

Slough Compact Protocols

Community Engagement (Consultation)

There is common agreement that:

- Consultation is a two way process in which all are equal partners.
- All parties should be consulted, informed and involved in major issues for the town and encouraged to take part opportunities to discuss them.
- Feedback is important, making use of responses to consultation and making those who took part aware of the results.
- Guidelines for good practice, should be developed that are clear, transparent, dynamic, flexible, and regularly reviewed and updated.
- Consultation and community engagement should be tailored to the audience. This includes providing materials which are accessible (e.g. in community languages, in large print, paper copies), clear (using words and concepts familiar to the audience) and realistic, taking into account the time and other resources available to those taking part.

The Public sector:

- Will (as far as possible) identify and map community stakeholders and the voluntary and the community sector undertakes to assist in that process and to establish clear aims for community engagement
- Accepts the need to engage with the community prior to consultation, to encourage the voluntary and community sector in helping to set the agenda and to avoid confusion between 'briefings' and 'consultation'.
- Undertakes to ensure that early and meaningful consultation takes place which feeds into any decision making process.
- Undertakes to share information gathered during the consultation process and to inform the voluntary and community sector what other consultations are ongoing
- Will use community specialists/experts for consultation wherever possible and will reimburse any reasonable costs incurred by individuals or organisations taking part in a consultation.

The Voluntary and Community sector:

- Will endeavour to establish a structure for participation, engagement and representation.
- Accepts the need to be realistic about the limits of power that the public sector possesses.
- Undertakes to assist the Public sector to identify and map out community stake holders.

