

# Municipal Elections Campaign Manifesto For the Green Party in Turku 2025

## Introduction

The Green Party wants to ensure a good everyday life for all residents, in a way that will allow the future generations to enjoy an equally good life. This is possible only if we take care of the climate and nature. A Green Turku is densely built, rich in nature and climate-friendly, thanks to public transport and solutions for both pedestrians and bicyclists.

The 2022 social and health care services reform changed the responsibilities of the municipalities as social and health care services were transferred over to the wellbeing services counties. The importance of municipalities was in no way diminished by this change. For us Greens, preventing illnesses, issues and general malaise is the most important part of social policy. This is why in our Green Vision the municipality prevents issues by creating jobs, increasing opportunities for daily exercise, investing in the city's amenities, and by supporting culture and organisational activities, for example. Education is especially important for us, as it supports children and young people in their daily lives, promotes employment and increases wellbeing.

We especially want to invest in the wellbeing of children and young people, who have suffered considerably during the years of coronavirus pandemic. We see this as an investment that will pay off over decades in terms of productivity and health. We also see immigration as an investment in the future. When the new residents of Turku integrate well into our society, they can take responsibility for the smooth running of everyday life for decades to come.

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## Environment as a core value

The climate crisis is now progressing at such a pace that in a hundred years, Turku, Finland and Europe could be completely unrecognisable. It is therefore our duty to take as good a care of the environment as possible in order to ensure that Turku's long history is given the continuity it deserves.

At a practical level, climate and nature management in municipalities is very pragmatic and local. Municipalities everywhere have a role to play in promoting solutions that are climate positive or at least climate neutral. It is also up to the municipalities to protect the urban environment where it exists and to create new green spaces wherever possible. Local nature is such an important part of people's wellbeing that its accessibility must be given high priority.

## Actions

### Preventing a climate crisis is our top priority

- We must invest in quality green infrastructure that mitigates loss of habitat, enhances environmental wellbeing and attracts people to experience nature.
- We will increase the energy efficiency of buildings and reduce emissions from construction. We will use ecological, durable and recyclable building materials. We will also promote timber construction.
- We will prepare for climate change by mitigating flood peaks and cooling heatwaves with urban landscapes.
- We will prevent flooding and reduce water pollution by improving stormwater drainage solutions.
- We will increase the share of vegetarian food in the public sector in line with national dietary recommendations, thus taking care of both the climate and people's health.
- We will incorporate the 3–30–300 principle into our construction and urban planning: 3 trees visible from every window, 30 per cent canopy cover in every residential area, 300 metres to a green space.
- We will boldly develop recycling and the circular economy.
- We will strengthen the electrification of transport by also emphasising zero-emission mobility in city procurement. We will implement electric charging paths to complement the private charging network. We will also look for ways to improve the charging possibilities for electric cars in older housing associations.
- We will ensure that the biomass burned at Turku Energia's Naantali power plant meets sustainability criteria and that district heating will increasingly shift to non-combustion-based forms of energy production.
- We will continue to develop smart heating solutions for buildings owned by the city.

### Conserving nature for the people is a value in itself

- We will protect 10 per cent of the city's land, in accordance with the EU's strict protection criterion. We will protect forests and parks that act as carbon sinks.
- We will connect existing outdoor trails and create coherent routes that are protected from traffic noise.
- We will increase the diversity of urban nature through landscaping with green roofs, green paving and flowering meadows. We will also look for new green building opportunities for existing buildings.

- We will increase and improve the opportunities for allotment gardening and box farming across the city. Useful plants will form the bulk of the planted features.
- We will take care of wildlife habitats and migration routes. We will not break green corridors with construction and we will protect the habitats of migratory fish.
- We will contribute to improving the condition of the Baltic Sea and rivers in the Turku region. We will reduce nutrient loads in water bodies, for example by promoting sustainable farming practices. We will also promote the transport of manure from animal farms directly to crop farms.
- We will create accessible nature trails, outdoor sports facilities and recreational areas across the city.
- We will build the planned Pansio, Kaarlo Knuutinpoika, Sorttamäki and Ruissalo Kansanpuisto Park beaches as accessible beaches.

