Metropolitan n=11	Provincial n=21	Regional n=7	Rural n=16
Reading books and periodicals	48	10	20	6	12
Sourcing urban design information from the internet	48	11	19	6	12
Attending conferences, seminars and workshops	46	10	20	5	11
Networking at formal events with others involved in urban design	43	11	19	3	10
Informal networking via email/phone/catch-ups over coffee	42	11	18	4	9
Regional-level meetings/catch-ups	39	11	15	3	10
Other	2	1	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>

Having identified what respondents used to keep with urban design issues, we asked these respondents to express whether they were satisfied with each of these methods (Table 8 to Table 12).

- v Overall, the results point to a reasonably high level of satisfaction with current methods. However, there are differences in satisfaction between the particular methodologies used.
  
- v In terms of those methods most frequently used (viz. reading books and periodicals, the Internet), it would appear that the respondents using these methods were also the respondents most satisfied. For example, n=35 of the n=48 respondents reading books and periodicals as a means of keeping up to date with urban design issues identified themselves as being satisfied.
  
- v In comparison, the highest levels of dissatisfaction recorded were from respondents who used regional level meetings as a method of keeping up to date (n=14 of n=39 users). This was also the case with those who used conferences and seminars (n=10 of n=46).



Table 8: Satisfaction overall with methods used – Total sample

*Q5. How satisfied are you with each of the following methods which you personally use?*

	Total n=55	Dissatisfied n=	Neutral n=	Satisfied n=	Unsure n=
Reading books and periodicals	48	6	7	35	0
Sourcing urban design information from the internet	48	4	9	35	0
Attending conferences, seminars and workshops	46	10	4	32	0
Networking at formal events with others involved in urban design	43	5	15	21	2
Informal networking via email/phone/catch-ups over coffee	42	7	14	21	0
Regional-level meetings/catch-ups	39	14	9	16	0
Other	2	0	0	2	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>

Table 9: Satisfaction overall with methods used - Metropolitan

*Q5. How satisfied are you with each of the following methods which you personally use?*

	Total n=11	Dissatisfied n=	Neutral n=	Satisfied n=	Unsure n=
Reading books and periodicals	10	0	0	10	0
Sourcing urban design information from the internet	11	1	0	10	0
Attending conferences, seminars and workshops	10	1	2	7	0
Networking at formal events with others involved in urban design	11	2	4	5	0
Informal networking via email/phone/catch-ups over coffee	11	3	3	5	0
Regional-level meetings/catch-ups	11	4	3	4	0
Other	1	0	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>



Table 10: Satisfaction overall with methods used - Provincial

Q5. How satisfied are you with each of the following methods which you personally use?

	Total n=21	Dissatisfied n=	Neutral n=	Satisfied n=	Unsure n=
Reading books and periodicals	20	5	3	12	0
Sourcing urban design information from the internet	19	2	5	12	0
Attending conferences, seminars and workshops	20	5	0	14	0
Networking at formal events with others involved in urban design	19	3	5	10	1
Informal networking via email/phone/catch-ups over coffee	18	2	5	11	0
Regional-level meetings/catch-ups	15	7	2	6	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>

Table 11: Satisfaction overall with methods used - Regional

Q5. How satisfied are you with each of the following methods which you personally use?

	Total n=7	Dissatisfied n=	Neutral n=	Satisfied n=	Unsure n=
Reading books and periodicals	6	0	2	4	0
Sourcing urban design information from the internet	6	1	1	4	0
Attending conferences, seminars and workshops	5	1	1	3	0
Networking at formal events with others involved in urban design	3	0	2	1	0
Informal networking via email/phone/catch-ups over coffee	4	1	2	1	0
Regional-level meetings/catch-ups	3	1	0	2	0
Other	1	0	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>



Table 12: Satisfaction overall with methods used - Rural

Q5. How satisfied are you with each of the following methods which you personally use?

	Total n=16	Dissatisfied n=	Neutral n=	Satisfied n=	Unsure n=
Reading books and periodicals	12	1	2	9	0
Sourcing urban design information from the internet	12	0	3	9	0
Attending conferences, seminars and workshops	11	3	1	7	0
Networking at formal events with others involved in urban design	10	0	4	5	1
Informal networking via email/phone/catch-ups over coffee	9	1	4	4	0
Regional-level meetings/catch-ups	10	2	4	4	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**	**	**	**	**



### 4.3 Satisfaction with continuing education opportunities/methods

Within the context of asking respondents what were the methods they used to keep up-to-date with urban design issues, respondents were also asked to comment on their general satisfaction with the continuing education opportunities that were available to them (Table 13).

In the first instance, and perhaps reflecting the generalist characteristics of respondents, note that n=14 of all respondents reported that they did not use continuing education opportunities.

The remainder of respondents were polarised, with slightly more being satisfied (n=16) than were dissatisfied (n=11). This was particularly the case for respondents from Regional (n=3 of n=7) and Rural local government authorities (n=7 of n=16).

Respondents from Provincial local government authorities appeared to be the most satisfied (n=10 of n=19 users of continuing education opportunities), although a not insignificant number was (also) dissatisfied.

In comparison, respondents from Metropolitan local government authorities tended to be the least satisfied (n=5 of n=9 users of continuing education opportunities were dissatisfied).

Table 13: Satisfaction with continuing education

Q5. How satisfied are you with each of the following methods which you personally use ... continuing education?

	Total n=55	Metropolitan n=11	Provincial n=21	Regional n=7	Rural n=16
Do not use	14	2	2	3	7
Not at all satisfied	3	1	2	0	0
Somewhat dissatisfied	8	4	3	0	1
Neutral	11	1	4	2	4
Somewhat satisfied	14	1	10	1	2
Extremely satisfied	2	2	0	0	0
No response	3	0	0	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16</b>



## 4.4 Support for a web-based urban design information resource

The Ministry for the Environment is considering the viability of developing a web-based urban design resource (Table 14). When respondents were asked to express their degree of support for this initiative, by far the large majority did so (n=52 of n=55), with most expressing their support enthusiastically (n=33). This result should be considered in terms of the existing use of the Internet to keep –up-to-date with urban design issues (reported earlier in section 4.2).

Also of note is the fact that support was greatest for this initiative amongst respondents from Metropolitan local government authorities (n=11), who were earlier identified as the least satisfied with continuing education opportunities.

In comparison, the least degree of enthusiastic support was offered by respondents from Regional (n=2) and Rural local government authorities (n=8), although respondents from these types of authorities were still generally supportive.

Table 14: Support for web-based information resource

*Q6 To what extent would you support the development of a web-based urban design information resource, which is specific to New Zealand's needs? (This could include links to NZ and overseas urban design related websites, recent publications, research and case studies)*

	Total n=55	Metropolitan n=11	Provincial n=21	Regional n=7	Rural n=16
Support it enthusiastically	33	10	13	2	8
Somewhat support it	19	1	8	4	6
Neither support nor do not support it	3	0	0	1	2
Do not support it	0	0	0	0	0
Unsure	0	0	0	0	0
Total	55	11	21	7	16



## 4.5 Others expected to have an understanding of, & provide urban design advice

After having provided information about themselves in relation to urban design, respondents were asked to identify, in addition to themselves, to what extent others within their organisation are encouraged to have an understanding of urban design issues and the extent to which these individuals were also providing urban design advice.

Table 15 overleaf presents the average number of people with a particular position title who are encouraged to have an understanding of urban design. It should be noted that the number includes the respondent.

This table shows that there are relatively small numbers of people overall who are encouraged to have an understanding of urban design as part of their role:

- u At best, the average numbers are higher for Resource Consent (2.1), District Plan advisors (1.6), and Transport planners (1.0), although this may be a function of the total numbers who have these types of position titles in the first instance.
- u At the other extreme, the numbers are very low for Surveyors (0.0), Architects (0.1) and Landscape Architects (0.3). Again, this may be a function of the total numbers who have these types of position titles.
- u These average numbers are clearly a function of the size of the council and the number of people with each of these position titles within them. For this reason, the average numbers tend to be larger for Metropolitan local government authorities in particular.

Building on this information, Table 16 shows the average number of people with a particular position title who provide urban design advice as part of their role.

- u Compared with the average number who are encouraged to have an understanding of urban design, the average number of people providing urban design advice tends to be smaller. For example, an average of 2.1 Resource consent planners are encouraged to have an understanding of urban design, but approximately half (1.2) actually provide advice in relation to this.
- u The relationship between having an understanding and providing advice is much stronger in the case of Urban designers, Landscape Architects, Heritage advisors, and Parks planners.
- u Again, respondents from Metropolitan local government authorities have more people on average providing urban design advice compared with other local government authorities.



