

Guidelines for Human Settlement Planning and Design

Breaking apartheid geography and creating the conditions for more humane and environmentally sustainable living and working environments

Background

The Guidelines for Human Settlement Planning and Design (commonly known as the Red Book) was published by the Department of Human Settlements in 2000. The Guidelines outline the qualities that should be sought in South African human settlements and provide practical guidance and options to built environment practitioners on how these qualities can be achieved.

The need for a complete update and revision of the Guidelines became evident in recent years. In February 2015 the Department of Human Settlements appointed the CSIR to take responsibility for the project to revise the Guidelines. The project is expected to be completed by March 2018.

The current version of the Guidelines is still available for use and can be accessed at:

<http://www.csir.co.za/sector>



Motivation for revising the Red Book

The key reasons for revising the Red Book could be summarised as follows:

- The principles and guidelines contained in the Red Book need to be aligned with current thinking as reflected in a range of policies and strategies developed by government since 2000.
- There is a need to move away from a “housing only approach” towards the creation of integrated, functional and sustainable human settlements.
- The revised Guidelines should reflect society’s altering values and acknowledge the increasing importance placed on global challenges, especially climate change and its relation to the built environment.
- The revised Guidelines should respond to the societal challenges of inequality, social exclusion and the marginalisation of the poor.

Purpose of the revised Guidelines

The new Guidelines will provide neighbourhood planning and design guidance to support the creation of settlements that are liveable, equitable, sustainable, resilient and efficient, and that support economic opportunities and social cohesion.

The revision process

The process to revise the Guidelines involves two phases:

Phase 1 entailed research and stakeholder consultation resulting in a conceptual framework for the Guidelines.

Phase 2 focuses on the detailed development of the revised set of Guidelines.

The stakeholder consultation initiated during Phase 1 continues to provide guidance on the content and structure of the revised Guidelines. The stakeholders include the human settlements sector, municipalities, Community-Based Organisations, tertiary institutions, traditional leaders and political decision-makers.

Phase 2 involves the production of content for the new Guidelines and includes a consultation process to solicit comments on certain sections of the new Guidelines.



human settlements

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