## Sustainable transport and life in turku

Sustainable living includes many small practical solutions. In municipalities, these solutions are mainly related to transport, planning and construction. Turku has the perfect conditions to be a pioneer in this area, as a growing and attractive city can also afford to invest in its environment and thus ensure that its attractiveness is sustainable. This will require shifting away from the car-centred urban planning that has been used in previous decades.

### Bringing transportation solutions up-to-date

Modern society requires people to be able to move from one place to another easily and quickly. Since the 1960s, Turku has sought to achieve this by building a transport system based on private cars. However, this ideology has come to its end for a number of reasons: the city is growing rapidly, the city centre is running out of space, the climate cannot cope with fossil fuels, and there is a growing awareness of the health risks posed by motor vehicles (deterioration of fitness for drivers, dust and noise pollution for others). A growing modern city must be built on accessible public transport (especially by rail), walkability and opportunities for bicycling.

#### Actions

##### Basing mobility on public transport

- We will build a tramway from the port to the city centre and from there to Varissuo. We will start planning the extension of the tramway, possibly in cooperation with neighbouring municipalities.
- We will continue to improve the smooth running of bus services by developing the bus network where necessary, for example by adding bus lanes and listening to the

experiences of residents. We will design bus timetables to support timeliness and smooth transfers.

- We will promote the construction of the West Railway and create a functioning commuter rail service in Southwest Finland.
- We will implement a travel centre and integrate local and long-distance transport to create clearer travel chains.
- We will expand Föli's water transport and make the islands of Turku more accessible. We will ensure that the Hirvensalo pedestrian bridge is completed despite delays.

### **Building a city for cycling and walking**

- We will make walking more attractive by separating different modes of transport into their own lanes.
- We will build a comprehensive and multifunctional cycle path network. One-way cycle lanes, cycle paths, and safe cycle parking are all part of a modern city.
- We will expand the area of enhanced maintenance for winter cycling.
- We will extend the season to all year round and extend the area along the main roads up to the ring road to improve travel chains.
- Winter maintenance of cycle paths and pavements must be increased and kept at least on par with that of road maintenance.
- We will implement low-speed residential road solutions near schools and lower speed limits so that children can be encouraged to cycle to school from primary school, rather than being banned.
- We will limit the harm caused by electric mobility vehicles to traffic safety and accessibility by discouraging careless parking and directing their use to the right lanes. We will charge the scooter companies for the use of street space.
- We will shift towards market-based parking requirements for construction, so that the construction of parking does not increase the price of housing. We will increase parking requirements for vehicles other than private cars. We will also allow for the implementation of the resident parking standard everywhere, making use of private off-street parking spaces.

## **Developing and nurturing a sustainable, green and welcoming city**

Cosy neighbourhoods, accessible local services and a vibrant city centre are what make Turku a city designed for the people. The Greens are for sustainable, denser urban fabric with good public transport links, respect for history and interesting architecture. In all areas, the focus should be on amenities and attractiveness. Renovations and new construction should focus on architectural quality and preserved green spaces. Instead of parking spaces, urban space should be reserved for recreational areas.

## **Actions**

### **Improving the attractiveness of neighbourhoods**

- We will improve the attractiveness of the city centre by increasing the number of pedestrian, seasonal and low-speed residential roads, recreational areas, green spaces and playgrounds. We will allow companies to use pop-up spaces for business.
- We will incorporate the pedestrian's perspective and comfort into our construction and transport planning. We will prevent wind tunnels and preserve natural light for both residents and people walking on the street.
- We will decongest the core of the city centre and increase intermodal parking for those coming from outside the city centre, ensuring access to parking facilities in the city centre.
- We free up street space from parking lots for other uses, such as terraces and streetside trees. We will reserve the remaining on-street spaces primarily for disabled parking, short-term parking and residential parking.
- We will reduce light pollution, for example by using automatic lighting and by banning distracting (such as bright and flashing) advertising lights. We will also provide adequate street lighting for cycle and pedestrian paths to ensure safety. We recognise the harmful effects of light pollution on nature and on people's relationship with nature.
- We will reduce noise pollution, for example by lowering speed limits in densely populated areas.

