

Implementation of the planning forecast's ten strategic priority areas in town and settlements

QAANAQ

Business development

Qaanaaq's role as a sealing and whaling town is to be further strengthened along with fishing trade, by improving the possibilities of as well as areas for storing boats, equipment etc., and for production facilities (fish factory, freezing and drying facilities). At the same time, it is to be possible to run small businesses around the town, including accommodation for tourists.

In settlements, the trading possibilities should be extended. Especially given the increasing interest in fishing Greenland halibut by Qeqertat.

Education

The northernmost town in the municipality is also to enable its citizens' lifelong learning. Boarding schools and youth housing serving pupils from settlements and young persons in training are to be safe and of a decent standard, and the town is to offer courses and supplementary training. The physical settings – indoor and outdoor – are to be good in order to achieve the best possible learning environment.

Despite pupil figures going down in settlement schools, the physical settings are to be good, and they may be integrated with other functions. Decent teacher accommodation is to ensure that settlements can recruit qualified teachers.

Settlement and great housing

The home is the starting point for every single day, and key to having a good life. Consequently, it is important that housing in Qaanaaq is rehabilitated systematically, also to avoid an overwhelming rehabilitation burden. At the same time, new residential areas should be laid out (e.g., by the magnetic observatory) and adapted to the existing buildings in terms of size, location and colour, while focusing on quality and special Arctic circumstances. There is a need for housing for young persons, families and senior citizens thanks to the immigration from the settlements.

The settlements are in need of rehabilitation in particular, and improving housing standards will help create great settings for everyday life.

Culture and identity

The municipality's goal to secure physical settings for the cultural life can be realized by establishing better communal facilities, extending the mini hall and providing great drop-

in centres. The North Greenland sealing and whaling life is crucial to the local identity and helps ensure versatility in the municipality. It is to be possible to carry on the traditional activities in a sustainable manner and include them in the urban scene. Sealers' and whalers' skills and know-how can also be applied in teaching activities, allowing locals as well as visitors to learn more.

The settlements are to have plenty of room for active cultural life, while the modern facilities are to be developed and improved.

Safety and the good life

Everyone should have access to tools that ensure them a good life. In Qaanaaq, a family house/children's house providing the right settings, located near great meeting places and public facilities, would help strengthen our mutual responsibilities. Activities and workshops can also help provide stability on a daily basis, and planning is to provide the settings. Children in settlements and their wishes are to be given high priority. In Savissivik, there is a strong wish to have better drop-in centres, which can be just as important as, e.g., improving infrastructure in the settlement.

Health and prevention

Qaanaaq is to be given sufficient space and ample opportunities for establishing social institutions, also near residential areas. In general, areas are to be secured to community-oriented purposes, and any existing empty houses or rooms identified by the community should be put to use. Outdoor facilities are to encourage physical activities, and the planning basis is to seek to fulfil the need for indoor facilities, e.g., an extension of the mini hall.

Infrastructure and utilities

The system of roads is a recurring problem in the area and should be protected further, especially towards meltwater. The existing supply network should be supported and expanded on an ongoing basis. Lighting is another key element in Qaanaaq, which does not see the sun for months on end, and sustainable solutions are to be considered. If the fishing trade grows, the need for a proper port will increase, and construction projects in the northernmost areas require extensive time planning. Using local resources for construction materials should be examined and applied. Furthermore, work should be done to relocate the filling station in the town centre to, e.g., the tank installations by the airport. The settlements lack basic utilities, so the future conditions in each place need to be considered.

Climate, environment and nature

Qaanaaq needs a reliable solution to the massive waste problem: The dump is characterised by open burnings, cans and yellow night soil bags. A potential solution

could be a functional incineration plant or an area for shipping waste. The impact of climate changes on citizens changes the basis for traditional living and should be addressed, both in terms of cultural and technical aspects.

In the settlements, it is particularly important that this interplay between life and nature is also reflected in waste management and refuse collection.

Cultural heritage and preservation

The open areas around the church in particular as well as the associated area, and the museum (Knud Rasmussen's trading station) are to be maintained. In themselves, they are a physical testament to an important history and an integrated part of the town.

There is to be room for traditional businesses and activities, and these are to be strengthened and applied actively, e.g., in terms of tourism or learning.

IT, democracy and dialogue

The town plan is to be a key tool in ensuring good administration of the town and the settlement, implementing new initiatives in line with the goals for the area. For this to be a success, information on the town plan has to reach the citizens, who have to be heard regularly in the processes. Qaanaaq suffers from poor Internet connections, so dialogue with citizens is also to be local and specific.

Democracy is to guard the many differences in our community and protect minorities. IT is the entrance point to the global world, which is hard to reach for many.