

# Our City Tomorrow

## Draft District Plan

### The health and wellbeing benefits of good urban design and a quality built environment

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29 November 2021

#### Purpose

During the 24 June Pūroro Āmua Planning and Environment Committee meeting to adopt the Spatial Plan, a resolution was passed for Council officers to report back on the benefits of quality building design on mental health and wellness indicators as part of the District Plan review.

This document provides a summary of key relevant provisions within the Draft District Plan and the draft Design Guides from a human health and wellbeing perspective. It also highlights a range of other relevant Council programmes and actions contributing to this outcome area and provides links to a selection of research projects and papers (both international and New Zealand based).

#### Overview

There is a substantial evidence base that shows the built environment has a significant influence on human health and wellbeing. The built environment defines the spaces and places in which we live, work, and play and how we use, move around and interact with these spaces and places. Wellington's compactness and proximity to the natural environment are often cited as important features that support Wellingtonians' mental and physical health and wellbeing.

Research shows the built environment impacts on peoples' physical and mental health and wellness in a wide range of ways and that these impacts can be direct or indirect. Characteristics shown to have direct effects on peoples' health and wellness include for example, the design of buildings and spaces, overcrowding, noise, pollution, indoor air quality, access to daylight and sunlight, connection to nature, and access to open space. There is also a strong correlation between warm, safe and dry homes, and security of tenure, with peoples' sense of wellbeing.

The built environment also influences a person's level of physical activity which in turn has a strong influence on health and wellbeing. For example, factors such as a lack of safe and accessible walking and cycling pathways contribute to sedentary habits which can lead to a range of poor health outcomes including impacts on mental health. The built environment influences peoples' behaviour and motivation to act, levels of stress and anxiety, sense of safety and security, and social interaction and engagement in the community.

The evidence identifies a wide range of opportunities for good urban design to support and promote good health outcomes, help prevent physical and mental health illnesses, and support people who have health problems. Places and spaces that, for example, are

accessible, encourage physical activity, support social interactions, and provide connections to nature can help prevent and treat a range of physical and mental health issues; they can also result in less crime and violence. A well-designed built environment can help draw people together to strengthen sense of community and reduce feelings of isolation.

In addition, while there are universal measures of wellbeing that apply to all people, there is also a need to understand the unique perspectives, values and characteristics of the urban environment and good urban design for Māori. There is a growing body of research and a number of projects and programmes of work being undertaken to deliver better outcomes for Māori in the planning and design of urban areas.

Achieving health and wellbeing benefits is therefore an important consideration for new urban development and will become increasingly important as our urban areas become more densely developed and populated. As such, consideration of health and wellbeing outcomes have formed part of the development of the Draft District Plan, including the drafting of the outcomes and requirements sought by the new Design Guides. However, in addition to the District Plan, improved health and wellbeing outcomes within our city environment are supported by a range of other policies, work programmes and projects (see further detail provided below).

It is important to note that the research and various projects highlighted in this document provide only a small snapshot of the work being undertaken by many people and agencies on the relationship between urban design and human health and wellbeing.

## Consideration of health and wellbeing within the Draft District Plan and Design Guides

In the next 30 years it is estimated Wellington City will be home to an additional 50,000-80,000 people. This is a significant amount of growth and will mean a lot of change to the city over the next 30 years.

Alongside forecast growth, central government policy directs the Council to increase housing supply and choice within the city.

Growing populations impact on where and how we live. We therefore need to plan for the growth and intensification of the city in a way that ensures we achieve multiple outcomes – e.g. environmental, social, cultural and economic.

An appropriate range of housing types will be needed to cater for current and future housing needs. When done well, denser housing can increase the general wellbeing of people due to improved social connection opportunities, safety and accessibility. The District Plan settings help support the desire for people to live in communities that are compact, resilient, vibrant and prosperous, inclusive and connected, and greener.

The Draft District Plan enables a range of housing types to ensure sufficient housing choice across the City. It also includes a range of policies, rules, standards and design guidance to achieve good built environment outcomes. For example, the rules for residential zoned areas aim to achieve a range of outcomes, including enabling the development of more housing while managing potential adverse effects of new development, for example:

- Ensuring dwellings have a good quality living environment, including access to natural light and outdoor living space
- Managing potential adverse effects of taller buildings by requiring minimum building setbacks and sunlight recession planes<sup>1</sup>
- Providing for the development of non-residential activities (e.g. shops, commercial services) while managing potential adverse effects
- Ensuring pleasant and safe residential streets and provision for pedestrians and cycling
- Retaining and enhancing natural open spaces and significant vegetation.

