

Regeneration That Works For All: An Approach to Social Regeneration in Southwark

“Regeneration that works for all ensures that the places where people live, now and in the future, create new life opportunities, promote wellbeing and reduce inequalities so that people have better lives in stronger communities.”

Context

Over the last two decades, Southwark has implemented a range of ambitious urban regeneration and development programmes which helped turn the borough from the 12th most deprived in the UK (out of 326) to the 41st. We will build on this success and ensure that all our residents and neighbourhoods are able access the benefits of regeneration now and in the future.

Southwark Council adopted an initial Southwark Regeneration Framework in September 2017. The Southwark Conversation, the largest community engagement exercise ever undertaken by the council, informed the development of this framework. The Southwark Conversation confirmed our resident’s views that the most important issues to be tackled include: housing, public realm, transportation, education, access to key services such as health and social care, employment and training. Strengthening and supporting all communities to have pride in their neighbourhoods was also highlighted in the Southwark Conversation [1].

The Social Regeneration framework identified three primary objectives [2]:

1. A borough wide approach to improving the wellbeing of all current and future generations.
2. A One Council and partnership approach to ensure all our assets are used and aligned effectively to bring about improved wellbeing for people and places across Southwark.
3. Wellbeing as a primary outcome of all our work.

Southwark commitments

One year on, we have ambitious work programmes in place to deliver our commitment to make regeneration work for all. We will work with the community to deliver these:

Life opportunities, good health and wellbeing for all and pride of place

- **Social aspects:** making social aspects such as health improvement, education and skills, community spaces, arts and culture & family and child wellbeing central to our built environment programmes.
- **System-wide approach:** taking a system-wide approach to health and wellbeing where health impacts are considered by all partners at every level and stage of regeneration and planning to create places that support people to live healthier lives.
- **Pride of place:** ensuring that buildings and public spaces are designed to promote wellbeing and a sense of pride in its communities.
- **Cohesion:** working with communities to create neighbourhoods that are integrated, cohesive and foster a sense of belonging.

Investing in Communities

- **Employment opportunities:** investing in education, training and employment opportunities for all.
- **Community resources:** providing resources and opportunities for community groups and social networks and continue to work with partners to build excellent infrastructure, such as leisure centres, green spaces, good transportation and health centres.
- **Inclusive and accessible:** developing a borough that is inclusive by investing in good,

[1] The Southwark Conversation <https://www.southwark.gov.uk/engagement-and-consultations/have-your-say/community-conversations/southwark-conversation>

[2] Southwark social regeneration framework

<http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?AllId=46785>

sustainable growth with local shops, services and facilities that support and are accessible by all residents and enable the benefits of regeneration to extend beyond a geographically defined area.

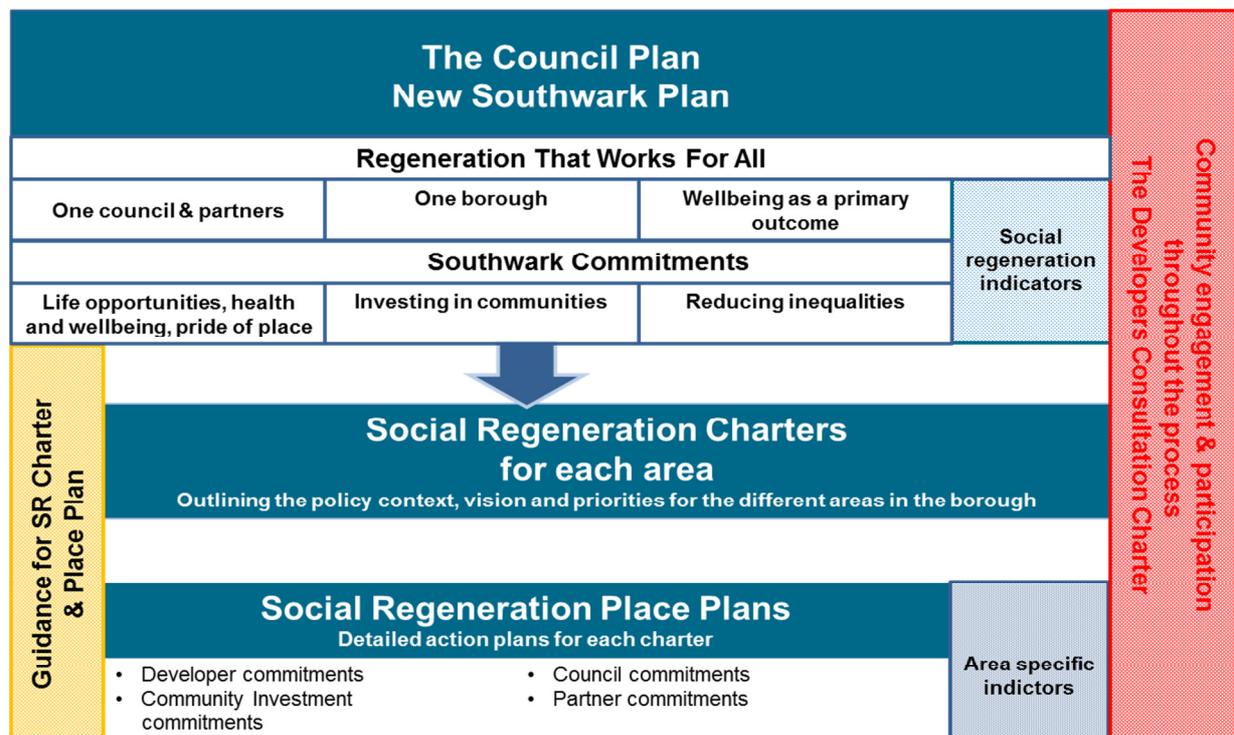
- **Community collaboration:** empowering and engaging with communities to be equal and active partners in creating and protecting places and spaces. Local communities will have opportunities to help us identify local needs, voice their aspirations and concerns and help develop solutions from the earliest point and at every step of the regeneration process.

Reducing inequalities

- **Wider determinants:** investing in prevention and tackling the wide range of social, economic and environmental factors that impact inequality.
- **Targeted approach:** strengthening the support for those who are vulnerable or face greater disadvantage to ensure that the benefits and opportunities offered by regeneration are for all.
- **Welcoming neighbourhoods:** creating new spaces through regeneration where everyone feels welcome and safe.

Implementation

The diagram below shows how the framework is shaping the development of a range of delivery documents and outcomes monitoring [3].



Core principles for using this framework

- This framework should be considered alongside SP2 of the New Southwark Plan.
- These ambitions should guide all our regeneration work, including at a local level through the social regeneration charters and place plans.
- This framework should be implemented in a flexible way depending on the features of each local area and the characteristics of its communities.
- The principles and vision of the social regeneration charters must reflect the demographics, needs and aspirations of the local community.
- The structure and content of the Place Plans for each area will vary depending on a number of factors including area demographics, number of developers and community investment plan contents.

[3] The Canada Water Social Regeneration Charter

(<http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s79189/Report%20Canada%20Water%20Social%20Regeneration%20Charter.pdf>) and other documents will be available online.