### **Focusing on the quality and environmental friendliness of construction**

- We will keep the urban fabric compact and protect the undeveloped environment of the city's periphery by prioritising new development in areas already in use. In the city centre, we will either develop or improve undeveloped areas, such as wasteland, to protect amenities and urban nature.
- We will preserve existing trees and other greenery. We will insist on meeting the green space requirements and minimising the carbon footprint of construction. We will introduce ecological compensation in construction.
- We will encourage diverse construction that fits in with the existing building stock. We will also build the city upwards where it fits into the cityscape.
- We prefer to repair rather than demolish. We will require the reuse or recycling of usable building components when demolition is carried out.
- We will preserve, protect and renovate valuable buildings such as the old wooden houses in the city centre. Where necessary, we will use fines and injunctions to protect conservation values.
- We will ensure the sustainability, longevity and safety of construction, for example in terms of indoor air, by introducing life-cycle costing.

- We will introduce landscape architecture competitions alongside architectural competitions. We will make sure that new buildings fit in with their surroundings. We will take inspiration from old European cities, where parks are seen as part of valuable cultural environments.

## **Combating segregation and involving citizens through regional and housing policy**

The segregation of neighbourhoods is a risk to social harmony. The most effective way to tackle this is through housing policies that combine various types of housing, allowing people of different backgrounds and incomes to live in the same areas. Regional development must involve the residents in the planning process, as they often know best what the strengths and key development needs of their neighbourhoods are.

### **Actions**

- We will build enough housing, at different price levels, so that people from all social classes can live in different areas.
- In our housing policy, we will pay attention to maintaining Turku as an attractive place to live, also for families with children. We will take family housing into account in planning and building permits, and we will need detached houses and other forms of mixed housing alongside apartment buildings.
- We will open up more opportunities for people in the area to influence their living environment. For example, we will develop the resident budget so that it reaches a larger number of Turku's residents.
- We will emphasise the distinctive features of neighbourhoods and work with residents to develop neighbourhoods as centres of urban culture by opening up public spaces for residents.
- To support the planning process, we will survey the views of Turku residents on the beauty and attractiveness of their buildings. For example, what features should be promoted in the architecture of new residential areas? And what kind of complementary development is desired in the city centre, in the suburbs or in old small-house areas?
- We will develop and open up the monitoring of the implementation of strategic objectives for land use planning, so that we know how the top-level objective of increasing security affects the content of plans, for example.

## **Jobs and immigration as the lifeblood of turku**

The vitality of a municipality is determined by many factors. Key factors for Turku include immigration, the reduction of unemployment and exclusion, job creation, the safety nets provided by the city, construction, the number of businesses and good municipal governance. With these elements in place, Turku has excellent prospects for continuing to thrive in the future.

## **Boldly seizing new opportunities in Turku**

On 1 January 2025, employment services became the responsibility of the municipalities (in Turku's case, the responsibility of the employment region). The idea driving the reform is that this will better enable municipalities to establish relations with employers in their regions. Making these connections work will be a win-win situation for all involved: the employment services will have a better understanding of the real needs of the employers, and they will also be able to influence the employers.

### **Actions**

- We will ensure adequate education and training guidance for all adults at risk of unemployment.
- We will place particular emphasis on employing young people who have just graduated.
- We will also invest in employment services for people over fifty. Age discrimination in working life is a real phenomenon and should be actively combated, for example by increasing anonymous recruitment processes.
- We will ensure that employment services are equal also for those who still lack Finnish or Swedish language skills. We will invest in multilingual communication.
- We will create incentives for employers to hire immigrants who still lack language skills.
- We will encourage employers to give more consideration to qualifications obtained abroad.
- We will promote the hiring of people with partial or difficult access to employment. The city itself will take the lead in recruiting people with lower language skills as well as work experience trainees.



## Good jobs are the best source of urban vitality

The city must support especially the kind of entrepreneurship that creates new sustainable business activities. Employment policy therefore has two equally important priorities: the potential of existing employment-generating business sectors must be maintained and, at the same time, we must be prepared for the fact that technological and social change means that work will take on completely new forms. The city must therefore prepare for the changing nature of work.

