

5. Design Guidance: Street Structure - Materials

Appropriate specification and detailing of street materials contributes to the visual appeal and long term sustainability of streets.

Key Principles

- Street materials should be durable, sustainable, safe and easy to maintain.
- Where streets are to be adopted, choice of materials must be acceptable to the Council.
- Different materials should be used creatively to add visual interest and richness as well as clear functional definition to the street environment.
- Materials should be appropriate to their context. Use of high quality, traditional elements such as natural stone paving, or a suitable imitation, will be encouraged in high profile locations and conservation areas.

Further Guidance

- Designing Streets Page 50



Small Element Paving:

A wide range of paving materials are available to add colour, interest and definition, appropriate to the character of the area.



Detailing:

Careful detailing of this of shared use space enables the carriageway to be subtly delineated.



Whin setts, a traditional and durable street material, are used creatively to reinforce a narrowing of the street and a transition in the street environment.



Quality:

A small area of reclaimed stone flags with a setted margin have been used in a conservation area setting to provide a high quality, visually rich public realm. Use of reclaimed materials increases the sustainability of the scheme.

5. Design Guidance: Street Structure - Reducing Clutter

Street signs, road markings and lighting should be minimised, and furniture appropriately designed, to reduce street clutter.

Key Principles

- Street markings and signage should be minimised and designed to avoid having a dominant visual impact on a place.
- Street lighting should be designed as an integral part of the design at an early stage in the design process.
- Street furniture should add to the overall quality of design of a place; location, quantity and design should avoid pedestrian obstruction.

Further Guidance

- Designing Streets Pages 51-53
- SCOTS Road Development Guide, p.48, p.100 & pp.121-137.



Signage:

No street markings and minimal signage creates a clear, uncluttered environment which does not obstruct pedestrian movement.



Lighting:

Has been integrated throughout the design process reducing street clutter.



Furniture:

Street furniture has been considered as an integral part of the street design to create quality public realm.



Street Lighting:

Bespoke street lights reduce clutter.

6. Design Principles Checklist and The Place Standard

Checklist

The following is a summary checklist of the design principles set out in this SG.

Context and Character	Street structure should be informed by a thorough understanding of local conditions including topography, landscape, surrounding buildings and street patterns. Proposed street and building types should be determined in accordance with place and movement functions to create diversity and mixed use.
Permeability and Legibility	Permeable layouts, incorporating multiple connections with existing street and path networks, should prioritise pedestrian and cycle movement over vehicles. Local facilities should be easy to access. The location of distinctive features at key nodes facilitates easy navigation and orientation.
Green Infrastructure	Proposed residential neighbourhoods should be designed around a landscape and open space framework which harnesses the potential of the site and connects with the surrounding green network. Open spaces for social interaction, street trees, structure planting and sustainable urban drainage systems should be integrated into the green infrastructure to enhance and unify developments.
Buildings and Spaces	Buildings should be designed to create distinctive streets and spaces, with high quality architectural treatments to frontages facing on to streets, open spaces and paths. Street elevations should be considered as an exercise in coherent, integrated design to avoid random collections of house types.
Building Form and Detail	The design of individual buildings should reflect local building tradition in a contemporary manner. Detailing and materials should mirror the local context. The curtilage of buildings should provide clear demarcation between public and private space.
Achieving Appropriate Traffic Speed	The mitigation of traffic speed should be considered and incorporated from the earliest stages of the design process. Features such as landscaping, on-street parking, staggered building lines, minimising lengths of streets between junctions and careful use of materials can be employed to good effect to achieve appropriate traffic speed.
Junction Types and Arrangements	The design of junctions should primarily address pedestrian desire lines and visibility. Junctions in proposed residential neighbourhoods should vary in design to reflect street type, use and context rather than apply standardised solutions.
Streets for People	Shared spaces for safe, communal activity should be incorporated into proposed residential neighbourhoods.
Integrated Parking	Integrated car parking should enhance the streetscape by applying a variety of means. Parking provision should meet Falkirk Council's standards.
Emergency and Service Vehicles	Streets should be designed to allow for the needs and space standards required by emergency and service vehicles, without compromising the quality of place.
Drainage	Streets should incorporate SUDS - Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems - to meet local and national requirements.
Utilities	The placement of services in streets should address local requirements without compromising the quality of place.

6. Design Principles Checklist and The Place Standard

Checklist (continued)

Planting	Natural landscape features should be incorporated into street design to provide visual interest, biodiversity and improve the micro climate.
Materials	Careful choice and design of materials in the streetscape adds to the quality of a place, providing variety, richness and visual interest. Different materials can be applied to delineate a variety of functions.
Reducing Clutter	Street markings, signage, lighting and street furniture should be designed at the outset of the design process to add to the overall quality of a place. Location, quantity and design should be carefully considered to avoid pedestrian obstruction.

The Place Standard

The Place Standard	The Place Standard is a tool for assessing the quality of a place and identifying how it can be improved - see www.placestandard.scot . It helps local communities assess what works well about places and highlights where there is room for improvement. It allows for consistency in the assessment of a place and helps communities set out their aspirations. It is part of the conversation and consultation process between local communities, the developer and the planning authority.
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