

# URBAN DESIGN INSTITUTE OF SOUTH AFRICA **UDISA**

## (Western Cape Branch)

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### **Notes:**

#### **Sustainability Assessment Tool Workshop 1**

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#### **Attendees:**

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#### **1. Welcome**

GvdM opened the meeting and briefly described the process to date followed by UDISA looking at the development of a Sustainability Assessment Tool, and why the development of such a tool had been identified as a project by UDISA.

The following notes captures the key points made in general discussion on the desirability, purpose and nature of such an assessment tool.

#### **2. Target “audience” for a sustainability tool**

- Commercial developers/clients
- Local authorities
- Urban Designers and other built environment professionals
- Teaching institutions
  
- Needs to be both an educational tool as well as critical tool for assessing quality of proposals

#### **3. Purpose**

- To facilitate good urban form
- Exact nature of tool and purpose would differ for each of the targeted sectors
- Assist with assessment at approvals stage of projects that will have a significant impact on urban form

#### **4. Approvals Processes**

- It was agreed that is key that some form of “stumbling block” in the form of a critical assessment be put in the way of development to ensure the adherence to good urban form, and good urban design, including but not limited to sustainability concerns.
- This assessment could form part of existing approvals processes such as municipal approvals, EIA processes, HIA processes, etc.

- It was agreed that the most appropriate process to take part in is likely to be the EIA process as this catches most of the larger urban developments. There are however concerns with smaller / less “problematic” projects that may not trigger an EIA, but may be critical in terms of urban form
- It was suggested that UDISA may want to lobby for a critical assessment process, an “Urban Performance Assessment” similar to an EIA or HIA, to be undertaken by a qualified individual or entity – this is to address good urban form, with sustainability as one of the subsets of measured impacts.

## **5. Tool vs impact assessment process**

- It was agreed that the assessment tool as previously discussed, and an assessment process are two different outcomes and should be seen as separate projects to be undertaken by UDISA
- The tool may be useful in such an assessment process, and may be developed to give guidance to said assessment

## **6. Way forward**

- Attendees are to prepare short notes summarising their suggestions / position re the above
  - It was agreed that the proposal regarding the impact assessment process would be tabled at the next UDISA steering committee meeting by GvdM.
  - GvdM to set up an agenda/program and arrange a series of follow up meetings to address specific aspects of the above proposals.
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