



# Southern Policy Centre

## *Creating space to think*

- Established in 2014 to understand the unique economic, social and political needs of the region
- The only independent cross-party think tank for the central South
- Specialises in improving public policy-making
- Our aim is to help shape public policy-making in response to the central South's economic, social and environmental challenges
- We undertake research and advocacy: from exploring local experience of poverty and social exclusion through to the case for devolution or the implications of an ageing population
- Recently we have been at the forefront of the discussion on how the region can recover from the Covid-19 epidemic





## Meet the team

- **John Denham:** former MP for Southampton Itchen and Cabinet Minister, founder and Director of the Southern Policy Centre.
- **Simon Eden:** former Chief Executive of Winchester City Council, public policy consultant and a Director of the Southern Policy Centre
- **Stewart Dunn:** former CEO of Hampshire Chamber of Commerce, Director and Chair of Southern Policy Centre
- Mark Braggins is an Associate and Ruth Eastwood is General Manager
- Denise Edghill is a recent collaborator



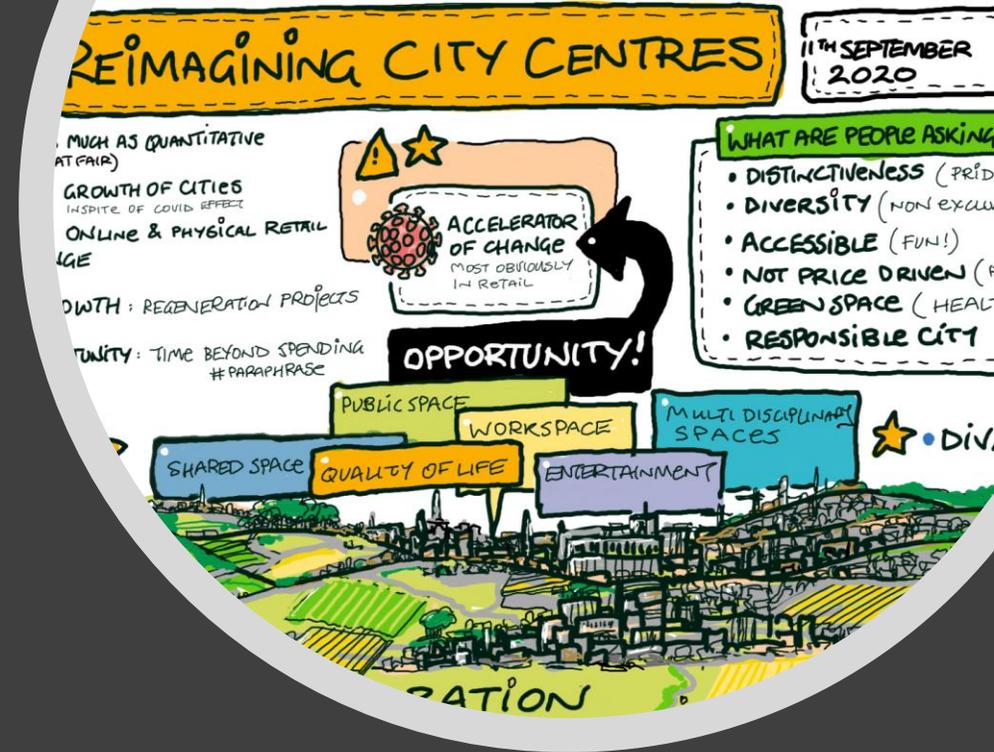
# Current priorities

- Supporting regional strategy
- Giving young people a voice
- Exploring the future of villages and city centres
- Using data to improve social care
- Shaping economic recovery from COVID-19



# Creating space to think...

- SPC has worked with businesses, government and the third sector
- Our work involves research, conferences, seminars and data analysis
- We use innovative forms of public engagement such as deliberative polling: audience members develop questions, proposals and counter-proposals in relation to policy issues outlined by experts – providing new insight into projects
- SPC uses open data for its research projects, and hosts ODI Hampshire, part of the Open Data Institute's worldwide network
- Work with Drawnalism who create graphic records which capture information in engaging, visual formats



# Past projects include:

- Deprivation in the South
- Adult Social Care
- Young people
- Graduate retention
- Immigration
- Rural communities
- Recovery in the central-South
- Widening participation in HE
- Housing and employment



# Recovery in the central South

- We ran a series of online seminars in the early summer with around 200 leading figures from the public and private sectors
- Launched a new policy paper 'Recovery in the central South: collaboration for growth'
- Eight key areas for action were identified including collaboration amongst key institutions and businesses, ensuring a future for young people and opportunities for all, and strengthening communities and business support
- We identified several areas of practical co-operation that would enhance the existing efforts of many different agencies
- SPC are taking the lead on the development of a regional 'green prospectus'
- Work on this project is ongoing



# Feedback from our Recovery in the central South seminars

**“The paper and analysis is spot on.” Professor Mark Spearing, Vice President of Research and Enterprise, University of Southampton**

**“We hope that the collaboration encouraged through this paper will extend the role of FE in serving the needs of the communities and businesses of Hampshire.” Tim Jackson, Chairman of Hampshire FE Colleges Group**

**“Really timely and coherent presentation which underlines an urgent and compelling case for the Central South to get its act together. Really good start and we must build on this to co-ordinate bids, identify key regen projects and develop a green growth strategy.” Tim Hancock, Chairman, Terence O’Rourke Ltd**