The Design Guides are an important tool to ensure that quality design principles are applied when we increase residential density and allow taller buildings and new types of housing. Design guides use principles and guidelines (rather than rules and standards) to achieve good outcomes and are used as an assessment tool when processing resource consents for new development proposals. The Design Guides also place an emphasis on universal accessibility to ensure that new development is designed to cater for residents of all ages and abilities.

The following information highlights how the benefits of quality building design on physical and mental health and wellbeing are considered within the Draft District Plan's objectives and policies and the Design Guides.

### **Draft District Plan**

The Draft District Plan contains many provisions that support positive health and wellbeing outcomes, for example:

- **Provisions within the Strategic Directions chapter** - the Strategic Objectives set the direction for the District Plan for managing growth, land use and development in the city and include a number of health and wellbeing related objectives such as:

#### **Anga whakamua – Moving into the future**

**AW-04** The development and design of the City reflects mana whenua and the contribution of their culture, traditions, ancestral lands, waterbodies, sites, areas and landscapes, and other taonga of significance to the district's identity and sense of belonging.

#### **Capital City**

**CC-02** Wellington City is a well-functioning Capital City where: ...

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<sup>1</sup> Note: the proposed Medium Density Residential Standards under the recently announced Resource Management (Enabling Housing Supply and Other Matters) Amendment Bill would, if enacted, require the Council to replace the relevant standards for residential development in the Draft District Plan with the Medium Density Residential Standards. While the Medium Density Residential Standards set specific requirements to ensure a level of residential amenity is provided for, they enable a greater height and density of residential development (up to 3 storeys and three units on a site) as a permitted activity than is provided for under the operative District Plan and the Draft District Plan. Further, as a permitted activity (i.e. no resource consent required), the Design Guides could not be considered for new residential development enabled by the Medium Density Residential Standards.

2. Current and future residents can meet their social, cultural, economic and environmental wellbeing.

3. Mana whenua values and aspirations are visible, celebrated and an integral part of the City's identity.

4. Urban intensification is delivered in appropriate locations and in a manner that supports future generations to meet their needs.

...

**CC-03** Development is consistent with and supports the achievement of the following strategic City goals: ...

1. Compact: Wellington builds on its existing urban form with quality development in the right locations.

2. Resilient: Wellington's natural and built environments are healthy and robust, and we build physical and social resilience through good design.

...

5. Inclusive and Connected: Wellington recognises and fosters its identity by supporting social cohesion and cultural diversity, and has world-class movement systems with attractive and accessible public spaces and streets.

6. Greener: Wellington is sustainable and its natural environment is protected, enhanced and integrated into the urban environment.

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### **Natural Environment**

**NE-02** Future subdivision and development is designed to limit further degradation of the City's water bodies, and recognises mana whenua and their relationship to water (Te Mana o Te Wai).

**NE-03** The City retains an extensive open space network that:

1. Is easily accessible;
2. Connects the urban and natural environment;
3. Supports ecological, cultural, and landscape values; and
4. Meets the needs of anticipated future growth.

### **Urban Form and Development**

**UFD-05** A variety of housing types, sizes and tenures, including assisted housing and papakainga options, are available across the City to meet the community's diverse social, cultural, and economic housing needs.

**UFD-06** Development supports the creation of liveable, well-functioning urban environments that:

1. Are safe and well-designed
2. Support sustainable travel choices, including micromobility modes
3. Are serviced by the necessary infrastructure appropriate to the intensity, scale and function of the development
4. Are socially inclusive
5. Are ecologically sensitive
6. Are respectful of the City's historic heritage, and

7. Are adaptable over time and responsive to their evolving, more intensive surrounding context.

- **Provisions in the Transport chapter** - the Transport chapter has been drafted to shift away from vehicle-oriented development and places a stronger policy emphasis on planning for the pedestrian and cyclists, which in turn supports a range of health and wellbeing outcomes. New development will be required to consider this in the resource consent process, as well as ensuring provision for bike parking and storage for customers for commercial activities. The zone provisions also seek to provide better pedestrian environments (supported by new design guidance). Relevant objectives and policies include for example:

**TR-01** Purpose: Land use and development is managed to ensure that:

1. High trip generating activities do not compromise the safety and effectiveness of the transport network;
2. A range of transport modes are provided for;
3. Reliance on private vehicles is reduced;
4. New development provides appropriate on-site facilities for cycling and micromobility users; and
5. Safe and effective on-site parking, loading, access and manoeuvring is provided.

