

Fact sheet for planning levels

Planning level

Type of plan

Planning system of Malta						
Planning level	Policy instrument	Content of plan	Legislation	Responsible authority	Legal nature	Scale
National	Strategic Planning Framework and Development Policy (SPF) of 2016 (replaces the plan as the Spatial Strategy)	Strategic spatial development policy, national economic, social and environmental policies and projects	Chapter 552 Development Planning Act (DPA) of 2016	Malta Planning Authority (as approved by Parliament)	Binding for lower tier spatial plans and policies	Nationwide (up to 25 municipalities from the baseline code)
National	Subsidiary Plans	Deal with specific planning matters of national importance or cross-cutting issues	Chapter 552 DPA sub-article 47	Malta Planning Authority	Plan applies to all relevant areas of the spatial strategy but that it is subordinate to other plans in policy	Nationwide
Regional (all 14/15 regions)	Local Plans	Deal with specific planning matters of an area by setting out zoning and building regulations and other matters that are not dealt with in the SPF	Chapter 552 DPA sub-article 48	Malta Planning Authority	Binding to all areas falling within the region	Regional
Sub-regional/Sub-Local	Action Planning/Management Plan	Deal with a specific zone in local plans that requires thematic/focused action (e.g. Green Action Plan)	Chapter 552 DPA sub-article 49	Malta Planning Authority	Binds sub-regional/sub-local areas	Sub-regional/sub-local
National spatial theme	Other policies e.g. Planning Guidelines	Deal with a specific matter in a national scale e.g. Urban Planning Guidelines	Chapter 552 DPA sub-article 50	Malta Planning Authority	Taken forward strategic policy in greater detail based on a specific theme/area/plan	National in a thematic context
Site specific	Developmental	Deal with a specific site or specific small area	Chapter 552 DPA sub-article 51	Malta Planning Authority	Deal with environmental and developmental planning parameters in a specific site	Site specific

**Strategy**

Source: Source: Office of the Principal Permanent secretary (2017): Strategy for Valletta. Valletta: Government of Malta, p.57. Available at: [https://publicservice.gov.mt/en/Documents/Valletta\\_Strategy.pdf](https://publicservice.gov.mt/en/Documents/Valletta_Strategy.pdf) (Accessed 23 May 2022).

The figure is a map of Valletta, Malta, illustrating the 'Strategy Area'. The map shows the city's layout, including its fortifications and internal streets. A red outline delineates the 'Strategy Area', which covers the majority of the city. A key in the top right corner identifies the 'Strategy Area' with a red box. The map is titled 'VALLETTA STRATEGY' and 'STRATEGY AREA'. Below the map, there is a section for 'STRATEGY AREA' which includes a list of 'STRATEGY AREAS' and a 'KEY'.

## Facts on the Strategy

### Legal basis and competence

The spatial strategy set out in the Strategic Plan for the Environment and Development (SPED) designates the Grand Harbour Area as a strategic node for integrated regeneration, and specifically singles out Valletta as one of the localities demanding special attention to lift persons out of the risk of poverty and social exclusion. The SPED further designates Valletta as one of the island's leading business hubs and a core commercial node for retail, office, culture, tourism, and leisure services.

### Binding force

The Strategy for Valletta was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.

### Tasks and content

The government has identified the following aspects as the main objectives of the Strategy for Valletta:

- i. Improve the quality of urban life in Valletta
- ii. Fulfil the role of a centre of excellence for urban heritage management and conservation and safeguard for future generations the cultural assets of the world-heritage city;
- iii. Attract more high-end retail outlets to Valletta and also facilitate the setting up of more offices coupled by auxiliary services such as food and drink for employees, users, visitors and tourists;
- iv. Update the Valletta Transport Strategy of 2004
- v. Underline the cultural heritage of the capital city and instigate more cultural infrastructure and activities to attract more visitors to Valletta;
- vi. Create better tourism attractions and provide more quality accommodation within Valletta;
- vii. Consolidate further the administrative aspect of the capital city
- viii. Improve the quality of the urban environment and its upkeep;
- ix. Ensure better coordination among all stakeholders

