

## Appendix 1: Greater Exeter Strategic Plan Joint Statement of Community Involvement: Summary of representations

Consultation on the Joint Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) ran from 27 February 2017 to 10 April 2017. A total of 13 valid representations were received. These have been summarised and responses from the Greater Exeter Councils provided in the table below.

Summary of representation	Organisation/Individual	Response
Supports the principle of meaningful and early engagement of the general community, community organisations and statutory bodies.	Natural England	Support noted.
Councils should talk to communities about the emerging plan and invite active participation. Councils should also produce a summary analysis of the comments received on the first round of consultation and the extent to which these have influence work on the draft plan.	Exeter Green Party; Individual – ECC	Agreed. The issues consultation which took place between 27 February and 10 April 2017 represented the first stage in the process of preparing the GESP, asking communities to comment on the content of the plan, provide local knowledge and stimulate early debate. A summary analysis of the comments received during the issues consultation is to be published with the GESP draft policies and site options consultation document and will explain how the comments have been taken into account.
Draft SCI says all the right things but at what point will people be considered? It also doesn't specify weight/meanings attributed to responses.	Exeter Community Forum	The SCI promotes involvement for all and therefore it would not be appropriate to attribute different 'weightings' to responses. All comments are considered individually based on their merits or recommendations. It is considered that the SCI already expresses this approach in the section 'General principles for consultation and involvement'.
SCI doesn't mention what will happen with consultation input. Results need to be discussed with communities and explanation of why ignored.	Exeter Community Forum	Comments will not be ignored. The SCI states that comments will be published as soon as feasible and will include an explanation of how comments have been taken into account in decisions that have been taken.
SCI does not give enough information to inspire people to be involved.	Exeter Community Forum	The purpose of the Joint SCI is to set out the approach to consultation and involvement in the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan. Any information on planning issues or the content of the plan which would encourage involvement will be published as part of any subsequent consultation documentation.

Would help to have approximate timetable with official consultation periods.	Exeter Community Forum	It is beyond the scope of the SCI to set out dates for plan preparation or specific timescales for consultation stages. The timescale for the preparation of the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan is set out in the Local Development Scheme which is available at <a href="http://www.gesp.org.uk">www.gesp.org.uk</a> . This link is provided in the SCI.
Draft SCI doesn't give any opportunities to seek redress if the process lets them down. No explanation of how to challenge.	Exeter Community Forum	Comments noted. However, it is considered that this is beyond the scope of the SCI and therefore, no amendments are proposed. Interested stakeholders will be able to put forward their views during consultation stages and the examination process, where an Independent Planning Inspector carries out an examination of the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan, considering the views of interested people.
Agree that use of technical terms/jargon should be explained in lay terms and general document should be accessible and written in a straightforward way.	Exeter Community Forum	Support noted.
Fuller participation needs consideration. For example a meeting in a town hall in the town centre is not likely to be an effective means to enable participation from a broad section of the community.	Exeter Community Forum.	The SCI is intended to promote involvement for all. As a result, a wide range of methods will be used for any consultation relating to the GESP as set out under 'How we will consult and how you can get involved'. Social media will become a greater part of consultation going forward.
People need to have confidence that plans may be influenced. Pre-determined preferences should be identified beforehand.	Exeter Community Forum	Agreed. It is considered that the SCI already makes this clear by stating 'We will also explain how these comments have been considered or taken into account in the process of preparing the GESP'. No pre-determined preferences were identified during the issues consultation as this stage of consultation was primarily aimed at gathering people's views and local knowledge. The next stage of consultation will invite people to comment on draft policies, potential development locations and supporting information. The next stage of the plan will be informed by previous comments received and the results of ongoing evidence gathering.
Consultation processes should be discussed and agreed in advanced. Community organisations	Exeter Community Forum	Comments noted. It is agreed that consultation processes should be discussed and agreed in advance. The approach to