### Actions

- The maritime industry is one of Turku's strongholds. We will create the conditions for a sustainable maritime industry in particular. We will develop the Port of Turku into the most ecologically sustainable, vibrant port complex in the world.
- We will ensure that the skills required by the pharmaceutical industry are created in the region's educational institutions. We will strengthen the boom in technical fields brought about by the graduate engineering education at the University of Turku.
- We will ensure that the city itself is a responsible and attractive employer.
- We will set criteria for tenders that encourage sustainable and energy-efficient production. Such criteria can provide a competitive advantage for local companies investing in the green transition.
- We will enable small and local players to participate in tenders for the city and city companies with sufficiently small lots and by streamlining the procurement system.
- We will extend the temporary space model introduced for organisations to include enterprise trials.
- We will improve opportunities for graduating students to stay in Turku for work or as entrepreneurs. We will work with universities to increase support and incentives for entrepreneurship.
- We will support networking and mentoring activities for new businesses and entrepreneurs together with Business Turku. We will also expand incubator activities such as Boost to the cultural sector.

## Immigration creates viability and employment

New residents from and outside Finland add to the dynamic fabric of our city. Supporting integration, language learning and employment prevents exclusion and strengthens the sense of belonging to Finnish society and the Turku community. At the same time, learning one's mother tongue should be supported, because genuine multilingualism is a significant asset for both the individual and the society.

### **Actions**

- In integration training for those who have moved to Finland, we will better take into account their previous skills.
- We will ensure that language training during the integration phase is of high quality and supports the learner's employability from the start.
- We will build on the Swedish example of producing sector-specific dictionaries for immigrants to support their employment.
- In particular, we will focus on the integration of women by removing barriers to language learning and employment services, for example by providing childcare or enabling them to attend events with their children.
- We will use the expertise of immigrants' own communities to support their integration.
- We will support the learning of practical language skills. In addition to language training, learning the language requires opportunities to learn Finnish together with ordinary Finns. We will support activities and organisations that bring immigrants and native Finns together.
- We will support those who have fled a war to Turku. We will enable Turku residents to participate in helping Ukrainians by acting as an ally of Ukrainian associations and our twin city of Kharkiv.

## **A humane city supports its citizens even in challenging life situations**

Together with Varha, Green Turku takes responsibility for the wellbeing of its citizens. The prevention of social exclusion and malaise must be a key objective in all activities of the city. The perpetuation of poverty is prevented by ensuring that resources are allocated to education and teaching services and youth services in particular. Homelessness must also be eradicated.

### **Actions**

- We will deliver on the city's key objective of tackling loneliness throughout people's lives.
- We will improve the position of self-employed people and pay particular attention to the problems created by atypical entrepreneurship and the platform economy.
- In cooperation with Varha, we will seek housing options that offer community and care services for older people and take into account their different needs. We will improve opportunities for independent living, for example through accessible construction.
- We will work with Varha to eradicate homelessness by building subsidised housing to meet different needs and by providing advice and services. We will set a guaranteed time limit for securing a home for homeless people under 29.

- We will safeguard the food distribution communities and continue to work more closely with them.
- We will improve the inclusion of people with disabilities, for example by organising disability panels and involving people with disabilities in the design and development of services.
- We will support older people in Turku to be active citizens, for example by improving accessibility and supporting organisations.

## **A good city has good governance and a sustainable economy**

It is not just a question of a sustainable economy, but of an open and sustainable development of the city in general. For us Greens, public finance is a means to promote the wellbeing of people and the environment under democratic control. In the long term, the city's finances must be balanced, but not at the expense of wellbeing. The city's finances must be managed responsibly and transparently.

### **Actions**

- The basis of a sustainable economy is to stimulate the city's resilience and viability. In a tough economic climate, we will adjust the economy in a measured way, without cutting the most essential services.
- We will also consider a moderate increase in municipal tax if there is no other way to secure everyone's right to a good life.
- We produce a wide range of services. In principle, the most essential services are produced by the city itself. We will invest in comprehensive publicly subsidised leisure services to ensure that cultural, sporting and wellbeing services are fully accessible. We will enter into partnership agreements and tenders with the private sector to further complement the services offered for the benefit of citizens and to boost business.
- We will monitor our own and purchased services with transparent controls.
- We will define the budget framework for contracts carefully so that we do not pay for unnecessary costs. We will prevent investment bloat through careful planning and joint liability models.
- We ensure access to services according to the "one-stop-shop" principle.
- We will reform the city's governance system in a citizen-centred way.
- We will develop the linguistic accessibility of the city's communication in English and offer advice in everyday matters in their own language.
- We will make use of participatory democracy in various ways: through citizens' panels, consultative referendums, participatory budgeting and resident budgeting.

