

## **PREPARING OUR DEVELOPMENT PLANS**

### ***A Local Development Scheme for Southampton***

#### ***What is this document?***

'Preparing our Development Plans' is a document that sets out how and when Southampton City Council will prepare the new 'Southampton City Vision' and other essential planning documents from 2019 onwards. These documents are referred to by government as Development Plan Documents, or DPDs.

Together, these plans express our vision for the city and form our planning policy framework known as the 'Development Plan'. The purpose of the Development Plan is to guide all planning and development decisions for the area to which it applies.

In light of the above, the objectives of this 'Preparing our Development Plans' document are:

- To meet the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004; the Planning Act 2008; the Localism Act 2011; the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2019 and the National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG);
- To accord with the Council's strategy for engagement as set out in the 'Involving you in Planning' document (2019);
- To present a plan that ensures a continued and up to date planning policy framework for Southampton; and
- To be accessible and user friendly for everyone.

#### ***Why is this document important for Southampton?***

It is Southampton City Council's obligation to produce this document and ensure it is updated regularly. However, as it is required to include details of the proposed Development Plan changes, as well as a timetable for the works, it is also a great starting point for the local community and other interested parties to find out more about the planning of the city and to keep track of progress.

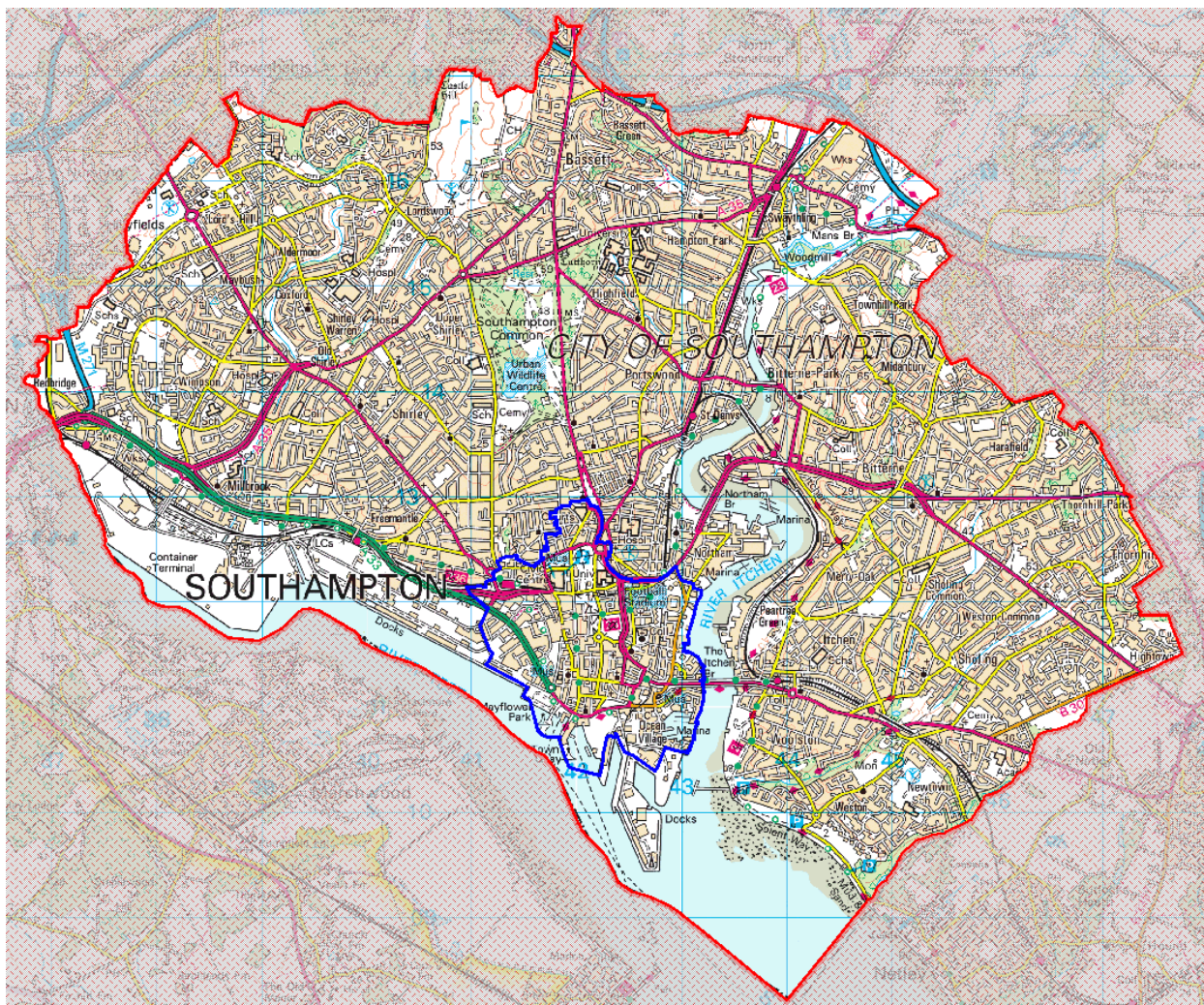
As a focal point in central southern England, and the principal city in south Hampshire, Southampton is an important regional location for growth and the development of new homes; additional employment opportunities; transport connections; and retail, leisure and education facilities. It is also the home of a globally important port, for both cruises and the transport of goods, and is a gateway to the Isle of Wight. It is therefore important that our Development Plan recognises all of the above and allows us to take advantage of opportunities whilst promoting sustainable growth, protecting and enhancing of our natural and historic environment whilst ensuring vibrancy and attractiveness is maintained.

