

Purpose of the Plan

Southwark Council uses planning and regeneration to improve and protect all of the different areas within the borough. The purpose of the New Southwark Plan is to set out how the areas will develop and the policies which will guide new developments. Planning decisions must be made in accordance with the development plan, unless other material considerations indicate otherwise. When the New Southwark Plan is adopted this will include the New Southwark Plan, the London Plan, area action plans and neighbourhood plans.

The New Southwark Plan explains the strategy for the regeneration of Southwark and will contain Area Visions, setting out aspirations for places and borough-wide strategic policies. The New Southwark Plan will also include detailed borough-wide development management policies which are numbered 'DM1' etc. alongside detailed site-specific development management policies, known as Site Allocations. Site Allocations contain specific requirements for the land uses and the indicative development capacities of those sites.

Once the New Southwark Plan is formally adopted by the Council, planning decisions must be made in accordance with the policies set out in the development plan. This will include the New Southwark Plan, the London Plan, area action plans and neighbourhood plans. The Council will also take into account any area-based supplementary planning documents (SPD) or other material considerations such as Conservation Area Appraisals and Conservation Area Management Plans. The New Southwark Plan will replace the Core Strategy (2011) and saved Southwark Plan (2010) policies.

Consultation on the Proposed Submission Version

The Proposed Submission Version has been prepared for consultation until 12 February 2018. This is not an open consultation for discussion and comment. This is the council's final document for consideration. There will then be an examination in public by a planning inspector. The inspector will prepare a report for the council and may require changes to be made to the plan for legal reasons. The final New Southwark Plan will then be adopted by the council. This is a decision taken by all councillors at the Council Assembly.

Unlike previous consultations, we are required to ask two specific questions which will give you an opportunity to comment on how the New Southwark Plan has been prepared, that its aims are achievable and that the plan is based on a robust evidence base. These questions are more commonly known as the 'Test of Soundness.' These are the same questions the independent Planning Inspector will be asking as part of the examination. You can comment on the Submission Version of the plan on our consultation hub page here or by emailing planningpolicy@southwark.gov.uk

Is the Local Plan Legal?

A plan is considered legal when it complies with section 20(5) (a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. You may wish to consider the following before making a representation on legal compliance:

- Whether the Local Plan has regard to national policy and guidance issued by the Secretary of State
- Whether the Local Plan has been prepared in-line with our Local Development Scheme (LDS)
- Whether community consultation has been carried out in accordance with our adopted Statement of Community Involvement
- Whether an Integrated Impact Assessment assessing social, environmental and economic factors has been prepared and made public.
- Whether the requirements of the Duty to Co-operate have been met. The Localism Act, section 110, and the National Planning Policy Framework, paragraphs 178 to 181, creates a duty on all local planning authorities and other bodies to cooperate with each other to address strategic issues in the preparation of the Local Plan

Is the Local Plan sound?

As part of the examination, the independent Planning Inspector is required to consider if the New Southwark Plan has been positively prepared, justified, and effective, and is consistent with national policy. You may wish to consider the following before making a representation on the Soundness of our plan:

- **Positively Prepared:** This means that we have objectively assessed the need for homes, jobs, services and infrastructure and these have been delivered sustainably. If you think that our assessments are not objective or do not take sufficient account of unmet needs in neighbouring authorities then your comments relate to whether our Local Plan has been positively prepared or not.
- **Justified:** This means that the Plan is based upon a robust and credible evidence base. If you think that the evidence doesn't support the choice made in our Local Plan or there are realistic alternatives then your comments relate to whether it is justified.
- **Effective:** This means that the Plan is achievable. If you think that what we are proposing in the Local Plan will not happen as the required infrastructure cannot be provided, the groups who will deliver elements of it haven't signed up to it or our Local Plan does not join up with the strategies of our neighbouring authorities, then your comments relate to whether our Local Plan is effective or not.
- **Consistent with national policy:** Do you consider that our Local Plan accords with the National Planning Policy Framework, the London Plan, other policies or includes clear and convincing reasons for doing something different? Alternatively, you may think that the Local Plan should depart from national policy due to an identified and justified local need.

Southwark Planning Documents

The council will prepare a separate development plan document setting out policy for Gypsy and Traveller sites.

There is a Community Infrastructure Levy document which sets out the payments required for developments.

Supplementary Planning Documents provide more detailed guidance with additional requirements. They can be area or subject based. Areas with Supplementary Planning Documents are Blackfriars Road, Dulwich and Elephant and Castle. Subjects include Affordable Housing, Sustainability, Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106. They will be updated and amended following the finalised New Southwark Plan.

Neighbourhood Planning

Neighbourhood Plans are being prepared by local people in the following areas: Bankside, Bermondsey, South Bank and Waterloo, Rotherhithe and Surrey Docks, Elephant and Walworth, Herne Hill, Crystal Palace and Upper Norwood.

For the most up to date documents related to Southwark's planning policy, please check the website:

www.southwark.gov.uk/planningpolicy