# Deprivation in the South

- With the University of Southampton and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, SPC examined why, despite its perceived affluence, pockets of severe multiple deprivation exist in the central South
- We looked at the impact of 'hidden' deprivation in affluent areas, both rural and urban
- A sense of vulnerability, isolation and alienation amongst those living in deprived areas were noted in the study
- The study provided pointers to service providers and policy makers to promote pathways out of deprivation and suggested these should be tailored to different communities



# Adult Social Care

- A report commissioned by the BBC in 2015 looked at how councils in the South were coping with changing trends
- Examined prospects for older adults with care needs
- Found that where you live matters
- Held a seminar with the University of Winchester to examine the demographic challenges of an aging population
- We have also looked at how we can enjoy longer, healthier lives



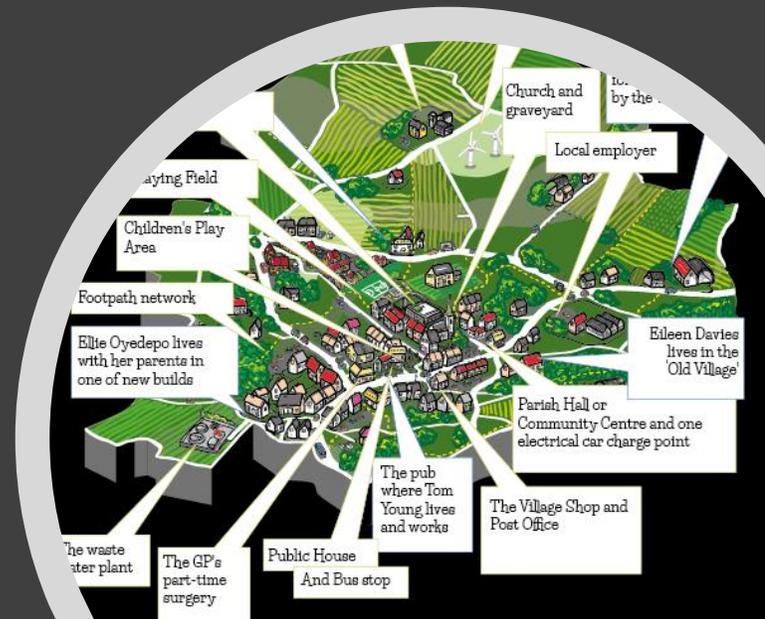
# Young people

- Working with the Blgrave Trust and a group of young people, our 2019 report identified practical steps that would help overcome barriers in housing, employment, education and training
- Their policy proposal included a 'shared housing' agency to bring young people together to rent and more employer-based training including basic skills.
- Crucially, young people felt they weren't being listened to
- Three peer researchers have been employed part time by the No Limits advice agency and are working to persuade local authorities and other agencies to implement proposals in 'Help Us to Move On'
- At the beginning of lockdown, a study found the covid crisis had exacerbated problems which were already in existence



# Rural communities

- Last year, sponsored by the Cadland Estate, we looked at some of the challenges facing rural communities
- We created a 'model village' with a mix of facilities, houses and residents
- We invited twelve people from a range of organisations interested in rural matters to show us how they think that village might change by 2050
- The project tested a model of how we might bring together people to debate local needs and priorities, and so shape a sustainable future



# Current projects

- Tomorrow's City Centre
- Devolution
- Care Analytics



# Tomorrow's City Centre

- Sponsored by Blake Morgan
- Looking at the future of the central South's city centres: Bournemouth, Poole, Portsmouth, Southampton and Winchester
- Used data from an online survey, deliberative polling with the general public and feedback from businesses and councils
- Has Covid changed the debate or just accelerated change?
- Currently hosting a series of breakfast seminars to discuss our findings
- Study suggests we need to re-imagine the role city centres will play in our future lives
- Report to be launched in November



# Devolution: strategy for the central South

- A key component of our work, sponsored by Barker Mill Estates
- Need to persuade government that our region is critical for entire UK but has challenges of its own
- Providing analysis and support to local authorities to help them plan for the right devolved powers. Also work with businesses, the third sector and citizen-led initiatives
- That means working with everyone in the region to get the powers that suit our needs
- Conference in 2019 drew in regional leaders from local government, business, and further and higher education
- More than ever, regions and localities will need a strong sense of place and purpose; they will need a clear and distinctive vision and ambitions



# Devolution: strategy for the central South

- Three waterfront cities: complementary economies and ambitions
- Six Universities
- Large and (potentially) interconnected population
- Strong cultural offer
- Set in distinctive natural environment
- Gateway region
- Important links with South West/NE Hants/Surrey/Thames Valley/London



# Devolution: strategy for the central South

- A White Paper is expected before the end of the year
- In June we organised a successful online seminar on the prospects for regional devolution
- Speakers included Nick King, a former advisor to Sajid Javid, Mark Sandford of the House of Commons library, and Cllr Vikki Slade
- We plan to continue working with regional stakeholders to promote the analysis and the concept of the central South
- Hope to encourage greater collaboration across the region and the use of 'central South' in the branding of key organisations
- Supporting practical collaboration and cooperation in important sectors such as higher education
- We will continue to provide a critical but neutral space for discussion



# Care Analytics

- Working with Nquiringminds (a technology company) using data to manage and predict social care
- An application has been developed to strategically manage and plan social care provision
- Groundbreaking - data analysis can calculate:
  - Risk factors for hospitalisation or a residential care requirement
  - Future service use
  - Recommended care packages and likely future costs



# What next?

New and emerging topics include:

- Shaping a green recovery
- Responding to climate change
- Building sustainable communities
- Tackling the health and social care crisis