**TR-P2** Enabled activities: Enable on-site transport facilities and driveways that:

1. Provide for the safe and effective use of the site and functioning of the transport network;
2. Meet the reasonable demands of site users;
3. Promote the uptake and use of pedestrian, cycling, micromobility and public transport modes

- **Provisions in the Residential chapter** – the Residential chapter contains provisions that provide for the development of a range of housing types and densities to support increased housing supply and to cater for a range of needs. The Medium Density Residential Zone provides for housing types at a greater density and scale than the General Residential Zone and gives effect to the requirements of the NPS-UD by enabling intensification and increasing housing opportunities in accessible locations. It is anticipated that the form, appearance and amenity of neighbourhoods within the Medium Density Residential Zone will change over time. This change will be managed through standards and design guidance.

The enablement of increased housing choice in locations that are supported by access to transport options, commercial services and shops, public amenities, community services and facilities etc, and the requirements for new buildings and development related to residential amenity, all support positive health and wellbeing outcomes. Relevant objectives and policies include for example:

#### **Medium Density Residential Zone**

**MRZ-02** Efficient use of land: Land within the Medium Density Residential Zone is used efficiently for residential development that increases housing supply and choice, and contributes positively to a changing and well-functioning urban environment.

**MRZ-O3** Healthy, safe and accessible living environments: The Medium Density Residential Zone provides healthy, safe and accessible living environments with attractive and safe streets.

**MRZ-P3** Increased housing supply and choice: Enable the efficient use of land by:

1. Providing for increased housing at a density and scale that is anticipated in the Medium Density Residential Zone; and
2. Encouraging a variety of housing types, sizes and tenures to cater for people of all ages, lifestyles and abilities.

**MRZ-P4** Multi-unit housing: Provide for multi-unit housing where it can be demonstrated that the development:

1. Fulfills the intent of the Residential Design Guide;
2. Provides a minimum area of private or shared outdoor living space that is sufficient to cater for the needs of future occupants;
3. Retains existing prominent vegetation and minimises hard surfacing or mitigates the removal of vegetation and extent of hard surfacing with new landscaping of equal or better quality;
4. Provides an adequate and appropriately located area on site for the management, storage and collection of all waste, recycling and organic waste potentially generated by the development;
5. Is adequately serviced by three waters infrastructure or can address any constraints on the site.

**MRZ-P6** Residential buildings and structures: Provide for a range of residential buildings and structures, including additions and alterations, that:

1. Are of a form and scale that are compatible with the built environment anticipated for the Medium Density Residential Zone;
2. Provide healthy, safe and accessible living environments; and
3. Contribute positively to a changing urban environment and achieve attractive and safe streets.

- **Assisted Housing options and Social Impact Assessment**

Options for the District Plan to support assisted housing form part of the Draft District Plan consultation. Refer to the summary information sheet available [here](#).

Quigley and Watts Ltd have been commissioned to complete a social impact assessment on the four assisted housing options being consulted on in the Draft District Plan. This assessment is likely to include effects of increased affordable, secure and warm housing for low-mid income households on overall community health and wellbeing.

[Note: the above excerpts from the Draft District Plan are provided as examples of relevant provisions. Refer to the full [Draft District Plan](#) for further detail].

### **Draft Design Guides**

The Draft Design Guides include a range of outcomes and requirements that contribute to achieving improved health and wellbeing outcomes. For example:

**1. Wellbeing:** Wellbeing is a key outcome for any new development and is one of the first outcomes included in all chapters of the design guides, requiring consideration of:

People: Wellbeing, resilience and the prosperity of future generations are the key drivers of any new development.

**2. Greenness:** The draft design guides require new development to contribute to the greening of the city and to ensure that future residents can easily and safely access green communal spaces. The following are examples of the outcomes and specific requirements included within the draft design guides:

Land: The natural environment is protected through new development that fits with the topography, landscape, waterways and ecosystems of its location and site.

Open spaces: Open spaces are carefully designed and appropriately located to provide amenity and are accessible, safe and easily maintained.

G3. (Residential): Provide planting within new development that is of an appropriate mature scale, and is suitable for the situation (wind, sun exposure and soil type), placing them to enhance amenity both within and beyond the site.

