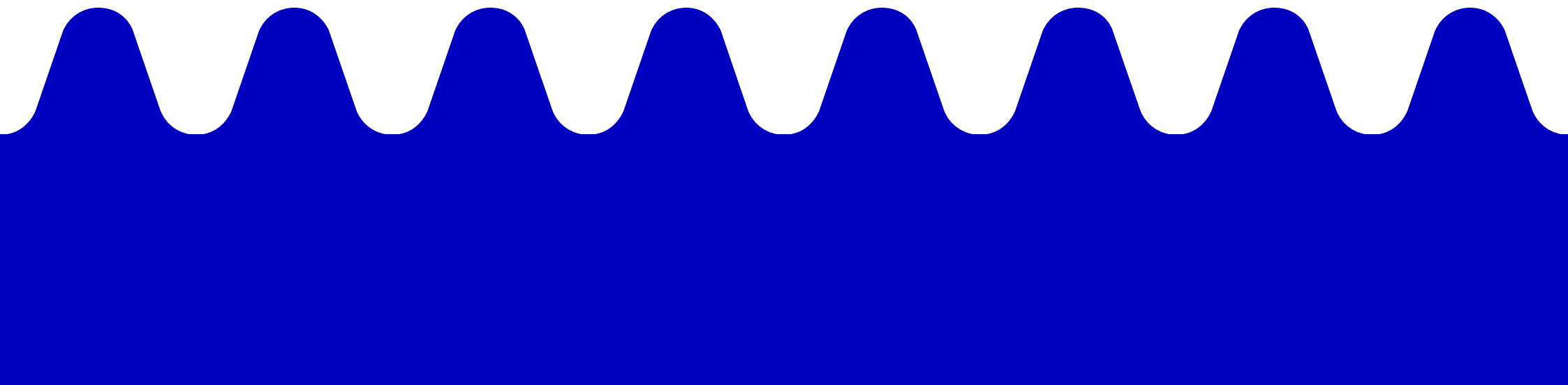


Helsinki

The Most Functional City in the World

Sustainable Development Goals

First Part of the City-level Implementation Reporting



From agenda to action

The voluntary local review of United Nations sustainable development goals in Helsinki



The greatest challenges of our time from climate change to growing segregation have not been for a long time the sole concern of nation states. Finding solutions to our common problems cannot be achieved only by nations. At the same time, it is crucial to build understanding of our problems and the seriousness of the situation we are at.

The work to protect our globe and its inhabitants is everyday labor, choices and sacrifices. In addition to laws, regulations and commitments the creation of a new, more sustainable world requires understanding of how every person, family and community can have an impact on the realization of our common goals. The role of cities is growing – it is only natural then that they also assume a central role in implementing the global goals.

In 2015 the countries of the UN General Assembly committed to the agenda and goals for sustainable development. Agenda2030 aims to end extreme poverty and forward sustainable development, where environment, economy and people are taken into consideration equally. The sustainable development goals (SDG's) are universal and apply to all countries.

Even though Agenda2030 is a state level commitment, its success is highly depended upon the implementation work of cities and communities. A considerable part of the implementation of the global goals takes place at the local level. The role of cities as practical, grass-root level actors is highlighted. As urbanization continues it is timely to raise the voice of cities in the agenda of the global conversation. In addition to other measures, this requires better local documenting and reporting.

In July 2018 New York became the first city in the world to submit its voluntary local review (VLR) to the United Nations. According to its strategy

Helsinki wants to be a pioneering local implementer of global responsibilities. In September 2018 as the first city in Europe, Helsinki decided to follow New York's example and submit its voluntary local review of the SDG's to the United Nations in July 2019.

The commitment to the voluntary local review brings the implementation of the global goals to a concrete level. The reporting will be transparent and approachable so that citizens are able to follow Helsinki's implementation process even better. At the same time, we are committed to forwarding the global collaboration between cities and developing joint measurements in global goals reporting.

This first concrete step of Helsinki's voluntary local review, published at the Helsinki Symposium on April 3rd, 2019, maps the intersection between the city's strategy and the SDG's. Through the voluntary local review process Helsinki will raise sustainable development goals to an even more important starting point in guiding the city's strategy implementation in a concrete and communicative way. We hope, that our example will also inspire other people, communities and cities around the world to work even harder in order to success in our shared goals.

