

# Future Planning

## Suitable for

Secondary level students

## Objective

Working in groups, imagine the kind of city, town or village you would like to live in ten years from now. Students are encouraged to think about how transport and the need to travel affects planning.

## Instructions

As a group, students can **list the things they think will change in their city/ town/ village in ten years**, for example, the people living in the neighbourhood, the new shopping centre will be open, the cycle lanes will be finished, the bus route will go into the new housing estate in the town and so on.

The group should then divide up into smaller groups of four to six students. Each group should **take on the role of different stakeholders** (people with an interest in the issue), for example: someone who will be retired in ten years time; a mother with young children; a person who enjoys playing sport; a group of artists; school children. How would each group like their city, town or village to be in ten years time? What services will each group need?

Think about...

- Facilities (for shopping, for sport, libraries, theatres, cinema etc)
- Community (places to play, to meet, or to participate in sport)
- Size (would the group like a bigger or smaller village/ town/ city? Why?)
- Population (how many people are likely to live in the area? Is it realistic to have a library or a swimming pool in village of fifty people?)
- Jobs (what will people work at in your area?)
- Education (where will people learn? Will education only apply to school children? What will older people do?)
- Transport (how will people access services? How does planning affect people's access to services?)

Students should report back to the group about the needs and issues of their group. How does planning affect transport options? Where facilities are spaced far apart from each other, how does this create difficulties for people who want to access them? If everyone uses a car to access services, how can this create more problems? What is the groups solution to transport problems?