

**CABINET
6 AUGUST 2020**

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING, ECONOMY AND REGENERATION

**GREATER EXETER STRATEGIC PLAN (GESP): JOINT STATEMENT OF
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (JOINT SCI)**

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr Graeme Barnell, Cabinet Member for Planning &
Economic Regeneration

Responsible Officer: Mrs Jenny Clifford, Head of Planning, Economy and
Regeneration

Reason for Report:

To consider and approve the Joint Statement of Community Involvement for the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP). The Statement of Community Involvement sets out the Greater Exeter Council's approach to consultation on, and involvement in, the preparation of the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP).

Recommendations:

That Cabinet recommends to Council that:

A: The Council approves the contents and adopts the Joint SCI that has been prepared for the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP); and

B: The Council gives delegated authority to the Leader, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder and Chief Executive, to agree changes to the Joint SCI arising from decisions by the other GESP local planning authorities and to approve it as a Local Development Document, noting that it will apply jointly to East Devon District, Exeter City, Mid Devon District and Teignbridge District Councils.

Financial implications:

The adoption of the Joint SCI will commit the Greater Exeter local planning authorities to undertaking public consultation on the GESP in accordance with the methods set out in the Joint SCI. The costs associated with consultation will be funded by the joint GESP budget, to which each of the Greater Exeter local planning authorities have currently agreed to each contribute £170,000. Devon County Council has also made financial contributions to the preparation of the plan.

Budget and Policy Framework: The Joint Statement of Community Involvement will form part of the Council's policy framework.

Legal implications:

The preparation of an SCI, setting out how a local authority will involve its communities, businesses and other interested parties in the preparation of planning policies and in determining individual planning applications, is a legal requirement under section 18 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. However, there are currently no formal or regulatory requirements setting out how an SCI should be prepared and there is no legal requirement to consult on its contents.

Each of the Greater Exeter local planning authorities already have their own SCIs and these contain different consultation requirements. In order to overcome any difficulties with aligning these individual existing SCIs, a single Joint SCI specifically for the GESP is considered necessary. The Joint SCI will only apply to consultations on the GESP. The Greater Exeter local planning authorities' existing SCIs will remain in force for all other planning consultations.

Risk Assessment:

Each of the four local planning authorities in the Greater Exeter area are making appropriate arrangements for approving the Joint SCI. There is a risk that one or more of the Councils does not approve the Joint SCI. This would mean that such an authority would instead consult on the GESP in accordance with their existing SCI. This would increase the likelihood of inconsistent consultation and public confusion across the Greater Exeter area which could lead to challenges as the plan progresses and it is therefore not appropriate.

There is also a risk that revisions to the Joint SCI are made at Committee. This would then require each of the other local planning authorities to approve the revised versions. To overcome this potential issue, approval is sought to give the Leaders of the Greater Exeter local planning authorities, in consultation with the Chief Executives and Portfolio Holders, delegated authority to agree changes to the Joint SCI a part of the approval process.

Equality Impact Assessment:

Under the Act's Public Sector Equalities Duty, decision makers are required to consider the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct;
- Advance equality by encouraging participation, removing disadvantage, taking account of disabilities and meeting people's needs; and
- Foster good relations between people by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

In order to comply with the general duty, authorities must assess the impact on equality of decisions, policies and practices. These duties do not prevent the authority from reducing services where necessary, but they offer a way of developing proposals that consider the impacts on all members of the community.

In making decisions the authority must take into account the potential impact of that decision in relation to age, disability, race/ethnicity (includes Gypsies and Travellers), sex and gender, gender identity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, pregnant

women and new and breastfeeding mothers, marriage and civil partnership status in coming to a decision.

It is considered the Joint SCI will have a positive impact on people with protected characteristics. This is because, in setting out a range of methods of consultation, it seeks to ensure (as far as possible, taking cost and resource constraints into account) that all members of the community are able to engage in the preparation of the GESP.

Impact on Climate Change:

There are no direct climate change/environmental impacts arising from the recommendations. However, the Joint SCI includes the potential use of significant electronic, online and social media platforms which will help minimise the carbon impact of future GESP consultations.

Relationship to Corporate Plan:

Implementation of a Joint Statement of Community Involvement for the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan will help to ensure that our services are accessible and meet the needs of our community as well as helping to maximise the potential health and well-being of our communities. It will therefore help deliver all four of the Corporate Plan priorities.

