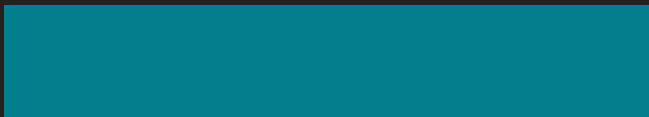


Statement of Community Involvement



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Foreword

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Part 1:

Foreword



Your involvement in the planning process is important to us. By influencing planning issues within Worcestershire, you the community can be involved in decisions that affect you and your environment. The purpose of the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is to create real opportunities for interested individuals or groups to have a stake in decisions on minerals, waste and County planning matters (such as roads and some schools) within Worcestershire.

The updated SCI replaces the 2015 version, takes account of current planning policy and legislation and clearly sets out how people will be engaged in planning issues which the County Council is responsible for. We want to engage with as many individuals, groups and businesses as possible to ensure that everyone in our community has the opportunity to get involved in the planning process. District Councils cover all other planning functions not described above, including housing and most employment proposals, and each district has an SCI for their area which covers district level planning functions.

Please do let us know your views during our consultations. We will ensure that all planning consultations are carried out openly and transparently, in accordance with the SCI.



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Part 1: Introduction

Introduction to the SCI

- 1.1 The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out how Worcestershire County Council will seek your involvement in the planning of minerals, waste management and Worcestershire County Council developments such as new libraries, schools, roads and railway stations.
- 1.2 All Local Planning Authorities are required by law to prepare a SCI. This SCI is a statement of our policy for involving interested parties in matters relating to development in their area. The SCI sets out how we will involve the local community, businesses and interest groups in the preparation of Local Plan Documents (LPDs) and in decision-making on planning applications. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2019 states that plans “should be shaped by early, proportionate and effective engagement between plan-makers and communities, local organisations, businesses, infrastructure providers and operators and statutory consultees”. The NPPF goes further to encourage effective engagement between applicants, communities, Local Planning Authorities and other interests throughout the planning and development process. All LPDs prepared by, and planning applications determined by, Worcestershire County Council must comply with the consultation arrangements set out in this SCI.
- 1.3 The Council’s planning functions are as follows:
 - › Plan-Making;
 - › Decision-Making, e.g. planning applications; and
 - › Monitoring / Enforcement of planning permissions.

Reviewing the SCI

- 1.4 This is the second review of the SCI since the Council’s original SCI was first adopted in 2006 (the SCI was initially reviewed, and a revised document adopted in 2015). Regulation 10A(1)b of planning a39N5.6 g / 9s290

Scope

1.6

Vision

1.11

Part 2: Minerals and Waste Policy

Introduction to Minerals and Waste Policy

- 2.1 Worcestershire County Council will prepare a variety of planning documents to guide minerals and waste development across the county. Development proposals will need to demonstrate how they comply with these documents.

National Policy

- 2.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published in March 2012 and has subsequently been updated in 2018 and 2019. It sets out Government's planning policies for England and how they should be applied when producing Local Plans for housing and other development, which in turn provide the background against which applications for planning permission are decided. National Planning Policy for Waste (NPPW), which sets out the Government's detailed waste planning policies, was published in October 2014. The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) web-based resource was launched in March 2014. It adds further context to the NPPF and it is intended that the two documents are read together. The NPPF, NPPW and PPG together with associated saved and new technical guidance constitute the Government's planning policies and guidance. These set out the overarching national principles to be used in determining planning applications, and the key principles with which minerals and waste policies must accord.
- 2.3 A crucial element of the minerals and waste policy context as detailed in the PPG and a possible trigger as to whether the Minerals Local Plan needs to be reviewed, is the work undertaken to inform the Managed Aggregate Supply System (MASS). MASS works through national, sub-national and local partners working together to deliver a steady and adequate supply of aggregates. This work requires mineral planning authorities which have adequate resources of aggregates to make an appropriate contribution to national as well as local supply. At a

Local Policy

- 2.5 Worcestershire County Council, as the County Planning Authority (CPA) prepares the Development Plan policies for Worcestershire consisting of Minerals and Waste Local Plans. The Minerals Local Plan¹ provides planning policies for minerals development, including extraction and processing of minerals and restoration of mineral sites in the county. A separate Mineral Site Allocations Development Plan Document will also be developed to allocate “specific sites” and “preferred areas” for mineral extraction in the county. The Waste Core Strategy Local Plan², sets out policies for waste management related development including how much

2.11 Worcestershire County Council will consult the community and stakeholders during the preparation of Minerals and Waste policy documents. Different methods of consulting may include those listed below.

Consultation Methods:	Details
Emails or letters	

Part 3: Development Management

Introduction to Development Management

3.1

Pre-Application Discussions

3.7

Part 4: Resourcing, implementation, monitoring and other useful information

Resourcing and Timing of Community Involvement

- 4.1 Community involvement required as part of the preparation of planning policy documents will be funded from the existing planning budget, as this is a core part of the plan-making process. Local Plans and supporting documents will be prepared in accordance with the timetable set out in the Minerals and Waste Development Scheme.
- 4.2 When undertaking consultations, staff within the Planning Department will be responsible for undertaking the majority of work that is associated with community involvement, with assistance sought from other Worcestershire County Council departments as appropriate. It may be necessary to use consultants for some

Electronic Communications

- 4.8 Providing information electronically can benefit both Worcestershire County Council and the public. It can reduce staff time that is spent dealing with requests for planning information and the printing and distributing of this information. Availability of information online also allows people to access the information they want immediately. However, not everybody has access to the internet, so Worcestershire County Council will continue to provide information in other formats on request subject to a charge to cover the cost of production and post and packaging.
- 4.9 Worcestershire County Council will make all Mineral and Waste Local Plans and associated documents available on its website.
- 4.10 The Planning Development Management team makes valid planning applications and their associated documents available on Worcestershire County Council's website. Once the application has been determined, copies of the planning decision are also made available online. Applicants are able to submit their planning applications and associated documents online via the Planning Portal www.planningportal.gov.uk , with the exception of planning applications for minerals development.

Neighbourhood Plans

4.11

Freedom of Information Act

4.20 Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (as amended) and Environmental Information Regulations, members of the public have a general right of access to a range of information held by the Council. Details of information held by the Council are available through Worcestershire County Council's publication scheme. We aim to make as much information as possible available via the Worcestershire County Council website. If

Appendix 1: Profile of Worcestershire

The 2019 Office for National Statistics (ONS) mid-year estimates recorded the following key facts:

- 595,786 people were living in Worcestershire in June 2019.
- 73.6% of people in Worcestershire are estimated to be living in urban areas with the remaining 26.4% in rural areas.
- 57.2% of the population in the county are aged 18-64, children (0-17) made up 20.0% of all residents, whilst 22.8% are in the 65-plus age group.
- 39.1% of residents aged 16-74 are employed full time, slightly below the national average for England of 43.5%.

Appendix 2: Glossary of Terms

Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)

The Authority Monitoring Report assesses the implementation of the Local Development Scheme and the extent to which policies in Local Plan Documents are being successfully implemented.

View the AMR at

Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)

The Government's web-based planning practice guidance which supplements the NPPF. The PPG brings together planning practice guidance for England in an accessible and usable way.

Public Consultation

