

Rapid Planning Toolkit

**A Mayor's Step-by-Step
Guide to Delivery**

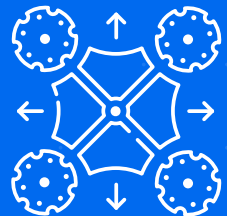


THE PRINCE'S
FOUNDATION

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The Rapid Planning Toolkit is a Mayor's Step-by-Step Guide to delivering sustainable cities and communities, focused on rapidly urbanising towns and secondary cities.



In partnership with



Intro

“If the world’s urban footprint is to grow, we have an unprecedented opportunity to redefine urban development. If planned and managed sensitively, cities can add social, environmental and commercial value, in a way that helps to tackle climate change and foster inclusive prosperity.”

HRH The Prince of Wales

The Prince's Foundation, established by HRH The Prince of Wales, has worked for over twenty years to promote and demonstrate principles of traditional urban design and architecture that put communities at the centre of urban development, helping to address the global challenges of urbanisation and climate change.

As towns and cities across the Commonwealth struggle to manage an unparalleled increase in urban populations, The Prince's Foundation has worked with The Commonwealth Association of Planners, The Commonwealth Association of Architects, The Commonwealth Local Government Forum, New York University Marron Institute of Urban Management and UN-Habitat to combine their experience and develop this Toolkit, consolidating a simple and streamlined methodology that shapes sustainable urban growth despite the scale and pace of urbanisation.

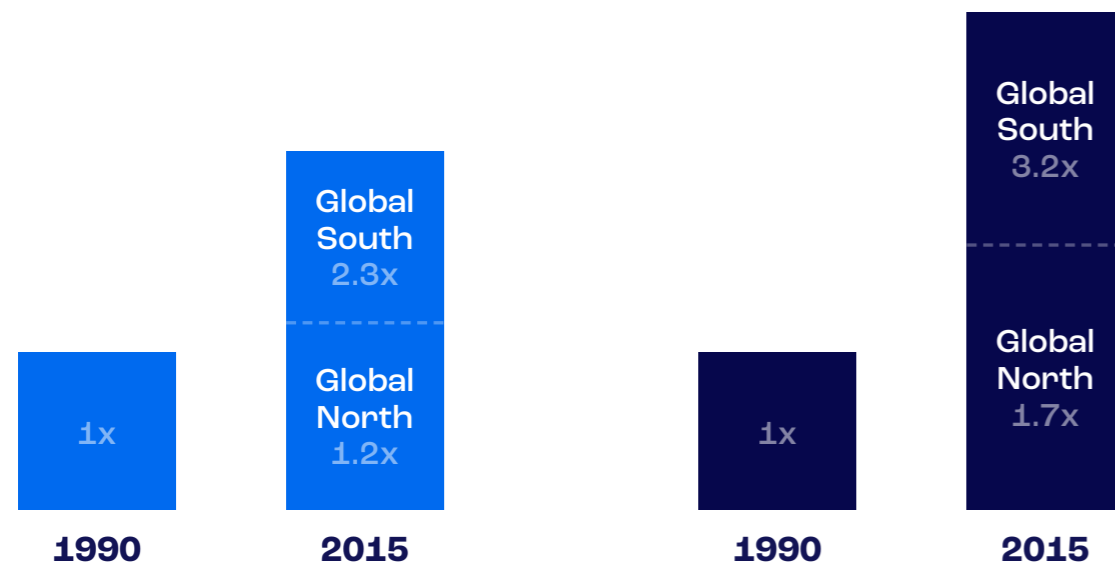
Following preliminary testing in a variety of contexts, including with planners, architects and other built environment professionals, the Toolkit is now being applied in countries representing the diversity of the Commonwealth, in order to further develop and refine the methodology.



Context

A rapidly urbanising planet

Today, there are more cities than ever before, and they are growing rapidly.



Population

In the period from 1990 to 2015, the population of the world's cities increased by an average of **1.9**. In the Global North it increased by a multiple of **1.2**, and in the Global South by a multiple of **2.3**.

Urban footprint

Globally, over the same period, the urban footprint of those cities increased on average by a multiple of **2.5**. In the Global North it increased by a multiple of **1.7**, and in the Global South by a multiple of **3.2**.

