The purpose of this report is to provide the Township of Auroville with a Community Participation Framework that will allow for a consistent and transparent collaborative planning process. The framework is based on a set of guiding principles and it functions as a step-by-step guide to involving the community in the planning and development process. A pilot study, using a local planning issue, was conducted to test the ~¦æ { ^ ¸ [¦ \ÈÁØã } åã } * •Á~¦ [{ Ác@^Á] â¦ [cÁ•cˇå^Á¦^•ˇ¦c^åÁã } Á { [åã, &æcã [} •Ác [Ác@^Á framework and recommendations concerning both the pilot study topic and participation more generally.

Prior to the project team's arrival in Auroville, an extensive literature and

was conducted in the form of six semi-structured interviews and a brief questionnaire, which was dispersed through Auroville's Intranet. The cumulative results of this research provided the team with further insight into Auroville's context, and allowed for the development of an initial community participation framework to meet the needs of the community. In consultation with the client, this framework was used to create a preliminary plan for the pilot study that incorporated a high degree of ' ^¢âàâ¦âcˆÊÁæ•Á•â* } â, &æ } cÁ&@æ } * •Ác [Ác@^Á•c¦æc^* ^Á ¸ ^¦^Á^¢] ^&c^åÁ [} &^Ác@^Á team arrived in Auroville.

Upon the team's arrival in Auroville, a focus group was conducted ¸ ãc@Á\ ^ˆÁ } åãçãå ˇæ¦•Áã } Ác@^Á] ¦æ } } ã } * Áæ } åÁ& [{ { ˇ } ãcˆÁ] æ¦cã&â] æcã [} Á, ^¦å•ÈÁ The purpose of the focus group was to receive feedback on both the framework and the pilot study. Semi-structured interviews and systematic self observations were also conducted in Auroville. This ¦^•^æ¦&@Á&@Á* ¦ * ¦^æc¦^â] ^Áâ } ' ˇ^ } &^åÁc@^^Á~¦æ { ^ ¸ [¦ \Áæ } åÁ¦^åÁc [Áâãâ¦^&â&@æ } * Áæ } •ˆ @ in its content. The breadth of the pilot study widened through focus group discussions and in-situ interviews; its scope grew into a broader visioning study.

The community participation framework underwent a number of changes as a result of the interviews, focus groups, and the pilot study. Multiple sections were added to the report including, "What is a framework?" and "Who is this framework for?" The need for more focused public meetings ¸ æ•Áãâ㠸 } cã, ^åÁÁ ˇ ¦ã } * Ác@^Áâ } c^¦çã^ ¸ •Á¦ [{ { } c^åÁc@^Áæåå¦cã [} Á of a section that includes tips for effective facilitation. The wording of the document was also changed to include plain language. For example, the types of engagement were renamed to "Tell", "Listen", "Discuss", and "Work Together" rather than the more technical "Inform", "Consult", "Involve", and "Collaborate". The "Choosing Techniques" section ¸ æ•Á^¢] æ } å^åÁc [Áà^cc^¦¦¦^¦ ' ^&cÁc@^Áæ { [ ] ¦cæ } &^Á [~Á ˇ •ã } * ÁæåÁçæ¦ã^c^Á [~Á participation techniques in order to hear from diverse groups and identify which techniques are most appropriate for a given situation.

The proposed community participation framework is designed to be a stand-alone tool that can be pulled out of the report if desired. The framework starts by establishing context; who should be using it and when it should be used. Seven guiding principles form the basis of the framework, which were derived through research and through discussions with Aurovilians. These guiding principles are: be inclusive, build capacity, be proactive, make it enjoyable, provide structure and be transparent, be accountable, and be adaptive. Guiding Principles are foundational values that must guide each step when developing a community participation plan. This section is followed by tips on facilitation. The community participation toolkit represents the "how-to" portion of the framework and is presented in seven steps:

Step 1. Setting Intentions
Step 2. SWOC Analysis
Step 3. Identifying Impacted and Interested Groups
Step 4. Choose the Type of Engagement
Step 5. Choose Techniques
Step 6. Communicate and Implement the Plan
Step 7. Evaluate the Community Engagement Process: Monitor, Report, Feedback

The community participation framework has the potential to standardise the way planners interact with residents and contribute to re-establishing trust. As a result, the implementation of the proposed framework is our primary recommendation, as it will lead to the creation of a structured and predictable participation process. Other recommendations for the implementation of the participation framework in Auroville include: 1) make the framework an online tool, in order to build capacity, 2) the ~¦æ{^¸[¦\Å•@[˘|åÅà^Å,¦•cÅ˘•^åÅ~[¦Å•^ç^¦æ|Å•{æ||Å•&æ|^Å]¦[b^&c•Åà^~[¦^Å it is applied to larger community-wide projects, and 3) ensure that the framework adapted as circumstances in Auroville change.

The pilot study, a test of the proposed framework, occupied the majority of the team's time in Auroville. The participation exercise centred on the question: "What community features do you envision in Residential Sectors 1 & 2?" As recommended by the framework, a multi-method approach was used to gain community feedback. Aurovilians were informed about upcoming events through multiple platforms including radio, emails, posters, and newsletter advertisements. Major events conducted by the project team included three information kiosks, two focus groups, an online questionnaire, a workshop, and 1 on 1 interviews with underrepresented group.

Information kiosks were held at three locations across the community. The kiosks engaged Aurovilians in informal conversations about community features, and generated over 140 responses, which were categorised into four themes and twelve sub-themes. These sub-themes were then listed in an online survey that asked Aurovillians to select their preferred community features. Additionally, a focus group on community features sought out the perspective of Auroville youth, an underrepresented group in the community.

The project team led a workshop that used 2 engagement techniques: "dot democracy" and "open spaces". The team presented a number of potential discussion topics to the group. These topics were generated using data gathered from previous engagement events. Participants each cast 3 votes to narrow down the choices to 4 topics, which were then dicussed using the open spaces technique. Each theme was given a facilitator to guide discussion and a note taker to accurately record the discussion. This exercise resulted in in-depth conversations that centred on feasibⁱBT1nwB5uojeci0ssef49iwer cemoich (a ceusingtionrecthe)TjETEMC Span 2CID 110 BDC BT11 04MCI51 36 363.19from pre The participawasthe