However, planning issues often change over time and policies can sometimes prove ineffective in tackling new problems or aiding us to drive forward change or growth when

new opportunities arise. It is therefore vital to update the Development Plan regularly and to ensure it is relevant to local planning issues. However, the Council also believes it is important to keep this document up to date so that local people, businesses and other interested parties can stay properly informed about why, how and when we plan to make changes.

### ***What is Southampton's Development Plan?***

Southampton City Council's Development Plan comprises a series of documents which, as a whole, set out our aspirations for the city, our long-term strategic plans for Southampton as well as a variety of other non-strategic planning policies. These are used to manage all development within the city boundary (see figure 1) and is what our planning officers consider development proposals against to ensure that we, as the planning authority, are making consistent decisions in the best interest of the city.



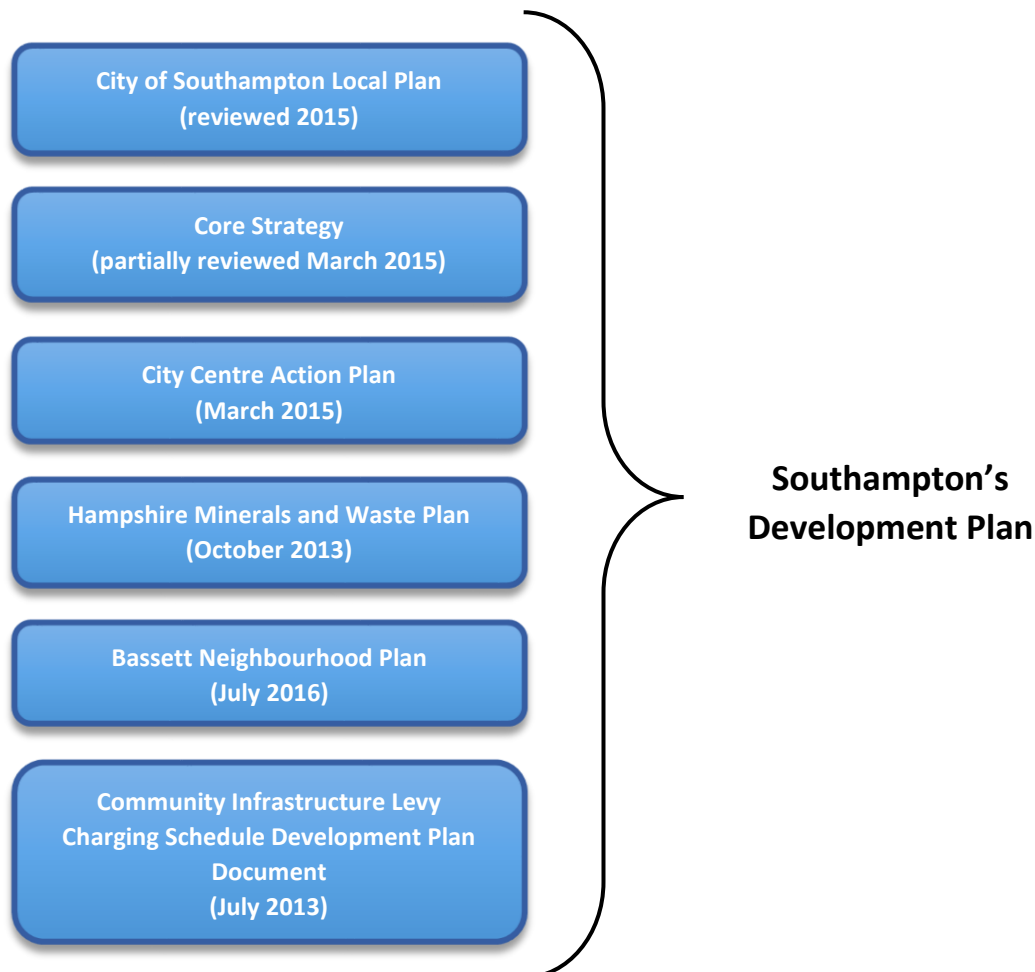
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**Figure 1: Map of Southampton, including city boundary (red) and city centre boundary (blue).**

## ***What documents form the existing Development Plan for Southampton?***

Southampton's Development Plan currently comprises 6 DPDs as shown in Figure 2. Further details on each of these documents, and the areas they apply to, is provided below.



