

**The Newton City Charter requires the creation and adoption of a Comprehensive Plan for the City. Below are the relevant sections of the Charter of the City of Newton.**

**Sec. 7-2. Comprehensive Plan.**

(a) Content—There shall be a Comprehensive Plan setting forth in graphic and textual form policies to govern the future physical development of the entire City. Such plan shall cover the entire City and all of its functions and services, or shall consist of a combination of plans governing specific functions and services or specific geographic areas.

(b) Adoption—Upon receipt from the Mayor of a proposed Comprehensive Plan or a proposed modification of the existing plan, the Board of Aldermen shall refer such proposal to the Planning and Development Board, which shall within a time specified by the Board of Aldermen report its recommendations thereon. After receipt of the recommendations of the Planning and Development Board, the Board of Aldermen shall hold a public hearing on the proposed Comprehensive Plan or the proposed modification thereof and shall by resolution adopt the same with or without amendment. The Board of Aldermen may thereafter from time to time modify the Comprehensive Plan.

(c) Effect—The Comprehensive Plan shall serve as a guide to all future action by the Board of Aldermen concerning land use and development regulations, urban renewal programs, and expenditures for capital improvements.

**Sec. 7-3. Implementation of the Comprehensive Plan.**

(a) Land Use and Development Regulations—In accordance with applicable provisions of the General Laws, the Board of Aldermen may by ordinance adopt land use and development regulations, including but not limited to an official map and zoning regulations.

(b) Urban Renewal—In accordance with applicable provisions of the General Laws, the Board of Aldermen may by ordinance provide for redevelopment, rehabilitation, conservation, and renewal programs for the alleviation or prevention of slums, obsolescence, blight, or other conditions or deterioration.

(c) Action by the Board of Aldermen—Before acting on any proposed ordinance concerning land use and development regulations, urban renewal, or expenditures for capital improvements, where such ordinance involves a matter covered by the Comprehensive Plan, the Board of Aldermen shall refer the proposal to the Planning and Development Board, which shall within a time specified by the Board of Aldermen and prior to the public hearing on the proposed ordinance, report in writing its recommendations thereon. Upon adopting any such ordinance, the Board of Aldermen shall make findings and report on the relationship between the ordinance and the Comprehensive Plan, and the Comprehensive Plan shall be deemed to be amended in accordance with such findings and report.