

2.0 How can I get involved in the planning process?

- 2.1 Since planning has a direct impact on the daily lives of residents and the business community, it is very important that development proposals are transparent and that you have the opportunity to have a say in the planning decisions that are made on your behalf.
- 2.2 Early involvement in the planning process means that you stand the best chance of influencing a decision. This draft SCI has been written to inform you about the different formal stages when you can get involved and how.
- 2.3 Local knowledge is very valuable in helping to make good decisions and it is important that decision makers understand the type of community you want to live and work in. Likewise, it is very important that we understand the aspirations of those who are ultimately responsible for delivering future development (i.e. developers and land owners) so that we can work together to bring forward development which is in the public interest.
- 2.4 The SCI has been written to guide you through the plan making, development management and neighbourhood planning process and set out how you can get involved in each of these areas. Nevertheless there are also a number of other ways you can engage in the planning process at a local level.
- 2.5 Within South Cambridgeshire, Parish Planning Forums³ are held to discuss planning matters with district councillors and planning officers. There are also Community Forums⁴ relating to the new settlements at Northstowe, Waterbeach and development within the CB23 area of the district. These community forums are also held for growth areas that overlap with Cambridge City, including the Southern Fringe, Cambridge East and North West Cambridge.
- 2.6 Both LPAs also hold Agent Forums⁵ to update planning agents on changes to legislation and procedures within the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service.
- 2.7 Within Cambridge City, you are also able to get involved in the planning process through the Disability Panel⁶ and Residents Association Forum⁷.

³ www.scambs.gov.uk/councillor-information/parish-councils/parish-planning-forums-and-training/

⁴ www.scambs.gov.uk/community/community-forums/

⁵ South Cambridgeshire District Council: www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/forums-committees-and-consultations/south-cambridgeshire-agents-forum-archive

Cambridge City Council: www.cambridge.gov.uk/planning-agents-forum

⁶ More information can be found by emailing access@cambridge.gov.uk

⁷ www.cambridge.gov.uk/residents-association-forum