Table 15: Number who have an understanding of urban design

*Q7. Including yourself, how many of the following people within your council are encouraged to have an understanding of urban design as part of their role?*

	Total n=55 Mean	Metropolitan n=11 Mean	Provincial n=21 Mean	Regional n=7 Mean	Rural n=16 Mean
Urban designers	.4	1.6	.1	.0	.2
Architects	.1	.3	.1	.0	.0
Landscape Architects	.3	.9	.3	.1	.0
Resource consent planners	2.1	2.8	2.6	2.3	.7
District Plan advisors/planners	1.6	2.3	1.8	.6	1.6
Strategic advisors/planners	.8	1.1	.6	1.6	.4
Heritage advisors/planners	.2	.7	.1	.1	.1
Transport planners/roading engineers	1.0	1.9	.7	1.9	.6
Subdivision planners/engineers	.6	.3	.8	.0	.9
Surveyors	.0	.0	.1	.0	.0
Parks planners or recreation planners	.7	1.3	.9	.1	.5
Project managers	.6	.8	.7	.1	.5
Other	1.4	.0	1.0	1.5	2.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>

Table 16: Number who provide urban design advice

*Q8. And of these, how many provide urban design advice as part of their role?*

	Total n=55 Mean	Metropolitan n=11 Mean	Provincial n=21 Mean	Regional n=7 Mean	Rural n=16 Mean
Urban designers	.5	1.3	.1	.0	.4
Architects	.0	.2	.0	.0	.0
Landscape Architects	.3	.8	.3	.2	.0
Resource consent planners	1.2	2.0	.8	2.2	.2
District Plan advisors/planners	.9	1.2	.9	.7	.5
Strategic advisors/planners	.8	.9	.4	1.7	.5
Heritage advisors/planners	.2	.6	.1	.0	.2
Transport planners/roading engineers	.7	.4	.5	1.3	.8
Subdivision planners/engineers	.3	.0	.5	.0	.5
Surveyors	.0	.0	.1	.0	.0
Parks planners or recreation planners	.7	.8	.8	.2	.7
Project managers	.3	.6	.2	.0	.3
Other	1.5	.0	1.0	3.0	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>



## 4.6 Urban design qualifications

Having identified the total number of people within their organisation who were encouraged to have an understanding of, and provide advice in relation to urban design issues, respondents were invited to identify whether these people, as well as themselves, had specific urban design qualifications (Table 17).

As can be seen from this table, most respondents (n=39 of n=55) reported that they and the other people in their organisation who were encouraged to have an understanding/provide advice in relation to urban design issues, had no specific qualifications. In contrast, only n=11 respondents reported that either they or others within their organisations had such qualifications.

On a proportional basis, note that respondents from Metropolitan local government authorities were most likely (n=8 of n=11) to report that they had specific urban design qualifications.

Table 17: Specific urban design related qualifications

*Q9. Including yourself, does anyone in your council have a specific urban design qualification?*

	Total n=55	Metropolitan n=11	Provincial n=21	Regional n=7	Rural n=16
Yes	11	8	3	0	0
No	39	3	16	5	15
Unsure	4	0	1	2	1
No response	1	0	1	0	0
Total	55	11	21	7	16

Respondents were also given the opportunity to comment on whether they or others within their organisation had related urban design qualifications. As can be seen, the response was similar to that recorded in relation to specific qualifications. That is, only n=14 respondents categorically confirmed that this was the case, while n=24 reported that this was not the case and another n=16 were unsure.

Again, respondents from Metropolitan local government authorities were more likely than respondents from other types of local government authorities, to claim that they or others within their organisation had related urban design qualifications.



Table 18: Related urban design related qualifications

Q11. Including yourself, does anyone in your council have other urban design related qualifications?

	Total n=55	Metropolitan n=11	Provincial n=21	Regional n=7	Rural n=16
Yes	14	6	6	1	1
No	24	2	8	2	12
Unsure	16	3	6	4	3
No response	1	0	1	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16</b>

Where respondents identified either themselves or others within their organisation as having specific or related urban design qualifications, they were asked to specify the qualification, the institution from which it was gained and the year of graduation. Given the diversity of this information, it has been difficult to process and is therefore provided in an appendix to this report.



## 4.7 External urban design assistance

Having described the urban design capability within their own organisation, respondents were invited to identify whether their organisation also contracted external urban design resources (Table 19). Most respondents (n=43 of n=55) confirmed that this was the case, with this being particularly the case for respondents from Metropolitan (n=11) and Provincial local government authorities (n=19) compared with respondents from other types of authorities.

Table 19: Use of external consultants

Q13. *Has your council ever employed external consultants or contractors to provide urban design advice?*

	Total n=55	Metropolitan n=11	Provincial n=21	Regional n=7	Rural n=16
Yes	43	10	19	3	11
No	10	1	0	4	5
Unsure	1	0	1	0	0
No response	1	0	1	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16</b>

Rates of usage varied, with many using external consultants once a month or more (n=13 of n=43), once or twice each year (n=16), or less frequently (n=12) (Table 20). Respondents from Metropolitan and Provincial local government authorities not only indicated that their organisation used external consultants, but they also indicated that they used them more frequently than respondents from other types of local government authorities (n=5 and n=6 reported that their local government authorities used external consultants at least once a month, respectively).

Table 20: Frequency of use

Q14. *Approximately, how often does your council employ these external consultants or contractors.*

	Sub-sample n=43*	Metropolitan n=10*	Provincial n=19*	Regional n=3*	Rural n=11*
More than once a month	5	2	2	0	1
About once a month	8	3	4	1	0
About twice a year	10	2	4	2	2
About once a year	6	0	2	0	4
Less often than once a year	12	2	7	0	3
Unsure	2	1	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>

\*Sub-sample based on those employing external consultants.



Respondents whose local government authorities used external consultants for urban design purposes were asked to identify the types of consultants used and in relation to which areas of work.

The following table shows (Table 21) that a range of different types of consultants is used, with the most frequently mentioned type being 'Urban designers' (n=34) and 'Landscape Architects' (n=33). Additionally, 'Urban planners' (n=23) and 'Architects' (n=22) are also identified as being frequently used.

There appears to be some variation by council type, with respondents from Provincial local government authorities indicating their organisation uses a wider range of consultants, and especially 'Landscape Architects' (n=14).

Most local government authorities appear to use external consultants who are New Zealand based (n=36) (Table 22), although a reasonable number also uses consultants that are from overseas (n=7). This is especially the case in terms of respondents from Metropolitan local government authorities.

Table 21: Type of external consultant

Q15. Which of the following types of consultants or contractors provided this urban design advice?

	Sub-sample n=43*	Metropolitan n=10*	Provincial n=19*	Regional n=3*	Rural n=11*
Urban designers	34	10	16	3	5
Landscape Architects	33	7	14	1	11
Urban planners	23	7	8	1	7
Architects	22	7	9	1	5
Open space planners	7	0	4	0	3
Surveyors	4	0	2	0	2
Engineers	12	1	7	0	4
Other	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>

\*Sub-sample based on those employing external consultants.

Table 22: Location

Q16. And are these consultants or contractors based in New Zealand or overseas?

	Sub-sample n=43*	Metropolitan n=10*	Provincial n=19*	Regional n=3*	Rural n=11*
New Zealand	36	6	18	2	10
Both New Zealand and overseas	7	4	1	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>

\*Sub-sample based on those employing external consultants.



External consultants appear to be used for a range of different reasons (Table 23), including because they possess a certain skill set (n=28), the local government authority in question has capacity constraints (n=28), and/or in order to provide independent advice (n=26). There is little variation between the different sector groups.

Table 23: Reasons employed

Q17. And for which of the following reasons did your council employ these consultants or contractors?

	Sub-sample n=43*	Metropolitan n=10*	Provincial n=19*	Regional n=3*	Rural n=11*
Seeking a particular skill set	28	7	15	3	3
Capacity constraints with internal Council resources	28	8	10	2	8
Providing independent advice	26	6	8	2	10
Assisting to develop internal capability	9	3	5	1	0
Other	4	1	1	0	2
Total	**	**	**	**	**

\*Sub-sample based on those employing external consultants

Similarly, the types of projects that these external consultants are involved in varies significantly (Table 24), with the most frequently mentioned being, 'Providing advice as part of spatial planning processes' (n=24), 'Providing design advice or input into the design of projects throughout the design and construction phases' (n=23), 'Providing policy advice as part of strategic policy development processes' (n=22), and 'Providing specialist advice for resource consent application assessment' (n=21). Note that these are the same areas that respondents earlier identified as the areas in which they mostly provided urban design advice (reported earlier in section 4.1).



Table 24: Types of projects or work areas

Q18. And what particular types of projects and/or work areas were these consultants or contractors involved in, in the last 12 months?

	Sub-sample n=41*	Metropolitan n=10*	Provincial n=18**	Regional n=3*	Rural n=10*
Providing policy advice as part of spatial planning processes e.g. structure planning, master planning, place making, planning for the development of communities	24	8	9	3	4
Providing design advice or input into the design of Council projects throughout the design and construction phases e.g. new facilities and buildings, parks and reserves, street improvements, roading proposals, other infrastructure	23	7	12	2	2
Providing policy advice as part of strategic policy development processes (excludes RMA land use policy and planning), e.g. urban development, transport, economic development, housing, community outcomes, built environment	22	8	8	2	4
Providing specialist advice for resource consent application assessment, e.g. heritage, roading, engineering, urban design, landscape, open space	21	8	5	3	5
Providing policy advice on land use planning and policy, e.g. district plans, regional land use, regional coastal plans, open space and recreation plans, reserve management plans	18	5	6	1	6
Processing resource consent applications for land use and subdivision activities	15	4	5	1	5
Preparing or providing advice on the development of design guidelines	14	6	6	0	2
Providing or assisting with training for council staff, politicians, consultants or developers	5	2	2	1	0
Providing a mentoring role for new staff or staff interested in upskilling	5	2	3	0	0
Preparing or providing advice on the development of council asset management and operational policy, e.g. asset management plans, safety audits	4	0	1	0	3
Other	3	0	2	0	1
No response	2	0	1	0	1
Total	**	**	**	**	**

\*Sub-sample based on those employing external consultants



## 5.0 Building urban design capacity

The survey results presented in this section of the report outline the extent and steps that local government authorities are currently undertaking in order to develop their urban design capacity for the future.

