

Fact sheet for planning levels

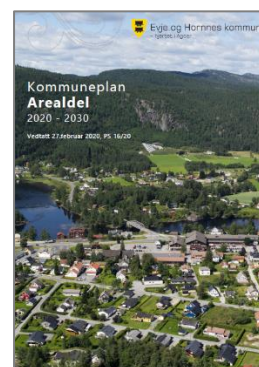
Planning level

Type of plan

Municipal level

Planning system of Norway						
Planning level	Planning instrument	Content of plan	Legal basis	Policy maker	Legal impact	Scale
National level	National expectations regarding regional and municipal planning	Outline the Government's expectations for planning at the regional and municipal level.	The Planning and Building Act, section 6-1	The Government	not binding	Apply for the whole country
	Central government planning guidelines	Clarify goals and values on special topics of national importance, and how various interests and considerations are to be safeguarded and balanced in planning at municipal and regional level.	The Planning and Building Act, section 6-2	The Government	not binding	Can apply for both the whole country or parts of it
	Central government planning provisions	Stipulate that within specified geographical areas, or throughout the whole country, specified building or construction projects cannot be implemented without the consent of the Government.	The Planning and Building Act, section 6-3	The Government	binding	Apply for the whole country.
	Central government land-use plans	Important state or regional development, construction or conservation projects (typically national roads or energy infrastructures).	The Planning and Building Act, section 6-4	The Government	binding	Apply for a concrete infrastructure project at local level.
County level	Regional planning strategy	Assessment of the most important challenges and development features in the region and a description of what plans that will be prepared in order to face them.	The Planning and Building Act, chapter 7	The county council	not binding	Applies for the county or several counties, if they co-operate on producing it.
	Regional master plan	Topics relevant for the specific county or region. Either overall, strategic, or they can apply more specifically to land-use. Have to include a programme of action that shows how the plan is to be followed up.	The Planning and Building Act, chapter 8	The county council	not binding	Can apply for both the whole county or delimited parts of it. Can also apply for several counties, if they co-operate on producing it.
	Regional planning provision	Provide guidelines for land-use, usually regarding one or several special topics. Shall ensure that municipalities do not adopt changes in land use that are contrary to a regional plan. Most commonly used to justify establishing larger retail trade businesses outside urban centres.	The Planning and Building Act, section 8-5	The county council	binding	Can apply for both the whole county or delimited parts of it.
	Intermunicipal plan	Can contain all kinds of planning issues that are of significance to several municipalities.	The Planning and Building Act, chapter 9	The municipal councils involved	not binding	Applies for the area of the municipalities that co-operate on producing the plan.
Municipal level	Municipal planning strategy	Assessment of the most important challenges and development features in the municipality and a description of what plans that will be prepared, revised or revoked in order to face them.	The Planning and Building Act, chapter 10	The municipal council	not binding	Applies for the whole municipality.
	Municipal master plan	Consist of a strategic social element with goals and strategies for how the municipality shall develop in the coming years, and the land-use element that describes what different areas can and cannot be used for. Shall include an implementation element that shows how the plan is to be followed up.	The Planning and Building Act, chapter 11	The municipal council	not binding (social element) binding (land-use element)	Applies for the whole municipality.
	Municipal sub-plan	Specific topics or areas of activity important for the municipality. Shall include an implementation element that states how the plan shall be followed up.	The Planning and Building Act, chapter 11	The municipal council	partly binding	Applies usually for the whole municipality.
	Area zoning plan	Describes, in more detail as the land-use element of the municipal master plan, what different areas can and cannot be used for.	The Planning and Building Act, chapter 12	The municipal council	binding	Applies for a certain (usually larger) area within the municipality.
	Detailed zoning plan	Describes, in more detail as the land-use element of the municipal master plan, what different areas can and cannot be used for.	The Planning and Building Act, chapter 12	The municipal council	binding	Applies for a certain (usually smaller) area within the municipality.

Municipal master plan with social element and land-use element



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Facts: The social element and the land-use element of the municipal master plan for Evje og Hornnes municipality

Legal basis

Act of 27 June 2008 No. 71 relating to Planning and the Processing of Building Applications (the Planning and Building Act), chapter 11. According to the Act, every municipality must have a municipal master plan.

