

Strategic Planning in the South East

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A short history of strategic planning in the SE



1968 **1980s** **2004** **2011** **2017** →

Structure Plans introduced

RPGs introduced as overarching framework for SPs in wider South East (RoSE)

Structure Plans/RPG replaced by RSS / Government published Sustainable Communities Strategy

RSS replaced by NPPF, Duty to Cooperate/ London Plan only 'regional plan' to remain

HWP and NP Act give more 'encouragement' to joint local plans

The Context

- London facing significant population growth challenges – unable to ‘consume its own smoke’
- Spatial implications of strategic infrastructure (Crossrail 1 & 2, Heathrow, Lower Thames Crossing)
- Only ‘city-region’ in UK with no formal strategic planning arrangements to manage long-term growth – current ‘informal’ arrangements not effective
- Two different planning systems inside and outside London but reluctance to return to planning on regional scale
- Green Belt policy continues to have strong political (cross party) support but was always supposed to be one half of 2-part approach to growth.

1964: 'Ambitious' plans for south east

Three new cities are proposed for south east England as part of the largest regional expansion plan in Britain.

A study, published today, estimates the country's population will increase by three million by the early 1980s.

The South East study is a blueprint for the south east of England, which could see an overhaul of public transport services in the area and of the road network.

The research shows that in an area to the south east of a line drawn from the Wash in Lincolnshire, to Dorset, the population will rise from between 18 million and 21 million between 1961 and 1981.

Smaller expansions

It is expected to lead to 350,000 London families needing re-housing outside the capital and could cripple services and employment if plans are not in place for the overflow.

New cities are planned near Southampton, Bletchley and Newbury and six large new expansions will be carried out at Ashford, Ipswich, Northampton, Peterborough, Swindon and Stansted.



Sir Keith Joseph is expecting reaction to the plans from local councils in May

In Context

The three "new towns" created were Milton Keynes, Havant and Basingstoke.

There were widespread fears the creation of new communities in the south east of England would destroy the green belt.

But government calculations insisted that by 1981 more than 83% of the green belt area would be open space and green areas would be preserved.

At the heart of the plans was the premise the population of London would not increase because the city would not be able to cater for millions more.

Sir Keith Joseph became secretary of state for social services in 1970 until the defeat of the Conservative government in 1974.

The Green Belt Challenge

- Metropolitan Green Belt under greatest pressure in area where most fragmented
- Significant pressures on local infrastructure & no land to relieve the pressure – all going for housing
- Government ‘ambiguous’ about level of protection to be given through LPs
- OAN process academic for inner M25 areas – unrealistic expectations around meeting need - demand is insatiable.
- Neighbours in same boat so DtC not effective.

Housing targets in Elmbridge

Surrey SP (2004)	224
South East Plan (2009)	281
OAN (2017)	632

Threat to Our Local Green Belt - Action Needed

Elmbridge Borough Council are proposing to remove Green Belt status from two large areas in the Cobham, Stoke D'Abernon and Oxshott area: The Fairmile & Chippings Farm and Knowle Hill Park & Polyvapes (see map below). There is a third in Long Ditton. If the proposals go through, it could be that each of these two parcels of land would accommodate up to 1,000 homes or even more. This would have a severe impact on our local infrastructure and local traffic problems as well as losing precious Green Belt land.

The council's public consultation process will conclude on Friday 24th February



LONG DITTON & HINCHLEY WOOD

SAVE OUR GREEN BELT




sessions. Alternatively ask a neighbour to download and print one for you.

Do spread the word and make your friends and neighbours aware.

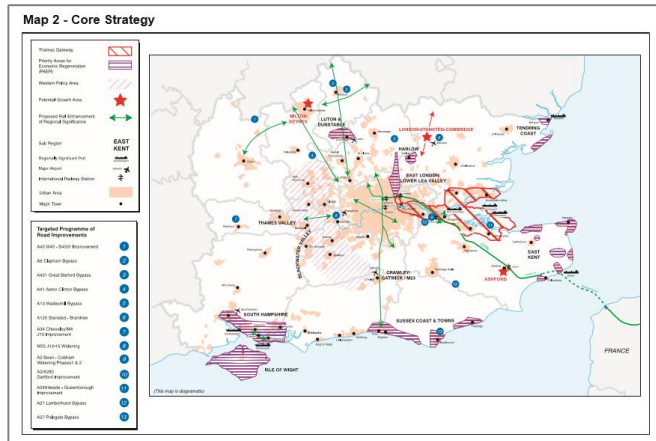
This leaflet has been distributed on behalf of the Cobham Greenbelt Group, Cobham & Downside Residents Assoc., Stoke D'Abernon Residents Assoc., Oxshott FEDORA and the Cobham Conservation & Heritage Trust.