For example, we will hold an annual open climate meeting and a hearing for citizens on what Turku should influence in the EU.

- We will grant the representative of the Youth Council the right to speak in the City Council and the committees, as well as the right to be present in the City Council.
- We will assess the impact of decisions on minorities, genders and children.
- We will ensure transparency in the decision-making of city-owned companies.

## Learning is a human right

People are naturally curious, and the opportunity to learn new things is important for mental wellbeing. An educated person can cope with the rapid changes in working life and is able to be sufficiently sceptical against harmful information influence. In the modern world, education cannot be thought of as something acquired once at a young age, but rather it is normal for people to be re-educated several times in their lives.

Education is an investment that generates knowledge and social peace. It must therefore be adequately resourced. We must also ensure at all levels that education is equal for people with disabilities and those with special needs, and that adequate support is available when required.

## Early childhood education lays the foundations for learning

Providing high-quality and accessible early childhood education and care teaches children important skills, helps them make new friends and prevents inequality. Early childhood education and care teaches learning and interpersonal skills under the guidance of professionals and can address needs such as special support before school age. Access to early childhood education also improves parents' chances of finding work and should be considered to be a factor in maintaining the employment and vitality of the city.

### Actions

- We will ensure that childcare facilities are easily accessible for every family and ensure diversity of services.
- We will ensure adequate resources for children with special needs.
- We will push for the establishment of four hours of free early childhood education for all families and the preservation of the subjective right to day care.
- We ensure that early childhood education and care personnel are skilled in preventing and addressing bullying and in early identification of the challenges children face.

- We will remove unnecessary administrative work from early childhood education and care personnel.
- We will encourage kindergartens and schools to increase outdoor activities and time spent in nature. We will add more nature to kindergartens and schoolyards

## **Comprehensive school as the basis of a civilised society**

A universal comprehensive school for all builds shared knowledge and competences for everyone. This equality of competence is the cornerstone of Finland's success story. However, our education system is facing many challenges and the current success cannot be sustained without investing in the problem areas.

### **Actions**

- Together with Varha, we will ensure that schools have sufficient numbers of student support personnel available so that pupils' support needs can be met as soon as they arise.
- We will take care of the wellbeing and work fitness of education and training personnel. We will enable the personnel to undertake further training.
- We will anticipate the space needs of schools and day-care centres and prevent indoor air problems by regularly checking air quality and the condition of buildings, and by using the facilities as intended. We will also ensure the good quality of the temporary facilities.
- We will target additional support to schools in areas where families' poverty or native language affects school attendance.
- We will improve equal learning opportunities for students by increasing the number of electives offered in all schools. We will make special classes more accessible to children from different backgrounds through better communication, for example. We will promote low-cost leisure activities during the school day.
- We will invest in literacy and cultural education, for example through more library cooperation and more library vans.

## **Students are the changemakers**

Turku is able to offer a wide range of opportunities for education after comprehensive school. Upper secondary schools, vocational institutes, polytechnics and universities form a vast network from which to choose. However, being a student is a challenging time in life in many ways. Together with Varha and YTHS, we need to tackle student malaise and improve employment opportunities for students and graduates in Turku.

### **Actions**

- We will increase the possibility to study both vocational courses and upper secondary school course. We will collaborate with higher education institutions in all secondary schools in Turku.
- We will ensure that schools have enough local education and support from guidance counsellors, youth counsellors, curators and psychologists. We will invest in particular in guiding young people from minority backgrounds into further education and training.
- We will offer traineeships and summer jobs to young people and students in all sectors of the city and establish summer entrepreneurship vouchers alongside summer and seasonal work vouchers.
- We will offer a student discount on city services and make it easy for students to apply for a discount.
- For both domestic and international students, we can offer affordable and well-maintained housing and subsidised accommodation. We will ensure an adequate supply of housing through cooperation between the city and the Student Village Foundation.
- We will make sure that Turku is an attractive place to stay after graduation.