The results point to the fact that there is a need to assist the sector to understand the importance of urban design and to incorporate urban design principles in organisational policies and plans. When this point is reached, then local government authorities will be prepared to commit to making the necessary investment to develop their urban design capacity. At present, this commitment appears to be lacking, although it is also compounded by issues outside of individual organisations' control.

### 5.1 Importance of urban design

Clearly, local government authorities will invest in building their urban design capacity if they feel that the area is of importance. Respondents were invited to identify whether this was the case for their organisation. Table 25 shows that few respondents (n=9 of n=55) regarded urban design as being 'Extremely important', with most (n=28) responding that it was 'Somewhat important'.

Importantly, a significant number of respondents (n=16) considered that urban design was 'Not at all important', 'Somewhat unimportant', 'Neither unimportant nor important', or were 'Unsure'.

Respondents from Metropolitan (n=9) and Provincial local government authorities (n=17) considered their organisation placed greater importance on urban design compared with respondents from other types of sector groups, who were more likely to claim that their organisation did not place importance on urban design.

Table 25: Importance of urban design

*Q22. Overall, how important is urban design in your council?*

	Total n=55	Metropolitan n=11	Provincial n=21	Regional n=7	Rural n=16
Not at all important	3	0	0	0	3
Somewhat unimportant	7	1	1	3	2
Neither	5	1	2	0	2
Somewhat important	28	5	13	4	6
Extremely important	9	4	4	0	1
Unsure	1	0	0	0	1
No response	2	0	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16</b>



This result was reflected in the extent to which respondents agreed or disagreed with a number of specific statements about the 'position' or attention afforded urban design by their organisation (Table 26 to Table 30). For example, respondents were more likely to agree with statements about the importance of urban design from a community perspective and the extent to which it was supported by senior management within their organisation:

- A quality urban environment is identified as a key priority in our community outcomes (n=37 agreed that this statement applied to their council).
- Senior management in this council strongly support(s) urban design (n=29 agreed that this statement applied to their organisation).

However, in contrast, they were more likely to disagree or give a neutral response to many statements about the application of urban design within their organisation. For example:

- Urban design principles are taken into account in most major council projects (n=12 disagreed that this statement applied to their organisation, or n=13 gave a neutral response).
- Urban design concepts influence new policy development in this council (n=11 disagreed that this statement applied to their organisation, or n=11 gave a neutral response).
- We take a cross-divisional approach to urban design in this council (n=10 disagreed that this statement applied to their organisation, or n=20 gave a neutral response).
- The elected representatives strongly support urban design (n=10 disagreed that this statement applied to their organisation, or n=12 gave a neutral response).

As expected, given the earlier results reflecting the current capacity and use of urban design (reported earlier in Section 4), differences were recorded between the different sector groups. In general, respondents from Metropolitan and Provincial local government authorities were more likely to agree with these statements than their counterparts from Regional and Rural local government authorities. However, it is important to point out that respondents from Metropolitan/Provincial local government authorities did not necessarily unanimously agree with these statements.



Table 26: Opinions on urban design overall - Total sample

Q23. Which of the following statements do you agree or disagree with?

	Total n=55	Disagree n=	Neutral n=	Agree n=	Unsure n=	No response n=
Urban design principles are taken into account in most major council projects	55	12	13	25	1	4
Senior management in this council strongly support(s) urban design	55	8	9	29	5	4
The elected representatives strongly support urban design	55	10	12	26	4	3
We take a cross-divisional approach to urban design in this council	55	10	20	18	2	5
Urban design concepts influence new policy development in this council	55	11	11	27	3	3
A quality urban environment is identified as a key priority in our community outcomes	55	9	5	37	1	3
We take a multi-disciplinary approach to urban design in this council (i.e. a variety of skills is applied to a project)	55	7	16	27	2	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>



Table 27: Opinions on urban design - Metropolitan

Q23. Which of the following statements do you agree or disagree with?

	Total n=11	Disagree n=	Neutral n=	Agree n=	Unsure n=	No response n=
Urban design principles are taken into account in most major council projects	11	2	4	5	0	0
Senior management in this council strongly support(s) urban design	11	1	2	8	0	0
The elected representatives strongly support urban design	11	1	2	8	0	0
We take a cross-divisional approach to urban design in this council	11	2	5	3	0	0
Urban design concepts influence new policy development in this council	11	0	3	8	0	0
A quality urban environment is identified as a key priority in our community outcomes	11	0	0	11	0	0
We take a multi-disciplinary approach to urban design in this council (i.e. a variety of skills is applied to a project)	11	1	3	7	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>

Table 28: Opinions on urban design - Provincial

Q23. Which of the following statements do you agree or disagree with?

	Total n=21	Disagree n=	Neutral n=	Agree n=	Unsure n=	No response n=
Urban design principles are taken into account in most major council projects	21	5	3	11	0	2
Senior management in this council strongly support(s) urban design	21	2	2	15	0	2
The elected representatives strongly support urban design	21	4	4	12	0	1
We take a cross-divisional approach to urban design in this council	21	3	9	5	1	3
Urban design concepts influence new policy development in this council	21	4	4	10	2	1
A quality urban environment is identified as a key priority in our community outcomes	21	5	2	13	0	1
We take a multi-disciplinary approach to urban design in this council (i.e. a variety of skills is applied to a project)	21	3	6	11	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>



Table 29: Opinions on urban design - Regional

Q23. Which of the following statements do you agree or disagree with?

	Total n=7	Disagree n=	Neutral n=	Agree n=	Unsure n=	No response n=
Urban design principles are taken into account in most major council projects	7	2	2	2	1	0
Senior management in this council strongly support(s) urban design	7	2	2	3	0	0
The elected representatives strongly support urban design	7	2	2	3	0	0
We take a cross-divisional approach to urban design in this council	7	2	2	3	0	0
Urban design concepts influence new policy development in this council	7	2	1	4	0	0
A quality urban environment is identified as a key priority in our community outcomes	7	0	0	6	1	0
We take a multi-disciplinary approach to urban design in this council (i.e. a variety of skills is applied to a project)	7	1	3	3	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>

Table 30: Opinions on urban design - Rural

Q23. Which of the following statements do you agree or disagree with?

	Total n=16	Disagree n=	Neutral n=	Agree n=	Unsure n=	No response n=
Urban design principles are taken into account in most major council projects	16	3	4	7	0	2
Senior management in this council strongly support(s) urban design	16	3	3	3	5	2
The elected representatives strongly support urban design	16	3	4	3	4	2
We take a cross-divisional approach to urban design in this council	16	3	4	6	1	2
Urban design concepts influence new policy development in this council	16	5	3	5	1	2
A quality urban environment is identified as a key priority in our community outcomes	16	4	3	7	0	2
We take a multi-disciplinary approach to urban design in this council (i.e. a variety of skills is applied to a project)	16	2	4	6	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>



One of the specific statements, the results for which were reported earlier, related to the extent to which respondents felt that a cross-divisional approach to urban design was taken in their council. As noted, n=18 of n=55 respondents agreed that this was the approach taken to urban design within their organisation, while n=30 disagreed or gave a neutral response. To further investigate this matter, a specific question was asked to determine whether respondents' organisations had a dedicated urban design team and/or whether urban design roles were 'spread across a number of teams and functions' (Table 31 to Table 35).

The majority of respondents (n=43 of n=55) reported that their local government authority did not have a dedicated urban design team, with a greater number indicating that urban design roles were 'spread across a number of teams and functions' (n=29). Note, however, that a similar number (n=24) claimed that even this was not the case, suggesting that, organisationally, their organisation did not yet have a predetermined approach to urban design.

Again, differences were recorded between the different sector groups, with respondents from Metropolitan local government authorities most likely to indicate that their organisations (being larger) had a dedicated urban design team. In contrast, respondents from Regional and especially Rural local government authorities were more likely to indicate that their organisation neither had such a team nor an approach in which urban design roles were spread across teams and functions.

Table 31: Organisational structure overall – Total sample

Q24. And thinking about the organisational structure within your council, which of the following apply?

	Total n=55	Yes n=	No n=	No response n=
There is a specific urban design team or section which provides input to a range of council processes and projects	55	9	43	3
Urban design roles are spread across a number of teams and functions in the council	55	29	24	2
Total	**	**	**	**

Table 32: Organisational structure overall - Metropolitan

Q24. And thinking about the organisational structure within your council, which of the following apply?

	Total n=11	Yes n=	No n=	No response n=
There is a specific urban design team or section which provides input to a range of council processes and projects	11	6	5	0
Urban design roles are spread across a number of teams and functions in the council	11	6	5	0
Total	**	**	**	**



Table 33: Organisational structure overall - Provincial

Q24. And thinking about the organisational structure within your council, which of the following apply?

	Total n=21	Yes n=	No n=	No response n=
There is a specific urban design team or section which provides input to a range of council processes and projects	21	2	18	1
Urban design roles are spread across a number of teams and functions in the council	21	12	8	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>

Table 34: Organisational structure overall - Regional

Q24. And thinking about the organisational structure within your council, which of the following apply?

	Total n=7	Yes n=	No n=	No response n=
There is a specific urban design team or section which provides input to a range of council processes and projects	7	0	7	0
Urban design roles are spread across a number of teams and functions in the council	7	5	2	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>

Table 35: Organisational structure overall - Rural

Q24. And thinking about the organisational structure within your council, which of the following apply?

	Total n=16	Yes n=	No n=	No response n=
There is a specific urban design team or section which provides input to a range of council processes and projects	16	1	13	2
Urban design roles are spread across a number of teams and functions in the council	16	6	9	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>



In order to investigate further the extent to which local government authorities had embraced urban design within their organisation, another question was asked aimed at identifying the areas that 'urban design principles (were) recognised and incorporated' (Table 36).

