

- 6 Finally, the design of the built environment is given priority in the management of Norway's environmental cities. The aim is to achieve good design of the physical environment through the protection of the built environment, the development of public places and the preservation of the cultural heritage, making such sites and buildings more accessible to the public. As a whole, the environmental city should make the resident community aware of its identity and historic roots.²⁹

Each of Norway's environmental cities, while following the overall aims of the project, has adapted the concept to its own particular site and local conditions. The application of the six priority areas has produced a different result in each location. In Gamle Oslo, the environmental city covers a run-down inner city area where the aims are: to rejuvenate the local economy; to upgrade a degraded environment; and to encourage an inner city population to take effective community action. The project is building upon developmental possibilities inherent in its historic setting. For example, an extensive area of archaeological remains is being developed as a park which is an attraction to tourists in addition to being a valuable green area for residents. An existing school, once closed for administrative and financial reasons, has been reopened in response to community pressures. This is seen as a major reversal in the fortunes of the neighbourhood, providing a new focus for local activities. Perhaps the most interesting feature of this project is the removal of through traffic by the unusual procedure of reducing the width of major roads and converting the

Figure 5.51 Development plan for Kristiansand.

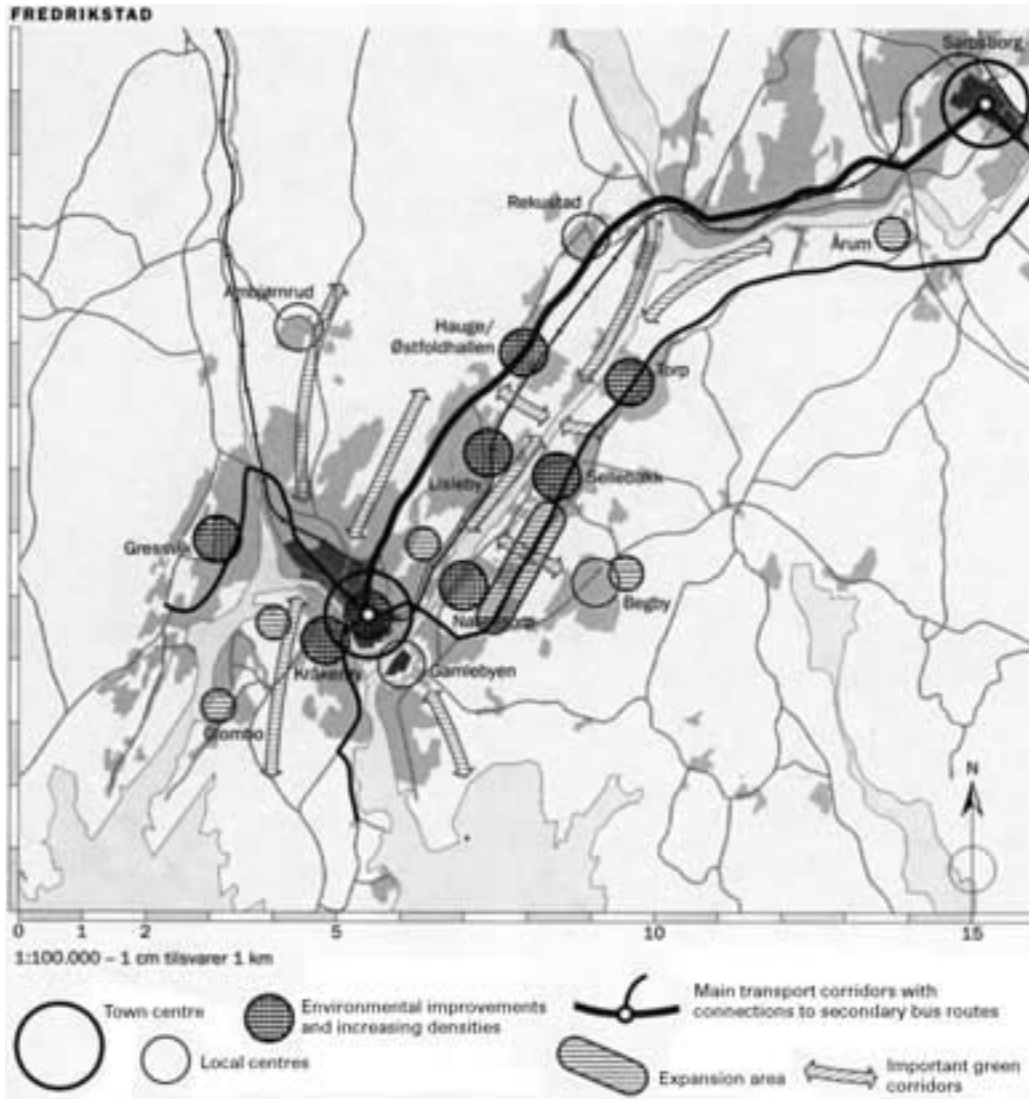


Figure 5.52 Development plan for Fredrikstad.