In both the Global North and the Global South, the growth in the population of cities is being outpaced by the growth of their urban extents.

By 2050, the world's urban population will increase by 2.4 billion. Nearly 50% of that urban growth will take place in the Commonwealth.

City leaders must move quickly to plan for growth and provide the basic services, infrastructure, and affordable housing their expanding populations need.

The world's urban population is set to increase dramatically in the next three decades with most of this rapid urbanisation occurring in towns and cities of less than one million inhabitants, referred to collectively in this Toolkit as secondary cities. The **speed** and **scale** of growth means that managing urban areas, and planning for new sustainable urban extensions, will be one of the most important challenges facing cities and societies in the 21st century.

Current civic leaders and planning professionals have a duty of care to future generations to ensure that this major challenge is met with a **simple, effective and rapid response** and, most importantly, with something that is both **practical and implementable**.

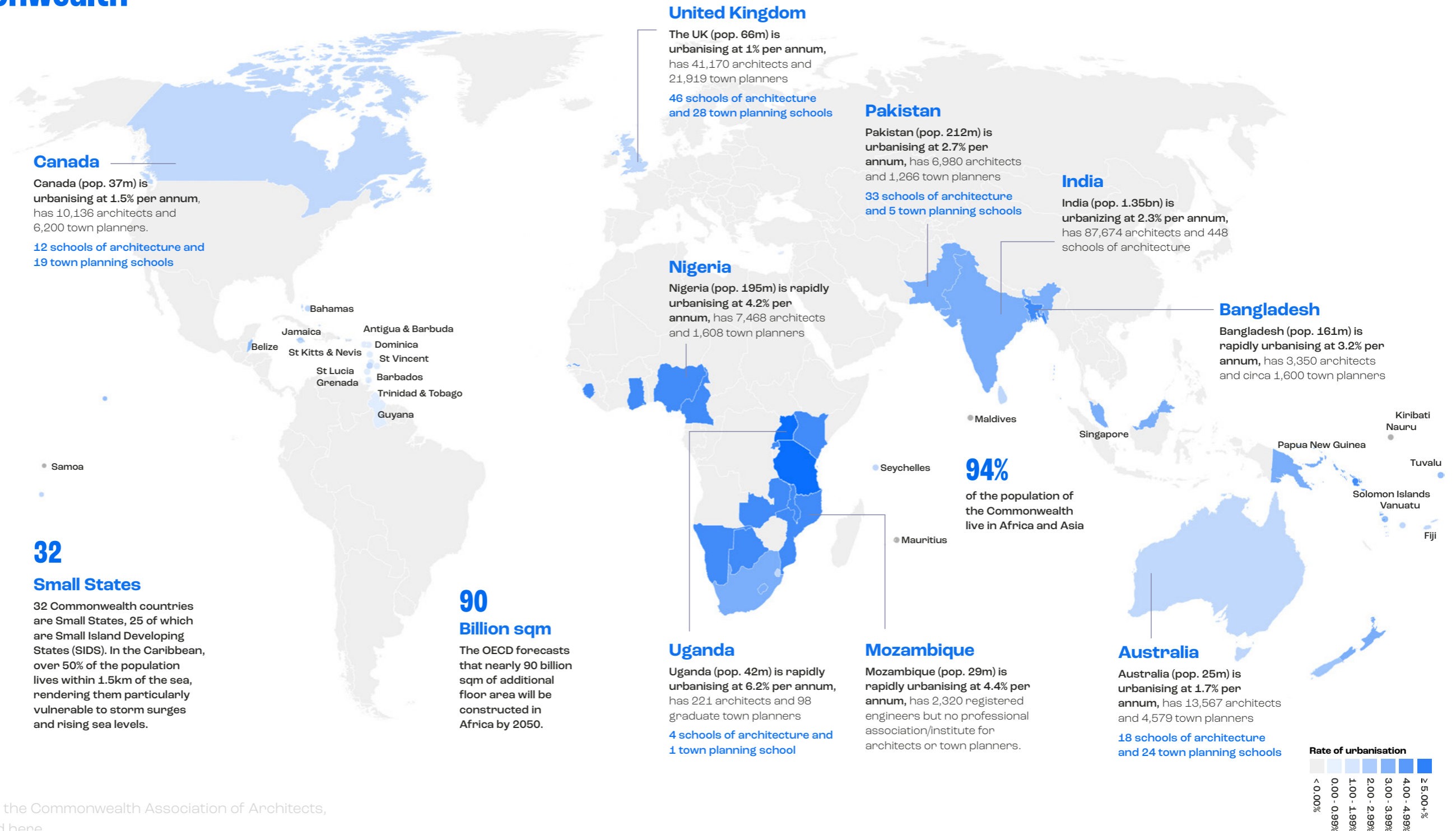
While this challenge is serious, it is also an opportunity. Throughout history, well-planned cities have acted as engines of economic growth, helped reduce poverty and housed citizens in a form that provides for **community, safety** and **good health**. In contrast, unplanned or poorly planned settlements can confine their citizens to a lack of social mobility with inadequate sanitation, security and access to basic services.

