

Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP) Joint Statement of Community Involvement Draft for Consultation

We are carrying out consultation on this document between 17 February 2017 and 31 March 2017. You are invited to give us your views either electronically at www.gesp.gov.uk/xxx or in writing (addressing correspondence to xxx). If you need help understanding what is proposed, or making your views known, please contact us by emailing xxx or calling xxx.

This is a Joint Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) that sets out our approach for consultation and involvement in the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP) only. The Joint SCI will be adopted by the four authorities working in partnership on the GESP: East Devon District Council, Exeter City Council, Mid Devon District Council and Teignbridge District Council.



This SCI has been kept clear and concise to ensure that as many people as possible will read it and understand our approach.

Important Note:

This joint SCI only sets out the consultation approach on the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan and not on other planning documents or on planning applications. All authorities have existing Statements of Community Involvement containing policies for consultation and involvement in other policy documents and planning applications, and these are not affected by this document. Please contact the individual authorities for details.

Background

The GESP will be a formal statutory Development Plan Document, providing the strategic planning framework for the four Local Planning Authority areas (therefore excluding any part of Dartmoor National Park). Devon County Council will assist with producing the GESP. The GESP will contain strategic allocations and policies, including those that set the overall spatial strategy and amount of housing and employment land to be provided. It will cover the period to 2040.

Consultation is required at various stages during the GESP's preparation, including "Publication" stage, after which it will be submitted to Government.

An independent Planning Inspector will then carry out an Examination into the document, considering the views of interested people. The final decision on the soundness of the Plan will be made by that Inspector, after which the plan will be adopted by the four councils. You can find government guidance on preparing local plans here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-plans>

General principles of planning consultation

We will apply some general principles to our GESP consultation:

- Involvement will be open to all regardless of gender, faith, race, disability, sexuality, age, rural isolation and social deprivation
- We will undertake consultation when the plan is still at a formative stage

- We will choose consultation processes by balancing cost and time constraints, and our level of discretion on the outcome
- Consultation publications will be clear and concise and avoid unnecessary jargon, without understating the complexities of any decision. They will give sufficient reasons and information to allow an informed response. Enough time (usually 6 weeks) will be given for responses
- Responses will be considered conscientiously
- We will inform people who respond to consultations of later stages
- We will make consultation documents available at council offices and public libraries
- Consultation documents will be made available for download on the Council's websites and on the GESP website (www.gesp.gov.uk/xxx) and will be available for purchase at a price reflecting publication costs
- We will provide consultation documents in electronic form (and hard copy when asked) to community groups, councils and other statutory organisations
- We will consider organising or supporting consultation events such as public exhibitions

Who we will consult

- Statutory organisations including councils, infrastructure providers and government bodies as legally required or otherwise appropriate
- The general public
- Groups representing place or interest communities
- Local businesses
- Voluntary and other organisations
- Planning and development industry and consultants
- Others who have expressed an interest in the subject matter

How we will consult

- We will contact appropriate organisations and individuals directly
- We will publicise consultations by a combination of the following methods: website, press release, leaflets, posters, displays, social media, community groups, community events

When we will consult

- An initial short consultation document is published alongside this joint SCI (www.gesp.gov.uk/xxx) to ask for views and ideas about the scope and content of the Plan
- After considering the initial consultation responses we will consult on the Draft Greater Exeter Strategic Plan
- We will formally publish the 'Publication Version' document for representations in accordance with the relevant regulations before submission to Government