



Prepared by Future Cape Town
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Recommendation 1 : The creation of a Public Spaces task team and ultimately the creation of a metropolitan public space agency

Future Cape Town and other civil society and interest groups recognise the role of public space, including the design, development, and operation thereof, in making cities work.

Cities, beyond buildings, are made of the physical and social fabric of which public spaces are an important part; building cohesion, inclusivity and giving tangible expression to a more democratic, equitable society.

At a global level it should be noted that the UN Habitat III process has a specific policy paper on Public Spaces, which can guide the role of multi-sector, multi-player collaboration on public spaces with local government/authorities.

We also recognise the immense city-wide investment in parks, spaces, improved community facilities and services. However, within a new environment of constrained budgets, rationalising the use and ownership of public facilities, we need new models and ideas to move forward. Importantly, they must include the resources of other parts of society.

Some of the following cases show the importance of being able to develop clear, partnership based responses that affect the public spaces:

- **Regent Road Parklet** : a democratic public space with free wifi, funded by the private sector who took on the rental amount for the parking bays (payable to the City of Cape Town). It received over 500 signatures in support and only 2 or 3 complaints from stores (not building owners) who opposed the parklet.
- **Thornhill Park** : upgrading a City Park with public and private contributions, all of which were implemented successfully.
- The **electric car charging bay** : an on-street car charging station to promote the use of electric cars. However no City policy exists, which makes it difficult for this to be co-created.
- **Church Square** : testing new initiatives to improve the use, safety and vibrancy of the square

- **Bicycle Parking structures** : installing bicycle parking on the Sea Point Promenade, which was delayed by 8 months due to changing processes (application requirements) and other bureaucratic inefficiencies.

However, the Future Cape Town experience of engaging and working with the City of Cap Town has been challenging and frustrating despite good working relations with various officials :

1. Different viewpoints between the various departments on public space ownership, on public-private partnerships in the development of public spaces and places and on city infrastructure.
2. A lack of communication between departments
3. Changing application and administrative processes, resulting in long delays, increased costs and lower the appetite for public-private partnerships.
4. A lack of incentive for officials to fast track public space investments
5. A lack of a culture of innovation

Our work in this area has also been informed by :

- Productive discussions with former Alderman Walker with a draft Terms of Reference drawn up in 2016
- A three part lecture series, The Future of Public Space, of which the outcomes will be presented in a report soon

Recommendation :

The development of a Public Spaces Task Team would be imperative to promoting importance of public spaces, in turn making the city great. The main aims of such a task team would be to bring together inputs from different city departments, private sector role-players, investors, designers and civil society. Furthermore, the task team should galvanise the efforts of the different role-players, promote innovation and also recognise and promote the efforts of the City in developing public spaces.

Purpose:

To investigate and facilitate co-operation between the private and public sector for the activation and enhancement of public space, with the aim of increasing opportunities for sponsorships, donations, collaborations and volunteering and reducing unnecessary red tape.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- **Dialogue:** Promote dialogue among different actors including different City departments, private sectors role-players, investors, designers and civil society, with

the aim of **promoting innovation** which bridges the gap between the needs of communities and the capabilities of City departments.

- **Knowledge: Identify and promote specific public spaces and City initiatives** that require partnerships to reach their potential, with the aim of galvanizing the efforts of different role players involved in improving public spaces.
- **Red Tape:** To develop a selection of **pre-defined and approved opportunities** to donate/sponsor/ collaborate/ volunteer together, with a **description of associated processes and mechanisms** which can be promoted via the City's 'Get Involved' portal and media campaigns.
- **Proactive: Review and develop processes and partnership arrangements** that foster CSI in public spaces which can translate into easy-to-understand 'How-to guides' and/or easy-to-join collaborative organisations.
 - **How-to Guides:** E.g. Memorial benches and trees; sponsoring park equipment and street furniture; parklets; graffiti; public art; food gardens; temporary exhibits.
 - **Collaborative organisations:** E.g. Friends of Parks and Libraries; Community gardening groups; Partnerships.
- **Reactive: Review and refine private sector proposals** relating to the enhancement and/or activation of public space. The Work Group will seek to gain further necessary information from those behind the proposal, as well as the relevant line departments as to the scope and potential benefits of the proposal and the associated risks and constraints.