Overall, with the exception of 'District plans', less than one-half of all respondents reported that urban design principles were incorporated in all the listed areas provided. In fact, n=5 of n=55 respondents claimed that their local government authority had not incorporated urban design principles in any of the areas.

The areas in which urban design principles were most frequently mentioned as being incorporated were as follows:

- u District Plan (n=33 of n=55).
- u Long Term Council Community Plan (n=27).
- u Structure plans (n=25).
- u Open space and recreation strategies (n=24).

In contrast, the areas that were less frequently mentioned were:

- u Regional plan(s) (n=3 of n=55).
- u Housing strategy (n=4).
- u Regional Policy Statement (n=7).
- u Asset management plans (n=8).
- u Economic development strategy (n=8).

Given earlier results, respondents from Metropolitan and Provincial local government authorities were more likely to identify that their organisations had incorporated urban design principles into the listed areas provided, compared with respondents from Regional and especially Rural local government authorities. In fact, respondents from Rural local government authorities were the most likely to report that their organisation had not incorporated these principles in any areas.



Table 36: Areas urban design principles are recognised and incorporated

Q25. Thinking about the policies and plans your council is responsible for (both statutory and non-statutory), in which of the following are urban design principles recognised and incorporated?

	Total n=55	Metropolitan n=11	Provincial n=21	Regional n=7	Rural n=16
District Plan	33	8	14	1	10
Long Term Council Community Plan	27	6	12	4	5
Structure plans	25	9	9	2	5
Open space and recreation strategies	24	5	13	1	5
Urban development plan/strategy	20	8	8	2	2
Specific design guidelines, standards and targets	20	5	9	3	3
Codes of Practice (e.g. urban/land development, subdivision, roading design)	13	3	5	1	4
Regional Land Transport Strategy	10	2	0	7	1
Regional growth/development strategy	10	4	2	2	2
Transport plan/strategy	9	5	1	2	1
Economic development strategy	8	4	3	0	1
Asset management plans	8	2	4	0	2
Regional Policy Statement	7	2	0	4	1
Housing strategy	4	2	0	0	2
Regional plan(s)	3	2	0	0	1
Other	5	1	2	1	1
None of the above	5	0	1	0	4
No response	2	0	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>



## 5.2 The ability to develop internal capacity

Having established the importance placed on urban design by respondents' organisations, respondents were asked to indicate the level of organisational support their local government authorities were providing in terms of building internal urban design capacity relative to the general availability of urban design expertise in New Zealand (Table 37 to Table 41).

Significantly, fewer than one-half of all respondents agreed with each of a number of specific statements in this regard, indicating that the level of urban design expertise in New Zealand was limited and/or that their organisation unable to provide the necessary support to build internal capacity. In this regard, particular issues identified include the number of urban design practitioners currently within local government authorities, the regional location of authorities, the priority given to recruiting urban design practitioners and New Zealand's ability to attract good practitioners in general.

The statements most respondents agreed with were as follows:

- u Our council prefers to outsource urban design skills than to develop specifically our internal urban design capacity (n=23 of n=55 agreed that this statement applied to their council).
- u It is easy to contract external urban design experts because they always have available capacity (n=17 agreed that this statement applied to their council).

In contrast, the statements respondents tended to disagree with were:

- u There is a sufficient number of experienced people in my council to provide quality urban design advice (n=37 of n=55 disagreed that this statement applied to their council, or n=9 gave a neutral response).
- u The location of our council makes it easy to recruit and/or keep people with urban design experience (n=34 disagreed that this statement applied to their council, or n=11 gave a neutral response).
- u It is seen as a priority to recruit people with urban design skills in my council (n=33 disagreed that this statement applied to their council, or n=8 gave a neutral response).
- u It is easy to recruit people in New Zealand with urban design experience (n=26 disagreed that this statement applied to their council, or n=10 gave a neutral response).



Given the fact that most respondents disagreed with these statements, or gave a neutral response, there are relatively few differences of note by sector group. That is, respondents gave a similar response irrespective of where they were based.

Table 37: Urban design capacity within local government authorities - Total sample

Q19. Which of the following statements do you agree or disagree with?

	Total n=55	Disagree n=	Neutral n=	Agree n=	Unsure n=	No response n=
There is a sufficient number of experienced people in my council to provide quality urban design advice	55	37	9	7	0	2
It is easy to contract external urban design experts because they always have available capacity	55	17	11	17	7	3
It is easy to recruit people in New Zealand with urban design experience	55	26	10	5	11	3
It is easy to recruit people from overseas with urban design experience	55	11	17	4	19	4
It is seen as a priority to recruit people with urban design skills in my council	55	33	8	10	1	3
Our council prefers to outsource urban design skills than to develop specifically our internal urban design capacity	55	9	17	23	3	3
The location of our council makes it easy to recruit and/or keep people with urban design experience	55	34	11	3	4	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>



Table 38: Urban design capacity within local government authorities - Metropolitan

Q19. Which of the following statements do you agree or disagree with?

	Total n=11	Disagree n=	Neutral n=	Agree n=	Unsure n=	No response n=
There is a sufficient number of experienced people in my council to provide quality urban design advice	11	8	1	2	0	0
It is easy to contract external urban design experts because they always have available capacity	11	6	1	2	1	1
It is easy to recruit people in New Zealand with urban design experience	11	8	0	1	1	1
It is easy to recruit people from overseas with urban design experience	11	4	3	2	1	1
It is seen as a priority to recruit people with urban design skills in my council	11	2	2	5	1	1
Our council prefers to outsource urban design skills than to develop specifically our internal urban design capacity	11	6	2	2	0	1
The location of our council makes it easy to recruit and/or keep people with urban design experience	11	6	2	1	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>



Table 39: Urban design capacity within local government authorities - Provincial

Q19. Which of the following statements do you agree or disagree with?

	Total n=21	Disagree n=	Neutral n=	Agree n=	Unsure n=	No response n=
There is a sufficient number of experienced people in my council to provide quality urban design advice	21	14	4	2	2	1
It is easy to contract external urban design experts because they always have available capacity	21	6	5	9	0	1
It is easy to recruit people in New Zealand with urban design experience	21	10	4	2	4	1
It is easy to recruit people from overseas with urban design experience	21	3	5	2	10	1
It is seen as a priority to recruit people with urban design skills in my council	21	13	5	2	0	1
Our council prefers to outsource urban design skills than to develop specifically our internal urban design capacity	21	2	4	13	1	1
The location of our council makes it easy to recruit and/or keep people with urban design experience	21	13	3	2	2	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>



Table 40: Urban design capacity within local government authorities - Regional

Q19. Which of the following statements do you agree or disagree with?

	Total n=7	Disagree n=	Neutral n=	Agree n=	Unsure n=	No response n=
There is a sufficient number of experienced people in my council to provide quality urban design advice	7	5	2	0	0	0
It is easy to contract external urban design experts because they always have available capacity	7	3	2	1	1	0
It is easy to recruit people in New Zealand with urban design experience	7	4	2	0	1	0
It is easy to recruit people from overseas with urban design experience	7	2	3	0	2	0
It is seen as a priority to recruit people with urban design skills in my council	7	5	1	1	0	0
Our council prefers to outsource urban design skills than to develop specifically our internal urban design capacity	7	1	5	1	0	0
The location of our council makes it easy to recruit and/or keep people with urban design experience	7	3	4	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>



Table 41: Urban design capacity within local government authorities - Rural

Q19. Which of the following statements do you agree or disagree with?

	Total n=16	Disagree n=	Neutral n=	Agree n=	Unsure n=	No response n=
There is a sufficient number of experienced people in my council to provide quality urban design advice	16	10	2	3	0	1
It is easy to contract external urban design experts because they always have available capacity	16	2	3	5	5	1
It is easy to recruit people in New Zealand with urban design experience	16	4	4	2	5	1
It is easy to recruit people from overseas with urban design experience	16	2	6	0	6	2
It is seen as a priority to recruit people with urban design skills in my council	16	13	0	2	0	1
Our council prefers to outsource urban design skills than to develop specifically our internal urban design capacity	16	0	6	7	2	1
The location of our council makes it easy to recruit and/or keep people with urban design experience	16	12	2	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>



A further, more specific question was asked in relation to building internal capacity (Table 42). As can be seen from the responses below, significantly fewer than one-half of respondents agreed that each of the listed activities provided applied to their local government authority when it came to building this capacity. In fact, n=16 of n=55 respondents reported that none of the activities applied to their organisation.

The best results were for, 'Encouraging staff and elected members to attend seminars, conferences, and workshops' (n=36) and 'Sponsoring staff and elected members to attend urban design training courses' (n=22), but this was noted as the method least frequently mentioned as being used when respondents were invited to identify how they currently kept up-to-date with urban design issues (reported earlier in Section 4.2).

Given some of the earlier results reported, these activities were, not surprisingly, more frequently reported by respondents from Metropolitan and Provincial local government authorities and less so by respondents from Regional and especially Rural authorities. In fact, respondents from Rural local government authorities were the most likely (n=10) to report that their organisation did not do any of these activities.

Table 42: Developing internal capability

Q20. At present, which of the following, if any, is your council doing to develop its internal urban design capability?