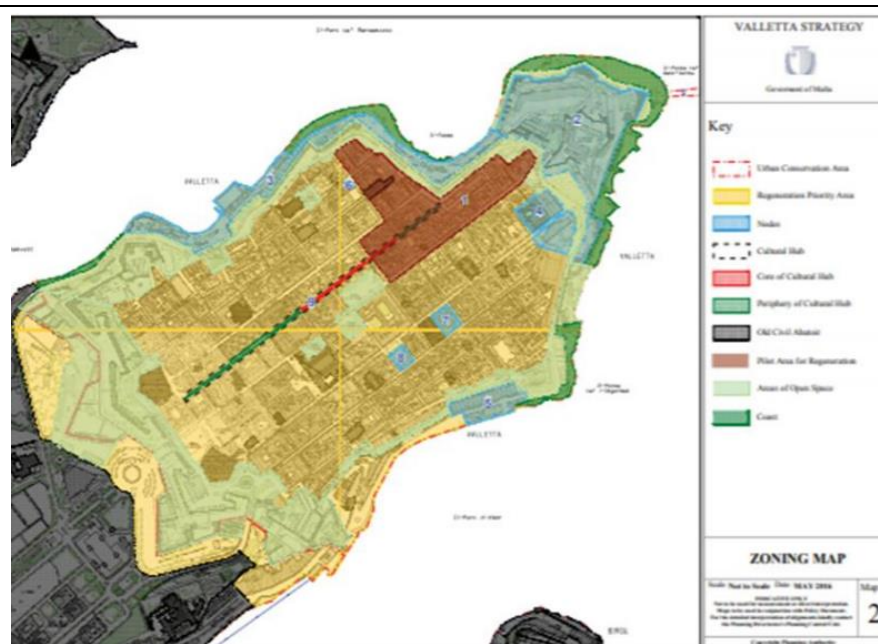
### Process, duration, participation

The strategy was elaborated in conjunction with key stakeholders including the Valletta Local Council, NGOs operating within Valletta and the community. Several consultation sessions with residents were organised to ensure that the strategy was built on a bottom up approach.

### Duration of validity

The plan was approved in 2017 and will be monitored and reviewed as required.

## Details of the plan



**Source:** Office of the Principal Permanent secretary (2017): Strategy for Valletta. Valletta: Government of Malta, p.58.  
Available at: [https://publicservice.gov.mt/en/Documents/Valletta\\_Strategy.pdf](https://publicservice.gov.mt/en/Documents/Valletta_Strategy.pdf) (Accessed 23 May 2022).

## Characteristics

The government is determined to enhance Malta's capital city by committing itself to implementing a holistic and wideranging plan for the Grand Harbour Area. The approach for Valletta is to identify key strategic nodes which will have a multiplier effect on their surroundings and at the same time create links between them. These strategic nodes will undergo interventions which will not be stand-alone projects but will also permeate the surrounding areas. The creation of successful urban places is not only about buildings; it is just as much about the quality of the streets, squares, piazzas and other open spaces that comprise the public realm of the place. These are the 'living spaces' of Valletta, and their design, management and use are just as important to their success as every other aspect of their planning, design and development. A well-designed, well-managed and well-used public realm is essential to the vitality and vibrancy of urban places. A Valletta with high quality streets, piazzas and gardens can become a more attractive place to live, work and visit, and a destination for residential, commercial, industrial and cultural investment, including tourism. The importance of the place-based approach, social-led regeneration processes, community-based planning and the importance of a high quality public realm are perceived to be the correct ingredients to achieve an increase in the wellbeing of the urban populations and also play an important role as 'soft locational factors' in attracting knowledge-based industries, creative workforces, and tourism to particular places.

## Links

Planning Authority (n.d.): Planning Authority - Government Strategies. Available at:  
<https://www.pa.org.mt/en/government-strategies> (Accessed 23 May 2022).