Jan Vapaavuori
Mayor of Helsinki

From agenda to action

The voluntary local review of United Nations sustainable development goals in Helsinki

In 2015 the countries of the UN General Assembly committed to the agenda and goals for sustainable development. Agenda2030 aims to end extreme poverty and forward sustainable development, where environment, economy and people are taken into consideration equally.

A considerable part of the implementation of the global goals takes place on the local level. The role of cities on the action-level is crucial.

Helsinki wants to be a pioneering local implementer of global responsibilities and in September 2018, as the first city in Europe, Helsinki decided to follow New York's example and submit its voluntary local review of the SDG's to the United Nations.

The Helsinki City Strategy recognizes many goals by which the city implements the SDG's. In the first part of the review the Helsinki strategy and its connections to the SDG1 – SDG16 was mapped.

The report consolidates the city strategy into three main themes: securing sustainable growth, developing services and responsible management of finances. These themes include fourteen goal clusters that implement at least one SDG on a local level.

The review highlights the city strategy's connection to the SDG's, and illustrates Helsinki's strategic goals and their measurements. The goals are highlighted with concrete cases, by which the city implements its strategy and, at the same time, the SDG's. The cases were compiled from the key strategy projects, Carbon Neutral Helsinki 2035 program, city budget and action plans of the different city divisions.

The first part of the review was done in an expert group consisting of members from the Helsinki's Central Administration and Urban Environment

Division. Additionally, the group included experts from the key strategy projects of the city. The review was modelled after New York City's VLR.

The review work will be further developed. The final VLR, linked to SDG4, SDG8, SDG10, SDG13 and SDG16, will be completed during the spring and submitted to the UN in July 2019.

UN Sustainable Development Goals

Agenda 2030



End poverty in all its forms everywhere.



End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.



Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.



Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.



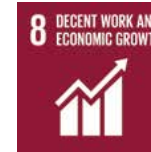
Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.



Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.



Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.



Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.



Reduce inequality within and among countries.



Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.



Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.



Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.



Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

Helsinki City Strategy Objectives



Pleasant and safe

We will make Helsinki safer and more pleasant.



Sound and healthy

Well-being and health for all Helsinki residents.



Minds the wellbeing of children and young people

We will take care of the well-being of children and youth, as well as prevent marginalization.



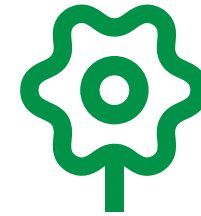
Athletic and active

The physical activity of residents will be promoted.



Functional urban structure

The development of the City structure will take accessibility and functionality into account.



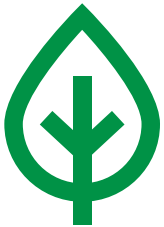
Vital

The appeal and vitality of Helsinki will be increased.



Diverse nature

We will secure the diversity of urban nature and sea nature.



Carbon neutral

We will develop Helsinki to become an ecologically sustainable and carbon-neutral city.



Resident-oriented and engaging

Helsinki will be developed in a resident-focused and open manner.



Digital

We will take advantage of digitalization opportunities.



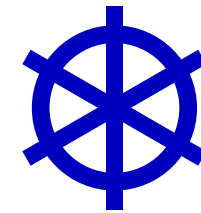
Learning

We will enable lifelong learning.



Business-friendly

Helsinki's focus on business will be developed.



Responsible leadership

Helsinki will be managed responsibly, and the well-being of staff will be looked after.



Financially sustainable

The economy of Helsinki will be managed responsibly, sustainably and profitably.

Helsinki and The Sustainable Development Goals

Securing sustainable growth



Developing services



Responsible financial management



Securing sustainable growth



**Pleasant
and safe**

Goal:

We will make Helsinki safer and more pleasant.

- Everyone will feel safe in Helsinki.
- Residents will be happy with their living environment.

Indicators:

Experience of safety
Number of youth resorting to crime
Resident satisfaction

- We will continue our city-level safety planning, according to the principles of local safety planning. We will produce up-to-date information on the development of Helsinki's safety.
- We will increase residents' awareness of how to prevent injuries caused by slipping and falling in the winter and accidents at home and during leisure times. We will also develop the monitoring of health care needs caused by these types of injuries. We will make a prevention plan for slip and fall injuries and accidents at home and during leisure times, and take the plan into use.
- We will use the PAKKA operating model to prevent the harms of substance abuse through co-operation between preventive operators, surveillance authorities and retail and alcohol-licensed business operators.
- We will strengthen the unique character of the districts through complementary construction, urban space and landscape design and nature management. We will utilize planning choices to support engaging environments for walking through, for example in the train station area. We will strengthen the knowledge base related to urban life and pedestrian traffic.
- We will increase a resident's ability to influence their living environment by using engagement methods and inviting residents and interest groups to join the development of services.
- We will improve traffic safety by putting the traffic safety plan into practice.



