



STAFF REPORT

TO: Environment & Planning Committee

FROM: Rose Biss, Policy Planner

REFERENCE: "L229

SUBJECT: **URBAN DESIGN REPORT - REPORT EP08/04/04** - Report prepared for 24 April Meeting

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of the report is to seek approval to appoint an urban design champion for the Tasman District Council.

2. BACKGROUND

At its meeting on 31 January 2008 the Environment & Planning Committee resolved to sign the Urban Design Protocol. As a signatory to the Urban Design Protocol the Council is committed to help make the Protocol work in practice by setting out a series of urban design actions it will undertake. Examples of possible actions

- Develop an awards scheme that celebrates quality urban design
- Develop an urban design demonstration project
- Offer urban design training for staff and councillors
- Incorporate educational material in council publications to raise awareness of urban design issues and solutions
- Provide an urban design assessment panel as a service for developers

One action the Council must do as a signatory to the Protocol is seek an urban design champion within the Council.

An urban design champion is a senior, influential person who can promote quality urban design in all areas of the Council organisation and help develop partnerships with other organisations and people with a stake in good urban outcomes.

3. DISCUSSION

On 5 March a meeting of senior staff, the Chief Executive Officer and the Mayor considered how to fill the position of Urban Design Champion in Tasman District. Among the options were key senior staff, a senior manager, or a Councillor. The assessment concluded that to meet the developing need in Tasman District to advocate widely for quality urban design for liveable and sustainable urban outcomes, a councillor was the most appropriate option. The meeting considered that the Mayor provided the best combination of exposure, knowledge and influence for councillors.

4. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. Mayor Richard Kempthorne is appointed as Urban Design Champion for Tasman District.
2. Advice of the appointment is forwarded to the Ministry for the Environment.

Rose Biss
Policy Planner