This is why it is crucial to reverse the unsustainable and accelerating trend towards unserved, unplanned settlements and urgently build **capacity** to implement urban frameworks that shape cities and give their citizens the hope of future **prosperity**.

Research

Nearly 50% of the projected urban growth to 2050 will be in the Commonwealth; that's an additional 1 billion urban dwellers in the next 30 years.

Climate change, rapid urbanisation and the commonwealth



The Survey was undertaken by the Commonwealth Association of Architects, the three volumes can be found here

The SDGs

Through an integrated approach, this document will help city mayors, their teams and built environment professionals to create sustainable cities and communities

Helping to achieve the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals

The Rapid Planning Toolkit has been designed to directly address the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the aspirations of the New Urban Agenda. Whilst outcomes may vary depending on local factors in your urban area, the interaction between each goal and the Rapid Planning Toolkit is highlighted below. Goal 11; "Sustainable Cities and Communities", has been identified as best connected to the other goals and therefore planning for rapid urbanisation is the most direct way to in part target all SDGs.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Convening Goal

The Toolkit helps you to meet SDG 11 by collaborating across professions and involving all stakeholders to draft a City Growth Charter and implement a rapid growth plan in order to create a sustainable city and community

WARNING: A common approach is to try to address the SDGs in silos, which is conflicting and ineffective. The Toolkit is a simple holistic approach, overlaying all the positive responses to SDGs on a rapid growth plan.

1 NO POVERTY



The Toolkit helps you to meet SDG1 by creating access to basic services, transport corridors connecting to employment opportunities, addressing land ownership... and reducing the exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



The Toolkit helps you to meet SDG3 by preventing building in swamps or wetlands, creating space for drainage channels, recreation and for healthcare facilities and waste sites

2 ZERO HUNGER



The Toolkit helps you to meet SDG2 by preserving growing areas and ensuring access to markets

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



The Toolkit helps you to meet SDG4 by ensuring space for schools at the heart of communities and safe walking routes to and from school

5 GENDER EQUALITY



The Toolkit helps you to meet SDG5 by giving women access to communities and a place in the planning process, as well as access to key daily-use facilities that are within walking distance

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



The Toolkit helps you to meet SDG7 by ensuring main routes are preserved to run utilities and solar clusters

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



The Toolkit helps you to meet SDG9 by making space for industrial areas and space in buildings for start up businesses linked to schools/colleges/universities

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



The Toolkit helps you to meet SDG12 by creating localised agriculture and recycling/composting areas, using local, natural or re-used materials for construction and reducing the volume of vehicle movements

14 LIFE BELOW WATER



The Toolkit helps you to meet SDG14 by preserving blue corridors and minimising pollution and run off through lack of sanitation

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



The Toolkit helps you to meet SDG16 by creating harmony between central and local government, landowners and communities which is essential in the face of rapid urbanisation

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



The Toolkit helps you to meet SDG6 by preserving blue corridors and space around wells, and encouraging the incorporation of utilities near the heart of communities whilst avoiding the contamination of supplies

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



The Toolkit helps you to meet SDG8 by planning for markets and agglomeration of density to allow the economy to work more efficiently

