

What is the Statement of Community Involvement?

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) significantly changes the way in which local authorities plan for local communities.

The 'old system' of preparing Local Plans where community involvement generally took place during the latter stages of plan production is now being replaced by a new system of Local Development Frameworks. This requires Local Planning Authorities to give more consideration to the social, economic, environmental and resource impacts of their plans and to also ensure greater community participation throughout the plan making and development control processes. Wiltshire County Council is responsible for minerals and waste planning issues and is therefore required by the Act to produce a **Minerals and Waste Development Framework**.

In order to comply with the new Act all Local Planning Authorities are required to produce their own **Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)** setting out how they will involve the local community in the planning process within their administrative area.

Through the SCI Wiltshire County Council aims to:

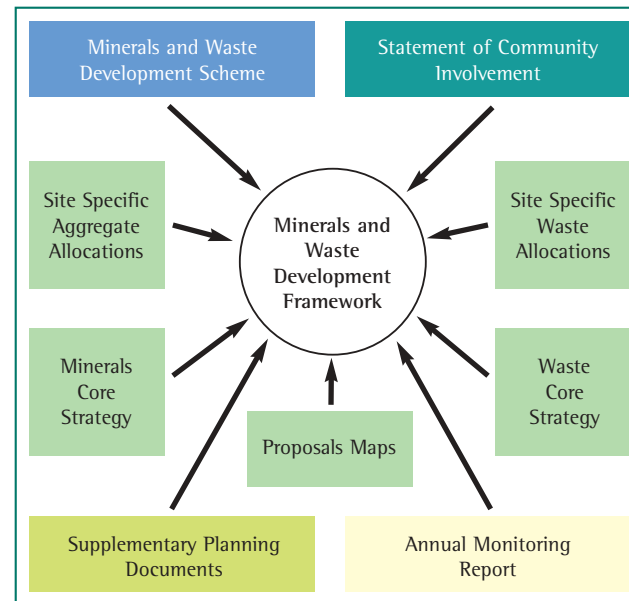
- provide a statement of the County Council's commitment to public participation in the planning process at the County level;
- make planning in Wiltshire more open and accessible to the public;
- remove many of the boundaries between the planning process and community engagement;
- engage with people or groups who have an interest or concerns relating to planning in Wiltshire and ensure effective participation throughout all stages of the plan making and development control processes; and
- identify opportunities for joint working when undertaking consultation exercises.

Once adopted by Wiltshire County Council all consultation in respect of planning matters will have to be carried out in accordance with the SCI.

Which areas of planning are Wiltshire County Council responsible for?

Wiltshire County Council is responsible for:

Planning Area	Issues Covered
Minerals Local Development Documents	Planning to meet the demand for minerals, identifying suitable sites and establishing the requirements to be met for quarrying in Wiltshire.
Waste Local Development Documents	Planning for suitable sites and requirements to be met for future waste management facilities like recycling centres and landfill sites in Wiltshire.
Development Control	Planning applications for minerals extraction, waste management facilities, new schools (and extensions to existing schools), major road developments and other County Service developments.
The Local Transport Plan	Planning for a sustainable transport network in Wiltshire, covering all aspects of transport from public footpaths to major road developments and ensuring accessibility for all sectors of the community.
Municipal Waste Management Strategy	As Waste Disposal Authority the County Council is required to produce a Municipal Waste Management Strategy (MWMS) setting out an agreed waste disposal strategy between the County and District Councils.



Key:

 Development Plan Documents (DPDs)	 Optional
 SCI	 Progress Report
 Project Plan	

How will Wiltshire County Council engage the Community?

Wiltshire County Council is committed to finding new ways of involving the community more effectively in the planning system. We seek to ensure that all people with an interest in planning at the County level understand how they can contribute to and influence the outcomes of the decision making process.



Examples of community engagement – Minerals Forum

Key Principles for community engagement:

- **Inclusiveness**
Encouraging the participation of everyone who has an interest in planning matters and the decision making process
- **Commitment**
Ensuring effective participation and community engagement at the earliest opportunity
- **Transparency and accessibility**
Providing the information stakeholders need and carrying out engagement in a transparent way
- **Appropriateness**
Using engagement methods appropriate to the circumstances
- **Accountability**
Report findings and ensure that all stakeholders are aware of the contribution they have made
- **Productivity**
Use community engagement in a productive and efficient way
- **Realism**
Ensure that all parties involved in community engagement remain realistic about what can actually be achieved within the planning context