Securing sustainable growth



Sound and healthy

Goal:

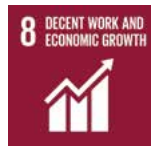
Well-being and health for all Helsinki residents.

- Gaps between residents' well-being and health will be narrowed.
- The geographical segregation between districts will be reduced.
- Inequality will be reduced in all population groups.
- Everyone will have a good, active, healthy and high-quality life full of experiences.

Indicators:

Perceived health
Effectiveness of preventive operations
Geographical segregation index
Deprivation index
Overweight 4-year-olds
Perceived quality of life

- The obesity prevention and treatment program (Healthy Helsinki) and the advisory board for nutritional care will continue to develop the City's operations. We will treat obesity in all age groups by developing the health counselling offered to families (the Smart Family method), by strengthening nutrition knowledge in schools, offering group activities (Healthy Life groups), developing digital tools and increasing the nutrition skills of the care personnel working with senior citizens.
- We will promote healthy habits by supporting people's opportunities to maintain and improve their dental health and general health. The target groups are small children and senior citizens, in particular.
- The Smoke-Free Helsinki program will continue to operate and promote smoke-free and nicotine-free everyday environments. We will develop preventive operating models for families expecting children. We will arrange well-being theme weeks for schoolchildren and use the Smart Family method, developed to support the lifestyle counselling for families, to prevent the use of tobacco and other substances.
- In psychiatric and substance abuse services, the accessibility of the services will be strengthened and the customers' everyday coping will be supported by increasing mobile and low-threshold activities and adopting electronic services.
- We will develop a proactive tool for health benefit assessments.
- We will reduce poverty in families with children by supporting the work done by child health clinics, student care, youth services and adult social services. We will produce statistics and research on poverty in families with children in Helsinki, compared to the rest of the metropolitan area.
- We will develop the calculation models for positive discrimination in schools and early childhood education and assess its impact.
- The education guarantee will be implemented so that youth will have an uninterrupted path from comprehensive education to upper secondary education, as well as opportunities for lifelong learning.
- We will continue the competence center activities. A competence center combines rehabilitation, education and employment services for adult immigrants in Helsinki.



Securing sustainable growth



**Minds the wellbeing of
children and young people**

Goal:

We will take care of the well-being of children and youth, as well as prevent marginalization.

- The marginalization cycle of youth will stop and every young person will be involved in the society.
- The mental health of children and youth will improve.
- Every child and young person will have a hobby.

Indicators:

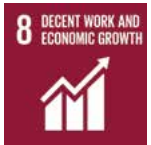
Youth not in employment, education or training

People who have completed comprehensive school but have not been accepted into further education

Mental and social well-being of children and youth (mood problems and loneliness)

Proportion of children and young people with a hobby

- We will implement an anti-bullying program.
- We will use the We School development to find solutions with which schools can strengthen students' coping in life after school. The experiment will start in Mellunmäki, Malmi and Kannelmäki areas.
- We will offer early support for families.
- We will develop new preventive measures to improve the education and employment opportunities for youth with a foreign background.
- We will strengthen the substance abuse and mental health service and operating models for children and youth aged above 12. At-risk youth will be directed on care paths.
- We will strengthen the low-threshold social and health care services for youth, such as mobile mental health work.
- We will increase the number of hobby and leisure activities offered in schools and other everyday environments of children and families.
- We will produce an easy-to-use service tray for culture and sports services for comprehensive schools and daycare centers in two districts in Helsinki, Malminkartano/ Kannelmäki and Vuosaari.
- We will include culture services in family centers and early childhood education. Our goal is to reach one age group in its entirety, with parents included, and organize rehabilitative activities for the target group.
- We will offer youth suitable digital support and counselling services and information on the City's leisure and culture activities.



Securing sustainable growth



**Athletic
and active**

Goal:

The physical activity of residents will be promoted.

- Increasingly more children and young people will move sufficiently in terms of health.
- Every child and young person will participate in physical activities.
- Physical activity will increase and harmful excess sitting will be reduced.

