

Equality and Safety Impact Assessment

The **Public Sector Equality Duty** (Section 149 of the Equality Act) requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different people carrying out their activities.

The Equality Duty supports good decision making – it encourages public bodies to be more efficient and effective by understanding how different people will be affected by their activities, so that their policies and services are appropriate and accessible to all and meet different people’s needs. The Council’s Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) includes an assessment of the community safety impact assessment to comply with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act and will enable the Council to better understand the potential impact of proposals and consider mitigating action.

Name or Brief Description of Proposal	Southampton Renaissance Masterplanning
Brief Service Profile (including number of customers)	
<p>The Southampton Renaissance Masterplanning Framework (SRMF) was initiated by a Cabinet decision in December 2022. Its aim has been to redefine the City’s approach to regeneration and major site development. The SRMF sets out to clarify a plan to enhance economic growth, infrastructure investment and placemaking efforts, addressing challenges such as Southampton's over-reliance on low-value and declining sectors and loss of commercial office space) , its lower economic resilience post-COVID-19 and stalling development delivery due to increasing viability challenges, further hampered by construction inflation.</p> <p>The programme of master planning is not static, master plans and development briefs will be created in partnership with key stakeholders. Private sector co-funding may also be required. Delivery strategies will also be critical to ensure projects can be progressed. Southampton City Council will have a key enabling role, supporting increased levels growth and investment into the city and to ensure high quality place making. In achieving these aims commitment will be needed from the whole Growth and Prosperity Service area and potentially with interim support, if required and commissioned professional expertise.</p>	

Southampton City Council's central role will ensure due regard for the Public Sector Equality Duty (Section 149 of the Equality Act) and with-in the external Southampton Renaissance Board.

Summary of Impact and Issues

Over the last 10 years, the Council has undertaken a variety of master-planning activity varying in approach and objectives and lacked a sufficient level of governance oversight, resources, cross-party awareness/ support, prioritisation, clarity over outcomes and overall resilience in maintaining momentum during and post commissions. Master-planning by its nature has a long-term horizon but often with shorter term demands and therefore results in challenges with respect to managing both stakeholder and political expectations and in particular how they evolve over the short, medium and longer term, with sufficient internal client led capacity, especially when developing multiple plans for site development citywide.

The work being undertaken through the Southampton Renaissance Masterplanning Framework has sought to:

- Review status of the current masterplans; Define locally the key master planning outputs and outcomes that would form the basis of future place making activity e.g. to support investment decisions, inform planning policy, promote growth via a Prospectus, identify opportunities to attract inward investment from a range of sources including cultural funders;
- Identify citywide the defined master planning areas of focus, including characteristics, high level objectives, development scale and mix.
- Set out the delivery framework, which includes prioritisation, resource requirements, governance and programme;
- Alignment and interdependency with local, regional and national strategies e.g. Cultural Strategy, Economic and Growth Strategy, Solent LEP 2050 Vision, Solent Freeport and Child Friendly City;
- Directly support Southampton City Council and its new Local Plan that will set an overall 'vision' for the City and the master planning delivery framework will provide a key 'driver' of change.

Potential Positive Impacts

Master-planning has undergone a revival in recent years. However, significant demographic and social changes are also occurring amid constraints resulting from the current economic situation, with a recession, limited economic growth, a cost of living crisis, reduced public spending and the drive to respond to environmental imperatives.

These conditions challenge the feasibility of applying master planning practices as they were conceived of in the past. The traditional view was that master planning was a design-led activity concerned with the architectural form of buildings, spaces and infrastructures. This is outdated and inadequate for coordinating the plural processes of developing sustainable places for people that satisfy social, cultural, heritage, functional, economic, environmental requirements as well as realising visually pleasing cityscapes and useable urban areas.

Master planning requires both a business planning (viability) component, without which there is no delivery, and a governance component, without which the physical strategy has no legitimacy. A more adaptive and people-centred master-planning approach is required, alongside interdependency and alignment with city, regional and national strategies and engagement and co-creation with people who live, work, visit and shape the city of the future.

A flexible master-planning process can provide a basis of a suitable approach for the development of sustainable settlements for residents, businesses, employees and visitors. The master planning framework will result in a number of outcomes which will help the preparation of the Local Plan – Southampton City Vision. Planning affects us all; the homes we live in, the facilities we use, the different ways we travel, and the places we go to work and to school.

Local Development Scheme and Statement of Community Involvement.

These planning documents will express our vision for Southampton and the policies and guidance within them will form the basis for all of the planning decisions that we, as the Local Planning Authority (LPA).

The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is a legal requirement under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 in connection with the preparation of other plans. The council recognises that planning needs to be more inclusive and that our residents, visitors, businesses and other organisations can provide us with really valuable information, not least to ensure that the LPA's planning policies are inclusive and non-discriminatory.

The purpose of consultation is to ensure people who may be affected by planning decisions, at all scales of development, have the opportunity to have their say on proposals so that the local council can fully consider comments received, alongside all other evidence, when making decisions.

The council wants Southampton City Vision and the master planning framework to be a place shaping tool that is both city wide and community focussed, meeting the development needs of the city whilst recognising the needs and diversity of individual communities.

Responsible Service Manager	Jenny Hyland
Date	18/12/2025
Approved by Senior Manager	Nawaz Khan
Date	08/01/2025

Potential Impact

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
Age	Future development and infrastructure focusses on a too limited band of age groups	Through the promotion of mixed-use development, with adherence to active planning policies
Disability	Future development is not accessible for those with disabilities.	Ensure that development proposals seek to meet and where possible exceed regulations on accessibility.
Gender Reassignment	N/A	
Care Experienced	N/A	
Marriage and Civil Partnership	N/A	
Pregnancy and Maternity	N/A	
Race	N/A	
Religion or Belief	N/A	
Sex	N/A	
Sexual Orientation	N/A	

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
Community Safety	Good urban design should account for improvements in the safety of those using public spaces	Good urban design & adherence to planning active policies.
Poverty	Southampton faces issues of poverty & deprivation. These issues are well known. As an example some wards have higher levels of deprivation & individuals & families can remain in a cycle of deprivation.	Investment in the city to create new economic & training opportunities through active Employment & Skills Plans (construction), as well as active adult community learning and employment initiatives.
Health & Wellbeing	The deterioration of the urban environment, the quality of our public spaces & homes impacts on our health & wellbeing. A lack of investment in new public realm and green spaces.	Good urban design accounts for health & wellbeing issues to enhance people's experience of the environment, public & green spaces. Good urban design is an intrinsic facet of the master planning process.
Other Significant Impacts	Master planning is unresponsive and development outcomes have a detrimental impact on our environment and contribute towards climate change.	The master planning framework seeks to identify necessary infrastructure and facilities to support the growth of the city whilst protecting & enhancing the environment. The framework will: Recognise individual neighbourhood identities; Connect us with our waterfront; Encourage sustainable growth & investment in the city