



Purpose of the PUSH Spatial Strategy to 2036

The existing PUSH Spatial Strategy plans for economic and housing needs to 2026. It has been a key document in securing the adoption of current Local Plans. These look to 2026 or 2029. National policy requires that Local Plans look up to 15 years ahead. Therefore over time the current set of Local Plans will become increasingly out of date. In addition the existing PUSH Spatial Strategy was prepared prior to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2012).

Therefore in 2014 the PUSH Joint Committee agreed to review the PUSH Spatial Strategy to 2036. This will be the new development strategy for South Hampshire. It will set out the employment and housing development needed to promote economic growth, jobs and homes for all. It will be focussed on achieving a renaissance of Portsmouth, Southampton and the other urban areas, protecting the most important aspects of the environment and co-ordinating transport and other infrastructure. It will be the agreed basis between Councils for distributing the development, and will identify strategic locations for growth.

The PUSH Spatial Strategy to 2036 is key in helping Councils meet their statutory and policy requirements to prepare Local Plans, as follows:

Requirements Placed on Councils:	
Statutory Requirements	NPPF Policy Requirements
Keep Local Plans up to date	Based on objectively assessed development needs
	Maintain a time horizon up to 15 years ahead
Duty to Co-operate in preparing the Local Plan	Councils should work together to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assess development needs taking account of the LEP's Plan and a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA); and • distribute these needs appropriately across the functional economic and housing market area (e.g. South Hampshire), taking account of environmental, transport and other factors.

The PUSH Spatial Strategy will enable Councils to meet these requirements as follows:

- It will set out overall housing and employment development targets based on objectively assessed need in line with the LEP's Solent Economic Plan and associated economic forecasts and the Strategic Housing Market Assessment published in January 2014.
- It will establish an agreed long term strategy for the distribution of development in South Hampshire to 2036, including development targets for individual Councils and the strategic locations for growth. This distribution will be based on broad relevant environmental, transport and other planning factors, with the aim to ensure that in strategic terms it is deliverable.

- This will provide a clear basis for the preparation of Local Plans. It will give Councils until 2021 to prepare and adopt new Plans and still maintain a 15 year time horizon. The work on Local Plan preparation will be key for further testing the local and detailed deliverability of the agreed PUSH Strategy, and creating statutory development plan policies and site allocations.

South Hampshire is an integrated economic and housing market area. The statutory 'duty to co-operate' requires Councils in this area to work with each other and with statutory agencies to discuss how to distribute development. Given there are 12 Councils in this area, and a number of relevant statutory and other agencies (e.g. Environment Agency, Natural England, Highways England, Network Rail, and others), the PUSH Spatial Strategy provides by far the most effective way of achieving this.

Without a review of the PUSH Spatial Strategy:

- Individual Councils would find it more difficult to meet the duty to co-operate.
- If the duty was not met, this would mean that the Planning Inspectorate would not allow Local Plans to proceed to examination and adoption.
- Without an up to date adopted Local Plan in the future, the NPPF's presumption in favour of sustainable development would apply. This would result in the large development needs in South Hampshire being met on an 'ad hoc' basis. Development locations would be based on the individual sites where developers currently own land, and are commercially the easiest to develop. These are unlikely to be the most appropriate locations in transport and environmental terms. The opportunity would be lost to plan on a co-ordinated basis with focussed areas of development to capture the most value to fund significant infrastructure and facilities.
- The result over time for South Hampshire would be a steady erosion of economic competitiveness (due to uncertainty over where development could occur, added traffic congestion and a reduced quality of life); less developer funding for social infrastructure (new schools, health services, etc.); and a poorer quality environment.

Substantial work on the PUSH Spatial Strategy is already underway. This includes work on housing and employment demand and supply, environmental constraints, and drafting an 'options' document for early public engagement. Over the Summer of 2015 work will increasingly focus on specific development locations and transport modelling, to enable full discussion with Councils on specific options. This will enable further public consultation on development locations prior to approval of the Strategy.

The PUSH Spatial Strategy will meet economic and housing development needs in a co-ordinated manner, doing the most to meet transport and other infrastructure needs and protect important areas of countryside, to promote the continued economic, social and environmental success of the region.

The Spatial Strategy is a cross cutting piece of work which addresses a wide range of policy areas. It is therefore important that PUSH, Solent Transport, the Solent LEP and other key statutory and delivery agencies continue to work collaboratively on the Strategy and its delivery. This will inevitably enable PUSH and its partners to pool expertise, capacity and resources to deliver the strategy in a manner that benefits all partners.