	Total n=55	Metropolitan n=11	Provincial n=21	Regional n=7	Rural n=16
Encouraging staff and elected members to attend seminars, conferences, workshops	36	11	14	5	6
Sponsoring staff and elected members to attend urban design training courses	22	8	9	2	3
On the job training/peer mentoring	12	5	6	1	0
Advertising for new additional staff with urban design knowledge and experience (i.e. not necessarily with urban design qualifications)	11	6	3	1	1
Induction for new staff and elected members	6	4	2	0	0
Advertising for new additional urban designers (i.e. with urban design qualifications)	4	3	0	0	1
Fact finding tours of other Councils both in NZ and overseas	7	2	4	0	1
Other	4	1	2	1	0
Do not do anything in particular to develop capability	16	0	4	2	10
No response	1	0	1	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>



Respondents who indicated that their local government authority provided staff with support to develop their urban design skills, were asked to identify specifically the nature of this support (Table 43). Given that this applies to a relatively small number of respondents, caution should be exercised when interpreting these results.

Nevertheless, it appears that a range of different support mechanisms is provided, including, 'Paying for conferences' (n=36), 'Organising or supporting attendance at meetings' (n=22), 'Providing financial support to pay for fees and materials' (n=21), and 'Purchasing periodicals and books' (n=21).

Respondents from Metropolitan and Provincial local government authorities were more likely to report that their organisations provided this type of assistance and support, than respondents from other types of authorities. In fact, respondents from Rural local government authorities were the most likely to claim that their organisation offered no assistance (n=9).

Table 43: Methods of supporting staff doing urban design related study

Q21. *And in which of the following ways, if any, does your council support staff doing any urban design related study, and upskilling?*

	Total n=55	Metropolitan n=11	Provincial n=21	Regional n=7	Rural n=16
Paying for conferences	36	10	15	5	6
Organising or supporting attendance at meetings with other urban design professionals from other regions, cities and districts	22	7	10	1	4
Providing financial support to pay for fees, materials, etc.	21	6	9	0	6
Purchasing periodicals/books etc.	21	5	10	2	4
Providing time off for study	17	5	8	0	4
Providing structured internal training programmes	4	2	2	0	0
Providing other support	3	0	3	0	0
Providing no support	12	1	1	1	9
No response	3	1	2	1	0
Total	**	**	**	**	**



### 5.3 Influencing positive urban design outcomes

Once it was established that respondents did not generally believe that the necessary 'platform' was in position to build internal urban design capacity within their organisations, respondents were asked to identify the skills that they believed were the most effective at influencing urban decision decisions and outcomes in their council (Table 44 and Table 49).

While many respondents identified none of the skills as being ineffective, less than one-half of all the listed skills provided were identified as 'extremely effective'. Overall, the skills that were considered to be effective were:

- 'Technical expertise' (n=44 of n=55, with n=16 identifying this skill as 'extremely effective' and n=28 identifying it as 'somewhat effective').
- 'Verbal and written communications' (n=44, with n=12 identifying this skill as 'extremely effective' and n=32 identifying it as 'somewhat effective').
- 'Seniority of position' (n=42, with n=26 identifying this skill as 'extremely effective' and n=16 identifying it as 'somewhat effective').
- 'Influencing skills' (n=40, with n=25 identifying this skill as 'extremely effective' and n=15 identifying it as 'somewhat effective').



Table 44: Influencing urban design overall – Total sample

Q26. In your opinion, which of these skills are the most effective in influencing good urban design decisions and outcomes in your council?

	Total n=55	Not effective n=	Somewhat effective n=	Extremely effective n=	Unsure n=	No response n=
Technical expertise	55	2	28	16	5	4
Conflict resolution, facilitation and negotiation	55	1	21	17	11	5
Networking	55	5	24	15	7	4
Verbal and written communication	55	1	32	12	5	5
Influencing skills	55	3	15	25	8	4
Seniority of position	55	3	26	16	7	3
Other	55	0	0	1	5	NA
Total	**	**	**	**	**	**

Table 45: Influencing urban design - Metropolitan

Q26. In your opinion, which of these skill are the most effective in influencing good urban design decisions and outcomes in your council?

	Total n=11	Not effective n=	Somewhat effective n=	Extremely effective n=	Unsure n=	No response n=
Technical expertise	11	0	9	2	0	0
Conflict resolution, facilitation and negotiation	11	0	3	7	1	0
Networking	11	0	4	6	1	0
Verbal and written communication	11	0	6	5	0	0
Influencing skills	11	1	1	8	1	0
Seniority of position	11	0	7	4	0	0
Other	11	0	0	0	0	11
Total	**	**	**	**	**	**

Table 46: Influencing urban design - Provincial

Q26. In your opinion, which of these skill are the most effective in influencing good urban design decisions and outcomes in your council?

	Total n=21	Not effective n=	Somewhat effective n=	Extremely effective n=	Unsure n=	No response n=
Technical expertise	21	1	10	7	2	1
Conflict resolution, facilitation and negotiation	21	0	8	9	3	1
Networking	21	3	9	6	2	1
Verbal and written communication	21	0	15	3	2	1
Influencing skills	21	1	7	11	1	1
Seniority of position	21	0	12	7	1	1
Other	21	0	0	1	2	18
Total	**	**	**	**	**	**



Table 47: Influencing urban design - Regional

Q26. In your opinion, which of these skill are the most effective in influencing good urban design decisions and outcomes in your council?

	Total n=7	Not effective n=	Somewhat effective n=	Extremely effective n=	Unsure n=	No response n=
Technical expertise	7	1	3	2	1	0
Conflict resolution, facilitation and negotiation	7	1	4	0	2	0
Networking	7	0	6	0	1	0
Verbal and written communication	7	0	6	0	1	0
Influencing skills	7	0	4	0	3	0
Seniority of position	7	0	5	0	2	0
Other	7	0	0	0	1	6
Total	**	**	**	**	**	**

Table 48: Influencing urban design - Rural

Q26. In your opinion, which of these skill are the most effective in influencing good urban design decisions and outcomes in your council?

	Total n=16	Not effective n=	Somewhat effective n=	Extremely effective n=	Unsure n=	No response n=
Technical expertise	16	0	6	5	2	3
Conflict resolution, facilitation and negotiation	16	0	6	1	5	4
Networking	16	2	5	3	3	3
Verbal and written communication	16	1	5	4	2	4
Influencing skills	16	1	3	6	3	3
Seniority of position	16	3	2	5	4	2
Other	16	0	0	0	2	14
Total	**	**	**	**	**	**



Table 49: Influencing urban design overall

Q23. In your opinion, which of these skill are the most effective in influencing good urban design decisions and outcomes in your council?

	Total n=55	Not effective n=	Somewhat effective n=	Extremely effective n=	Unsure n=	No response n=
Technical expertise	55	2	28	16	5	4
Conflict resolution, facilitation and negotiation	55	1	21	17	11	5
Networking	55	5	24	15	7	4
Verbal and written communication	55	1	32	12	5	5
Influencing skills	55	3	15	25	8	4
Seniority of position	55	3	26	16	7	3
Other	55	0	0	1	5	49
Total	**	**	**	**	**	**



## 5.4 Concluding comments

In order to conclude the interview, respondents were invited to answer a number of open ended questions, inviting them to identify what they considered were the main barriers to increasing the understanding and application of urban design advice, and what would help overcome these barriers (i.e. influence or assist the acceptance).

As the feedback provided largely supports respondents' responses to the structured questions, we have included the verbatim comment in an appendix to this report (Appendix C) rather than provide a content analysis of the major themes here.



## Appendix A: Questionnaire

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## LOCAL GOVERNMENT URBAN DESIGN SKILLS SURVEY

FINAL ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE (#3395)

May 2006

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### Introduction screen

Thank you for agreeing to take part in this survey.

Again we would like to reassure you that all information that you provide is totally confidential. Research New Zealand provides the results to the Ministry for the Environment in the form of statistics and anonymous comments only, and your individual responses will be known only to Research New Zealand staff.

Please answer all questions, by selecting the appropriate button or by commenting in the spaces provided. As you move through the survey please use the arrow buttons provided - do not use your browser buttons.

If you wish to view the complete list of questions before beginning this online survey, please download a copy of the survey here. **INSERT PDF COPY OF SURVEY**

It should take you no more than 15 minutes to complete the survey.

To continue the survey, please enter your password that was provided in the email.

If you have any questions about the research, or any problems completing the survey, please contact Michelle Simpson-Edwards at Research New Zealand on 0800 500 168 or email [michelle.simpson-edwards@researchnz.com](mailto:michelle.simpson-edwards@researchnz.com)

### **NEXT SCREEN**



## About you

3. First of all, which of the following best describes your current role within your council?

- 1 Chief Executive
- 2 Director
- 3 Manager
- 4 Team leader
- 5 Senior technical advisor (non-management position)
- 6 Technical advisor
- 7 Other, please specify: **INSERT TEXT BOX**

5. And how long have you been in this role?

**INSERT TEXT BOX** Years

### NEXT SCREEN

6. What is your main background (i.e. training, experience, qualification)? *Select all that apply*

- 1 Urban design
- 2 Architecture
- 3 Landscape architecture
- 4 Strategic planning
- 5 District plan/resource management planning
- 6 Resource consents processing
- 7 Strategic planning
- 8 Transport planning/engineering
- 9 Sub division planning/engineering
- 10 Surveying
- 11 Recreation/open space planning and management
- 12 Heritage planning and management
- 13 Other, please specify: **INSERT TEXT BOX**



**NEXT SCREEN**

7. In your current role, which of the following do you do, and which areas (if any) do you specifically provide advice on urban design? *Select all that apply.*

