

MAKING IT HAPPEN

Projects that aim to enhance the liveability of towns and cities often start at the street, block, or building scale. All too often these are done in isolation from their surroundings.

This framework is developed in response to this point. It considers the future of Wellington's central city as a whole and aims to enhance and transform it through a number of smaller scale projects.

The aim is to renew the city in a sustainable way. Doing things once, economically and in a way that is flexible and resilient to changes.

At its simplest, implementing the framework will involve:

commitment/leadership – maintaining the political and public will to deliver

investment – securing or freeing up funds to reap the benefits of the work

design – understanding the need for change, selecting the right approach and improving the function and experiences

sparking and sustaining momentum – use small-scale interventions to showcase potential change

construction – building a multi-storey unit, resealing a pavement, landscaping a park, engineering a kerb

communication/collaboration – measuring and showcasing the benefits and staying course.

The overall implementation plan has been based on:

- deliberate, phased approach to making changes
- realistic expectations with the inclusion of both short- and longer-term projects
- identifying catalyst projects with low risk but potentially high rewards
- stewardship/making sure that city improvements have been adequately planned, designed and tested
- initial funding being drawn from the reprioritisation of existing long-term plan – budgets related to central city upgrades
- consideration of new or additional funding mechanisms. Further research will be done to determine how alternative models can contribute to the implementation of the framework – this will include investigation into an Urban Development Agency
- the identification, simplification and introduction of planning rules
- open dialogue.

The final point relates to the fact that the framework's success is dependent on the contribution of the not only the Council but also the design, development and property communities, and institutions that are central to the city achieving its vision as a smart capital.

Engaging local experts throughout the implementation

Council staff will establish a technical reference panel with members of the local development and design community. The overall aim would be to draw on the group's skills, experience and expertise to:

- have their say on recommendations on the prioritisation of the areas of opportunity
- peer-review design briefs as the framework is implemented.

The creation of such a reference panel will be a useful step in ensuring quality results and has the additional benefit of a wide understanding and advocacy of the framework's intentions.

Engagement with interested and affected parties will also occur on a project and site-by-site basis as the framework is implemented.



STORYBOX KEY FACTS

- What?** four interactive shipping containers to engage with Wellingtonians about the direction of their city
- Where?** Odlins Plaza and Te Aro Park
- Who?** 6000 locals and visitors to the city
- When?** 23 June–23 July 2011