Indicators:

Children and young people's physical capacity

People engaging in physical activity in their leisure time

Physical activity of residents

- All early childhood education units in Helsinki will be included in the national Joy in Motion program by the end of 2021.
- Physical activity will be involved in all park activities for children of various ages.
- The Students on the Move program will expand from three piloting upper secondary schools to six in the 2019–2020 school year.
- In vocational education, the Students on the Move program will expand to all five campuses by the end of 2019.
- Schoolyards will be developed to encourage physical activity. We will survey the status of the functionality and multi-purpose use of yards. The conditions for physical activity in ten schoolyards will be improved with additional funding granted for 2019.
- Physical activities will be organized in an increasing number of schools.
- We will promote walking and cycling: the cycling promotion program will be updated, 3,000 new cycle racks will be built for public street areas and 75 km of cycling routes will be built in the inner city.
- The use of the physical activity agreement in home care services will be expanded, so that at least 70% of the regular customers of the home care services will have a physical activity agreement.



Securing sustainable growth



Functional urban structure

Goal:

The development of the City structure will take accessibility and functionality into account.

- Functional housing market.
- A functional city and a dense and diverse urban structure.
- Increased volume and proportion of public transport on rails.
- The appeal, comfort and functionality of the City center will be improved.

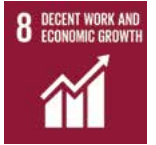
Indicators:

Number of completed apartments and the control and funding methods thereof
Accessibility from the residents' perspective
Location of new residents in the range of rail traffic
Number of people spending time in and visiting the City center

- Helsinki's annual housing production goal will be raised to 7,000 apartments according to the housing and land use plan.
- The goal for the distribution of new apartments is that 25% of the apartments would be ARA rental apartments, meaning reasonably-priced apartments owned by housing companies operating at a cost, 30% would be intermediate apartments such as HITAS or right-of-occupancy apartments, and 45% would be non-subsidized rental or condominium apartments, the price level of which is determined by the market. (HITAS is a housing price-and-quality control system used in Helsinki aimed at ensuring that housing prices are based on real production costs.)
- The new land use, housing and traffic plan for Helsinki (MAL 2019) will be prepared. The plan will describe how the region will be developed in terms of land use, housing and traffic in 2019–2050.
- The City will survey a significant expansion to the pedestrian center, which will increase the appeal and functionality of the City center, as well as the requirements for a collector street which would reduce the thoroughfare in the center and the heavy traffic to and from the harbors on the streets.



Securing sustainable growth



Vital

Goal:

The appeal and vitality of Helsinki will be increased.

- Helsinki will be a pleasant and attractive city for tourists and conference organizers.
- Helsinki will be a pleasant and attractive city for international companies and professionals.

Indicators:

Number of overnight stays in hotels

Number of conferences and conference visitors

Employment-based immigration, proportion of employed people among immigrants and brain drain of Finnish citizens

- We will create an international Helsinki Biennale for public art which will use the archipelago area.
- We will create a Sustainable Tourism program for Helsinki.
- We will facilitate the organization of major international events in Helsinki.
- Helsinki-themed events focusing on select topics will be implemented in important target cities.
- Regional main offices and other international investments in Helsinki will be pursued in collaboration with Helsinki Business Hub.
- We will make the International House Helsinki (IHH) model permanent. IHH offers services to immigrants who have recently moved to the metropolitan area, as well as companies and employers, in matters related to international labor and recruitment.
- The City's English services will be increased.

Securing sustainable growth



Diverse nature

Goal:

We will secure the diversity of urban nature and sea nature.

- Helsinki will treasure its valuable nature and work to increase the diversity of urban nature.
- The ecological quality of green and blue areas, accessibility and health impacts will be secured.
- The nature conservation program will be implemented and the forest network will be strengthened.
- The condition of Helsinki's minor water areas and coastal water areas will be improved.

Indicators:

Nitrogen emissions into the sea from the Viikinmäki water treatment plant
Phosphorus emission into the sea from the Viikinmäki water treatment plant
Water consumption of Helsinki residents
The ecological condition of the sea area at the coast of Helsinki
Proportion of nature conservation areas of the land area

- We will establish 47 new nature preservation areas in 2015–2024.
- We will develop ways for compensating construction in areas that have been zoned as green zones: for example, the environmental restoration of natural areas elsewhere in the City.
- We will make a decision on the National Urban Park project during the current council term.
- We will reduce the proportion of mixed sewer networks in the entire sewer network and promote the natural control of overflow water, for example, through filtering and wetland.
- We will always take the sensitive nature of the archipelago, the protection of the Baltic Sea and the demands of cultural heritage into account when planning and using the Helsinki coasts and archipelago.
- We will take minor water areas, ditches and wetlands into account when planning nature management.
- We will reduce the use of industrial fertilizers in the cities' parks and green areas.
- Helsinki will promote the perspective of the Baltic Sea in international collaboration.



