

Stoke-on-Trent City Council

Statement of Community Involvement

2021



City of
Stoke-on-Trent

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Part 1: Introduction and Background

What is a Statement of Community Involvement?

1.1 A Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) describes how the public, businesses and interest groups within a local authority area can get involved in the creation of local planning policy and the decision making process aimed at shaping where we live, work and trade. This is essential to help improve understanding and openness of the planning process. It also identifies the types of people and groups who ought to be involved, ways of involving them effectively and when they can get involved.

1.2 The SCI is extremely important as it will establish a minimum standard of consultation on planning matters and these requirements are which closely scrutinised when planning policy documents are independently examined.

Updated SCI

1.3 The Stoke-on-Trent Statement of Community Involvement 2021 has been published to give residents, businesses, and other groups an opportunity to have a say in how they want to be involved in guiding the development of the City of Stoke-on-Trent.

1.4 This is the first SCI following the separation of previous Joint Local Plan. The updated SCI has been reviewed to reflect the split but the SCI has had no significant changes to the way we consult.

Why are we reviewing the Statement of Community Involvement?

1.5 In 2015 a Joint SCI was adopted and further reviewed and adopted in 2020. The councils have abandoned the Joint Local Plan and are producing a Local Plan for their separate areas as such this SCI relates just to the City of Stoke-on-Trent.

1.6 The Development Management section in this SCI, which sets out the way the community can have a say on planning applications, reflects the different ways in which these services are managed.

Why should the community get involved in the planning process?

1.7 The planning process aims to encourage investment and growth, to help ensure that the long term economic and social needs of a community are met. It does this by providing land for: housing; jobs, shopping; leisure and community facilities etc. These needs often compete with one another and can put pressure on the environment. The planning process exists to balance these competing interests and create the conditions for business to grow and to deliver spaces and buildings that raise the quality of life. The aim is to do this without creating an unacceptable long

term impact on the environment. This is often referred to as 'sustainable development'.

1.8 Since planning has a direct impact on the daily lives of ordinary people and the business community it is very important that development proposals are transparent and that you have the opportunity to have a say in the planning decisions that are made on your behalf.

1.9 Getting involved at an early stage of the planning process means that you stand the best chance of influencing a decision, so this SCI is designed to tell you about the different stages when you can get involved and how. See Part 2 to find out how to get involved in Planning Policy and Part 3 to know more about the Development Management process.

1.10 Your local knowledge is also very valuable in helping to make good decisions and it's important that decision makers understand the type of community you want to live in. Likewise it's very important that we understand the aspirations of those who are ultimately responsible for delivering future development, i.e. the developers and land owners, so that we can work together to bring forward development which is in the public interest.

1.11 Our approach to community involvement therefore aims to:

Inform people of the planning process and to provide people with the information they need to be involved at the earliest opportunity possible.

Involve individuals and/or groups by creating opportunities for active participation and dialogue with planning officers.

Consult with the local communities and a range of stakeholders, in line with statutory requirements and regulations.

Respond to any comments received, giving proper consideration and explanation of how these views will be incorporated into the planning documents and decisions.

Challenges and objectives

1.12 The City Council recognise that there can be barriers to effective public participation and will work hard to address and overcome these where possible.

1.13 The main constraints are:

Cost - complex community involvement exercises can be costly and labour intensive in the preparation, attendance and follow up. These costs need to be balanced with the complexity of the subject matter of the consultation document and the extent of the area covered by proposals.

Managing expectations – balancing the need for consultation with resource constraints.

Consultation fatigue – it is important that the City Council can deliver its objectives for community involvement but there is also a need to ensure that the local community does not become overloaded with consultation.

Technical terminology - although the current planning system seeks to open up the process, there are still many technical terms and expressions. Plain English will be used wherever possible, and glossaries provided within each planning policy document;

External constraints - it is sometimes not possible to give a 'free rein' to an issue due to national policy or other 'rules' which are beyond the control of the council. Where these are known, the City Council will make these clear from the outset; and

Technology - the use of e-technology makes communication and involvement in a complex process much easier for the public to self-serve. E-technology enables communities to have 24/7 access to information posted on the City Council website. This supports an open and transparent planning system and should reduce the number of planning enquiries. However, the City Council recognise that not all of the community is able to use a computer, the internet or email, and therefore traditional methods of consultation will continue to be utilised.

Equal Opportunity

1.14 The way in which we consult on planning matters will aim to meet the specific local needs of the area.

1.15 In our endeavour to work in an inclusive manner we will consider the way we deliver our planning services from the perspective of a range of potential users. We will do this in a number of ways, including the following:

- Meeting our duties as set out in the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 and the Equalities Act 2010.
- Promoting race equality and ensure fairness and equal treatment when carrying out consultation and community engagement.
- Providing equal standards of service to disabled people.
- Considering the need to offer planning policy documents in other formats on request.
- Offering some consultation and community engagement approaches in plan-making that do not involve writing.
- Organising consultation events to maximise involvement in plan-making, i.e. workshops.

1.16 Making the service accessible to those who are unfamiliar with the terms, processes and structures of the planning system is always a challenge. We will continuously review the ways we do this and will endeavour to cater for a range of levels of literacy and comprehension and will seek to clarify the relevance of planning to people's everyday lives.