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



The Toolkit helps you to meet SDG10 by allowing access for all thorough transport corridors and mixed use planning

13 CLIMATE ACTION



The Toolkit helps you to meet SDG13 by reducing the need for vehicle movement through proper planning, in the design of walkable neighbourhoods and green building techniques

15 LIFE ON LAND



The Toolkit helps you to meet SDG15 by preserving green corridors and areas of woodland and forest by rapid planning and awareness raising with a city charter

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



The Toolkit helps you to meet SDG17 by encouraging countries to work together to help plan for the future, and capacity building as part of the Toolkit process

For more information on the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals visit this [website](#).

About

About this Overview

What is it?

This document provides an overview of the Rapid Urban Planning Toolkit, summarising the **4-Step process** to creating an urban plan. It is designed to give an initial understanding of the steps involved.

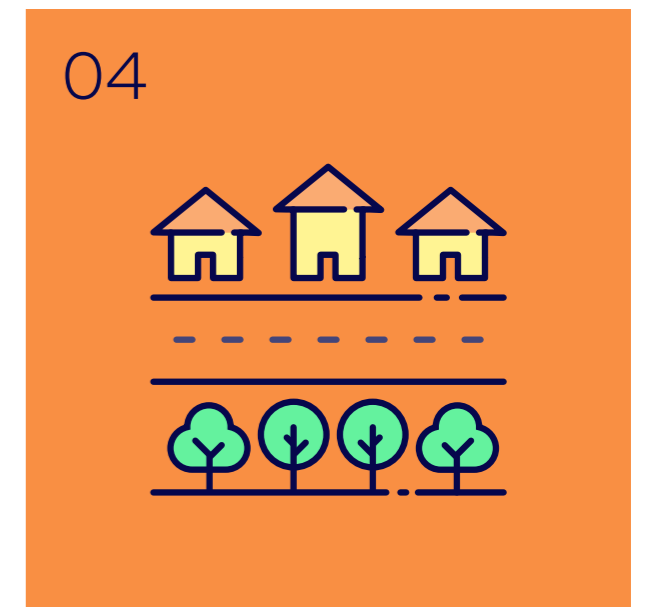
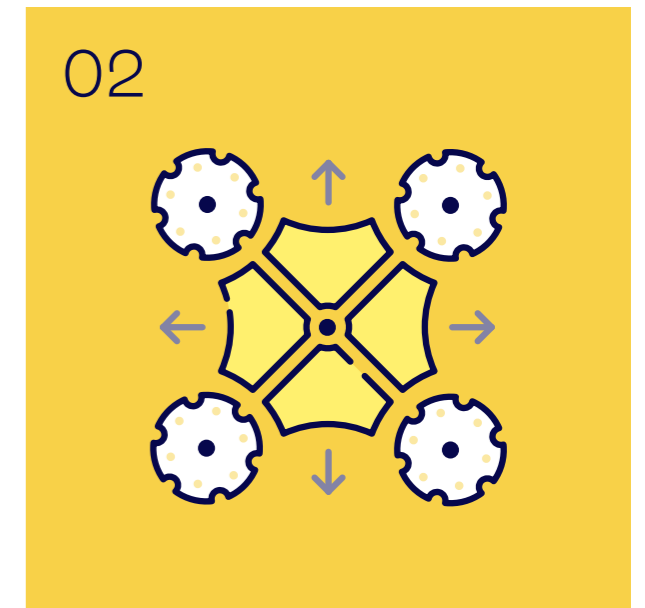
Who should use it?

This document is intended to assist **city mayors and key departments** (e.g. Department of Health, Education, Transport and Infrastructure) in creating robust and implantable urban framework plans. The Toolkit advocates that built environment professionals collaborate with local and national governments, technical specialists and local communities to create effective city planning.

How does it work?

Each of the 4 steps is clearly broken down into 3 key stages (**1a,b,c, 2a,b,c** etc...). These stages are comprised of a number of activities and workshops, aiming to guide a team through the process of creating a simple but effective urban plan. As this is an overview document, only a brief summary of each activity is given.

