

# SOUTHAMPTON CITY VISION

## PREPARING OUR DEVELOPMENT PLANS

A Local  
Development  
Scheme for  
Southampton

December 2019



**SOUTHAMPTON**  
CITY COUNCIL

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## **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 'Southampton City Vision', the new Local Plan, 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 the vision for the city and form the Council's 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.

The objectives of this 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) 2021 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 to ensure it is updated regularly. However, as the document 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; as well as 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 the Development Plan recognises all of the above and allows us to take advantage of any opportunities whilst promoting sustainable growth, protecting and enhancing of the city's natural and historic environment whilst ensuring vibrancy and attractiveness is maintained.

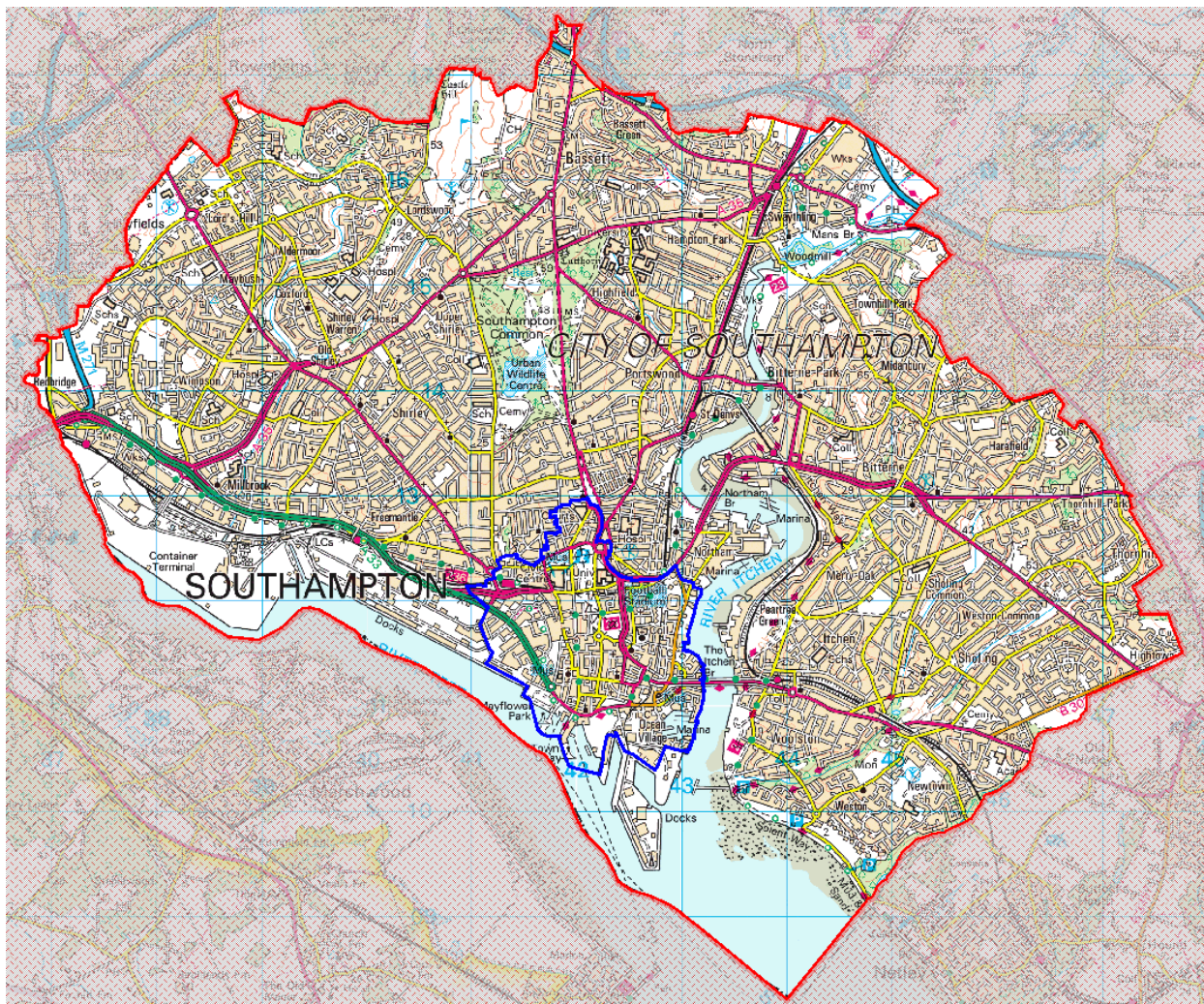
However, planning issues often change over time and policies can sometimes prove ineffective in tackling new problems or aiding us to drive forward change or growth when



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 the 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 the aspirations for the city, the long-term strategic plans for Southampton, as well as a variety of other non-strategic planning policies to manage development within the city boundary (see figure 1). The Development Plan is also what both the planning officers and planning committee (Planning & Rights of Way Panel) consider development proposals against to ensure that we, as the local planning authority for Southampton, are making consistent decisions in the best interest of the city.



