

## 1.5. HOW IS THE DISTRICT PLAN STRUCTURED?

### Volume 1: objectives, policies and rules

The objectives, policies and rules in volume 1 form the key part of the plan. The objectives are the Council's environmental goals and the policies are the ways these will be achieved. The rules provide the means for Council to carry out its functions under the Resource Management Act and to achieve the objectives and policies.

The District Plan also contains non-regulatory methods, where appropriate, such as advocacy, the provision of information, education and incentives. An example is energy efficiency. The key method that the plan identifies for this is advocacy, with the Council recognising its responsibility in acting as a role model and advocate for energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy.

As required under Section 75 of the Act, each policy is followed by an explanation of the policy, the principal reason for adopting the policy and associated methods, and a description of the environmental results expected from the implementation of the policy and methods. The District Plan rules are also generally followed by explanations to help readers understand and interpret the plan's provisions.

#### Volume 1 chapters consist of:

- **Introductory chapters:** These explain the purpose and context of the District Plan, issues for tangata whenua, and general provisions such as information requirements and definitions.
- **Zone-specific chapters:** These chapters set out the objectives, policies and rules for each zone, ie Residential, Open Space, or Central Area zones. Before listing any objectives and rules,

the plan first describes each area's character and broadly outlines what development is anticipated in that area (refer to pages 8–12 of this guide).

- **Specific issues:** These chapters set out objectives, policies and rules relating to specific environmental issues, such as heritage, earthworks, or contaminated land (refer to pages 13–14 of this guide).

### Volume 2: Design guides

These set guidelines for developments of particular types (eg multi-unit housing), or on particular sites (eg within Institutional Precincts, or in defined heritage areas such as Thorndon). New developments which fall into these categories generally require a resource consent. In assessing a resource consent application, the Council will take into account the extent to which the proposal meets the relevant design guide and the relevant area-based policies.

The District Plan also contains design guides for information purposes relating to design against crime and wind.

### Volume 3: Maps

The maps identify various areas or zones within the city where particular policies or rules apply. They are usually the first part of the District Plan consulted by people wishing to undertake developments, or who are affected by proposed developments, and want to understand what provisions will apply to a site. The maps identify which zone the property is in and whether any other provisions apply, eg does the property contain a heritage building? Are there any particular hazards relating to the site?