As planning for rapid urbanisation is an interdisciplinary exercise, it is essential to appoint a project lead, who will coordinate departmental representatives and other key stakeholders towards the collective effort of creating a framework plan.



Four Steps

Though it may vary context to context, the aim of the Rapid Planning Toolkit is to implement rapidly. As a guide, Steps 1-3 will take approximately 6-9 months.

Four Steps to an Urban Plan & Project Timeline

01 Writing a Charter for Your Growing City

- a Preparing for the Charter Workshop
- b Running the Charter Workshop
- c Consulting Publicly on the Charter

02 Creating the Rapid Growth Plan

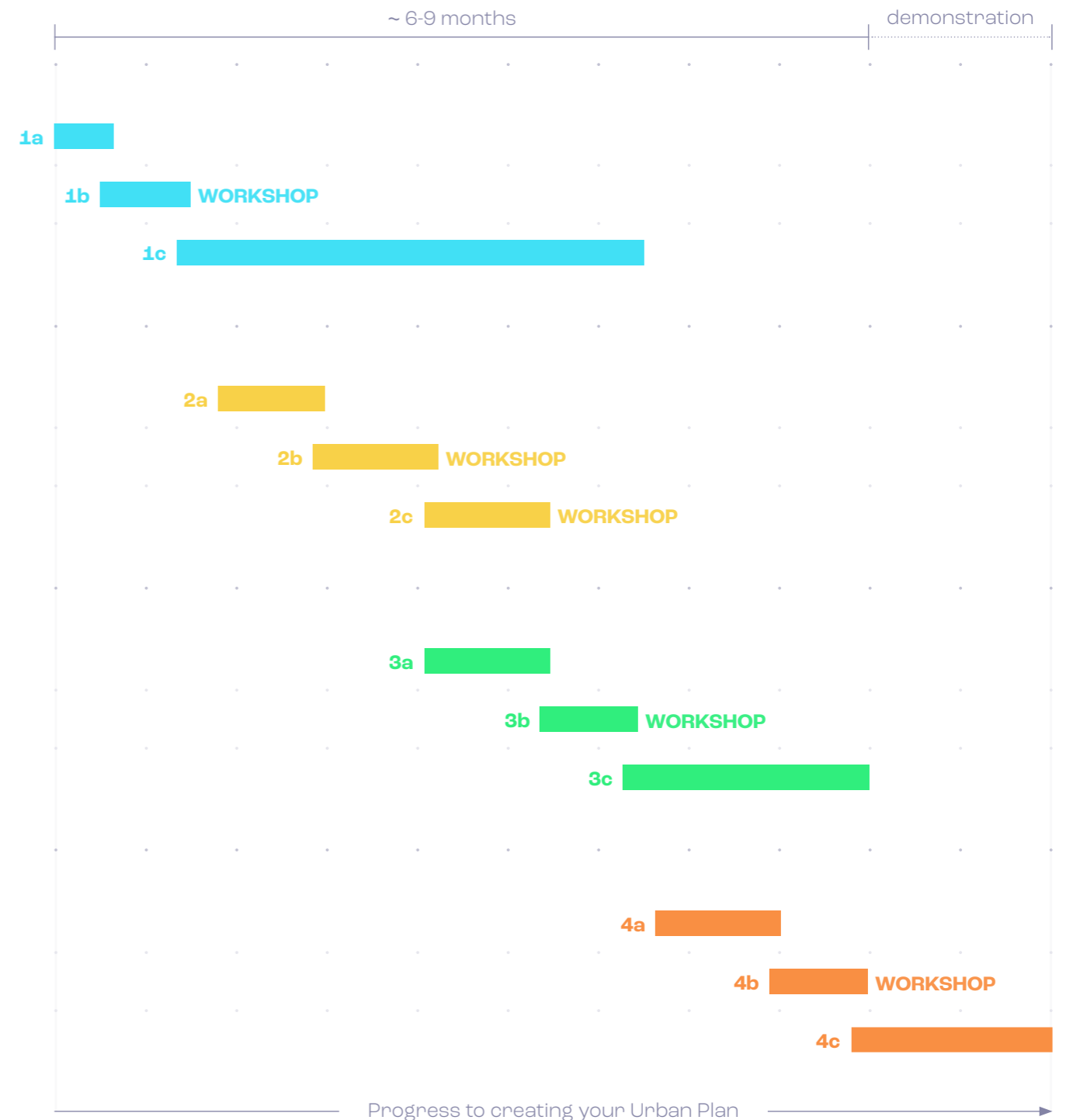
- a Preparing for the Growth Plan Workshop
- b Identifying the Growth Areas
- c Structuring the Growth Areas into Neighbourhoods