Please contact any of these organisations if you need help or if you can offer any assistance.

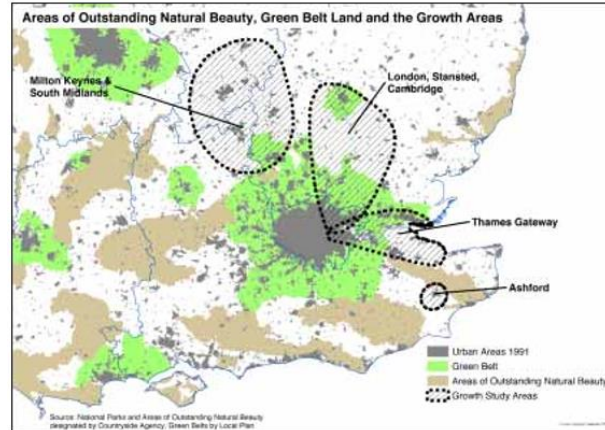
www.cobhamgreenbelt.org.uk



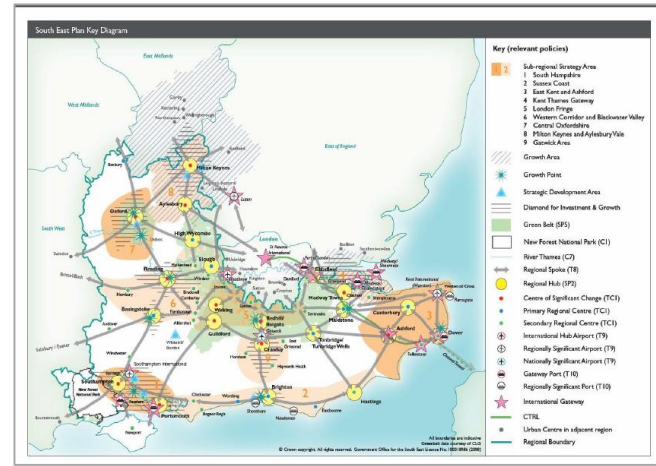
Growth of the South East: What's needed?



RPG9 Key Diagram (2001)



ODPM Sustainable Communities Strategy (2003)



South East Plan Key Diagram (2009)



East of England Plan Key Diagram (2008)



Strategic Infrastructure Corridors Mayor's Transport Strategy (June 2017)

Growth of the South East: What's needed?

- City-region geography – move back to RoSE?
- City-region strategic priorities e.g. growth corridors, strategic approach to MGB
- Robust (voluntary?) collaborative governance arrangements – NOT response to what Mayor wants!
- Shared technical support (impartial advice) & evidence base
- Clarity around role of others e.g. NIC

Foreword

by the Secretary of State for the Environment, The Rt. Hon. Michael Howard QC, MP

IT IS A great pleasure to be associated with this commemoration of SERPLAN's first thirty years of achievement.

SERPLAN was the first regional conference of local planning authorities and provided a model for all the other English regions. It is all the more valuable in that it was not invented by Government but was seen to be needed by the local authorities of the South East as a forum to consider matters of common interest affecting the planning of the whole region. Therein lies its strength. The commitment of the member authorities, and their ability to pursue a common course through SERPLAN despite their very different interests, have served the region well.

For my predecessors as Secretary of State and me SERPLAN's advice and co-operation with Government over the preparation of regional planning guidance has been particularly valuable. With the changes to the planning system brought about by the Planning and Compensation Act 1991 regional planning guidance takes on even greater importance in providing a framework for development plans.

I am sure that this approach to regional planning is the right one. Instead of a separate remote tier of bureaucracy, we have a process which brings together local authorities, sensitive to the needs of the region and in touch with the reality that results from implementing planning decisions.

Over the past thirty years SERPLAN has dealt with many challenging issues. No doubt more challenges lie ahead. I am sure SERPLAN has a long future and I wish it well.



*The Secretary of State for the Environment,
The Rt Hon Michael Howard, QC MP*

SERPLAN: Thirty Years of Regional Planning 1962-1992



Thank you!

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