

# A GOOD STANDARD OF LIVING IN TERNEUZEN

Building further  
on a sustainable future



**Summary Agreement 2022-2026**

Municipality of Terneuzen





# WHAT DO

# WE STAND FOR?

Terneuzen is developing fast. We are building the future, both literally and figuratively in many parts of our beautiful municipality. You can see the cranes decorating the skyline, visibly giving shape to the new, large lock in Terneuzen step by step. This modern gateway promises to provide a strong impulse for economic development. The new lock is also a symbol of our municipality; it represents the city's dynamics, (international) connections and major transitions. We live in complex times, with turbulent waters and uncertain tides. We are dealing with the effects of the recent health crisis, the perceived gap between citizens and government, the current war situation in Ukraine, the economy and almost unprecedented inflation. This Agreement has been drawn up as a result of these current issues.

## Active, open and agile

The combination of new opportunities and uncertain circumstances calls for an active, open and flexible government, one in which there is room to exploit possibilities and where we can all contribute to a habitable environment together. A government where everyone gets the chance to participate and to support people who are struggling and where we work towards a sustainable future – a future for everyone who grows up or grows old, lives or learns, works or plays, does business or simply resides in our versatile municipality.

## Wide-ranging prosperity

Our key interest is a good standard of living, and that involves more than material affluence or economic prosperity. It is about living life to the full, about 'wide-ranging prosperity'. In short, everything that is of value to our residents. This includes health, education, nature and the environment, social cohesion, personal development and safety; both in our municipality and in our own environment; both now and in the future. Quality of life and good facilities are crucial to this, and in order to keep the foundations of these facilities strong and intact, we are aiming for a steady growth in the number of residents. New residents will also be needed to fill the expected increase in job vacancies.

## Together

We want to take full responsibility for our involvement in all those issues that we as a municipality directly or indirectly influence. We continue to work on established municipal and regional objectives and we lend our support to the transitions in the new coalition agreement. Whenever we can work together in the interest of our city, we actively join forces with companies, educational institutions, governments, social organisations and above all our residents. This is because our residents are central to everything we are working on and working towards. This means that we actively involve our residents and increasingly seek their participation; that we are open to their ideas and that we are always available and approachable when they have questions.

## Financially solid basis

Under normal circumstances, the current financial situation would provide us with a solid foundation for the future. But we are not dealing with normal circumstances, as can be seen by the rising cost of living. Major tasks require alertness and prudence, which is why we will do our best to create financial room for investments when it is needed.

## Getting down to work with a clear vision after extensive research

This Agreement is the result of extensive research. All council departments were given the opportunity to state their priorities. We also asked a large number of (social) partners to do the same. We have used the rich yield of this research in the compilation of the agreement and thus ensured that it has broad support. Together, we will now get down to work. We will continue to build a sustainable future right across the board, based on a shared and clear conviction that we are working on a *good standard of living in Terneuzen*.

## Theme

**HOUSING****& QUALITY OF LIFE**

We want there to be good housing and a fine standard of living in all our residential hubs. Our goal is to have ample suitable housing and facilities in all these neighbourhoods. This is not only important for the quality of life of our current residents, but also for attracting new ones. Such things as accessibility, art and culture, green areas, safety and animal welfare all contribute to a good standard of living, as well as social cohesion, which creates a strong bond between (groups of) residents.

**KEY POINTS  
2022-2026****Theme: housing & quality of life**

Creating suitable housing (in all neighbourhoods) for focus groups, such as young people, starters, senior citizens and single-person households.

Greening of public spaces and contributing to greater biodiversity.

Creating and implementing a comprehensive plan for inner city development zones. Solving bottlenecks caused by a variety of functions in the city centre.

Making vigorous efforts to implement the Municipal Traffic and Transport Plan (GVVP), including safe bicycle routes and a maximum speed of 30 km per hour in residential areas.

Investigating whether the use of instruments such as compulsory self-housing for specific areas addresses the issues and reduces speculation.

Investigating the use of equalisation contributions for projects to invest in quality of life and public space.

Actively supporting lobbying for the Ghent-Terneuzen rail network (goods and passenger transport).

In the forthcoming Vision for the Environment, we will pay attention to climate adaptation, the railways and underground systems such as residual heat networks and reinforcing the electricity grid.

Extending Laan van Othene and thus connecting to the main road.



## Theme

# CARE & HEALTH

A good life is a healthy life. We are therefore committed to a healthy municipality. We help people who need support. We want to avoid problems as often as possible by implementing preventative measures.

## KEY POINTS 2022-2026



### Theme: care & health

Research the ways in which minorities can make more and easier use of facilities, with extra attention for young people and the elderly, for instance by encouraging the use of facilities (such as via the Youth Fund Sport and Culture and the Adult Fund Sport and Culture).

Deploy community sports coaches.

Investigate whether it is useful to join up with Healthy Weight for Youngsters (Jongeren Op Gezond Gewicht (JOGG)).

Increase understanding of target groups in order to offer appropriate support.

Match the availability of community centres and welfare accommodation to the needs of residents, partly through the support of professional community workers.

