Elected councillors are community leaders and are empowered to engage in the process\(^1\) and provide an ‘early steer’ on matters of principle and/or strategic issues and priorities for their communities.

Developers engaging members early in the process and jointly agreeing common goals for each development leads to greater certainty, better decisions and better developments.

Underlying the protocol is a shared commitment to building relationships and trust, and partnership working.

---

1. Planning committee members can comment on the details of schemes, provide they are clear that they will listen to all material considerations presented at a committee meeting before deciding how to vote.
Members with officer advice will:

• Feel free to engage with developers in a positive and proactive way
• Be encouraged to engage at an early stage in the process and through to implementation
• Identify on a without prejudice basis the strategic and significant issues and priorities that need to be addressed in the planning process, including negotiable and non negotiable issues
• Provide guidance for their communities and balance the overriding duty as a Councillor to the whole community and as a ward representative

Developers will:

• Be prepared to involve elected members at the earliest stage i.e. at the ‘ideas’ stage while the proposal is still fluid, and through to occupation, and a post completion audit
• Openly share information, including drivers for the scheme, financial viability and any ‘deal breakers’

More information - click to follow link

Planning Advisory Service (PAS)
• Constructive Talk
• Connecting Councillors with Strategic Planning Applications
• Councillor involvement in development management
• Pre-application guidance and engagement
• How planning works – an introductory guide for councillors

Bath and North East Somerset Council
• Neighbourhood Planning Protocol
• Elected Members
• Cabinet

Bristol City Council
• Statement of Community Involvement
• Elected Members
• Cabinet
• Major developments web page

North Somerset Council
• Statement of Community Involvement
• Councillors

South Gloucestershire Council
• Statement of Community Involvement
• Elected Representatives
• Committee meeting information

For further information please contact Brian.Glasson@southglos.gov.uk or Gary.Collins@bristol.gov.uk

2 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2012 paras 186/7
3 Taking into account the councils respective Statement of Community Involvement