Competencies

The municipal master plan, consisting of a social element and a land-use element, is prepared by the municipality, and adopted by the municipal council.

Binding force

- The social element is not legally binding. It is the municipal council's general management document. The social element provides the basis for the overall priorities in the land-use element, as well as the municipality's finance plan and budget.
- The land-use objectives in the land-use element indicate what an area can be used for, with legally binding effect. This means that no new projects can be initiated that conflict with the plan. For certain areas, existing detailed zoning plans apply instead of the municipal master plan.

Tasks and content

- The social element is a strategic plan and contains a vision, goals, and strategies for how the municipality shall develop in the coming 10 years. The main goal is to strengthen Evje og Hornnes' position as a vibrant regional centre within Agder County. This shall be achieved by focusing on good living conditions, culture, recreation, the voluntary sector, and business development.
- The land-use element consists of a plan description and eight attachments that include planning provisions regarding land-use and construction projects, impact assessments for all proposed projects, the comprehensive land-use map (see detail 2), and five thematic maps showing potential danger zones for rockfall and avalanches (see detail 3), landslides and floods, and a map showing the most important hiking trails and ski slopes in the area. The current plan shall in particular facilitate new areas for business development.

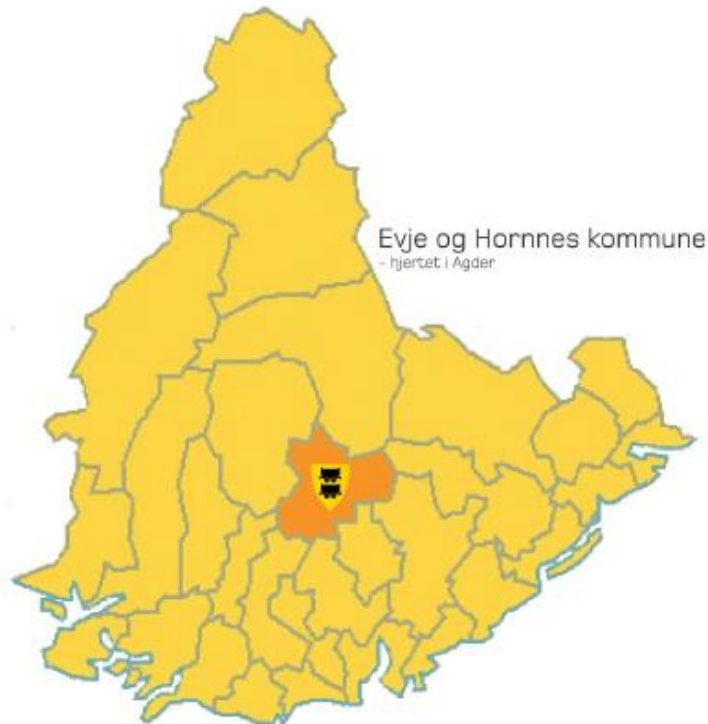
Process, duration, participation

- Work on both the social element and the land-use element started in early 2017. The social element was adopted after 1.5 years of work by the municipal council in June 2018. The work on the land-use element took longer, which is usual for this planning instrument. It was adopted by the municipal council in February 2020, after proposals had been circulated for comment and presented for public scrutiny twice, first in 2018 and then in 2019.
- Participation for both plan elements included open meetings for the general public and for businesses, 'planning days' at primary and secondary schools, workshops with local experts and various municipal councils, and an information stand at a major local event.