	<i>Areas of current role</i>	<i>Provide urban design advice</i>
Provide policy advice as part of strategic policy development processes (excludes RMA land use policy and planning), e.g. urban development, transport, economic development, housing, community outcomes, built environment	1	1
Provide policy advice as part of spatial planning processes e.g. structure planning, master planning, place making, planning for the development of communities	2	2
Provide policy advice on land use planning and policy, e.g. district plans, regional land use, regional coastal plans, open space and recreation plans, reserve management plans	3	3
Process resource consent applications for land use and subdivision activities	4	4
Provide specialist advice for resource consent application assessment, e.g. heritage, roading, engineering, urban design, landscape, open space	5	5
Prepare or provide advice on the development of design guidelines	6	6
Provide design advice or input into the design of Council projects throughout the design and construction phases e.g. new facilities and buildings, parks and reserves, street improvements, roading proposals, other infrastructure	7	7
Prepare or provide advice on the development of council asset management and operational policy, e.g. asset management plans, safety audits	8	8
Provide or assist with training for council staff, politicians, consultants or developers	9	9
Provide a mentoring role for new staff or staff interested in upskilling	10	10
Provide executive leadership, set or contribute to organisational direction, champion new council initiatives and strategic directions	11	11
Other, please specify: <b>INSERT TEXT BOX</b>	12	12



**NEXT SCREEN**

8. How satisfied are you with each of the following methods, which you personally use, to keep up-to-date with urban design issues? *Select all that apply.*

	Do not use	Not at all satisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Neutral	Somewhat satisfied	Extremely satisfied	Unsure
Continuing education	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Attending conferences, seminars, and workshops	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Networking at formal events with others involved in urban design	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Informal networking via email/phone/catch-ups over coffee	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Regional-level meetings/catch-ups	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sourcing urban design information from the internet	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Reading books and periodicals	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Other, please specify: <b>INSERT TEXT BOX</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

**NEW SCREEN**

9. To what extent would you support the development of a web-based urban design information resource, which is specific to New Zealand's needs? *(This could include links to NZ and overseas urban design related websites, recent publications, research, and case studies etc.)*

- 1 Support it enthusiastically
- 2 Somewhat support it
- 3 Neither support nor do not support it
- 4 Do not support it
- 5 Unsure



**NEW SCREEN**

Others involved in urban design

*“Urban design is concerned with the design of the buildings, places, spaces and networks that make up our towns and cities, and the ways people use them. It ranges in scale from a metropolitan region, city or town down to a street, public space or even a single building.*

*Urban design is concerned not just with appearances and built form, but with the environmental, economic, social and cultural consequences of design. It is an approach that draws together many different sectors and professions, and it includes both the process of decision-making as well as the outcomes of design.”*

10. Including yourself, how many of the following people within your council are encouraged to have an understanding of urban design as part of their role?

11. And of these, how many provide urban design advice as part of their job?

*For each, please provide the number of people this applies to.*

	<b>10</b> <b><u>Number</u> who have an understanding of urban design</b>	<b>11</b> <b><u>Number</u> who provide urban design advice</b>
Urban designers	INSERT TEXT BOX	INSERT TEXT BOX
Architects	INSERT TEXT BOX	INSERT TEXT BOX
Landscape architects	INSERT TEXT BOX	INSERT TEXT BOX
Resource consent planners	INSERT TEXT BOX	INSERT TEXT BOX
District Plan advisors/planners	INSERT TEXT BOX	INSERT TEXT BOX
Strategic advisors/planners	INSERT TEXT BOX	INSERT TEXT BOX
Heritage advisors/planners	INSERT TEXT BOX	INSERT TEXT BOX
Transport planners/ roading engineers	INSERT TEXT BOX	INSERT TEXT BOX
Subdivision planners/engineers	INSERT TEXT BOX	INSERT TEXT BOX
Surveyors	INSERT TEXT BOX	INSERT TEXT BOX
Parks planners or recreation planners	INSERT TEXT BOX	INSERT TEXT BOX
Project managers	INSERT TEXT BOX	INSERT TEXT BOX
Other, please specify: <b>INSERT TEXT BOX</b>	<b>INSERT TEXT BOX</b>	<b>INSERT TEXT BOX</b>
Unsure ;E	1	1
No one else ;E	2	2



**NEW SCREEN**

12. Including yourself, does anyone in your council have a specific urban design qualification?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No ] **SKIP TO 14**
- 3 Unsure ] **SKIP TO 14**

**NEW SCREEN**

13. To the best of your knowledge, can you please provide the following details for those who have a specific urban design qualification? *Please indicate where this was obtained, and approximately when they obtained this.*

<b>Job title</b>	<b>Qualification</b>	<b>University or training institution obtained from</b>	<b>Year graduated</b>
	<i>e.g. Masters in Urban Design</i>	<i>e.g. University of Auckland</i>	<i>e.g. 2005</i>
INSERT TEXT BOX	INSERT TEXT BOX	INSERT TEXT BOX	INSERT TEXT BOX
INSERT TEXT BOX	INSERT TEXT BOX	INSERT TEXT BOX	INSERT TEXT BOX
INSERT TEXT BOX	INSERT TEXT BOX	INSERT TEXT BOX	INSERT TEXT BOX

**NEW SCREEN**

14. Including yourself, does anyone in your council have other urban design related qualifications?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No ] **SKIP TO 16**
- 3 Unsure ] **SKIP TO 16**

**NEW SCREEN**

15. To the best of your knowledge, can you please provide the following details for those with urban design related qualifications? *Please indicate where this was obtained, and approximately when they obtained this.*

<b>Job title</b>	<b>Qualification</b>	<b>University or training institution obtained from</b>	<b>Year graduated</b>
	<i>e.g. Graduate Diploma in Design, or Landscape</i>	<i>e.g. Victoria University</i>	<i>e.g. 2005</i>



*Architecture paper*

INSERT TEXT BOX      INSERT TEXT BOX      INSERT TEXT BOX      INSERT TEXT BOX  
INSERT TEXT BOX      INSERT TEXT BOX      INSERT TEXT BOX      INSERT TEXT BOX  
INSERT TEXT BOX      INSERT TEXT BOX      INSERT TEXT BOX      INSERT TEXT BOX

**NEXT SCREEN**

External Urban Design Assistance

16. Has your council ever employed external consultants or contractors to provide urban design advice?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No ] **SKIP TO 22**
- 3 Unsure ] **SKIP TO 22**

**NEXT SCREEN**

17. Approximately, how often does your council employ these external consultants or contractors?

- 1 More than once a month
- 2 About once a month
- 3 About twice a year
- 4 About once a year
- 5 Less often than once a year
- 6 Unsure

**NEXT SCREEN**

18. Which of the following types of consultants or contractors provided this urban design advice? *Select all that apply.*

- 1 Architects
- 2 Urban designers
- 3 Landscape architects
- 4 Urban planners
- 5 Open space planners
- 6 Surveyors
- 7 Engineers
- 8 Other, please specify: **INSERT TEXT BOX**



19. And are these consultants or contractors based in New Zealand or overseas?

- 1 New Zealand
- 2 Overseas
- 3 Both New Zealand and overseas
- 4 Unsure

20. And for which of the following reasons did your council employ these consultants or contractors? *Select all that apply.*

- 1 Seeking a particular skill set, please describe:
- 2 Capacity constraints with internal Council resources
- 3 Providing independent advice
- 4 Assisting to develop internal capability
- 5 Other, please specify: **INSERT TEXT BOX**



## NEW SCREEN

21. And what particular types of projects and/or work areas were these contractors involved in, in the last 12 months? *Select all that apply.*

- 1 Providing policy advice as part of strategic policy development processes (excludes RMA land use policy and planning), e.g. urban development, transport, economic development, housing, community outcomes, built environment
- 2 Providing policy advice as part of spatial planning processes e.g. structure planning, master planning, place making, planning for the development of communities
- 3 Providing policy advice on land use planning and policy, e.g. district plans, regional land use, regional coastal plans, open space and recreation plans, reserve management plans
- 4 Processing resource consent applications for land use and subdivision activities
- 5 Providing specialist advice for resource consent application assessment, e.g. heritage, roading, engineering, urban design, landscape, open space
- 6 Preparing or providing advice on the development of design guidelines
- 7 Providing design advice or input into the design of Council projects throughout the design and construction phases e.g. new facilities and buildings, parks and reserves, street improvements, roading proposals, other infrastructure
- 8 Preparing or providing advice on the development of council asset management and operational policy, e.g. asset management plans, safety audits
- 9 Providing or assisting with training for council staff, politicians, consultants or developers
- 10 Providing a mentoring role for new staff or staff interested in upskilling
- 11 Other, please specify: **INSERT TEXT BOX**



## NEW SCREEN

### Building Urban Design Capacity

22. Thinking about the urban design capability in your council, to what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Unsure
There is a sufficient number of experienced people in my council to provide quality urban design advice	1	2	3	4	5	6
It is easy to contract external urban design experts because they always have available capacity	1	2	3	4	5	6
It is easy to recruit people in New Zealand with urban design experience	1	2	3	4	5	6
It is easy to recruit people from overseas with urban design experience	1	2	3	4	5	6
It is seen as a priority to recruit people with urban design skills in my council	1	2	3	4	5	6
Our council prefers to outsource urban design skills than to specifically develop our internal urban design capacity	1	2	3	4	5	6
The location of our council makes it easy to recruit and/or keep people with urban design experience	1	2	3	4	5	6



## NEW SCREEN

23. At present, which of the following, if any, is your council doing to develop its internal urban design capability? *Select all that apply.*

