

# Somerset Enabling Growth

## The Growth Charter

### Purpose of the Growth Charter

The councils wish to work collaboratively with developers and key stakeholders to enable quality development throughout Somerset. This will support economic growth and the social and environmental wellbeing of its communities.

Working in partnership across the Somerset authorities can support the smooth and swift progression of planning applications and infrastructure provision.

Shared commitments will enhance the processes and the outcomes for all involved in the development process.

### Shared Commitments

1. Take a team approach to the project proposals: clarifying and understanding each other's priorities, pressures and processes.
2. Being honest about what can be achieved, setting realistic timeframes and adhering to deadlines:
3. Proactively communicating as early as possible in a direct, straightforward manner using simple language.
4. Meeting and speaking with key parties regularly to build trust and openly discuss difficulties and solutions.
5. Being proactive and solution orientated in discussions.
6. Adopting a "right first time approach" and providing continuity of advice.
7. Being respectful to all parties involved in the process.

8. Having an open and honest approach.

### Processing Applications - Planning and Infrastructure.

A smooth process for determining planning applications and supporting highways infrastructure provision will support economic growth by reducing time and costs.

The planning development management and highways processes are currently being improved through the work of the Somerset Enabling Growth Project.

This is being achieved through:

- Clear signposted guidance, roles, responsibilities and the processes.
- Communicating effectively as to where an application is in the process and what the outstanding matters are.
- All parties working together to achieve valid planning applications and infrastructure provision.
- All parties submitting a complete set of proposals with evidence to support planning applications and infrastructure provision that will enable decisions to be taken.
- All parties working together to understand the deliverability and viability needs of the proposed development.
- Somerset County Council Highways providing information on new processes and guidance for infrastructure planning.

All parties will take a proactive approach to enable growth.

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