In this regard:

- Productive discussions with Alderman Walker with a draft ToR drawn up earlier this year
- A three part lecture series, The Future of Public Space, of which the outcomes will be presented in a report soon

Conclusion :

This relates to The City's five pillars / strategic focus areas:

1. Opportunity City
2. Safe City
3. Caring City
4. Inclusive City
5. Well-run City

As well as to the following 8 strategic priorities:

1. Excellence in basic service delivery
2. Safe communities
3. Leveraging technology for progress
4. Positioning Cape Town as a forward-looking, globally competitive business City
5. Resource efficiency and security
6. Building integrated communities
7. Economic inclusion
8. Operational sustainability

Recommendation 2 : The creation of an office/department for Long Term Planning, Sustainability and Resilience

Planning the future of the city moves beyond and between political terms of office. It is important that the City uses data and evidence to clarify its long term view/ goals and position on critical spatial planning, environmental and urban development issues.

What is still lacking is a vision to which residents and citizen can relate to, understand and be inspired by. Past vision processes have often lacked resonance and been reduced to mere mentions in the introductory sections of various reports.

Some of the following cases show the importance of being able to develop clear, partnership based responses that affect the long term environmental security :

- **Wescap** : the creation of a city-scale development, in a nuclear red zone, 40km from Cape Town. This impacts the long term form of the city, promoting urban sprawl at scale with devastating impacts on long-term carbon emissions. Furthermore, the decision to move the urban edge only was done so in a very undemocratic manner, receiving only 5 public comments.
- **Philippi Horticultural Area** : the lack of clarity in protecting the city's long term food and water security plays out at the PHA, with the City considering housing developments on top of the Cape Flats Aquifer, as one example. The PHA shows the potential to support job, food and water security, while over the long term positioning Cape Town as a leader in food and water security in Africa and globally. The negative impacts of developments in the best portions of the PHA have been highlighted by numerous studies commissioned by the city, private sector, as well as by various academics.
- **Athlone Power Station site** : the lack of information on the next steps on this prime parcel of land
- **Airport City / Aerotropolis** : the ability of the City to make clear its view on important or strategic developments outside its mandate or land ownership, that offer potential for spatial restructuring

How can Cape Town i.e. the City of Cape Town and other sectors of society, communicate more clearly what the next few decades hold in terms of development and plans? Already we see that important planning like the Urban Networks Strategy, the integration zones, TOD and others, have not yet captured the imagination of broader society or been communicated widely enough. Nor should these projects be limited to being projects of a relevant department (i.e. need greater cross-collaboration on these projects).

How can more coherence and coordination of ideas, plans and projects for the city show more of a link to where the city aims to go in the coming decades?

Summary of Recommendation :

The creation of an office/department for long term planning, sustainability and resilience which could be placed within the Mayor's office.

Aims:

- To bring visionary and evidence-based thinking (beyond political terms) to long-term planning for and solutions to environmental and social challenges facing the city.
- To help develop a plan for the City's long-term growth and development
- To integrate sustainability goals and practices into every aspect of that plan
- To coordinate the City's various efforts that contribute to a cleaner environment across the metropolitan region and make more efficient use of our resources.
- Finally, once a long-term sustainability plan is established, the Office will be responsible for tracking, measuring, and reporting the City's performance against the targets set in the plan

This recommendation relates to the following pillars/strategic focus areas :

- Opportunity City
- Inclusive City

As well as to the following 7 strategic priorities:

1. Dense and transit oriented urban growth and development
2. An efficient, integrated transport system
3. Leveraging technology for progress
4. Positioning Cape Town as a forward-looking, globally competitive business City
5. Resource efficiency and security
6. Building integrated communities
7. Economic inclusion