Securing sustainable growth



Goal:

We will develop Helsinki to become an ecologically sustainable and carbon neutral city.

- The CO₂ emissions of traffic will be reduced by 69% by 2035, and emissions that are harmful to health will be reduced.
- The CO₂ emissions of the building stock will be reduced by 82% by 2035.
- We will move on to a new economic model based on circular economy.
- Helsinki will be the best testing platform for smart & clean solutions.
- The development program of Helen Oy, the energy company owned by the City, is responsible for emission reductions in energy production.
- The number of carbon sinks will increase, and the remaining emissions will be compensated for

Indicators:

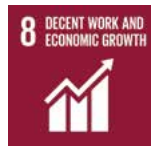
Helsinki's greenhouse gas emissions (total emissions and emissions per capita)

Amount of cycling traffic at automatic calculation points

Air quality in selected measurement points (NO₂, PM₁₀)

We will implement the 147 actions in the Carbon neutral Helsinki 2035 Action Plan, such as:

- We will improve the service level of public transport and the range of the rail network
- We will prepare an energy renaissance program to support the renovation of neighborhoods and the existing private building stock energy-efficiently
- We will prepare a roadmap for circular economy and sharing economy
- We will prepare an action plan for Smart & Clean growth
- We will make use of demand response in electricity and heating
- We will use Helsinki's green factor method in the planning and implementation of new plots to ensure sufficient green structures on each plot.



Developing services



**Resident-oriented
and engaging**

Goal:

**Helsinki will be developed
in a resident-focused and open manner.**

- We will promote an engaging operating model and culture.
- The customer experience of the services will improve.
- Our operating culture will be more rapid and agile from the residents' perspective.
- Gender equality will permeate all of the City's operations.

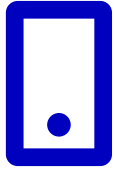
Indicators:

Voting percentage in participatory budgeting
Realization of resident engagement in our divisions
Customer experience and satisfaction with the services
Change in the operating culture

- In participatory budgeting, the City opens a budget of 4.4 million euros to implement the residents' ideas every year. We will use a digital platform in the collection and voting of the resident initiatives. The residents will receive guidance on using the digital platform in the City's various service points.
- The schools and educational institutions will have student unions.
- The Ruuti activities will offer young people opportunities for participation and influencing.
- Customer feedback and improvement ideas will be collected through the City's feedback channels and the State Your Opinion and Show on a map services.
- We will implement multi-channel 24/7 customer service.
- We will develop facility and resource services and the Helsinki App.
- We will develop digital participation platforms as a whole which will offer residents consistent participation channels that are easy to find.
- We will organize resident events and involve residents in the development of services and the service network in various workshops.
- We are working on an equality project where select services are assessed in terms of gender impact.



Developing services



Digital

Goal:

We will take advantage of digitalization opportunities.

- Helsinki will focus heavily on electronic services and develop digital solutions.
- Helsinki will be the world's leading city in opening up public data.

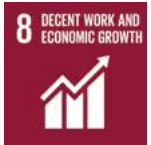
Indicators:

User satisfaction with the City's digital services and measurement of the digital divide

Development of digital services

Number of open internal and external APIs

- We will enable access to the web and digital services for all residents through the customer computers in the libraries.
- Libraries will support residents' skills regarding information society and digitalization by offering guidance and support for the use of digital services, along with other operators. Differences between population groups will be identified, and services will be targeted at people in need of special support and high-risk target groups.
- We will implement the shared user profile database and licensing solution for the City services.
- We will develop the support and tools for digital service design.
- We will prepare a data strategy.
- We will define ethical principles for data and AI.
- We will define a data and IoT platform, as well as target architecture.
- We will adopt a databank, service platform and toolkit, based on information modelling.
- We will use robotization.
- We will develop the Helsinki Region Infoshare (HRI) service as an open data clearing house service.



Developing services



Learning

Goal:

We will enable lifelong learning.

- Participation level in early childhood education will increase.
- Early childhood education will focus on quality.
- Guardians will choose the local school for their child.
- Every Helsinki resident will have the opportunity to reach their learning potential.