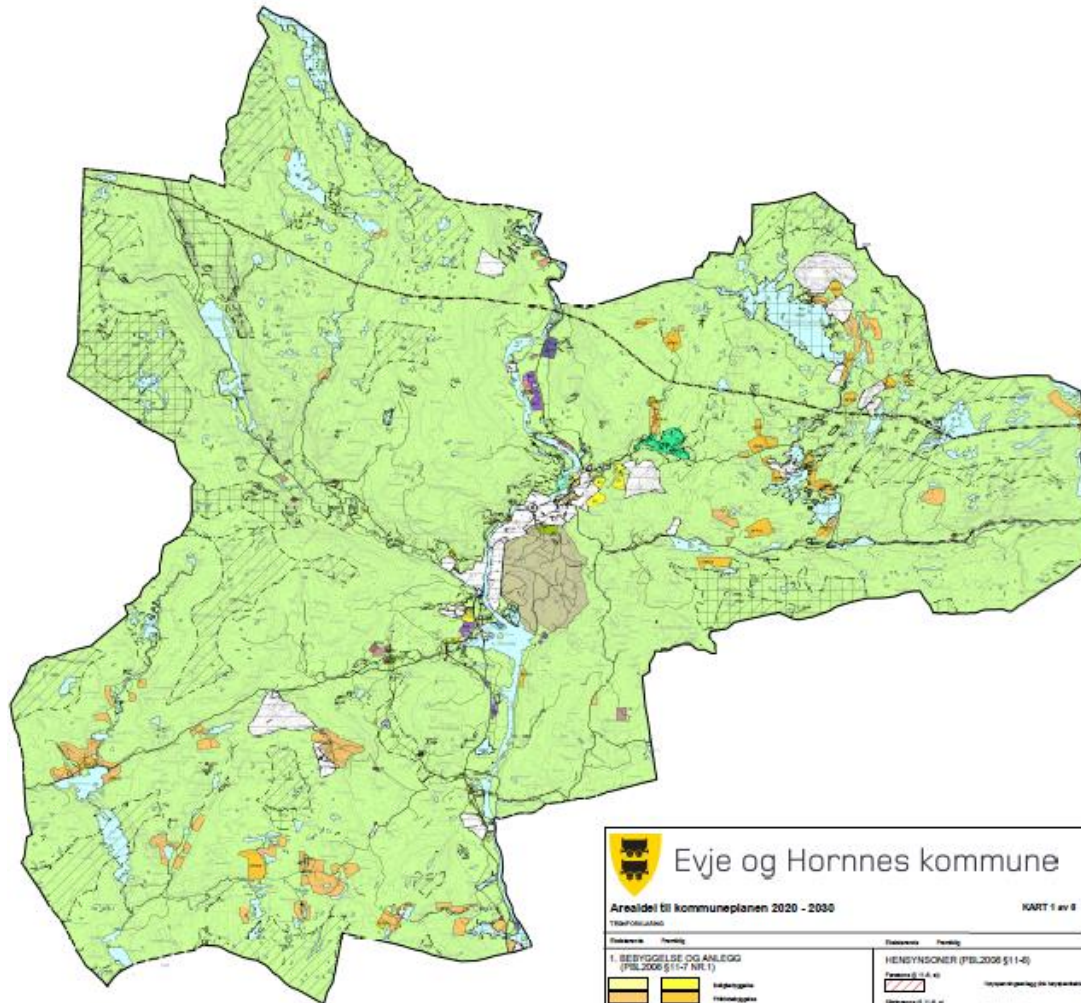
Duration of validity

- Both the social element and the land-use element of the municipal master plan will be in force until the municipality changes, repeals or replaces them with a new plan. Municipalities usually prepare a new municipal master plan every five to ten years.
- The social element shall have an implementation element that shows how it is to be followed up. The implementation element has a four-year horizon, and shall be revised annually together with the municipality's finance plan and budget.

