

Policy Des 11 Tall Buildings – Skyline and Key Views

Planning permission will only be granted for development which rises above the building height prevailing generally in the surrounding area where:

- a) a landmark is to be created that enhances the skyline and surrounding townscape and is justified by the proposed use
- b) the scale of the building is appropriate in its context
- c) there would be no adverse impact on important views of landmark buildings, the historic skyline, landscape features in the urban area or the landscape setting of the city, including the Firth of Forth.

166 Proposals for development that would be conspicuous in iconic views of the city will be subject to special scrutiny. This is necessary to protect some of the city's most striking visual characteristics, the views available from many vantage points within the city and beyond, of landmark buildings, the city's historic skyline, undeveloped hillsides within the urban area and the hills, open countryside and the Firth of Forth which create a unique landscape setting for the city. In addition, the height of new buildings may need to be suppressed where necessary so that the city's topography and valley features continue to be reflected in roofscapes. This policy will play an important role in protecting the setting of the World Heritage Sites.

167 A study undertaken for the Council identifies key public viewpoints and is used in assessing proposals for high buildings. Further advice is provided in Council guidance.

Policy Des 12 Alterations and Extensions

Planning permission will be granted for alterations and extensions to existing buildings which:

- a) in their design and form, choice of materials and positioning are compatible with the character of the existing building
- b) will not result in an unreasonable loss of privacy or natural light to neighbouring properties
- c) will not be detrimental to neighbourhood amenity and character

168 Every change to a building, street or space has the potential to enrich or, if poorly designed, impoverish a part of the public realm. The impact of a proposal on the appearance and character of the existing building and street scene generally must be satisfactory and there should be no unreasonable loss of amenity and privacy for immediate neighbours.

Policy Des 13 Shopfronts

Planning permission will be granted for alterations to shopfronts which are improvements on what already exists and relate sensitively and harmoniously to the building as a whole. Particular care will be taken over proposals for the installation of illuminated advertising panels and projecting signs, blinds, canopies, security grills and shutters to avoid harm to the visual amenity of shopping streets or the character of historic environments.

169 Shopfront design, shop designs and shopfront advertising play an important role in the visual environment of the city. Important traditional or original features on older buildings, such as stall risers, fascias and structural framing of entrances and shop windows, should be retained and incorporated into the design. In conservation areas and on listed buildings, design and materials used will be expected to be of a high standard, and not damaging to existing fabric of buildings or wider character. Detailed advice on shopfronts is provided in Council guidance.