

# Consultation Strategy for the Wellington Place Plan

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## Background

Somerset West and Taunton Council has commissioned consultants Allies and Morrison, Avison Young, and LUC to prepare the Wellington Place Plan, including: a Vision, Spatial Framework, and Infrastructure and Implementation Plan. The Place Plan will inform future decisions about the development, regeneration and conservation of the town; and look at potential options for future growth to support housing and employment needs; retail and commercial function; transport systems; culture and heritage.

Following our visioning exercise with the community in October 2022, a statutory consultation will take place in January and February 2023, taking on the views of key stakeholders and members of the public. These comments will be further considered in reviewing the final draft of the Place Plan. When adopted it will be a long-term strategy that will inform the future Somerset-wide Local Plan as we move to a new unitary authority in April 2023.

## Summary

The Consultation Plan sets out how officers will engage with key stakeholders and members of the public on the forthcoming Draft Wellington Place Plan consultation. The Consultation Plan follows aligns with our adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), which sets out how Somerset West and Taunton will involve the community and stakeholders in the preparation, alteration and review of local planning policy and the consideration of planning applications within the Local Planning Authority area. In the preparation of planning policy this includes who we will consult and the method of consultation. These are elaborated on, below.

The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 set out the minimum requirements for public participation in the preparation of a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). Although the Wellington Place Plan will not be a statutory plan, such as an SPD, in seeking best practice we will still follow the minimum requirements set out. These are to:

- Publicise the consultation on the **Council's website**, with evidence base studies and related information also available to view and download;
- Make hard copies of documents available at **inspection points** at the Council's offices; and

- **Notify** statutory bodies, stakeholders, relevant groups and other individuals or groups on our consultation database – either by email; or letters if they have specifically requested to be contacted by post.

## Consultation Strategy

**Consultation period: for at least 4 weeks in January/February 2023**

### 1. Purpose

- To consult formally for at least 4 weeks on the Wellington Place Plan document;
- To gain an understanding for the issues facing the local area and potential ways in which these could be addressed through the Place Plan;
- To inform the final document;

### 2. Target audience

- Statutory consultees (defined in the Regulations)
  - Somerset County Council
  - Historic England
  - Natural England
  - National Highways
  - Sport England
  - NHS
- General public (residents)
- Local businesses
  - Country Land and Business Association - South West
  - Federation of Small Businesses (Somerset, Wiltshire & Dorset)
  - Road Haulage Association
  - Somerset Chamber of Commerce
  - South West Tourism Alliance
  - Taunton Chamber of Commerce
  - West Somerset Business Group
- Wellington Town Council
- Special interest groups and organisations in Wellington
  - Local businesses
  - Local schools including Isambard Kingdom Primary, Rockwell Green Primary, St John's, Beech Grove, Wellesley Park, Court Fields
  - Early Years providers
  - Wellington Churches Together
  - Wellington Carers Support Group
  - Wellington Mills CIC
  - Wellington Arts Association including the Operatic Society, Wellington Acoustic Music Club, Spectrum Arts and Crafts and Wellington Theatre Company

