Examples of community involvement in planning proposals
(pre-application or at application stage)

As set out in the City Council’s Statement of Community Involvement, for major and other significant development proposals, applicants are strongly encouraged to involve the local community and other interested parties at the pre-application stage.

This involvement should try to explain the proposals, offer opportunities for feedback and respond to comments received where appropriate.

Common methods of explaining proposals to members of the community include (also see help sheet which gives an overview of the advantages and disadvantages of these and other methods):

- Leaflets
- Letters
- Exhibitions
- Public meetings
- Websites

Applicants are also encouraged to explore the use of new and innovative illustrative measures to help the members of the community understand the potential implications of the proposal.

We have set out some examples below of commonly-used consultation methods, emerging best practice and newer techniques.

Some further examples of good practice can be found in Planning Aid’s ‘Good Practice Guide to Public Engagement in Development Schemes

Indicative Height Poles (‘Swiss Poles’ / ‘Ghost Buildings’)

Indicative Height Poles can be used to mark out the location and height of a proposed development to help people visualise its scale and potential impacts.

The City Council has a set of six adjustable poles which are available to hire. Each pole can reach up to 10 metres in height.

Scaffolding Covers (‘building wraps’)

Scaffolding covers which provide an indication of the final design can help people visualise the proposed development and how it might fit in with the surrounding area.
3D Models

Three dimensional models can be useful to show the proposed scale of development and how it relates to surrounding buildings and open spaces.

Computer-Generated Models & Images

Computer-generated models and images can be used to show how the final design might fit in with existing buildings and views. They can also be a good way to show how surface treatments and building materials will look. Digital ‘walk through’ or ‘fly over’ experiences, or virtual tours, can help people to appreciate how the final scheme will look and feel.