

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

QEQERTARSUAQ

Business development

Qeqertarsuaq needs increased focus on business potentials to prevent further migration away from the area. Qeqertarsuaq holds a special potential for further development of raw material production and product development, e.g. within water resources, fishing, new agricultural opportunities along with new and improved tourist attractions in cooperation with the rest of Disko Bay. It can also play the role as supplementary base for offshore activities. Areas are to be allotted for this diverse business development (fish factory, water production, agriculture, tourism), with due consideration of the various businesses and focus on new jobs and development of the service businesses.

For Kangerluk, efforts should be concentrated on the fishing trade in cooperation with Qeqertarsuaq, or on exploiting agricultural opportunities. Alternatively, its potential as a tourist destination could be investigated and strengthened, which would require better infrastructure.

Education

Qeqertarsuaq has a number of well-established educational institutions and a visionary school, but lacks possibilities for further education, training places and supplementary education, when the young finish elementary school. The possibilities of establishing new educational institutions for enhancement of skills and qualifications, cooperation with the Arctic Station or a new boarding school for 14- to 16-year-olds should be included in the planning, and could at the same time ensure synergies among the institutions.

Kangerluk has very limited educational options and should therefore be supported by the opportunities in Qeqertarsuaq or other places in Disko Bay. The school's multiple functions should be reflected by the physical settings.

Settlement and great housing

Qeqertarsuaq is characterised by many detached houses and well-functioning linked houses. There is still to be made room for various types of small-scale building for different target groups in mixed residential areas, and any potential urban development towards the west or south is to maintain the diversity in the residential areas.

It should be possible to put the empty houses in Kangerluk to alternative use, so that they do not fall further into disrepair. Redevelopment is to be expected.

Culture and identity

Cultural life in Qeqertarsuaq is to be strengthened by the physical settings in the town, e.g. by means of drop-in centres and more outdoor activities, especially for children, youth and association activities. Spatial

planning is to support this end. Nature is important to the local citizens, and activities like dog sledge riding, fishing, hunting, skiing, hiking etc. can be backed by planning. Prospective new educational institutions can contribute to the creation of a more vital cultural environment. Existing cultural functions are to be more visible.

Kangerluk should be included in the cultural scene of Qeqertarsuaq's and Disko Bay in general.

Safety and the good life

Various actions can contribute to boosting safety. For instance, more informal leisure offers of preventive character should be supported both administratively and by allocation of areas for the purposes (e.g., drop-in centres and workshops). Qeqertarsuaq has many obvious gathering points. These could be more clearly defined and made attractive with outdoor benches and tables. Extending the system of paths can contribute to creating better coherence in the town, and the citizens have already pointed out target several areas.

In Kangerluk, shared use of the public institutions can contribute to enhancing safety and life in the settlement.

Health-care and prevention

The many initiatives in Qeqertarsuaq's outdoor areas should be supported by areas that can be used for many physical activities for various target groups, including, e.g., barbeque areas, the soccer field and the wish for a nearby playground. But at the same time, is it still to be possible to keep dogs at suitable locations near the town.

The preventive actions can also target leisure activities, drop-in centres, education etc.

Infrastructure and utilities

Qeqertarsuaq's port facilities are in need of improvement to be able to match the various business opportunities and to service the public. This goes for the quay area, the dinghy port and the pontoons. Particularly during the winter, the town is cut off from the rest of Disko Bay in terms of infrastructure, and changes in the weather conditions render the small boats more vulnerable. In light of the offshore developments, an airport could improve access to Qeqertarsuaq and areas have already been zoned east of town. The final location, layout and road connection are to be clarified by more detailed investigations.

A larger part of the town should be connected to utilities and the sewer system (discharge of grey wastewater, including a suitable discharge location), and alternative solutions like geothermal energy should be investigated. Night-soil facilities, telecommunication systems and tank installations are situated close to existing and potential residential areas, and, in the long term, it might become necessary to find alternative locations. Kangerluk is very isolated in terms of infrastructure and transport options. Solutions, including zoning an area for a heliport, should be considered.

Climate, environment and nature

Qeqertarsuaq has built a receiving facility and is a pilot area for waste transport. Despite its size, waste is burned in the open on the outskirts of town, and efforts should be made to find a better waste management solution, e.g. waste transportation. Also in Kangerluk, the location of the dump could be reconsidered.

Nature on Qeqertarsuaq is unique and is enjoyed by inhabitants from the entire Disko region and tourists alike. It is therefore of vital importance that the nature reserves be emphasised, while allowing for active use of the area, e.g. by establishing small bridges, more hiking paths and zoning recreational areas.

Cultural heritage and preservation

The town has an interesting history as the former capital of North Greenland and a number of preservation-worthy buildings, which should be protected, e.g. by strengthening the museum and by putting buildings to alternative and contemporary use. Dog sledge riding is also essential to local culture, and this is to be supported by spatial planning.

Also the use of the island's abandoned settlements, e.g. Nipisat and Qullissat, is to be protected through open country planning.

IT, democracy and dialogue

The town plan and its objectives are to become an important tool in ensuring proper management of the town and settlements, and the citizens are to be informed of how it will be used. The municipal processes are to allow for debate meetings. The dialogue between citizens and the municipality is to be enhanced, also by means of digital media.