03 Implementing the Rapid Growth Plan

- a Identifying Landowners and Stakeholders
- b Finalising the Growth Plan Workshop
- c Demarcating the Growth Plan on the Ground

04 Populating the Neighbourhoods

- a Preparing for the Neighbourhood Workshop
- b Running the Neighbourhood Workshop
- c Demonstration Project



01

Writing a Charter for Your Growing City



The output of Step 1 is a **City Growth Charter** (signed document) for your city. Step 1 will help you to foster collaboration amongst a range of stakeholders to create a critical guide for how you will accommodate expected population growth whilst improving the lives of residents. This step helps to ensure the vision is shared, owned and clearly stated.

- a** **Preparing for the Charter Workshop**
- It is crucial to **engage** with your urban area and the stakeholders you will **collaborate** with throughout the process
 - This step will help you to gain an understanding of your city and its future growth

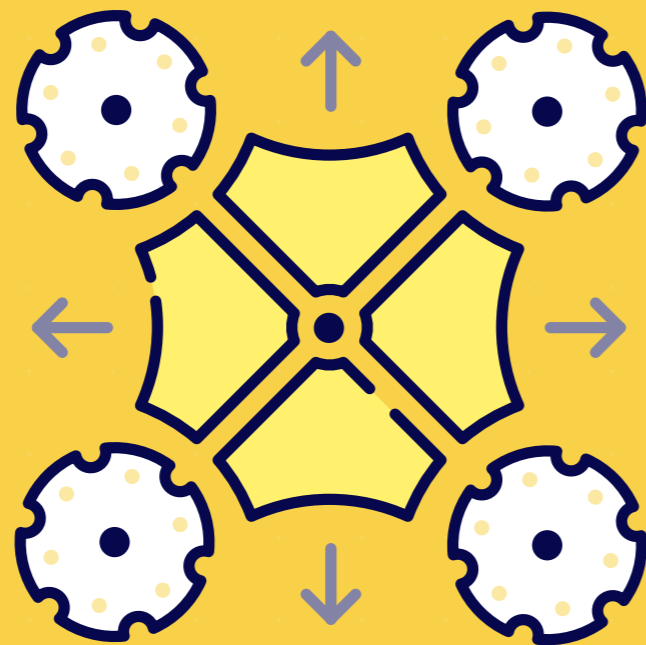
- b** **WORKSHOP**
Running the Charter Workshop
- Your City Growth Charter must be **understood** and **agreed upon** by all key figures and organisations within your urban area
 - This step will ensure that both city departments and wider stakeholders are **involved** in the formation of your Charter

- c** **Consulting Publicly on the Charter**
- A list of objectives should be recorded to form the city's **vision** moving forwards
 - These should be reviewed by colleagues, ensuring that they accurately express the discussion held in the Charter Workshop
 - This Charter will serve as the **point of reference** for stakeholders throughout the development process

Helping to directly meet these SDGs



Creating the Rapid Growth Plan



Having drafted your **City Growth Charter**, it is important to decide which areas are most suitable to accommodate rapid urban growth and how these might be structured. Through a preparatory mapping exercise and a series of workshops, **Step 2** will help you to create your **Rapid Growth Plan**, guiding future development.

a Preparing for the Growth Plan Workshop

- Mapping the context of your city is fundamental to **understanding** the way that it works, as well as how and where it could grow
- This step helps to create a coordinated series of maps that will provide a detailed picture of your city's **constraints** and **opportunities**

b WORKSHOP Identifying the Growth Areas

- This step helps to **identify** potential areas for expansion of your city, ensuring enough land to meet the projected population growth
- The result will be a **Growth Area Options Plan** that will guide how your city expands over the next 20 years

c WORKSHOP Structuring the Growth Areas into Neighbourhoods

- Through a series of workshops, this step helps you to **structure** your identified growth areas as a series of walkable neighbourhood cells, otherwise known as your Rapid Growth Plan
- These will be linked by a network of blue, green and transport corridors - providing **connectivity** and **flexibility**