## **Modern society requires continuous learning**

The process of learning does not end with the first qualification but is a lifelong process. Education in itself improves the quality of life. In an ever-changing world of work, it is more the rule than the exception that people work in many different fields throughout their lives. Further education, training and retraining are prerequisites for a prosperous society. Entire sectors can become obsolete very quickly, which is why it is vital to provide flexible opportunities for everyone to retrain in sectors where there is more demand. Retraining must be affordable for everyone who needs it.

### **Actions**

- We will enable diversified education by supporting adult learning institutions in the way they need. We will look for ways to make the adult education in Turku attractive throughout Finland.
- We will work and create educational and marketing partnerships between the open universities in the city.
- We will ensure that there is an adequate supply of Swedish-language adult learning opportunities across the borders of educational institutions.
- Where appropriate, we will organise co-learning with, for example, upper secondary schools and vocational institutes, in the form of language courses and hygiene passport training.

- We will defend the possibilities of liberal education institutions to act both as continuing and further educators of adults and as cooperation organisations with upper secondary and vocational education.

## **Citizens are the heart of turku**

Human life is not just about working and sleeping; having quality leisure time is an important part of a healthy life. With a relatively small investment, the city can produce a huge amount of wellbeing by supporting culture, sports, and voluntary work. Special attention should be paid to leisure services for children and young people in order to reduce the risk of lifelong exclusion.

## **Culture at the heart of a good life**

Culture is not a luxury, but an essential part of a full and civilised life. Its positive effects can be seen in the mental health of individuals, their sense of community and in the economy. A vibrant cultural environment is an essential factor in people's decision to live in a city. Culture is also ecological and local, and cultural consumption is one of the few fully sustainable forms of consumption.

### **Actions**

- We will improve the accessibility of libraries so that all groups of people can find them. We are increasing the number of reading and writing circles in libraries, serving everyone from babies to the elderly. We will improve the opening hours of library services by increasing self-service hours.
- We will ensure that affordable tickets are available for concerts and theatre performances. We will offer free admission and guided tours of museums and other cultural institutions.
- We will ensure that artists have access to affordable working space and also support gallery activities.
- In new construction projects, we will set aside one per cent to create works of art.
- We will ensure a smooth transition of the Philharmonic Orchestra to Fuuga and the strengthening of its operational capacity.
- We will ensure good operating conditions for the professional and amateur theatres in Turku.
- We will ensure that there are affordable spaces for cultural activities and workspaces across the city.

- We will encourage cooperation between institutions providing cultural education and aim to expand graduate level education.
- We will strengthen cooperation between the cultural sector and schools by drawing on the experiences of artists, musicians, writers and theatre-makers in school art lessons.

## **The Greens are the best ally for organisations and civic and citizens' movements**

Organisations are the cornerstones of active citizenship. The work done by organisations and volunteers make possible a variety of activities ranging from children's sports activities to professional networks for working people and support services for the elderly. There are more than 9,000 different associations in Southwest Finland, and the time spent and volunteer work carried out with them contributes to the wellbeing of their members. They keep those at risk of exclusion involved in the community and, for example, keep pensioners active and on the move. The organisations create and maintain social relationships among both old and new Turku residents.

The Greens see organisations as an investment in local wellbeing, as the euros invested pay for themselves many times over. By supporting organisations with communications, facilities and grants, the city can create opportunities for organisations to provide citizens with a platform for volunteering, active citizenship and wellbeing.

### **Actions**

- We will ensure that the people of Turku have a voice in tackling climate change, reducing inequality, helping victims of war and conflict and other issues that are important to them. We will support and listen to active citizenship in its various forms.
- We will also support the operating conditions of organisations through operating grants, reduced rental prices for city premises and diversified cooperation. We will listen carefully to the needs of organisations and ensure their capacity to operate.
- We will support the activities of organisations and communities by providing free facilities for events and meetings, both in the city centre and in different parts of the city.
- We will support the visibility and discoverability of organisations and communities by providing support and channels for communication, for example by joining the lähellä.fi network. We will develop the city's communication structures to support the communication of the activities of third parties.



- We will support and stabilise the funding of organisations by extending our grant-making activities and allowing grants to be awarded for several years at a time.
- We will develop cooperation with churches and the welfare work.
- We will create a path for organisational activity and activism in Turku, through which citizens can test and find different organisations and movements to work with and do good.