Appendices:

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

Appendix 2: Greater Exeter Strategic Plan Joint Statement of Community Involvement. 2020

MAIN BODY OF REPORT

1. Purpose

1.1. Statements of Community Involvement (SCI) are produced by local authorities to explain to the public how they will be involved in planning matters. This report concerns the proposed Joint Statement of Community Involvement (Joint SCI) that has been prepared for the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP). The Joint SCI sets out the proposed approach to public consultation on the GESP as it progresses through its statutory plan-making stages towards adoption.

1.2. Whilst there is no legal requirement to do so, a draft of the proposed Joint SCI was itself subject to public consultation in 2017. This report explains how the proposed Joint SCI has been amended, both in light of responses to the 2017 consultation and to take account of Covid-19 restrictions on social interaction.

1.3. The proposed Joint SCI will cover the four Greater Exeter local planning authorities of Exeter City, East Devon District, Mid Devon District and Teignbridge District Councils. If approved by all four local planning authorities, the Joint SCI will become a Local Development Document.

2. Introduction

2.1. The 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act requires local planning authorities to prepare an SCI. Each of the Greater Exeter local planning authorities already have their own SCIs containing different consultation requirements. In order to overcome any difficulties with aligning these individual existing SCIs, a single Joint SCI specifically for the GESP has been prepared, which will only apply to consultations on that plan. The authorities' existing SCIs will remain in force for any other planning consultations.

2.2. Although consultation on SCIs and their revision is not legally required, a draft Joint SCI was published for consultation in 2017. Representations were received from 13 respondents and these are published at <https://www.gesp.org.uk/consultation-phases/procedural-documents/statement-of-community-involvement/>

2.3. A summary of the representations, together with responses, is attached at Appendix 1 to this report.

3. The Proposed Joint SCI

3.1. The proposed Joint SCI is attached at Appendix 2 to this report. The proposed Joint SCI balances the representations received in 2017 against the need to progress with the preparation of the GESP during the ongoing uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic. The main changes that have been made since consultation took place on the draft Joint SCI are as follows:

- Clarification has been provided that Devon County Council does not need to adopt the GESP, which is a matter for the four local planning authorities;
- It is recognised that consultation methods for the GESP must be chosen by balancing cost and time constraints;
- Whilst the statutory consultation period for plan making remains as 6 weeks, the standard consultation period for the GESP has been increased to 8 weeks;
- A clear explanation has been added that respondents' personal contact details will be retained in order to inform them about progress with the GESP, in line with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the EU General Data Protection Regulations;

- An additional requirement has been added to prepare a communication and engagement strategy with more specific proposals for each stage of consultation;
- It is now stated that paper copies of consultation documents will be made available at council offices and libraries where possible (see final bullet point below)
- It is also stated that electronic copies of consultation documents (or paper copies, on request) will be made available to community groups, councils and statutory organisations;
- It is stated that other requests for paper copies will be met, but at a price that reflects publication costs. This is necessary to help ensure that the local authorities can cover the costs of consultation costs;
- It now clarifies that, where resources allow, consultation documents will be made available in alternative formats upon request;
- More detail has been provided on the stages of plan preparation; and
- It is specified that some consultation methods (such as public exhibitions involving face-to-face contact and making paper copies of consultation documents available in public places) will be undertaken 'where possible' to reflect the ongoing uncertainties and implications of the COVID-19 pandemic.

3.2. It should be noted that there is no requirement to consult on a revised SCI before adoption.

4. Implications

4.1. Of the amendments listed above, two key changes have been made to the Joint SCI since draft stage. The increase in the consultation period from 6 to 8 weeks will help to ensure that individuals and organisations are more able to prepare thoughtful and well evidenced comments. This includes organisations who need to take comments through a committee structure. The reference to some consultation methods taking place 'where possible' enables greater flexibility to progress the plan during the uncertain period of COVID-19. If some events such as face-to-face public exhibitions cannot take place, meaningful engagement will still be ensured using alternative means such as social media and online exhibitions. This flexible approach is supported by Government guidelines that urge local authorities to progress plan-making during the coronavirus pandemic (see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/plan-making#covid19>).

4.2. Other changes made to the Joint SCI are generally fairly minor and improve the readability of the document.

5. Conclusion

5.1. The GESP Joint SCI will provide the framework for consultation on the GESP as it progresses. It is recommended that Council approves the content of the document and adopts the joint SCI.