Have a positive intention to cooperate with supporting initiatives in the area of inclusion/diversity (e.g. via the inclusion agenda and 'rainbow city').

Commit to implementation of the Prevention Agreement and a varied sports programme.

Provide easy access to public toilets through accessible information about the available facilities.

Give specific attention to reducing loneliness.

Propose research into more cooperation with Hulst and Sluis in implementing tasks in the social domain.



## Theme

# YOUTH & EDUCATION

Young people are the future. We encourage young people (with the help of the municipality) to give shape to what they feel is necessary to grow up well in Terneuzen. We invest in housing for high-quality, sustainable primary and secondary education. The common goal is for everyone to obtain a starting qualification. We also endorse the concept of the 'booster school day'.



## KEY POINTS 2022-2026

### Theme: youth & education

Draw up an inventory with young people of their needs for meeting places for 0-18 year olds, especially 12+.

Link playgrounds/play facilities to their needs in order to stimulate contemporary and attractive recreational activities.

Before the end of 2022, give clarity to the Lodewijk College regarding the location for secondary school accommodation.

Request attention for international education and its inclusion in primary education.

Investigate possibilities for involving young people in the municipality/local democracy.



## Theme

# CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY

Our future will be powered by sustainable energy. From within our role and our position of responsibility, we encourage and promote Terneuzen as a leading municipality in the transition to that sustainable future. We want our municipality to be a trendsetter with an innovative character that is attractive to new talent.

## KEY POINTS 2022-2026

### Theme: climate & sustainability

Establish routes and preconditions for 380kV, Canal Zone residual heat network, multi-utility pipelines under the Westerschelde, CO2 capture and storage.

Develop the western canal bank for the circular sector and offer educational courses on climate and sustainability.

Give space, within our Vision for the Environment, to sustainable businesses because of their positive contribution to the balance between the burden on the environment and quality of life.

Ensure an active role and input by the council in cooperation with national and regional governments regarding major transitions.





## Theme

# ECONOMY & LABOUR MARKET

Terneuzen is developing economically and we support and encourage this growth. The new lock will strengthen the strategic position of Terneuzen, and the cooperation in the international port area, also with the national government, offers many new opportunities. At the same time, there are major challenges. The industry must become more sustainable and the demand for new talent is constantly increasing.

## KEY POINTS 2022-2026



### Thema economie & arbeidsmarkt

Cooperation within Zeeland and Flanders for the labour market through Unlimited Zeeuws-Vlaanderen (Onbegrensd Zeeuws-Vlaanderen), the Zeeland Expat Center, the Zeeuws-Vlaanderen Work Service Point and with the City of Ghent and educational institutions.

Continuing city marketing and regional marketing and also striving for greater impact of activities through cooperation (local, regional and Zeeuws).

Encouraging research and action in relation to the burden on the environment for neighbourhoods in the canal zone.

Strengthening the business climate for new companies and workers.

Continuing to lobby for the speedy termination of tolls for the Westerschelde tunnel, partly because it is an unfair barrier to the labour market.



## Theme

# GOOD GOVERNANCE

As a local government we are visible, honest and transparent. We work together with the inhabitants and companies within our municipality. We invite everyone to participate through, for example, social partners or the neighbourhood and local group councils. Through good governance and by making the right choices and investments, we want to strengthen wide-ranging prosperity. The triangle of inhabitants/companies, municipal organisation and administration works closely and in harmony. We organise good, efficient and modern services. We are involved in networks and initiatives, and are open to cooperations that strengthens us.

## Finance

We handle the money available to us wisely and conscientiously. At the same time, we have strong ambitions which we also want to support financially. The principle is the creation of balance in the Municipality of Terneuzen's budget in the coming years. At

the same time, there are various uncertain factors that could affect the result and there are also major challenges and ambitions. In order to have a balanced budget in the future, it is important to pursue a sound financial policy on both the income and expenditure sides. We will correct the charges to residents by no more than the annual increase in the cost of living unless more is needed. In that case, we will first determine the extent to which adjustments to our current expenditure can provide financial leeway.

## Organisation

Major tasks, coupled with the ambitions of the Municipality, require continuous organisational development. In addition, we want to remain an attractive organisation not only for (new) residents and businesses, but also for employees, so that we are seen as an interesting and good employer who people want to work for.

## KEY POINTS 2022-2026

### Thema goed bestuur

Actively involve residents and organisations via participation, be open to ideas and always approachable for questions, through, for example, new participation regulations and the right to challenge.

Work actively towards a more transparent municipality through the Open Government Act.

Actively lobby, together with our partners. In addition to the toll-free Westerschelde tunnel and Rail Ghent-Terneuzen, this includes (hospital) care close by, the major transitions in the field of sustainability, Rail Ghent-Terneuzen passenger transport and more housing in the municipality.

Actively contribute to affiliations within Zeeland and with Flemish partners. The Strategic Regional Vision for Zeeuws-Vlaanderen, Consultation with Zeelandic Authorities, cross-border cooperation in the North Sea Port District and the Regio Deal are important partnerships in this regard.

Organise our services in an accessible manner. Services are digital where possible and personal where desired.

Investigate whether the executive power is sufficient and in line with the ambitions of the Municipality.



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