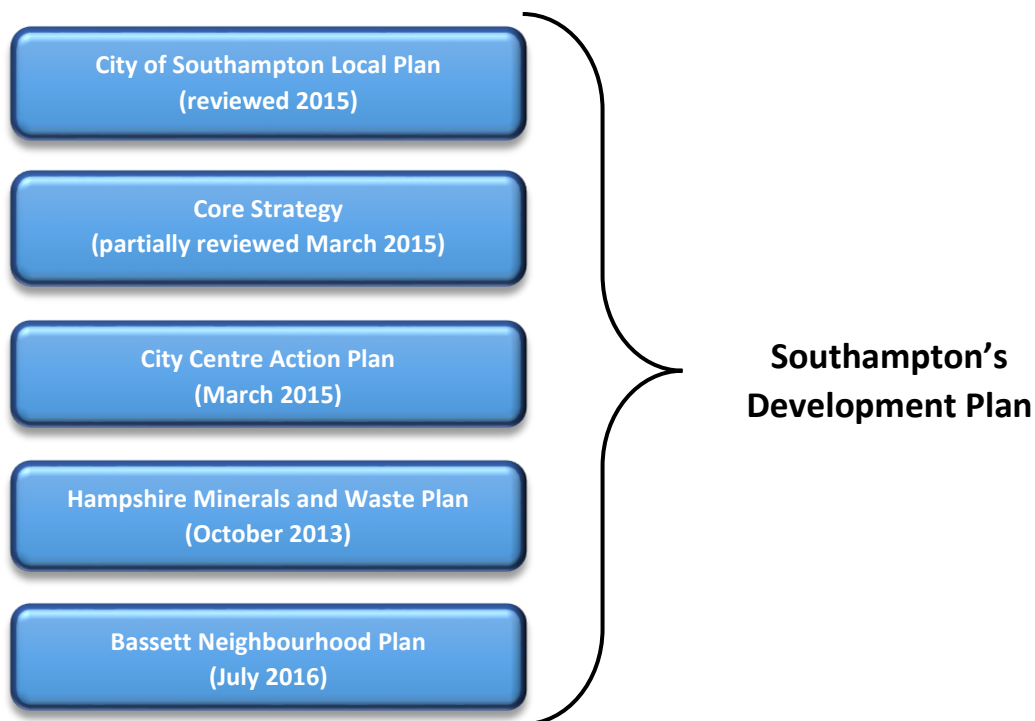
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**Figure 1: Map of Southampton, including city boundary (red) and city centre boundary (blue).**

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

Southampton's Development Plan currently comprises 5 DPDs as shown in Figure 2. Further details on each of these documents, and the areas they apply to, are 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 the 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 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 administrative areas of Hampshire County Council, Southampton City Council, Portsmouth City Council, New Forest National Park and the part of the South Downs National Park which falls within the administrative boundary of Hampshire County Council. It addresses the supply of minerals (e.g. for the construction industry), including the approach to safeguarding the mineral wharves in the city; waste management facilities (e.g. the need to increase recycling); and policies to protect the environment and communities (e.g. to ensure minerals and waste facilities manage issues such as traffic, noise and dust).