5.2. During July and August 2020, support for the GESP Joint SCI will also be sought from the relevant decision making body/ies of each of the other Greater Exeter local planning authorities. Should any one of the Greater Exeter local planning authorities suggest a change to the Joint SCI, there will need to be a meeting of the council Leaders, in consultation with Portfolio Holders and Chief Executives or equivalent, to agree a consolidated version of the document. Recommendation B, sets this out formally.

6. Options

6.1. The alternative option is for the Council not to support the content of the Joint SCI and for the authority to instead consult on the GESP in accordance with the adopted Mid Devon SCI. Each of the other Greater Exeter authorities would then also consult on the GESP in accordance with their individual adopted SCIs. The risk of potential inconsistencies and public confusion that this option could cause is set out in the risk assessment above and it is therefore not appropriate.

7. Planning Policy Advisory Group (PPAG)

7.1. The Planning Policy Advisory Group (PPAG) has considered the Joint Statement of Community Involvement and recommended that Cabinet approve the document for adoption by Council.

8. Scrutiny Committee

1.1. Scrutiny Committee considered the Joint Statement of Community Involvement for the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan at its meeting of 20th July 2020. Members discussed the recommendations in the reports and specifically the recommendation that Cabinet give delegated authority to the Leader, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder and Chief Executive, to agree changes to the above documents arising from decisions by the other GESP authorities before they are published for consultation. Following discussion, Scrutiny Committee agreed to note the recommendations to Cabinet subject to the following comments which the Scrutiny Committee asked to be brought to the attention of the Cabinet:

- That the Cabinet recognised the concerns within the GESP expressed by the Scrutiny Committee on 20th July including:
 - The democratic process
 - Lack of scope including neighbouring authorities
 - Over complexity
 - Overly Exeter focussed

- Hierarchy of plans
- Infrastructure concerns
- That any delegated authority given should be for minor editorial changes only.

Contact for more Information:

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Circulation of the Report: Cllr Graeme Barnell

List of Background Papers:

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 www.gesp.org.uk . 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 should be funded to facilitate consultation processes.	Exeter Community Forum	Comments noted. It is agreed that consultation processes should be discussed and agreed in advance. The approach to 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 www.gesp.org.uk . 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 least, minutes of the meetings should be published, and the meetings should be open to the public. Technical	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 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

documents should be published as soon as they are available.		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.
Concerned that local wishes encapsulated by NPs can be over-ruled by the GESP.	Ottery St Mary Neighbourhood Plan Group	Comments noted. However, they do not appear to directly relate to the scope of the Joint SCI. No changes are proposed as a result.
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.	Exeter Green Party	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.
Issues should be put to the electorate via the ballot box.	Individual – East Devon	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.
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.	Individual – East Devon	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 forward before submission.
Suggests inclusion of 'fully independent' before consultants.	Individual – Mid Devon	Not agreed. The SCI promotes involvement for all stakeholders interested in the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan.
Suggests inclusion of 'to all residents in all areas' under how we will consult.	Individual – Mid Devon	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 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.'

**Appendix 2: Greater Exeter Strategic Plan Joint Statement of Community Involvement.
2020**

2020

Greater Exeter Strategic Plan

To request this information in an alternative format please call xxxx or email gesp@devon.gov.uk

We consider requests on an individual basis.



Greater Exeter Strategic Plan

Joint Statement of Community Involvement

This is a Joint Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) that sets out our approach to consultation on, and involvement in, the preparation of the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP) only. It has been prepared in accordance with Government guidance on the production of SCIs:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/plan-making>

The Joint SCI has been adopted by the four local planning authorities working in partnership on the GESP: East Devon District Council, Exeter City Council, Mid Devon District Council and Teignbridge District Council.

This SCI is clear and concise to ensure that as many people as possible will read it and understand our approach to consultation on the GESP.

Important Note:

This joint SCI only sets out the consultation approach for the GESP and not for other planning policy documents (such as local and neighbourhood plans) or planning applications. All the partner local planning authorities (LPAs) have existing SCIs that specify their approach to consultation and involvement for other planning policy documents and planning applications. These existing SCIs are not affected by this document. Please contact the individual authorities for details of existing SCIs.

Background

The GESP will be a formal statutory Development Plan Document, providing the strategic planning policy framework for the four local planning authority areas (excluding any part of Dartmoor National Park) that together form the Greater Exeter area. Devon County Council is also a partner in producing the GESP. The GESP will contain strategic site allocations and policies, including those that set the overall spatial strategy and amount of housing and employment land to be provided in the area. It will cover the period 2020 - 2040.