## A city on the move

For the casual walker or jogger, the whole city is a place to exercise, but separate sports facilities are needed for both elite and low-threshold sports. Inactivity is equally a threat to the health of the child who spends screen time, the adult who works remotely and the lonely senior citizen. Exercise delivers wellbeing, joy and experiences, and every euro invested in it pays for itself.

### Actions

- Turku deserves proper venues for both elite sports and low-threshold sports. A growing city cannot be content with simply replacing obsolete facilities with similar ones but needs to increase opportunities.
- New sports facilities must be planned with easy access by public transport, walking and cycling, especially when concentrating sports facilities in Artukainen area. Carpooling must not be a prerequisite for taking part in sports activities.
- We will also take care of swimming facilities on the eastern side of the city when the Petrelius indoor swimming pool is no longer in use. We will renovate the Kupittaa outdoor swimming pool and explore the possibilities for winter swimming.
- We will develop sports facilities on both banks of the Aura River, from Kylämäki Village to Turku Castle.
- Appreciation is also shown for new and small disciplines.
- We will encourage healthy exercise through a comprehensive network of cycling and outdoor trails, as well as good winter maintenance and lighting of streets and school playgrounds.
- Providing free physical activity facilities such as jogging trails, swimming beaches, ice rinks, skate parks, outdoor gyms, workout stair, playgrounds and local nature areas.
- The focus will be on encouraging and introducing different sports in school. We will utilise sports clubs as facilitators of a wide range of school sports.
- We will develop sporting opportunities together with clubs and businesses, and we will continue to experiment boldly with new shared operating models for sports.

- We will lower the threshold to start exercising by offering the first top-up of the Kimmoke bracelet free of charge, for example for the unemployed and people in rehabilitation.
- We will keep the price of the senior bracelet affordable and extend its use, together with clubs, to the sports services they provide and to private gyms.

## **An active youth becomes an active adult**

Supporting children and young people is an investment in the future. With the services for children and young people in place, it is natural for families to settle in Turku. Preventing the social exclusion of young people is a particularly important investment which, despite the reform of the wellbeing services counties, is primarily the responsibility of the municipality. A significant part of youth work is carried out by various organisations, and the municipality's role is to coordinate their activities.

### **Actions**

#### **Keeping families in Turku by improving services for children and families with children**

- We will build a playground in the city centre, because young children are welcome to play in the city centre, too. We will build more open playgrounds in other parts of Turku. We will take care of the cleanliness and safety of the playgrounds.
- We will introduce a leisure guarantee model, where every young person is guaranteed at least one meaningful hobby (either sporting or non-sporting). We will support young people in finding their own pathway in cooperation with the third sector, schools and families. We will support low-income families with the costs of taking up sport and getting started.
- We will strengthen multiprofessional cooperation between early childhood education, youth services, the police, organisations, recreational clubs, mental health professionals, families and schools. We will improve the clarity of interfaces and cooperation between the city and the wellbeing services county in schools, early childhood education, youth work and family services.
- We will reinforce a child's right to have both parents, for example by allowing two addresses for school transport. We will also improve the wellbeing of single-parent families and the rights of rainbow families locally.
- We will enable morning and afternoon activities to be run in close proximity to schools and guarantee resources as costs increase. We will support recreational activities on school premises and explore the use of school premises for activities outside the school day. We will continue to ensure that the third sector and recreational clubs have affordable access to school premises.

**Investing in the future through youth services**

- We will guarantee the resources for youth activities in Turku. We will ensure that the preventive impact of youth work is recognised in the decision-making process. We will acknowledge the expertise of youth professionals on young people's lives, needs and inclusion.
- We will invest in youth outreach and make services accessible. We will continue to pilot outreach youth work. We will look after young people living further away from the youth facilities.
- We will provide safer spaces for young people from minority and rainbow backgrounds to spend their free time. We will work together with associations and communities working with minorities to create a safer and more welcoming space.
- We will address bullying and school violence by creating new ways for children and young people to talk about their experiences, for example through a curator or a child protection social media hotline. We will invest in the quality and quantity of youth work in schools. We will ensure that every child and young person in Turku has a safe adult in their everyday school life.
- We will develop multidisciplinary support for children with special needs and aim to keep the same personnel with the same families. Adequate and timely support prevents the need for more demanding support.