G.5 (Residential): Existing trees that contribute to local streetscape or public realm amenity should be retained where possible and thoughtfully integrated into new development. Where a tree must be removed it is encouraged that the tree be relocated on the site or a new native tree be planted in its place.

G.7. (Residential): Landscaping should increase biodiversity and tree canopy area and minimise the loss of ecosystems of habitats where possible. Use of the existing natural environment is an effective way of enhancing the ecosystem.

G78. (Residential): Provide communal spaces for social interaction, gardening and outdoor activities.

G82. (Residential): Large scale developments where children are likely to live should consider inclusion of play features, located with consideration of their access, safety, surveillance and potential noise.

G.146 (Residential), City Outcomes Contribution: For developments that exceeds the maximum height, 1-10 points can be considered as an incentives "for every 10% of the site vested as public open space".

**3. Mix of uses:** A number of the draft design guides (particularly the Centres and Mixed Use Design Guide) have outcomes and requirements that seek to ensure that new development is mixed-use and functionally robust. These include for example:

Fronting the street: The development positively contributes to the safety, amenity and visual qualities of the public realm through passive surveillance, active frontage and other edge conditions that support pedestrian activity.

G34. (Centres & Mixed Use): Consider the street as an important public amenity and design new developments to enhance the streetscape and to promote quality urban environments.

G74. (Centres & Mixed Use): Consider the design of communal areas in a way that maximises their use and enhances their safety and accessibility.

G98. (Centres & Mixed Use): The façade, structure and spatial design of the building should be designed in a way that allows for conversion to other uses over time. Consider the following enablers of adaptability over the life of the building:

- Floor to ceiling height
- Street frontage
- Servicing
- Dedicated goods lifts

G.99 (Centres & Mixed Use): Mixed use developments should consider the compatibility of uses and be designed to:

- Address and balance the specific needs of each user group (residents, workers, visitors), including operating times and spatial allocation to each use.
- Arrange the development in a clear and legible way, so it is safe and comfortable for everyone at any time.
- Provide each different use within a building with its own entrance, making public and private entrances separate and distinguishable.

**4. Lower levels of traffic:** This outcome mainly relates to other projects and programme of works identified below. However, the draft design guides aim to support lower levels traffic by introducing guidance that requires consideration of increased walkability and bikeability as part of new developments (see below). Other Council work programmes (i.e. outside of the District Plan) that contribute to achieving this outcome include:

- [Green Network Plan](#)
- [Bike Network Plan](#)
- [Fossil Fuel Free City Centre](#)

**5. Walkability and bikeability of places:** The draft design guides require new developments to enhance and facilitate more walking and cycling, including as follows:

G.21. (Residential): The building should be designed to positively contribute to the amenity, vibrancy and safety of the street.

G.22 (Residential): Ensure developments with wide street frontages provide frequent pedestrian connections to the street.

G.47. (Residential): Create new publicly accessible links through a site as part of the site redevelopment where a link would enhance local pedestrian connectivity.

G.56. (Residential): The frequency, design and width of vehicle crossings should not undermine the pedestrian experience of the street.

G.67. (Residential): Emphasise lighting for safety and security on pedestrian pathways rather than roads.

G.102.(Residential): For units without a lockable garage, provide a secure weatherproof storage area external to the unit large enough to store a bicycle.

G.104.(Residential): Bicycle storage should be located near to entrances where possible.

G.105.(Residential): Bicycle storage should be large enough and easy to use to store an electric bicycle (wall-mounted racks are not appropriate for electric bicycles). Bicycle storage should also consider including spaces for larger bicycles and adaptable bicycles.

G.106.(Residential): Bicycle storage areas must be accessible from the main entrance of the site. Consider ramps or bicycle stairway (steps including a side channel for bicycle movement).



**6. Inclusiveness:** The draft design guides seek to ensure that new development and buildings consider the needs of a range of people by requiring universal design to be considered; universal accessibility is also a factor in calculating the 'City Outcomes Contribution' of larger scale developments. Relevant design guide outcomes and requirements include for example:

Residential Design Guide and Centres & Mixed Use Design Guide outcomes:

- High quality buildings – Inclusivity: Universal design is considered in all aspects of planning and development. Buildings are designed in such a way that all people, regardless of any disability, or stage in life, can access, use and enjoy them.

