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Plan for control of inner City ^{SMH} 16.8.73 expansion

By Our Civic Reporter

Severe restrictions on the expansion of the city's commercial centre are recommended for inclusion in a new master plan being prepared for Sydney City Council.

The restrictions are intended to stop the city being depleted of its residential population and to encourage greater improvements in the public transport system.

Three schemes have been laid down for a steering committee to study before the master plan—the 1974 City of Sydney Strategic Plan—is prepared.

The Strategic Plan will set out the policies which the council will follow for at least three years.

The most radical of the schemes recommends that commercial development be halted, and that moves be made to encourage the repopulation of the city.

Another suggests reduced emphasis on commercial development and the maintaining of existing residential areas.

The third, scheme—almost certain to be rejected—calls for unrestricted commercial development.

All three provide broad outlines for the improvement of rail and road systems of public transport.

Members of the steering committee are the Chairman of the State Planning Authority, Mr N. A. Ashton; the Under-Secretary for the Local Government Department, Mr F. Pogson; the Under-Secretary for the Department of Public Transport, Mr K. Trott; the Lord Mayor designate, Alderman N. Shehadie, Aldermen L. Port and A. Briger; and Mr G. Clarke, a planning consultant.

The committee held its first meeting yesterday to consider the alternatives.

The Action Plan will be published in June, 1974, and supersedes a similar plan adopted in 1971 by the council.