Helping to directly meet these SDGs



Implementing the Rapid Growth Plan



Step 3 is all about moving from participatory planning to implementation. By the end of Step 3 the key routes should be staked out, be that with posts, stakes, trees or similar, to ensure the protection of arterial roads and environmental and public spaces.

a Identifying Landowners and Stakeholders

- It is important to work out who owns and occupies the land in your chosen growth areas and how this land might be managed
- This step will help you to engage more thoroughly with **local issues** in your growth areas, preparing you for the Key Fixes Plan in step 3B

b WORKSHOP Finalising the Growth Plan Workshop

- In order to implement your Rapid Growth Plan, **rights of way** and land reservations need to be established in your chosen growth areas
- Through a workshop conducted with both stakeholders and landowners, this step will guide the negotiation process around the 'Key Fixes' Plan in order to secure the land

c Demarcating the Growth Plan on the Ground

- Once land has been negotiated, it is important to mark out your growth areas according to your 'Key Fixes' Plan
- As this step is about **implementing** the Rapid Growth Plan, it will help to raise **awareness** of your vision amongst both citizens and potential investors

Helping to directly meet these SDGs



Populating the Neighbourhoods



Steps 1, 2 and 3 are about applying the universal principles of identifying, mapping and protecting key routes, sites and boundaries to create walkable neighbourhoods. Step 4 however is about how you fill in the neighbourhoods, which will vary greatly context to context. At Step 4, a localised approach is extremely important for a demonstration project.

a Preparing for the Neighbourhood Workshop

- It is crucial to assess a range of building materials as well as core aspects of building, landscape and urban design, prior to developing your growth areas
- This step will help you to consider **techniques** and **practices** to share with those with an interest in your urban area, preparing you for the Neighbourhood Workshop in Step 4B

b WORKSHOP Running the Neighbourhood Workshop

- Throughout the development of your chosen growth area, stakeholders must be **consulted** and included in any major decisions made
- This workshop will encourage stakeholders to comment on the designs, materials and practices identified in Step 4A, allowing for hybrid designs that learn from the past and are adapted for future needs, informed by **collaboration**

c Demonstration Project

- It is recommended that some demonstration buildings are built in your growth area to showcase the hybrid designs and for people to copy
- This step helps to provide replicable examples of good building practice and design to encourage a wise use of local resources

Helping to directly meet these SDGs



Conclusion

The expectation that over two thirds of the world's population will be living in urban areas by 2050 is truly staggering.

On current projections, towns and cities will need to accommodate one million people around the globe, every week, for at least the next 20 years or more. That is equivalent to building a city the size of Birmingham in the UK, Freetown in Sierra Leone or Auckland in New Zealand - every week.

In the space of little more than one generation, we may therefore effectively have doubled the planet's urban footprint and landscape. If we continue to build globally in the way we have over the last twenty years, with declining densities and disregarding the impact on the natural environment, we will inevitably miss any chance we have of delivering the targets set out in the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals.

The urban development we shape right now presents an unprecedented but time-limited opportunity. Concerted action is therefore required to ensure that the future for our towns and cities across the world, of whatever size, is sustainable and successful.

This toolkit is part of an initiative to provide practical resources to help built environment professionals, local government officials and the communities they serve to prepare and plan for rapid urbanisation in their own towns and cities. To complement this overview document an online Toolkit is being developed to guide users through the process, enabling them to download resources and access templates into which they can download the materials generated during the workshops to create the Growth Charter and Plans.

“With more than 80% of global GDP generated in cities, urbanisation can contribute to sustainable growth if managed well by increasing productivity, allowing innovation and new ideas to emerge.”

The World Bank

**“Cities are a human creation and
we all have the power to plan.”**

Slogan devised during the rapid planning work
in Bo, Sierra Leone



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