

A new strategy for vibrant and safe cities

Summary

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A new strategy for vibrant and safe cities

This outlines the Swedish Government's new direction for urban development policy. The Government intends to improve conditions for municipalities to develop vibrant, safe and resilient urban environments, and enhance possibilities for regions, government agencies, the business sector and civil society to contribute to this work. Sweden will be a forerunner in the sustainable development of attractive cities.

Vibrant cities

The Government views a 'vibrant city' as a place whose residents and visitors enjoy a high quality of life. It offers a variety of activities that encourage community and affinity, and is a place where people thrive and want to be. A vibrant city is characterised by carefully thought-out and aesthetically pleasing design of high-quality construction,

nature, urban green spaces and architecture. A vibrant city is a place where the possibilities offered by the cultural and creative industries are cultivated and harnessed. It is also a place where commerce has a central function together with hotels, cafés, restaurants, entertainment and nightlife; and green spaces contribute to well-being and the city's appeal. A vibrant city has

well-functioning pedestrian zones and sustainable transport solutions that provide accessibility within the city, to surrounding areas and to the rest of the world.

Safe cities

In Sweden, everyone must be able to live a secure life without fear of being a victim of crime, regardless of who they are or where they live. According to the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention's Swedish Crime Survey 2024 (2024:8), the share of people aged 16 to 84 years who felt unsafe being outdoors late in the evening in their own residential area was 24 per cent. Women feel unsafe to a significantly greater extent than men. The share of people who feel unsafe is also greater in areas facing socioeconomic challenges in comparison with other areas. For this reason, urban development should have the aim of designing and planning the built environment in a way that helps

reduce the risk for crime and increases perceived personal safety.

Resilient cities

Cities must be able to accommodate development and change for a very long time. A resilient city is capable of transitioning over time with respect to its usage and mode of operation. This will enable the city to accommodate changes regarding the way people work, shop, move about and enjoy themselves, as well as changes in the types of activities people would like to have available in the city. A resilient city must be able to meet demands brought on by changes in climate and biodiversity. The foundation of this is a carefully thought-out basic structure in which infrastructure, road network, districts and green structure make up the backbone. History has shown that cities with a carefully thought-out basic structure can continue to develop and transform for centuries.