### **Bassett Neighbourhood Plan 2016**

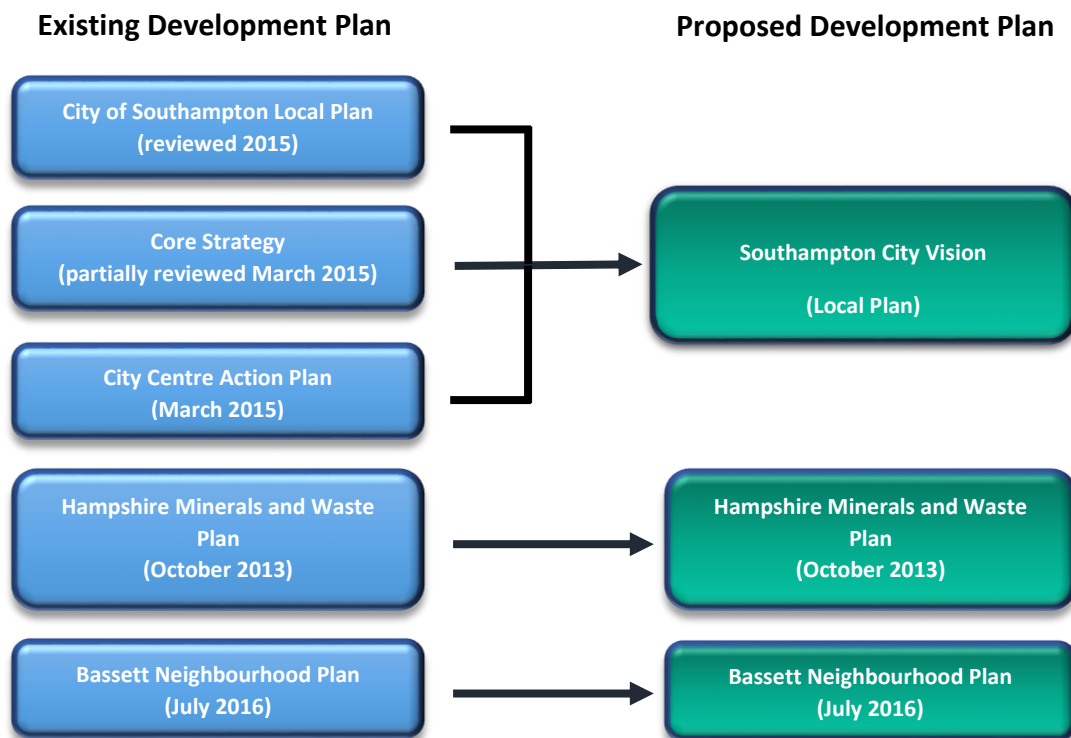
The Bassett Neighbourhood Plan was adopted by the Council on 20 July 2016, and runs up to 2029. It contains policies that seek to protect the green spaces, trees and the existing character in the ward of Bassett, acting to positively steer development and change in the area. It identifies high, medium and low density areas for housing in this ward 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).

### ***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 5 DPDs. However, the Local Plan, Core Strategy and City Centre Action Plan have now become outdated, and we would like to make the Development Plan easier to comprehend and more user-friendly. As such, we are planning to combine the types of policies covered by these three outdated DPDs into a singular document – a new Local Plan called 'Southampton City Vision' (see Figure 3).

As of 2021, a review of the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan has also commenced in partnership with neighbouring Councils, including Hampshire County Council. Further details regarding the progression of this review can be accessed here: [HMWP 2020 Review - Development Scheme - Version 1 March 2020 \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/hmwp-2020-review-development-scheme-version-1-march-2020).

Finally, the Bassett Neighbourhood Plan is now due for review as five years have passed since the plan was first published. This review will need to be led by the Bassett Neighbourhood Forum, with support from the Council, and is expected to commence once the new Southampton City Vision is further advanced to ensure compliance and consistency across the two plans.



**Figure 3: Existing Development Plan vs. Proposed Development Plan**

It is important to note that the above sets out the Council’s current plans, but over time the Development Plan may need to change further in order to assist in the effective management of development across the city. In light of this, the LDS (this document) will be updated regularly to ensure that there is proper and timely communication of the Council’s planned changes and the timescales for the production of any new documents.

**The new Local Plan, ‘Southampton City Vision’**

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.

In developing this new Local Plan, we have the chance to take a fresh look at the challenges and opportunities in the city and to think about where the Council might be able to update planning policy to help tackle or take advantage of certain matters. This new document will also plan for Southampton’s continuing growth and ensure that the new homes, businesses, jobs, shops and infrastructure the city needs can be delivered at the right time and in the right places.

Appendix 1 sets out the timetable of milestones in the plan’s preparation and estimated dates for examination 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 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 that we deliver on all legislative requirements;
- 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 overall progress, provide information on any consultations or engagement activities that are being undertaken, publish any background documents that will support the plan and to publish the plan itself.

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

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



## APPENDIX 1 – SOUTHAMPTON CITY VISION LOCAL PLAN TIMETABLE

Autumn 2021 - Spring 2022	Produce Technical Reports for Evidence Base	Stakeholder engagement activities, develop options and write Draft Plan
Summer 2022		Publish Draft Plan with Options
Autumn 2022 - Spring 2023		CONSULTATION: Draft Plan with Options
Summer 2023		Analyse consultation, feedback results of consultation & agree final proposals
Autumn 2023		Publish Pre-Submission Plan
December 2023		CONSULTATION: Pre-Submission Plan
Autumn 2023	Finalise Evidence Base	Feedback outcome of consultation
December 2023	Collate Submission Materials	Publish & Submit Final Plan