

## **Future Södertälje, Comprehensive Plan 2013-2030**

Under the Swedish Planning and Building Act, all Swedish municipalities must have a comprehensive plan. In October 2013, the Södertälje City Council Assembly adopted a unanimous decision on a new comprehensive plan: "*Framtid Södertälje*" [Future Södertälje]. The plan shows how the municipality will use land and water in the future and how needs will be met in a sustainable manner. The comprehensive plan is a tool for increasing growth in the municipality in the longer term and for making Södertälje more attractive to residents, businesses and visitors. The comprehensive plan provides support for the following more detailed planning and project design work.

### **Strategy: to condense and improve what we already have**

A decision has been made on a new strategy for developing the municipality – a shift from opening up new areas for development to expansion by condensing and completing areas that have already been developed.

In the comprehensive plan, we point out the areas that we will prioritise:

- development of the city centre,
- development of the city's environmental programme areas,
- development of the municipality's population centres in rural areas,
- development of the municipality's rural areas, and
- development of the municipality's new business areas.

### **Objectives for development of the entire municipality**

*Sustainable development* – Södertälje is growing and competition for land, water and other resources is on the increase. The focus will be on long-term sustainability and any change in the physical environment will be assessed from an overall perspective.

*Greater social cohesion* – A fully functioning physical environment is essential for achieving social cohesion. It is therefore important to work on improving the physical environment, for example parks, green spaces and meeting places, both in and between districts, and to make it easier to use public transport, cycle or walk between districts.

*An attractive city* – The greatest potential for development but also the greatest challenges lie in the city. In order for Södertälje to become more attractive, the city will be condensed and homes and businesses such as shops, offices and restaurants will be mixed

together. In addition, the city's parks and other green spaces will be developed and the area surrounding the Södertälje Canal will be opened up to residents.

*To develop population centres in rural areas* – Södertälje includes a large, vibrant rural area. New development will be concentrated in or close to the places that are considered to be in the best position to be developed as the centres of their areas. As a result, these population centres, along with their local areas, are given the opportunity to contribute to sustainable development in the municipality and in the region.

*Varied and flexible environments* – People and businesses seek out environments that arouse their interest and that contain a variety of buildings. It is therefore important for districts to have different kinds of business premises, housing and public spaces that can be used in different ways.

*An attractive and varied housing supply* – The municipality will have a "plan bank" that contains detailed plans and building permits for new housing in order to meet the needs of a growing population.

*Strong business and education* – In order to create a well-balanced, robust business community, the municipality wishes to invest in improving the environment for the services sector. The level of education of the population is directly linked to economic development and therefore forms an essential part of the municipality's efforts to create growth.

*Improved accessibility and sustainable transport* – The comprehensive plan focuses on accessibility. The municipality will work to reduce car traffic in favour of walking, cycling and public transport.

*More discussion* – Issues relating to the social structure are of interest to many people. The municipality will promote discussion on issues on which residents and businesses can have their say. A physical location and a digital space will be developed where discussion on Södertälje's future development can take place.

### **Implementation and monitoring**

The social structure consists of an interplay between public and private stakeholders. The comprehensive plan provides the municipality with a view of both its priorities and its

finances, which is important since economic restrictions make it increasingly important for any investments to be made in a way that best furthers Södertälje's development.

The comprehensive plan will not remain on the shelf and we will carry out an annual follow-up in the form of a lecture or workshop entitled "*En förmiddag för framtiden*" [A seminar about the future].