

South Norfolk Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) (Updated 2025)

The SCI outlines how South Norfolk Council will engage with the community and other stakeholder bodies regarding the development of planning documents and making planning decisions. It aims to make community involvement easy and effective, ensuring local knowledge contributes to development, while protecting the district's qualities.

Need for Review: The SCI was first published in 2007 and has undergone several updates. The 2025 review includes changes such as:

- **Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP):** Adopted in March 2024, the GNLP covers Broadland, Norwich, and South Norfolk. The Joint Core Strategy (JCS) has been superseded by the GNLP, making it necessary to adapt the SCI to reflect this change.
- **Village Clusters Housing Allocations Plan (VCHAP):** The emerging VCHAP will deliver sustainable growth within South Norfolk's villages, sufficient to meet the minimum requirements set out in the GNLP.
- **Revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF):** Incorporation of updates from the December 2024 NPPF.
- **Online Engagement Methods:** The Council continues to use virtual engagement methods, such as online exhibitions, presentations, and meetings. These were established during the Covid-19 pandemic, and will be extended into future consultations, alongside the use of social media to reach a wider audience.

Additionally, the SCI discusses:

- **Community Involvement in Plan Making:** The Council consults on Local Plans, Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs), and Neighbourhood Plans. It uses various methods to involve the community and other stakeholders at different stages of plan production. The SCI sets out what these stages are and when they occur.
- **Aims for Community Involvement:** The Council commits to involving local people and other stakeholder bodies, being approachable, using plain English, and considering all views through consultations. It aims to engage traditionally hard-to-reach groups through various techniques.
- **Consultation Methods:** The Council aims to make consultations accessible and extensive. Consultation methods include online and in-person events, social media, local media, and direct communication with stakeholders. The SCI provides further details.
- **Planning Proposals and Applications:** The SCI details how the community can participate in the planning application process, from pre-application to post-application stages. It emphasises early engagement and transparency.