- 1 Induction for new staff and elected members
- 2 On the job training/peer mentoring
- 3 Sponsoring staff and elected members to attend urban design training courses
- 4 Encouraging staff and elected members to attend seminars, conferences, workshops
- 5 Advertising for new additional urban designers (i.e. with urban design qualifications)
- 6 Advertising for new additional staff with urban design knowledge and experience (i.e. not necessarily with urban design qualifications)
- 7 Fact finding tours of other Council's both in NZ and overseas
- 8 Other, please specify: **INSERT TEXT BOX**
- 9 Do not do anything in particular to develop capability ;E



24. And in which of the following ways, if any, does your council support staff doing any urban design related study, and upskilling? *Please select all that apply.*

- 1 Providing financial support to pay for fees, materials, etc.
- 2 Providing time off for study
- 3 Paying for conferences
- 4 Organising or supporting attendance at meetings with other urban design professionals from other regions, cities and districts
- 5 Providing structured internal training programmes
- 6 Purchasing periodicals/books etc.
- 7 Providing other support, please specify: **INSERT TEXT BOX**
- 8 Providing no support ;E

**NEXT SCREEN**

Urban Design and your council

25. Overall, how important is urban design in your council?

- 1 Not at all important
- 2 Somewhat unimportant
- 3 Neither
- 4 Somewhat important
- 5 Extremely important
- 6 Unsure



26. Which of the following statements do you agree or disagree with?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Unsure
Urban design principles are taken into account in most major council projects	1	2	3	4	5	6
Senior management in this council strongly support (s) urban design	1	2	3	4	5	6
The elected representatives strongly support urban design	1	2	3	4	5	6
We take a cross-divisional approach to urban design in this council	1	2	3	4	5	6
Urban design concepts influence new policy development in this council	1	2	3	4	5	6
A quality urban environment is identified as a key priority in our community outcomes	1	2	3	4	5	6
We take a multi-disciplinary approach to urban design in this council (i.e. a variety of skills are applied to a project)	1	2	3	4	5	6

#### NEXT SCREEN

27. And thinking about the organisational structure within your council, which of the following apply?

	Yes	No	Unsure
There is a specific urban design team or section which provides input to a range of council processes and projects	1	2	3
Urban design roles are spread across a number of teams and functions in the council	1	2	3



## NEXT SCREEN

28. Thinking about the policies and plans your council is responsible for (both statutory and non-statutory), in which of the following are urban design principals recognised and incorporated? *Select all that apply.*

- 1 District Plan
- 2 Long Term Council Community Plan
- 3 Regional Policy Statement
- 4 Regional plan(s)
- 5 Regional Land Transport Strategy
- 6 Regional growth/development strategy
- 7 Structure plans
- 8 Economic development strategy
- 9 Open space and recreation strategies
- 10 Urban development plan/strategy
- 11 Transport plan/strategy
- 12 Housing strategy
- 13 Asset management plans
- 14 Codes of Practice (e.g. urban/land development, subdivision, roading design)
- 15 Specific design guidelines, standards and targets
- 16 Other, please specify: **INSERT TEXT BOX**
- 17 None of the above ;E



## NEXT SCREEN

29. In your opinion, which of these skills are the most effective at influencing good urban design decisions and outcomes in your council?

	Not effective	Somewhat effective	Extremely effective	Unsure
Technical expertise	1	2	3	4
Conflict resolution, facilitation and negotiation	1	2	3	4
Networking	1	2	3	4
Verbal and written communication	1	2	3	4
Influencing skills	1	2	3	4
Seniority of position	1	2	3	4
Other, please specify: <b>INSERT TEXT BOX</b>	1	2	3	4

## NEXT SCREEN

Overall

30. What would you say were the main things influencing or assisting the acceptance and utilisation of urban design advice in your council? (Including both internal and external influences)

**INSERT LARGE COMMENT BOX**

31. In your opinion, what are the main barriers to increasing the understanding and application of urban design in your council?

**INSERT LARGE COMMENT BOX**

32. Finally, what other additional comments, if any, do you have regarding the subject of this survey?

**INSERT LARGE COMMENT BOX**



## NEXT SCREEN

33. Would you be happy for your name and contact details to be passed back to the Ministry so they can better understand the issues raised in this questionnaire?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Unsure

## Closing Screen:

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this survey today. Your responses have now been submitted.

Again we would like to reassure you that the information you have provided is totally confidential. Research New Zealand will provide results to the Ministry for the Environment in the form of statistics and anonymous comments only, and your individual responses will be known only to Research New Zealand staff.

If you have any questions about the research, or any problems completing the survey, please contact Michelle Simpson-Edwards at Research New Zealand on 0800 500 168 or email [michelle.simpson-edwards@researchnz.com](mailto:michelle.simpson-edwards@researchnz.com)

You can now close this browser window.



## Appendix B: Urban design qualifications

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## Specific urban design qualifications

Position title	Qualification	Location	Year graduated
Strategic Planner	Masters Architectural Heritage	Edinburgh University	1993 approx
Urban Designer/Architect	Masters Urban Design	University of Auckland	2003
Town Centre Coordinator	Masters Urban Design	Paris	1999
Urban Designer	Masters Urban Design	Oxford Brookes	2002
Manager, Urban design Policy	Masters Urban Design	Oxford	1999
Urban Designer	Masters Urban Design	Westminster	2003
Urban Designer	Masters of City Planning in Urban Design and Transportation	UC Berkeley	2002
PTA Strategic Projects	Masters Town & Regional Planning	University of Natal	1992
Senior Environmental Policy Advisor	Post Graduate Built Environment	Queensland university of Technology	1995
Senior Planner Projects	Diploma Urban Design	Westminster London	2000?
PTA Strategic Projects	Diploma Planning and Urban Design	Cape Town Teknikon	1984



## Urban design related qualifications

Position title	Qualification	Location	Year graduated
Landscape Architect	Bachelor of Landscape Architecture	University of Canterbury	2005
Cycle/walking/bridleway coordinator	Bachelor of Landscape Architecture	RMIT (Melbourne)	1992
Senior Landscape Architect	Bachelor of Landscape Architecture	??	??
Landscape Architect	Bachelor of Landscape Architecture	Lincoln University	1994
Urban Planner	Bachelor of Landscape Architecture	Lincoln University	1997
Manager Public Space Design	Bachelor of Landscape Architecture	Lincoln University	??
Landscape Architect	Bachelor of Landscape Architecture	University of Canterbury	??
Architectural Assistant	Bachelor of Architecture	University of Victoria	2003
Project manager Urban Design	Bachelor of Architecture	University of Auckland	1972
City Architect	Bachelor of Architecture	University of Auckland	197(5)?
Urban Development & Design Manager	Bachelor of Architecture, Diploma in Town Planning	University of Auckland	1973
Project manager Urban Design	Bachelor of Town Planning	University of Auckland	1973
Senior Planner	Bachelor of Regional Planning	Massey University	1995



Landscape Adviser	Post Graduate Diploma in Landscape Architecture	Lincoln University	1997
Planning Officer	Bachelor of Parks Recreation	Lincoln University	1995
Policy Planning Manager	??	University of Edinburgh	197(5)?
Landscape Architects	??	Lincoln University	??
Heritage Planners	??	??	??



## Appendix C: Verbatim

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Q27. What would you say were the main things influencing or assisting the acceptance and utilisation of urban design advice in your council?

*Intelligent Councillors, good built examples.*

*Growth and the need to meet requirements of the community.*

*CityScope - urban design strategy prepared by a cross-industry working group, championed by the mayor. Subjected to scrutiny through the LTCCP and receiving wholesale endorsement.*

*Community feedback through consultative processes surrounding District Plan and LTCCP and resource consent applications.*

*Good presentations on an issue that won't be controversial and won't cost the council money.*

*Development pressure.*

*Examples of good outcomes.*

*The political climate and resourcing. Not adequately funded to pull in specialists, generally. Also, lack of growth ... easy to promote UD in new developments, more costly and problematic to retrofit concepts to an existing form.*

*Becoming a signatory to Urban Design Protocol raised elected member awareness and acceptance of urban design. CPTED promotion has also raised urban design awareness.*

*The existing chaos in the CBD.*

*Access to urban design expertise for specific projects and higher-level development of strategic policy.*

*Budget and desire of politicians to get the job done quickly and independently.*

*Seeing the consequence of little or no urban design. Seeing the benefits accruing from taking it into account. Greater national awareness and push over the last few years.*

*The need to ensure public acceptance of our work.*

*Awareness of the positive role good urban design principles can play in the project and how it integrates into the community in the future*



*Influencing (negatively): uninformed management & elected member. Assisting advocacy from technical staff.*

*Degree of public and stakeholder support for the project concerned.*

*Not really applicable in terms of "utilisation of urban design advice". But Regional Policy Statement and Regional Land Transport Strategy are the main policy documents that seek the implementation of urban design principles.*

*Mainly a lack of need due to lack of urban areas.*

*Public opinion relating to the poor quality of new development. Politicians with urban design as part of their agenda. Urban Design Protocol - Action Plan.*

*Urban design projects that are perceived to be successful. Kudos for these gives Council confidence to continue doing projects from an urban design approach.*

*At [council] we have a policy of containing and intensifying growth within our existing settlements. With the large amount of anticipated growth in the next 20 years there is a growing realisation of the need to ensure our existing settlements are developed wisely in accordance with the principles of good urban design.*

*Willingness of council to support the design protocol and promote good urban design outcomes.*

*Subdivision in the urban areas.*

*The existing "currency" of urban design together with the strong heritage townscape legacy that is relatively intact for a NZ city, and provides both framework precedents for sound urban design practise.*

*Understanding as to what urban design is. It runs the risk of becoming a "catch-all" phrase. Getting good practical advice in implementation.*

