

FUTURE POLICY OUTLINES ON THE METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY

A Metropolitan Authority will be established particularly to resolve land use, housing and transport problems in the metropolitan area. A Government proposal will be submitted to Parliament on 4 December 2014. The Metropolitan Authority will be launched in connection with the 2017 local government elections.

The Metropolitan Authority will be based on the municipalities of the current letter of intent on land use, housing and transport, and therefore Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa, Kauniainen, Sipoo, Kerava, Tuusula, Järvenpää, Kirkkonummi, Vihti, Nurmijärvi, Mäntsälä, Hyvinkää and Pornainen will participate in the authority. In addition to these, Porvoo and Lohja can join the Metropolitan Authority if they wish. The Government's intent is that the Uusimaa Regional Council can continue to operate.

The Metropolitan Authority will have duties relating to land use, transport and housing. The Metropolitan Authority's duties will include preparation of a metropolitan plan (region plan, master plan and, if necessary, component master plan in a way to be decided in further preparation) and ensuring its implementation (with plan programmes and other sufficient measures) as well as the following regional public law duties: public transport planning and management (Helsinki Regional Transport), the environmental issues of the Helsinki Region Environmental Services Authority and duties transferred from the Uusimaa Regional Council. The implementation of an effective housing policy will be ensured in further legislative preparation work. The Metropolitan Authority's possible other duties will be agreed as preparatory work progresses.

A funding solution independent of the municipalities will be secured for the Metropolitan Authority with the income of the present joint municipal authorities, central government transfers and a funding solution to be specified during further preparations. The Metropolitan Authority will not have its own right to raise taxes. A point of departure is that the total tax rate of the Metropolitan Authority's residents cannot rise above its present level.

The Metropolitan Authority will have an elected council, whose manner of election will take into consideration regional and party political representation.