Consultation is required at various stages during the GESP's preparation, in accordance with legislation, after which it will be submitted to Government. An independent Planning Inspector will then carry out an examination of the GESP, considering the views of interested people that submitted representations on the plan. The final decision on the soundness of the GESP will be made by the Inspector, after which the GESP will be adopted by the four local planning authorities. You can find government guidance on preparing local plans here: www.gov.uk/guidance/local-plans

It should be noted that because Devon County Council is not a LPA in the context of the GESP it will not formally adopt the plan. Similarly this SCI will not apply directly to the County Council or its planning functions.

General principles for consultation and involvement

We will apply some general principles to consultation on the GESP:

- Involvement will be open to all regardless of age, disability, gender, race, pregnancy or maternity, marital status, faith, sexual orientation or gender reassignment, rural isolation and social deprivation.

- We will undertake consultation when the plan is still at a formative stage, to ensure that there are sufficient opportunities for views to be shared throughout the preparation of the GESP
- We will choose consultation processes by balancing cost and time constraints
- Consultation publications will be clear and concise and avoid unnecessary jargon. They will give sufficient information to allow an informed response.
- At least **8 weeks** will be given for responses to be made on consultation material
- Responses will be published and considered conscientiously
- We will give an opportunity for anyone to be kept informed as the plan progresses

When we will consult

The timetable for the preparation of the GESP is set out in the Local Development Scheme which is available on the GESP website www.gesp.org.uk.

An initial 'issues' consultation took place between 27th February and 10th April 2017 to ask for views about the scope and content of the plan.

Who we will consult

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

Anyone can register to be kept informed about the preparation of the GESP and opportunities to engage in the plan-making process. Personal contact details will be retained to inform you about progress with the plan. Your data will be processed in line with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the EU General Data Protection Regulations.

How we will consult and how you can get involved

- We will contact appropriate organisations and individuals directly
- We will publicise consultations by a combination of the following methods: website, press release, social media, leaflets, posters, displays, community groups/community events where possible and in accordance with a communication and engagement strategy
- Consultation documents will be made available for download on the Council's websites and on the GESP website (www.gesp.org.uk). Paper copies of consultation documents will be made available for purchase at a price that reflects publication costs
- Where resources allow, consultation documents will be made available in alternative formats upon request. Requests will be considered on an individual basis
- We will provide consultation documents in an electronic format (and paper copy when asked) to community groups, councils and other statutory organisations
- We will make paper copies of consultation documents available at council offices and public libraries where possible
- During the initial and publication stages of consulting on the GESP, we will organise or support consultation events such as public exhibitions where possible

Once a consultation has been completed we will publish comments received, including a summary, as soon as feasible. We will also explain how these comments have been considered or taken into account in the process of preparing the GESP.

Figure 1 shows the possible methods of consultation that will be used at each stage of the GESP's preparation.

GREATER EXETER STRATEGIC PLAN - PREPARATION STAGES ¹		POSSIBLE METHODS OF ENGAGEMENT
INITIAL PREPARATION OF THE PLAN (REG. 18)	<p>During the formative stages of the plan we will ask you about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initial issues, - Draft policies and site options, and - Key elements of the plan as needed. 	Social media Website Emails Letters Questionnaires Surveys Exhibitions(*) Meetings(*) Focus groups(*) Leaflets
PUBLICATION OF THE PLAN (REG. 19)	<p>Continuing involvement by asking you to make comments on the Publication Draft version of the plan - this is the version (technically the 'pre-submission version') of the plan which will be submitted to Government together with the consultation representations received</p>	Social media Website Emails Letters Questionnaires Surveys Exhibitions(*) Meetings(*)
SUBMISSION AND EXAMINATION (REGS. 22 – 25)	<p>The plan will be submitted to Government for examination by an independent planning Inspector. The submitted plan, representations, and accompanying documents will be available for you to view</p>	Social media Website Emails Letters
	<p>If you have made comments on the plan at the Publication stage you will have the opportunity to submit further material in response to questions from the Inspector, and you will have the right to appear at the examination hearings</p>	Emails Letters
	<p>We will consult you on any additional modifications</p>	Social media Website Emails Letters
	<p>The Inspector's Report will be available for you to view</p>	Social media Website Emails Letters
ADOPTION (REG. 26)	<p>Once the strategic plan has been adopted by the partner councils, it will be available to view with the supporting adoption documents</p>	Social media Website Emails Letters

Figure 1: Mechanisms for consulting on GESP through the plan's preparation

¹ The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

(*) Face to face and/or online