



CHARTER FOR ALTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2024

INTRODUCTION

1. In February 2016 the Alton Neighbourhood Plan (ANP1) was made following a referendum and was adopted as part of the planning policy framework by the Local Planning Authority (East Hampshire District Council)

A new Neighbourhood Planning Act was published in 2017 along with the publication of the revised National Planning Policy Framework in 2018 with subsequent revisions in 2019. Both intended to strengthen Neighbourhood Planning. A consultation in early 2023 on proposed revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework also include policies to add further weight to Neighbourhood Planning.

In 2019 East Hampshire District Council undertook a Regulation 18 consultation for a draft new Local Plan in response to the revised The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) Regulation 10A, that requires Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to review their Local Plan within five years of the date of adoption.

In conformity with the Local Plan, the Town Council felt it would be appropriate to review the Alton Neighbourhood Plan in 2021 as it reached its fifth anniversary. Alton Town Council took the decision on the 28th October 2020 to undertake a modification of the existing Alton Neighbourhood Plan, whilst holding in abeyance a full review given the uncertainty over the emerging Local Plan but addressing the concerns over the potential for speculative development in the short to medium term.

This process was carried out in accordance with The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 Statutory Instrument 637 and the modified plan was adopted by East Hampshire District Council on the 11th November 2021 (ANP2)

In December 2022 East Hampshire District Council undertook Part 1 of a further Regulation 18 consultation on a re-drafted Local Plan. Alton Town Council subsequently took the decision on the 1st February 2023 to undertake a full review of the existing Alton Neighbourhood Plan.

A significant amount of public consultation and analysis will go into the draft of this full Neighbourhood Plan Review document for public examination and final implementation following approval by the inspector and referendum in 2024. (ANP3)

OVERARCHING INTENT OF ALTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

2. In conformity with the existing Joint Core Strategy develop and implement a review of the existing Alton Neighbourhood Development Plan as soon as possible to update the policies contained within. Then redraft a new, updated Neighbourhood Plan and submit it for formal adoption.

3. The Plan will cover Alton Parish (except for a small parcel of land lying within the South Downs National Park), and, acknowledging the housing requirements identified by East Hampshire in the Local Plan: Joint Core Strategy 2011-2028, will also address wider issues as set out in draft Objectives below. The plan, once confirmed by referendum, will then be adopted by East Hants District Council as the Planning Authority to be used as an integral part of the New Local Plan to allocate sites for future housing development and supporting infra-structure in Alton.

OBJECTIVE

4. Develop and Implement a Neighbourhood Plan containing the following policy subject areas:
 - a. Design and Design Coding
 - b. Residential housing site allocations
 - c. Transport and parking.
 - d. Community Facilities and Open Spaces.
 - e. Health and Wellbeing Facilities
 - f. Education
 - g. Economic sustainability and viability
 - h. Climate Change Mitigation Adaption.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

5. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will develop, foster and maintain a network of individual volunteers and organisations throughout Alton with a common interest and intent to develop and implement the Neighbourhood Plan. This group will seek to engage as widely as possible with the local community and statutory consultees to garner their views.
 - a. Alton general public and surrounding Parishes.
 - b. All constituted and non-constituted bodies and clubs etc. within Alton.
 - c. Alton Town, East Hants District and Hampshire Councils.
 - d. Social/Community: housing, housing needs, community facilities.
 - e. Alton business community.
 - f. Neighbouring Parishes.

The process will be endorsed at every stage by the Town Council.

6. The Alton Neighbourhood Plan Review will build and expand on elements of the considerable public consultation work undertaken by the draft Local Plan Regulation 18 Part 1 carried out in December 2022.

7. The Alton Neighbourhood Plan Review will also build and expand on emerging site allocations which will be provided by EHDC. Given the commercial sensitivities around emerging site allocation documentation, these will remain within the group as confidential until such time as any required documentation for the modification of the Plan is made public.
8. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will develop, foster and maintain a network of individual volunteers and organisations throughout Alton with a common interest and intent to develop and implement the Neighbourhood Plan.
9. Custodianship and maintenance of the Neighbourhood Plan Review and supporting documentation will be an Alton Town Council responsibility.

STEERING GROUP STRUCTURE

10. Posts for the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group are as follows:

Mr Mike Heelis MBE - Chairman/Housing
Mr David Allan MBE – Vice Chair/ Transport/Parking

Councillor Graham Titterton – Town Council representative (up to June 2023)
Councillor Annette Eyre – Town Council representative (from June 2023) ex officio
Councillor John Chubb - Town Council representative (from June 2023) ex officio

Mrs Pam Jones – Education/Healthcare – Community Representative (up to July 2023)
Mr John Grace – Community Representative
Mrs Suzie Burns – District Council Representative (from June 2023)
Mr Paul Fitzgibbon – Community Representative (Holybourne up to November 2023)
Mr John Bound – Community Representative – Communications (Holybourne from November 2023)
Mr Peter Holden – Community Representative.
Mr Rob Fowell – Community Representative.
Mr Richard Parratt – Community Representative.
Adam Harvey – EHDC Planning Policy Manager
Jenny Wood – EHDC Principle Policy Planner
Councillor Graham Hill – Town Council Representative (from June 2023)

Leah Coney – Lead Officer ATC (up to November 2023)
Pat Harris – Lead Officer ATC (from November 2023)

FUNDING

11. Funding will be arranged, managed and coordinated through Alton Town Council.

CONSULTANTS

12. Consultancy Support will be provided by O'Neill Homer as follows:

Project Lead – O'Neill Homer
Planning Manager & Steering Group Liaison – Leah Coney (from November 2023)

OUTLINE PROJECT PLAN TIMETABLE

13. This is provided in Annex 1