Indicators:

Day care participation rate

Quality of public day care

Proportion of families who chose the local school

PISA results

National learning results of the national center for education assessment

Results of matriculation examinations

- We will offer early childhood education for children aged 5 for 4 hours a day, free of charge.
- We will gradually double the number of places in English education and early childhood education.
- We will strengthen the language skills of Helsinki residents by increasing language immersion and language-enriched education.
- The teaching of the first foreign language will start in the first grade.
- We will increase the teaching of Chinese in comprehensive and upper secondary education.
- We will support the education of immigrants by implementing the Development Plan for Immigrant Education
- We will establish a competence cluster for the construction industry in Myllypuro.
- We will advance the establishment of a competence cluster for sports in Mäkelärintie upper secondary school.
- We will expand the proactive Child's Study Path project: children will be offered a place in early childhood education and a school in addition to a place in the after-noon activities.



Developing services



**Business-
friendly**

Goal:

Helsinki's focus on business will be developed.

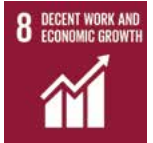
- Helsinki will be the best city for companies.
- The number of jobs in the private sector will increase as rapidly as the City's population, at the minimum.

Indicators:

Companies' desire to recommend Helsinki as a location

The growth in full-time jobs in the private sector in proportion to the growth of population

- The entire City will be developed as a platform for pilots and businesses that create something new. We will implement projects related to smart learning environments, smart traffic and the measurement of air quality, among others.
- We will support corporate ecosystems and clusters by offering diverse relocation opportunities in easily accessible areas.
- We will develop the operations of the city liaisons and increase the interaction between the City and businesses by increasing the capacity of business counselling.
- We will improve our focus on start-ups in the gaming industry, circular economy, water maintenance, sustainable construction, urban food production and mobility.
- We will continue the development of the Maria 0–1 area to become the largest start-up campus in Northern Europe.
- We will strengthen the status of the Meilahti campus as an internationally significant innovation and business environment for the health sector.
- The City will promote employment in the private sector by using the business coordinator operations to find new employment opportunities and granting a 'Helsinki subsidy' for companies.



Developing services



**Responsible
leadership**

Goal:

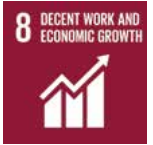
**Helsinki will be managed responsibly, and
the well-being of staff will be looked after.**

— Excellent human resources management.

Indicator:

Staff experience and management

- We will develop the forms of working, the working environment and the operating culture from with perspective of competence, management and occupational work-being.
- The lobby of the City Hall will be opened for the staff to work in and meet residents.
- We will apply service design in our HR development.
- We will promote staff engagement procedures and their opportunities to influence their work through measures such as innovation competitions.
- Our management and operating culture will be changed by strengthening the processes, tools and policies in internal communications.



Responsible financial management



Goal: The economy of Helsinki will be managed responsibly, sustainably and profitably.

- Total productivity will increase by 0.5% annually.
- Total investments will be dimensioned for a level that can be funded with funds from operations.
- As many people as possible will be able to find employment and the employment rate will improve.
- The loan portfolio per capita will not increase.
- The distributive share of corporate tax will reach the level of 30% during the current council term.
- Helsinki's costs per unit will be at the average level of major Finnish cities.

Indicators:

Total economic profitability
Percentage of investments funded with funds from operations.
Unemployment and long-term unemployment
Employment rate
Loan portfolio per capita
Distributive share of corporate tax
Cash sufficiency, days
Costs per unit (€) in the City divisions' services

- Helsinki will dimension its operating costs in a manner where the needs arising from the City's growth and the changing cost level are taken into account.
- Helsinki Group will be managed and developed as an entity formed of the City and the communities controlled by it from the perspective of overall economy.
- The City will have many services that aim to reduce the unemployment of youth, immigrants and persons whose ability to work is reduced.
- We will develop the operating environment for companies, advance the employment of residents and enable sustainable and competence-based economic growth.
- We will offer thousands of pay subsidy, apprenticeship training and work try-out opportunities as employment management measures; we will support employment projects and summer job opportunities for youth; we will participate in new purchased service trials that advance employment.
- Helsinki will manage the condition of its built property and thus reduce the growth of maintenance backlog.
- We will advance the accuracy and updating of the information on which property tax is based, so that taxation is just as possible.

