

F2 – Seating

Seating

1

Amendments:

Design Considerations

2

Seating

Providing adequate seating is a key way to make streets more inclusive. It provides areas for rest, comfort and social interaction.

In areas of high footfall (such as retail streets) seating opportunities should be provided frequently, ideally every 100m. Seating should be Equality Act compliant and offer a range of options for different users. Refer to

In areas of lower footfall, especially along residential streets, seats should also be placed where they relate to local facilities for concentrations of people (e.g. GP surgeries, libraries, shop units etc) and near playgrounds.



[The Scottish Government, 2010](#)

Where to locate seating:

- Take advantage of views, sunny spots, i.e. facing south east to south west, or sheltered areas;
- Locate where people naturally congregate;
- Where space is available, seats can be placed within the Frontage Zone at the back of the pavement in front of blank walls or fences.

Relevant Factsheets:

Street Furniture and Landscape as Traffic Management (G6)
Equality Rights Impact Assessment (P2)



[Charlie Holland, 2015](#)

Where not to locate seating:

- Obstructing the Clear Walking Zone;
- Obstructing the Kerb Zone;
- Obstructing access;
- Areas where there is not a need for rest;
- Areas without natural surveillance.

Designing Inclusive Streets (P2)
Furniture Zones (F1)

F2 – Seating

Factsheet

Design Considerations

'Informal seating' opportunities can be provided in multiple ways



Seats can be located in frontage zones in front of blank walls or fences



There are multiple opportunities for seating within the furniture zone, dependent on width



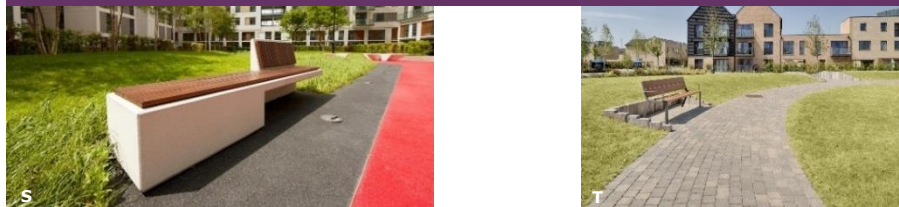
There are multiple opportunities for seating within the wider public realm



Proximity to waste bins should be carefully considered: Seat and waste bin at least 1m apart



When set back from the footway, seats should be located on hardstanding to aid maintenance



Seating can be used in traffic management



- Relevant Factsheets:**
- Street Furniture and Landscape as Traffic Management (G6)
 - Furniture Zones (F1)
 - Designing Inclusive Streets (P2)
 - Equality Rights Impact Assessment (P2)

For all images references, please refer to main document: Edinburgh Street Design Guidance.

F2 – Seating: Design Considerations

Factsheet

Important seating design considerations: ease of maintenance/ replacement, durability, comfort, arm rests, back rests, leg support.

Recycled Plastic/ Composite



Langley Design, 2016

Concrete; Scottish Parliament



Timber; Kings Building Gateway, University of Edinburgh



Bluton, 2016

Galvanised steel



David Ogilvie, 2017

Seat dimension standards	
Recommended height from floor	450-500mm
Recommended depth	300-400mm
Minimum width of seat	500mm
Seat dimension standards	
Arm rests	Should be placed about 200mm above seat level. May be omitted on some seats to allow better access for wheelchairs or parents with pushchairs
Back Rests	Should be provided in all instances to assist older and disabled people, except where located within visual proximity to other seats with a back rest.
Minimum width of seat	May vary but should not extend beyond the profile of the seat to avoid creating a trip hazard. The base plate should not be visible.
Free drainage of water	To ensure longevity and overall functionality.

Material considerations

Type

Advantages

Disadvantages

Timber

- Comfortable
- Suitable for a range of street types
- Suitable for longer resting

- Easily vandalised
- Less durable
- More maintenance required

Stainless Steel

- Less easily vandalised
- Less maintenance
- Urban aesthetic
- More design styles
- Very durable

- Cold/Less comfortable
- Stays wet for longer periods

Natural Stone/ Concrete

- Durable
- Less easily vandalised
- Range of vandal-proof options
- Can provide security/bollard function

- Less common
- Less easy to replace parts
- Expensive
- Cold/Less comfortable

Composite/ recycled plastic

- Low maintenance requirements
- Rot proof/weather/graffiti resistant
- Sustainable

- Lower aesthetic qualities

Image References

Seating

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