

## **Glossary of technical terms.**

A brief description of some the key urban design terms used throughout the workshop and within this report.

### **Active edge.**

The term is used to describe the edge of a building that contains windows and doors that allow the people inside to watch over and access the street and for people on the street to feel that someone in the adjacent buildings is close by. This type of building edge is favoured by the Police through their “Secured by Design” initiative.

### **Activity Area.**

As used at the workshop an activity area is a piece of town roughly 800 metres in diameter (comfortable 10 minute walking distance) that supports different levels of activity. Some are very quiet whilst others are very busy. Each type of activity area has different characteristics for example the high activity ones will be very busy and contain shops and other similar uses. The quiet ones will be areas of housing and parks etc. The level of busyness in an area is related to how important the main roads are and how many people live within it – the more important the road and the higher the number of residents then the busier the place will be.

### **Connectivity/permeability.**

This refers to how accessible a place is and is usually measured by how many through routes there are connecting the place to other areas of the town or city. A well connected or very permeable place will be one that has large numbers of through routes joined to each other in some sort of grid. A place with low connectivity and low permeability will have small number of through routes and a high number of dead-end routes.

Legibility.

This term refers to how easy it is to find your way around a place. In a very legible area you would find your way around easily and would not get readily lost. In a place with low legibility you would have difficulty locating an address and in finding your way around – might feel confused or lost.

Movement patterns.

Movement patterns are simply descriptions of the way that people move around a place. They will describe how people move from place to place e.g. walk, drive cycle etc and how often they move around – helping to measure places as busy or quiet etc.

Space syntax analysis.

Space syntax analysis is a method of assessing the likely levels of pedestrian and car movement through a road/street network. It was developed at University College London and is used to predict the amount and distribution of traffic – both pedestrian and vehicle – likely to move through a street network. It can be used to test different layouts to ensure uses that need large numbers of people e.g. large shops, are located in and along the busiest routes of a development. Further detail is available from the Space Syntax Laboratory, University College London [www.spacesyntax.org](http://www.spacesyntax.org)