should be funded to facilitate consultation processes.		consultation is therefore set out in the SCI which itself has been subject to public consultation. However, there is a need to balance wide involvement in the planning process with the need for effective operation of the planning system. This difficult balancing act reflects cost and time constraints, and a level of discretion on the outcome.
An indicative timetable overall for the process and key decisions should be set out.	Exeter Community Forum	It is beyond the scope of the SCI to set out the timetable for the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan. This is set out in the Local Development Scheme which is available at <a href="http://www.gesp.org.uk">www.gesp.org.uk</a> . This link has been added to the SCI.
Consultation period should be longer than six weeks.	Exeter Community Forum	Agreed, and extended to 8 weeks.
It is not clear how 'conscientious consideration' will happen. What if there is disagreement about this?	Exeter Community Forum	All comments are considered individually based on their merits or recommendations. It is considered that the SCI as currently worded is clear in the approach taken under 'General principles of planning consultation'. Where there is disagreement, stakeholders will have the opportunity to express their views during any subsequent stages of consultation and through the examination process.
Assume there will be no charge to view or download documents.	Exeter Community Forum	Documents in electronic form will be published on the website and be available to download for free. Electronic copies (or paper copies, on request) will also be made available to community groups, councils and statutory organisations. Paper copies will be available to view at council offices and public libraries during normal opening hours where possible. Other requests for paper copies will be met, but at a price that reflects publication costs.
Not clear who 'we' is: Is this each district council, Devon County Council or another body that is overseeing the process.	Exeter Community Forum	This refers to the four authorities working in partnership on the GESP: East Devon District Council, Exeter City Council, Mid Devon District Council and Teignbridge District Council. Devon County Council will assist with producing the GESP. This is stated in the 'Background' section of the SCI.
There needs to be more transparency and public involvement during the next stage. At the very	Devon Campaign to Protect Rural England	Comments noted. The Greater Exeter Strategic Plan is subject to separate decisions by each of the local planning authorities

<p>least, minutes of the meetings should be published, and the meetings should be open to the public. Technical documents should be published as soon as they are available.</p>		<p>in accordance with their own constitutions/schemes of delegation. Details of minutes/agendas are published on each Council's website and these meetings are open to the public. Technical documents are published on an ongoing basis on the GESP website. The purpose of the SCI is to set out the approach to consultation and involvement and not the decision making process. As such, no additional changes are proposed.</p>
<p>Concerned that local wishes encapsulated by NPs can be over-ruled by the GESP.</p>	<p>Ottery St Mary Neighbourhood Plan Group</p>	<p>Comments noted. However, they do not appear to directly relate to the scope of the Joint SCI. No changes are proposed as a result.</p>
<p>Draft SCI proposes a top-down consultation process with no sense of involving or engaging the community in plan-making other than inviting them to respond to fully worked out drafts.</p>	<p>Exeter Green Party</p>	<p>Not agreed. An issues consultation which took place between 27 February and 10 April invited people to comment on the content of the plan, provide local knowledge and stimulate debate early on in the process. This did not include any fully worked out proposals but represented a formative stage of consultation early in the development of the plan.</p>
<p>Issues should be put to the electorate via the ballot box.</p>	<p>Individual – East Devon</p>	<p>Not agreed. The Greater Exeter Strategic Plan is being prepared in full consultation with local communities in accordance with relevant legislation and associated government guidance, led by democratically elected councils.</p>
<p>What consultation has been carried out, or is intended to be carried out, to identify whether or not residents and businesses in these five local authority areas wish to develop into a 'Greater Exeter' and the implications that could contribute to loss of local identities and local environments.</p>	<p>Individual – East Devon</p>	<p>The decision to prepare a Greater Exeter Strategic Plan was taken at public Council meetings of each of the authorities involved. The issues consultation which took place between 27 February and 10 April 2017 invited people to comment on the potential content of the plan, provide local knowledge and stimulate debate early on in the process. Additional stages of consultation will take place on the draft policies and site options and going forwards before submission.</p>
<p>Suggests inclusion of 'fully independent' before consultants.</p>	<p>Individual – Mid Devon</p>	<p>Not agreed. The SCI promotes involvement for all stakeholders interested in the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan.</p>
<p>Suggests inclusion of 'to all residents in all areas' under how we will consult.</p>	<p>Individual – Mid Devon</p>	<p>Not agreed. There is a need to balance wide involvement in the planning process with the need for effective operation of the planning system. This difficult balancing act reflects cost and time constraints, and our level of discretion on the</p>

		outcome.
Suggests inclusion of 'hard copy' before consultation documents under how we will consult.	Individual – Mid Devon	Agreed. An amendment is proposed to state 'We will make paper copies of consultation documents available at council offices and public libraries where possible'.
Suggests replacing 'we will consider organising or supporting consultation events' with 'we will organise and support consultation events if requested by local councils.'	Individual – Mid Devon	Comments noted. The following amendment is proposed to reflect the concerns raised: 'During the initial and publication stages of consulting on the GESP, we will organise or support consultation events such as public exhibitions where possible'.
Suggests removal of 'or a summary' before 'as soon as feasible'.	Individual – Mid Devon	Comments noted. The following amendment is proposed to reflect the concerns raised: 'We will publish comments received, including a summary, as soon as feasible.'