- Wellington Community Hospital
- Wellington Medical Centre
- Luson Surgery
- Wellington Local History and Museum Society
- Wellesley Cinema Wellington
- Local artists
- Wellington & District Sports Federation
- Wellington Wheelers
- Wellington Sports Centre
- Rockwell Green Community Allotment
- Wellington and Rockwell Green cubs/ scouts/ brownies/ guides
- Wellington Community Centre
- Transition Town Wellington
- Friends of Wellington Park
- Wellington Community Food
- Reminiscence Learning (local Alzheimer's Support Group)
- Wellington Counselling
- Wellington One Team
- Facebook groups like Wellington Somerset Community Group
- Community/residents groups, including individuals/groups protected under the Equalities Act
  - Anglo Chinese Society
  - Equality & Human Right Commission
  - Ethnic Minority Achievement and Traveller Education Service
  - Friends, Families and Travellers
  - Somerset Multicultural Association
  - Taunton Deane Polish Association
  - The Diversity Trust
  - Bahai Community
  - Catholic Church, Clifton Diocese
  - Diocese of Bath and Wells
  - Diocese of Bath and Wells – Community
  - Faithnet South West• Humanists
  - Jewish Community of Somerset
  - Somerset Churches Together
  - Somerset Circuit of Jehovah Witnesses• Taunton Deane and South Sedgemoor Methodist Circuit
  - Action on Disability and Development
  - Alzheimer's Society – Somerset
  - Autism Somerset
  - Bridgwater & Taunton Deane Deaf Club
  - Compass Disability Services
  - ESCAPE Support Groups
  - Maggie's Centre (Cancer Care)
  - Mind in Taunton & West Somerset
  - RNID (Action on Hearing Loss)
  - Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB)
  - Somerset Sight
  - Taunton and District Mencap Society
- Voluntary bodies

- Age UK Somerset
- Arc Inspire (Taunton Association for the Campaign to Protect Rural England)
- Citizens Advice Bureau (Taunton)
- Community Council for Somerset
- Cycle Somerset
- Ecos Trust
- Engage Taunton Deane
- Forum 21
- Friends of the Earth
- FWAG South West England Office
- Home Builders Federation
- People Plus
- Quantock Eco
- RSPB SWRO
- Somerset Activity & Sports Partnership
- Somerset Association of Local Councils
- Somerset County Federation of Womens' Institutes
- Somerset Churches Together
- Somerset Gay Health
- Somerset Lesbian Network (SLN)
- Somerset Playing Fields Association
- Somerset Wildlife Trust
- Somerset Youth Parliament
- South West Seniors Forum
- SUSTRANS
- Taunton Ramblers
- Taunton Women's Aid
- The Exmoor Society
- Village Agents
- Wivey Action on Climate and Environment
- Women's Equality Network, Somerset (WENS)
- YMCA - Minehead and Taunton
- Consultee database (those who have expressed an interest previously);
- Under-represented groups – in Wellington these have been identified as being residents on low incomes, ethnic minority groups and young people (0-17 years)

### 3. **Methods**

- **Website** On the Planning Policy home page at: <https://www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/planning-policy/> . Baseline Report, Vision Summary, related information and questionnaire available to view and download.
- **Inspection Points** Hard copies of documents and questionnaires will be available to view at the Wellington Town Councils Offices and Wellington Library
- **Email** Notifications will be sent from the generic email address [strategy@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk](mailto:strategy@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk) to all statutory consultees,

stakeholders and relevant groups and other individuals and organisations on our consultation database.

- **Letters** Postal notifications will be sent to statutory bodies, stakeholders, relevant groups and other individuals and organisations on our consultation database where we only have a postal address or they have specifically requested to be contacted by post
- **Information boards** at Wellington Library.  
*Requirements: boards containing a series of statements/questions, to be up for the full 4 weeks; paper questionnaires but people encouraged to use the online questionnaire.*
- **Public exhibitions** Information boards at two free public events (e.g show/market) in Wellington. Staff will be on hand to discuss.  
*Requirements: at least 3 staff to help transport and move equipment and meet public. Paper questionnaires will be available but people encouraged to use online questionnaire.*
- **Town Council Clerk** Email early (forewarning of consultation) so as to meet as many print deadlines as possible
- **Social Media** campaign to include posts at start of consultation and weekly tweets/FB posts highlighting a different topic. Post near the end of consultation as a reminder and posts near the time of events.  
Simultaneous with Press Release  
*Requirements: ongoing liaison with the Comms Team.*
- **Press release** Public Notices will be placed in the Somerset County Gazette and the Wellington Weekly News to include details on when and where planning documents can be inspected, how copies can be obtained, the closing date for representations and where to send them. We will also issue a press release to these newspapers.