G74. (Centres & Mixed Use): Consider the design of communal areas in a way that maximises their use and enhances their safety and accessibility.

G100. (Centres & Mixed Use): For developments that are likely to be occupied by people with limited mobility, where practical provide ground level access that is accessible by people using wheel chairs, and design units with reference to NZ standards for access and mobility.

G121. (Residential): Ensure circulation and spaces within dwellings are efficiently planned and wide enough to optimise amenity, accessibility and flexibility in the use of space and provide legible wayfinding.

G136. (Residential): Ensure developments are inclusive of people of all ages and abilities, including the aging population, kids and pregnant women or parents with infants and toddlers.

G137. (Residential): For developments that are likely to be occupied by people with limited mobility, where practical provide ground level access that is accessible by people using wheel chairs, and design units with reference to NZ standards for access and mobility.

**7. More compact development:** The draft design guides seek to ensure new development is compact and efficient and easy to access, including for example:

Urban Structure: The layout of new development (including street blocks, sites and open space) enhances the surrounding neighbourhood.

G34. (Centres & Mixed Use): Consider the street as an important public amenity and design new developments to enhance the streetscape and to promote quality urban environments.

G138 (Residential): Consider compact housing typologies that are more energy efficient, for example terraced houses or apartments.

**Note:** the above information highlights some of the measures included within the Draft District Plan and the new Design Guides that have a direct and positive impact on health and wellbeing. There are number of other requirements included in the draft provisions and design guidance that also support improved physical and mental health and wellbeing outcomes as they seek to provide a better quality, human scale and communal way of living for the future residents of Wellington City.

## Other Council policies, programmes and projects

Promoting the social wellbeing of communities, both current and future, is a key purpose of local government (Local Government Act 2002). There are numerous Council strategies, policies, action plans, and projects that aim to improve the health and wellbeing of Wellingtonians. Council also provides a range of programmes, experiences and facilities that

encourage participation in recreational, cultural, creative, social and learning opportunities, and has specific partnership agreements (including with mana whenua) in place to work with others.

The range of relevant work is too large to fully detail in this document, and is highlighted within the [Social Wellbeing Framework](#) (see below), but examples include:

- improving community safety (e.g. Pōneke Promise – see below)
- encouraging physical activity and wellbeing (e.g. the [Shift programme](#))
- increasing [transport choices](#) through the development of our city pedestrian and cycle networks (e.g. [Bike Network Plan](#))
- open space and recreation planning
- the development and implementation of key strategies such as [Te Atakura First to Zero](#), [Housing Strategy and Action Plan](#), [Our Capital Spaces Open Spaces Strategy](#), the [Green Network Plan](#), and much more.

The [Social Wellbeing Framework](#) was adopted in August 2021 by the Council’s Social, Cultural and Economic Committee. The framework is a tool for understanding the Council’s role in improving social wellbeing for Wellingtonians. It also outlines the different roles Council has in improving social wellbeing and the range of ways that Council currently contributes to this outcome.

[Pōneke Promise](#) is an example of a collaborative project which commenced in 2021 and has a focus on improving peoples’ safety in the central city. The project has three main areas of focus: improving public spaces; increasing community spaces; and reducing harm. The Council is working with a range of parties and there are a range of initiatives underway under each area. For further information, see the Council’s website:

<https://wellington.govt.nz/community-support-and-resources/safety-in-wellington/the-poneke-promise>

## Relevant research and programmes of action

The benefits of quality urban design on physical and health mental and wellness indicators are well-documented by a wide range of published research papers, articles and literature. The following links provide some examples of published international research authored by well-respected and regularly cited urban design scholars:

- Matthew Carmona (2019) [\*Place value: place quality and its impact on health, social, economic and environmental outcomes\*](#), Journal of Urban Design, 24:1, 1-48, DOI: 10.1080/13574809.2018.1472523.
- Jasmin Honold, Reinhard Beyer, Tobia Lakes, Elke van der Meer (2012), [\*Multiple environmental burdens and neighborhood-related health of city residents\*](#), Journal of Environmental Psychology Volume 32, Issue 4, December 2012, Pages 305-317.
- Laura E. Jackson (2003), [\*The relationship of urban design to human health and condition\*](#). National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory, Office of Research and Development, US Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711, USA. Journal of Landscape and Urban Planning 64 (2003) 191–200.

