

Place Plans in Shropshire

Shropshire Council has developed Place Plans as a means to encourage greater community involvement in the preparation of its Local Plan and to identify and capture finer grain information relating particularly to local infrastructure needs.

The Council divided the County into 18 community areas comprising main settlements and their hinterland. Parishes within each community were asked to consider and identify suitable areas and sites to go forward in the Local Plan for future development. This approach required regular meetings that helped to explain the benefits that new development could bring in terms of supporting local services and facilities and giving the local planning authority a clear message that development would be supported if the necessary infrastructure came with it.

The Local Plan could identify the broad areas for new growth and development sites. But it couldn't capture the finer grain – the local needs/capacities and infrastructure gaps. Place Plans were prepared for each community areas as the basis for defining settlement policies for the Local Plan and detailing the communities' aspirations including a pre-agreed list of 'critical, priority and desirable' infrastructure projects. The Place Plans also identify funding sources for the infrastructure, including Community Infrastructure Levy and its component parts i.e. neighbourhood fund, local CIL fund and strategic fund.

This would ensure that Shropshire Council and other key stakeholders (such as infrastructure providers) understood the local priorities within each community and that resources could be targeted appropriately. Knowing that the local authority was committed to ensure the work to identify infrastructure gaps through the Place Plan work would feed into the CIL also helped to encourage local communities to accept new development through the Local Plan process.

For more information about Shropshire Council's approach click [here](#).