**Figure 2: Development Plan Documents that form Southampton's existing Development Plan**

### **City of Southampton Local Plan March 2006 and Review 2015**

The original Local Plan was adopted in 2006 to provide a land use framework for entire city. However, the initial documents that informed it (e.g. the City Strategy 1999 and Community Strategy 2003) had become out of date, therefore a review in 2015 updated its policies to ensure the Local Plan was fit for purpose and current use. The Local Plan Review (adopted March 2015) is therefore the latest version of this document and replaces parts of the original plan to align with Southampton's other adopted DPDs (listed below).

### **Core Strategy 2010 and its Partial Review March 2015**

The original Core Strategy provided an overarching vision for Southampton to the year 2026, providing strategic policies for the city's economic development and spatial approach

to planning. The 2015 Partial Review effectively updated the document with three focussed changes that responded to altered priorities, more recent evidence and changing legislation. These were:

- Introduction of the national ‘presumption in favour of sustainable development’;
- A reduction of office and retail targets; and
- Changes to the biodiversity policy

### **City Centre Action Plan March 2015**

This document was based upon the priorities set out in a masterplan undertaken in 2012. With a time horizon to 2026, the City Centre Action Plan (CCAP) has a vision and strategy for the city centre (see Figure 1 for city centre boundary).

### **The Hampshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2013**

This plan covers the areas of Portsmouth, Southampton, New Forest National Park and the South Downs National Park. It addresses issues of supply, in terms of producing minerals for the construction industry, and managing mineral extraction in high quality landscapes (e.g. along the River Itchen and the Port of Southampton). However, the rising profile of waste management and recycling is presenting greater challenges to transport routes, noise and pollution (like dust emissions). As such, the plan’s vision is to protect the environment, maintain communities and support the economy.

### **Bassett Neighbourhood Plan 2016**

The Bassett Neighbourhood Plan was adopted by the Council on 20 July 2016, and runs up to 2029. It contains policies that seek to protect the green spaces, trees and the existing character in the ward of Bassett, acting to positively steer development and change in the area. It identifies high, medium and low density areas for housing with an emphasis upon the provision of family homes in response to identified need, managing traffic and controlling the growth of houses in multiple occupation (HMOs).

### **Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule 2013**

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a standard, non-negotiable charge applicable to developments in the city where there is a net increase of 100 square metres of floor space or the creation of one or more dwellings. This document sets out the criteria for CIL charging in Southampton as well as the charging rates for different types of development.

## What changes are proposed for Southampton's Development Plan?

As explained above, and depicted in Figure 2, the current Development Plan for Southampton comprises a series of 6 DPDs. As the Local Plan, Core Strategy and City Centre Action Plan have now become outdated, and we would like to make our Development Plan easier to comprehend and more user-friendly. The Planning Policy Team therefore plans to combine the types of policies covered by these three outdated DPDs into a singular document - the 'City Vision Local Plan' (see Figure 3).