- Layla McCay, Ingrid Bremer, Tarik Endale, Marjia Jannati, and Jihyun Yi (2017), [Urban Design and Mental Health](#). Article available in book: Mental Health and Illness in the City (pp.1-24).

This [article](#) provides a summary of the impacts urban living can have on peoples' mental health but also highlights the benefits of urban living when places and spaces are well-designed. This [paper](#) written by researchers at the University of Melbourne looks at progress made on improving health outcomes through good urban design and integrated transport, land use and infrastructure planning and outlines future challenges.

There are also many internationally recognised programmes which seek to ensure people and their health needs are put at the centre of decisions about how urban environments and public space are designed, managed and used. For example:

- The Healthy Streets Approach aims to make streets healthy, safe and welcoming for everyone. It is based on '10 Indicators of a Healthy Street' which focus on the experience of people using streets. Healthy Streets has been adopted by many towns and cities across the world, including in New Zealand, as a way of transforming streets and public spaces into healthier places for the whole community. Further information: <https://www.healthystreets.com/>
- [Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design \(CPTED\)](#) is a multi-disciplinary approach to crime prevention that uses urban and architectural design and the management of built and natural environments. CPTED strategies aim to reduce victimization, deter crime, ensure safe spaces and places, and build a sense of community. [National Guidelines for Crime Prevention through Environmental Design in New Zealand](#) have been developed by the Ministry of Justice and CPTED principles have been incorporated into the Draft District Plan's Design Guides.

### **New Zealand-based research**

There is also a lot of research being undertaken within the New Zealand context on the relationship of the design of our urban environments with people's health and wellbeing. Some examples of this include:

- **Therapeutic and Rehabilitative Designed Environments** research led out of Victoria University of Wellington's design school, see <https://www.trde.design/>. This research is wide-ranging and includes for example:
  - Māori health perspectives on sense of place and belonging in developing socially and culturally responsive therapeutic environments
  - Improving community health and wellbeing through multi-functional green infrastructure in cities undergoing densification
  - Participatory design for under-represented communities in place-making
  - Designing for culturally diverse communities
  - Therapeutic landscape design for older persons health and wellbeing
  - A Healthy Streets publication for Wellington City.

The full list of published material is available here: <https://www.trde.design/full-list-of-publications>

- **Nature and wellbeing** – a symposium held in Wellington in June 2021 brought together experts from a wide range of fields to explore how more nature can be incorporated into the places we live in and the significant multiple benefits that can be derived from doing this. Integrating more nature into our towns and cities can achieve a range of benefits: for example, better human health and wellbeing, improved ecological and environmental outcomes and strengthened climate resilience. See [here](#) for further information on the symposium and for specific researchers and projects.
- **NZ Centre for Sustainable Cities** has undertaken a range of relevant research projects, including for example:
  - **Public housing and urban regeneration: maximising wellbeing**  
<http://sustainablecities.org.nz/2021/04/public-housing-and-urban-regeneration-maximising-wellbeing/> The aim of this research is to increase understanding of public housing organisational capacity, the sustainability of housing developments, and the benefits of better urban design to help enhance wellbeing within these communities.

A full list of NZ Centre for Sustainable Cities research projects can be found here:  
<http://sustainablecities.org.nz/research/>

- There is a growing body of research papers and articles available online that focus on increasing our understanding of **urban design and health and wellbeing issues from a Māori perspective**. This work generally considers the holistic world view of Māori, a perspective that links people and the environment and is whānau-centred. It also highlights that architecture and urban design that is informed by mātauranga can strengthen connections between mana whenua and ancestral whenua and awa, and embody the principle of kaitiakitanga.
- **Imagining Decolonised Cities** is a research project funded by UNESCO that focuses on how to create cities that work well for Māori whānau, hapū, and iwi. It considers the fact that despite our major towns and cities being built on the sites of pā and kāinga, there is very little evidence of Māori values being included in their design. The project is an ongoing collaboration between Victoria University of Wellington and Ngāti Toa, led by Dr Rebecca Kiddle.

## Conclusion

This document responds to the resolution from the 24 June 2021 Planning and Environment Committee meeting requesting that Council officers to report back on the benefits of quality building design on mental health and wellness indicators as part of the District Plan review.

This document highlights the benefits of good urban design from a physical and mental health and wellbeing perspective and identifies some of the key relevant provisions within the Draft District Plan and new Design Guides. It also highlights a range of other relevant programmes and actions contributing to this outcome area and provides links to examples of relevant information and research.