Details of the plan

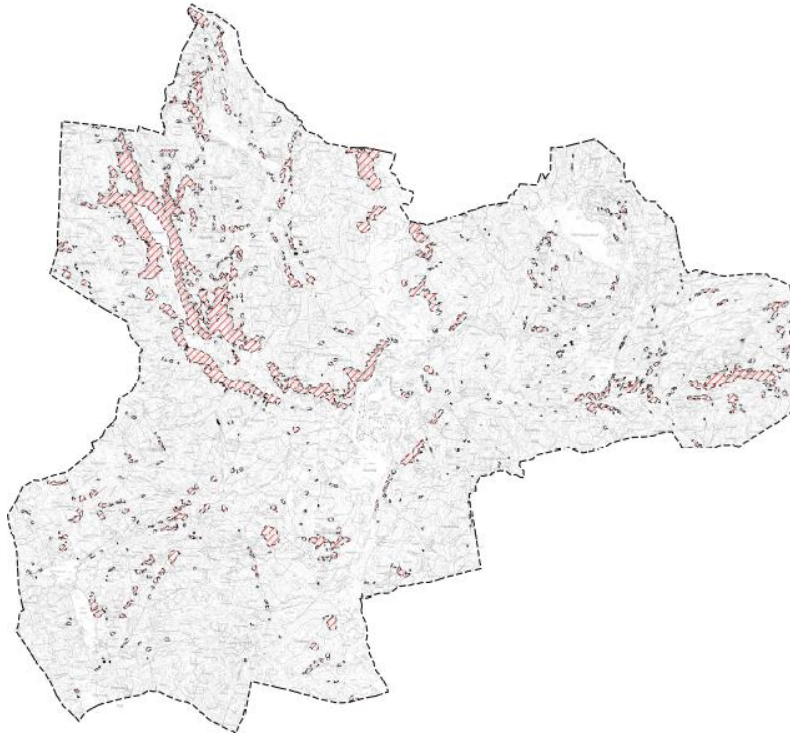


Detail 1: Map showing Evje og Hornnes' location in the centre of Agder County. This feature is used as the municipality's vision as laid out in 'Evje og Hornnes municipality – the heart of Agder'. (Source: The social element of Evje og Hornnes' municipal master plan of 2018, page 8)



Detail 2: Main planning map covering the entire municipality's land area. The map shows the current and planned land use with objectives and zones requiring special consideration. The colour code is the same as for equivalent plans for the whole country. The light green colour that dominates the map indicates areas without any current or planned buildings or other activities. The large greyish area in the centre of the map is a restricted area used as a shooting range and training zone for the Norwegian Armed Forces. (Source: Evje og Hornnes' land-use planning map of 2020, part of the land-use element of the municipal master plan)

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Detail 3: Thematic map showing zones where there is potential danger of avalanches and rockfall. (Source: Evje og Hornnes' thematic map of 2020 – avalanches and rockfall, attachment to the land-use element of the municipal master plan)



Detail 4: Thematic map showing two different central zones in the administrative centre of Evje. In the blue zone all kinds of retail trade businesses are allowed. The red zone is intended for trade in products that require more space (e.g. motor vehicles, building materials, furniture). The minimum plot size for businesses in this zone is 750 m². (Source: Evje og Hornnes' land-use element of the municipal master plan, page 10)

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Characteristics

Location of the area

The municipality of Evje og Hornnes encompasses an area of 587 km² and is located in the south of Norway, in the geographical centre of Norway's southernmost county, Agder (see detail 1). Though its population is small (3,600), it is the largest municipality and commercial centre of the sub-region of Setesdal, a mountain valley in the north of Agder County. The administrative centre, Evje, is an hour's drive away to the north of the nearest city, the county capital Kristiansand.

Initial situation

Evje og Hornnes municipality has seen slight population growth and managed to strengthen its position as a centre for its sub-region. As in many other district municipalities, an ageing population will be an increasing challenge in the years to come. The share of young disability pensioners and children in low-income families is above the national average.

Particularities of the procedure and/or contents

- The municipal master plan is the municipality's general plan and consists of the social element and the land-use element. Normally, these two elements are drafted and adopted separately, with the social element being drafted first, but they can also be drafted together.
- More and more municipalities in Norway, like Evje og Hornnes, see the value of having children and youth participate more in the preparation of comprehensive strategic plans. There is a dedicated chapter in the social element of the plan that describes what children think is important for good living conditions in the municipality.
- Compared to previous plans, the new land-use element focuses more on the potential for natural hazards. It therefore includes several thematic maps on that issue.

Notes and links

- All the plan documents and attachments can be downloaded (in Norwegian) from the municipality's website: <https://www.e-h.kommune.no/plansaker.405781.no.html>
- Information about municipal master plans (in English) can be read on the government's website: https://www.regjeringen.no/en/topics/plan-bygg-og-eiendom/plan_bygningsloven/planning/introduction-to-the-planning-system-and-the-processes/municipal-planning-functions/id2836162/