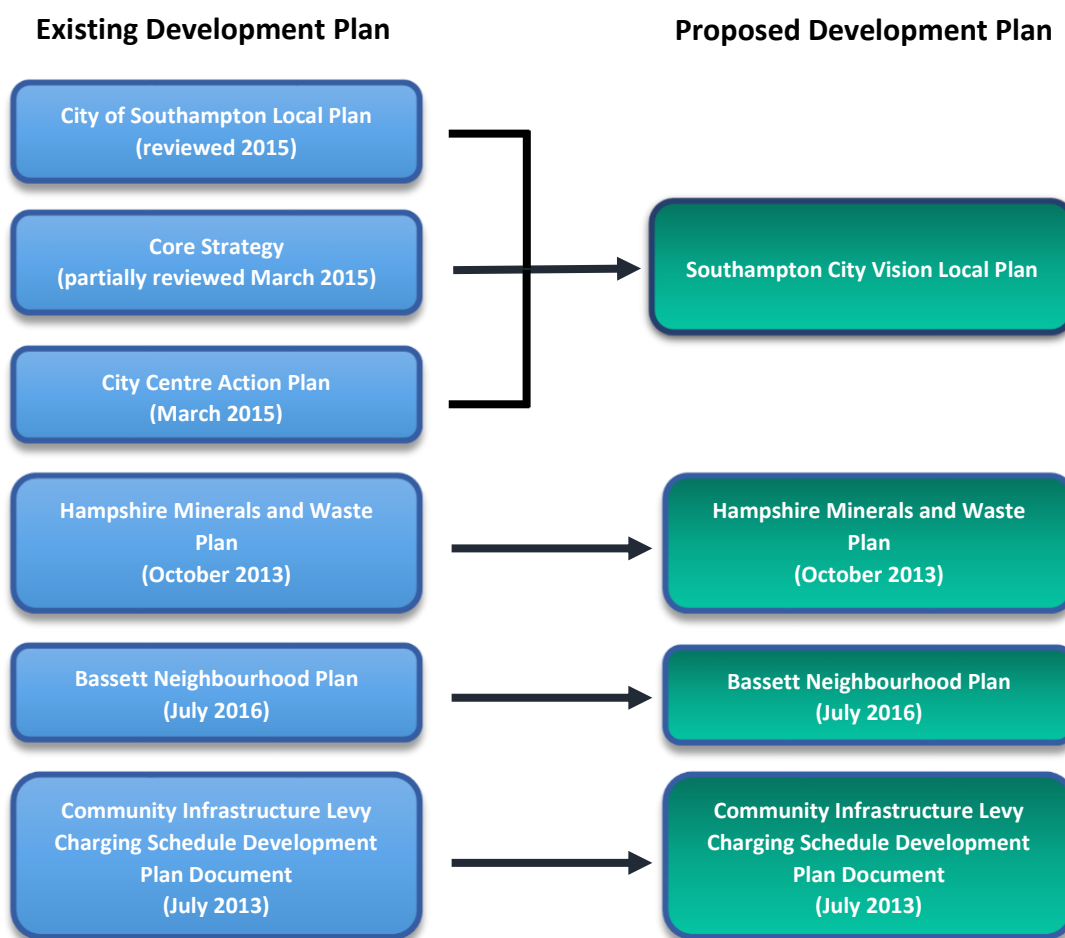


Figure 3: Existing Development Plan vs. Proposed Development Plan

The other documents that form our existing Development Plan, namely the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan, Bassett Neighbourhood Plan and CIL Charging Schedule will remain as existing. However, we anticipate that in the future there will be a need to review the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan in partnership with our neighbouring Councils, including Hampshire County Council.

## **The new 'Southampton City Vision' Local Plan**

The future development needs of Southampton will be set out in this long term strategy to manage development, protect the environment and promote sustainable communities. It will set out how Southampton's growth needs will be met and will include policies for assessing planning applications and new development proposals across the whole of the city.

The new Local Plan provides us with the opportunity to take a fresh look at challenges and opportunities in the city and to think about where we can update planning policy to tackle or take advantage of certain matters. It will also plan for our continuing growth and ensure that we can deliver the new homes, businesses, jobs, shops and infrastructure the city needs.

Appendix 1 sets out the timetable of milestones in the plan's preparation and final adoption.

### ***How will the Council ensure that the Local Plan milestones are reached effectively and on time?***

To deliver the programme as set out in the latest timetable (Appendix 1) it will be important to:

- Produce a sound and robust evidence base;
- Ensure stakeholders and the community are involved in the process, in accordance with the 'Involving you in Planning' document (2019);
- Ensure we deliver legislative requirements (as necessary);
- Allocate sufficient resources (staffing and financial) to carry out the required tasks;
- Review and monitor work undertaken (e.g. through the Annual Monitoring Report); and
- Assess risk, in terms of both mitigation and contingency

The Council will also keep this document, and the relevant planning documents, under regular review, amending its programme of work as necessary to ensure the continuation of sound planning strategies and policies for Southampton.

### ***How will the Council report on the progress of the Development Plan changes?***

#### **Southampton City Council Website**

The Planning Policy webpages on the website will be kept up to date throughout the development of any new development plan documents, including those associated with the new Southampton City Vision Local Plan. We will use these pages to communicate our

overall progress, provide information on any consultations or engagement activities that we are undertaking, publish any background documents that will support the plan and to publish the plan itself.

### **Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)**

The AMR is a document required to be produced annually in order to provide monitoring updates on a range of planning matters and measure the effectiveness of our planning policies. In this document we will update on our progress towards any milestones set out in our 'Preparing our Development Plans' document and identify whether or not any of our proposed timescales require adjustment.

## APPENDIX 1 – Southampton City Vision Local Plan Timetable