*Structure and amount of expertise.*

*The main thing is the level of concern and understanding of effect of urban design on our regional council interests. Note we do not directly manage urban form as a regional council, so our role is chiefly to see that urban design activities in the region take our interests and concerns into account.*

*A community desire to reinvigorate the district.*

*Whether there is a need for involvement of this Council in such matters.*

*Community and developer desires*



*The high profile being placed on urban design by Councillors. The formation of an urban design panel which has raised the profile and acceptance of the role of urban design.*

*Urban Design Protocol, growth centre planning, [council] Growth Strategy.*

*Having now got an urban designer on board in combination with Strategic policy.*

*Return on investment. Community buy in, community outcomes.*

*Political and personal commitment to the principles and importance of urban design to community development.*

*Experience of consultant, cost.*

*Starting a structure planning process. Political pressure.*

*1. Having people with the knowledge. 2. Having people that seek to implement that knowledge within their respective roles. 3. Having Government raise the awareness through policy.*

*Showing value commercial, social, and environmental.*

*Council has adopted High Quality Urban Design as one of its top strategic priorities. Being a signatory to the UDP.*

*Staff time & resources.*

*Credibility of advice. Good environmental outcomes that can be politically justified and funded.*

*Council commitment to UDP. Determination of councillors and some staff.*

*Increasing requests from TLAs for regional leadership on infrastructure, hazard management.*

*Interest shown by one councillor in Urban Design. Where there is a large project requiring a multidisciplinary approach and large capital input needed then there is greater acceptance of need for specialist urban design skills.*

*The desire to create a better urban environment for our residents.*



Q28. In your opinion, what are the main barriers to increasing the understanding and application of urban design in your council??

*Silo approach to applying expertise in specific asset areas.*

*Resourcing.*

*Timescales within which to see meaningful change. Costs (predominantly land) required to achieve good urban design outcomes on public realm projects. Need for alignment of Council strategies, aspirations and regulatory documents.*

*No significant barriers.*

*It is too theoretical at the regional level for councillors to grasp and even if they did get it, the project would need to be implemented for the most part at the district level and then it has to be cost effective and non-controversial.*

*Cost and available resources.*

*Time, across Council networking*

*As above - slow growth, mostly.*

*\$\$\$ for projects and for staff training.*

*Cost and unrealistic pretty pictures.*

*Concern over imposing further regulation on private developers. Concern over imposing further costs on private developers. Concern over imposing time delays for developers if resource consents required.*

*Lack of budget for training and isolation from other centres. Recognition of issues and need to up skill not matched by budget.*

*Resources; Corporate approach to using consultants in preference to internal staff.*

*Resourcing.*

*Developing a wider appreciation of the positive benefits improved urban design can bring to the city.*

*Ignorance. Lack of vision. Politics.*



*Lack of need for urban design. Until recently growth and development was extremely slow, which limited the number of situations where it could be applied. Likewise lack of resources to hire consultants and inability to justify a full time person in-house.*

*Urban design "application" is not a key regional function. The role and relevance of urban design principles in policy documents (RPS and RLTS) is however, not well known/understood by staff.*

*Lack of need.*

*Understanding exactly what urban design and process. Lack of city vision. Not sufficient resources put into raising its profile at management level.*

*Proof that an urban design approach is value for money. Reluctance to approach things differently and consider other methods. Lack of knowledge and training.*

*We tend to have an ad-hoc approach to urban design issues at present. We are a relatively small Council and use consultants to provide specialist advice as required (usually in response to consent applications). We would struggle to recruit and retain a person with suitable skills.*

*Need to enhance multi-disciplinary approach to projects.*

*None.*

*Isolation - & relative absence of development pressure lead to a perception that contemporary urban design principles are less relevant here.*

*Seeing the benefits of it. Making it mainstream and not something that automatically goes with one part of Council.*

*Its priority within what is a provincial city.*

*Lack of time - too much to do! Other priorities, especially for councillors. Lack of integration between disciplines and time to address overlaps and consistencies.*

*Other higher priorities for time and spending, lack of TA acceptance of regional council role in urban design planning, political difficulties between regional council and district/city local government authorities, lack of good training re urban design for staff, weak regional council policy re urban design issues (much of our policy is out of date with respect to this issue).*

*Lack of knowledge in-house.*

*Lack of focus on urban design as an issue for this Council to address. Lack of statutory clarity about role of Council in such matters.*



*Staff resources and funds to devote to developing good design principles.*

*Lack of need for daily involvement in urban design at all levels of the organisation.*

*Lack of qualified urban designer to obtain advice from either as urban design panel members, consultants or as staff.*

*Design guidelines in our District Plan. Lack of in-house knowledge Developer led utilitarian designs.*

*Ignorance and an unwillingness to change the way in which processes are undertaken because it is too much bother.*

*Financial Selling the Why for urban design.*

*Lack of resources to up skill and impart the principles to staff and external parties, and create a culture of urban design within the community.*

*No barriers to increasing understanding, but cost is a barrier in application.*

*Lack of skills.*

*Location.*

*Elected Members. Lack of specialist urban design skills.*

*General lack of identifying where urban design is relevant.*

*Staff time & resources.*

*Cost of fulfilling design requirements.*

*Lack of understanding about good and bad design Lethargy - stick to business as usual. Transport planning emphasis on motor vehicles. Lack of imagination/knowledge about good things could be.*

*Functional relationships and roles between regional council and TLAs.*

*Lack of awareness by politicians and senior managers that urban design within the [council] needs improvement.*

*Funding.*



Q29. Finally, what other additional comments, if any, do you have regarding the subject of this survey?

*Urban Design is about the design of streets, intersections, and transport networks too.*

*There is a serious risk of urban design being hijacked by professionals and becoming elitist. It's all about common sense. It's about being able to read an environment or express a view on it. To that extent it's just about giving people the right vocabulary and then the opportunity to use it.*

*Question 21's responses left out one important variable. The Council provides time off and financial support for taking courses, but there are no urban design courses available in close proximity to Christchurch. The political will to undertake urban design must be promoted more actively throughout NZ and having real tools that can be readily integrated and implemented into all planning programmes is important.*

*A focus on consultants and surveyors by [the Ministry] would be useful as they imitate a number of projects.*

*It would be wrong to suggest that UD is the domain of the specialist. An awareness of the concepts is important because that encourages questioning of the way we do things now.*

*Three dimensional planning falls between the land use planner and the architect. Both claim professional jealousy and work against each other.*

*For many small low growth TA's urban design opportunities do not present themselves very often hence it is difficult to embed it in the culture of the community or the organisation.*

*There is a chronic lack of it in Marlborough*

*This survey has not been prepared to be particularly relevant to regional council involvement in urban design. Regional Council's have a key role in seeing that good urban design gets applied appropriately at a regional level (or locally to achieve regional urban design outcomes). This is carried out through key policy documents (RPS, RLTS). The survey, as written, will not find out what barriers there are to effectively applying these principles through these mechanisms.*

*The benefits of utilising urban design principles needs to be espoused across all disciplines so that practitioners can work understand the gains to be achieved through working collaboratively, in open discourse.*

*Urban design is all good in theory but often, with consent applications in particular, we end up having conflicting advice from consultants (some work for applicant, some work for Council). Like much of planning, often seems to come down to subjective judgements. It is good that we are finally*



*being more pro-active with urban design via design guidelines, etc - cuts down misunderstandings, etc.*

*Need for visionaries, need to inspire people with ideas of what can be done. Need to be practical, need to get runs on the board.*

*Our District is mostly rural.*

*The main blockage to progress in the wider context is the intransigence of the key disciplines that determine urban form, particularly traffic engineers & surveyors.*

*I have had to take a guess at many of the answers due to lack of knowledge of processes and people in some parts of the council. I did not have time to set up a cross-council group to complete this survey!*

*Note that we have a number of staff who give advice to TA staff, developers and contractors about urban design related issues. However our expertise is related to matters such as water quality, earthworks, ecosystem protection, transport and so on. We have very little knowledge about urban design as such. We would probably benefit from having more training in this area as it may provide us with other options for meeting our objectives that we are currently not aware of. However the training would need to be relevant to regional council staff - we don't actually want to become urban design experts in a range of areas which we don't work in.*

*The survey was off target for regions like ours which are outside the main centres...there is a different context for urban design in these regions compared to Auckland or Wellington or Christchurch.*

*This is a small Council that outsources almost all technical skills. Urban design is of lesser importance in our mainly rural environment.*

*This issue is clearly becoming very important for a large number of Local government authorities in New Zealand and there is a strong need for accessibility to urban design training programs.*

*Urban Design is a fairly new component in this organisation. The development and adoption of the Urban Design Strategy will lead to a whole new range of initiatives within Council. Its adoption is programmed for May 2006. One of the key areas lacking personally is the need for a stronger network of people to be involved in. Most of the focus is on the larger city centres.*

*Small Local government authorities have very limited resources and are already stretched with delivering the basic necessities, e.g. roads, water & sewerage. Do not have the time or "luxury" of employing specialists when there might be only one street upgrade per year for a small town of 500 population. That's the perception anyway. So we (small local government authorities) need a hand to spread the word and promote the wide-ranging benefits of getting it right through urban design.*



*Suggest presentations (ppt) be designed that we can use locally to promote to staff and communities.*

*Given this district has a declining population and lack of new development urban design is not a high priority either in understanding or implementing.*

*The term urban design is confusing when used in terms of “is it being applied” as everything we do, which relates to the built environment involves urban design.*

*Enhanced role of RPS will make second generation RPS more comprehensive and provide strategic direction based on LTCCP outcomes and other community related information.*