Equal Opportunity - Accessibility

1.17 Accessibility regulations came into force for public sector bodies on 23 September 2018. They indicate that websites or mobile apps need to be more accessible by making it 'perceivable, operable, understandable and robust'. Following the introduction of this new regulation all future documents/ reports and information which have been used within the local plan will be made accessible on the website to help people who have impaired vision, motor difficulties, cognitive impairments or learning disabilities, and deafness or impaired hearing.

1.18 Any significant changes to the way the community are involved will be subject to public consultation.

1.19 The Tables on pages 13 to 18 and in Appendices 5 to 8 set out how different groups and individuals can get involved.

The Planning System: Plan-Making and Decision-Taking

Plan-making:

- 1.1 Plan-making involves thinking ahead about where it might be best to build new development to provide new homes and new jobs, whilst at the same time thinking about the necessary support facilities such as shops, schools, doctors, etc. This type of planning is normally dealt with by **Planning Policy**.

Decision-Taking:

- 1.2 Planning is something that affects everyone's lives although, for many of us, the only direct involvement we may have in the planning system is if we decide to build an extension and need to obtain planning permission from the council, or we may receive a letter from the council to let us know that a new development is proposed near where we live or work. This part of the planning process is often referred to as '**Development Management**', which involves making decisions on planning applications.
- 1.3 This SCI sets out what the key stages are in the plan making and planning decision making process and how you can expect to be involved. Planning Regulations also require, when making development plans, that a number of statutory bodies) should be consulted and these are listed in Appendix 1.

Part 2: Planning Policy

2.0 Recent legislation and planning regulations have changed the way in which we plan for the future. The key document containing planning policies and future development proposals is now called a Local Plan. It is intended to replace core strategies and site allocation documents and to become the document that plays a key role in guiding investment and decisions made in the Development Management process. Additional guidance may be set out in supplementary planning documents, commonly known as SPDs. Together all the planning documents adopted by a local authority form a council's 'Local Development Framework' (see Glossary).

How can you get involved in plan-making?

2.1 Early and meaningful engagement and collaboration with individuals, neighbourhoods, local organisations and businesses is essential in the development of a Local Plan. The City Council is keen that a wide section of the community should be proactively engaged, so that the Local Plan, as far as possible, reflects a collective vision and a set of agreed priorities for the sustainable development of the area.

2.2 A range of methods and techniques will be used to involve communities. Details of the methods of community involvement to be used at each stage of Local Plan preparation are set out in Tables below.

2.3 If you don't want to get involved, but you do want to know what's going on and what stage a policy document has reached, or what progress has been made towards the completion of each plan making stage then you can view the Local Plan programme published on the City council's website, this fulfils the role of the council's Local Development Scheme.

2.4 Planning policy can also be set out in Neighbourhood Plans, but the decision to prepare such plans is not the responsibility of the local authority. The National Planning Practice Guidance sets out that these can be undertaken by a parish/town council, a neighbourhood forum or a community organisation.

2.5 Where there is no parish or town council who can lead on the creation of a neighbourhood plan, members of the community can form a neighbourhood forum to take forward the development of a neighbourhood plan or Order.

2.6 A prospective forum would need to apply (application) to the City Council for designation, setting out how it has met the requirements of section 61F(5) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as applied to Neighbourhood plans by section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

2.7 The methods of communication that are adopted for these types of plan will be at the discretion of these lead bodies and City Council.

Who we will be consulting

2.8 The City Council are keen to extend opportunities for involvement to everyone who has a desire to take some part in the plan-making process. We recognise that many people, whilst having an interest in local affairs, may find the bureaucratic and cumbersome nature of the process both frustrating and off-putting. We do however want to take every opportunity to raise people's awareness of how development plans are relevant to their concerns and how they can influence the debate that leads to their formation.

Consultation Database

2.9 The City Council will be consulting directly with individuals, groups and organisations whose details it keeps on a database for this purpose, in compliance with the General Data protection Regulation 2018.

These include:

- Local community and voluntary sector groups.
- Neighbouring parish or town councils and local authorities.
- Local MPs and councillors.
- Locally based statutory bodies and other providers.
- Utility and commercial infrastructure provision companies.
- Land owners and developers.
- Government departments or agencies and other statutory bodies (National and regional level).
- National and regional non-governmental organisations and interest groups.

2.10 We will continue to strive to make this database as inclusive as possible. If you wish to be added or deleted please inform us by contacting planning.policy@stoke.gov.uk

2.11 Appendix 1 sets out a list of 'specific' and 'general' consultees and stakeholders. The list is used to notify individuals and stakeholders of the proposal to prepare the Local Plan and to seek comments. Such notification is necessary to comply with Section 18 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

2.12 However, anyone can respond to public consultation they do not need to be notified directly. For planning policy documents such as a supplementary planning document that cover only a limited area or topic, the City Council will engage those organisations with an interest in the area or topic and any others who have requested it.

Duty to Cooperate

2.13 The 'duty to cooperate' as set out in the Localism act (2011) requires local planning authorities, county councils and other public organisations to engage with one another and consider joint approaches to plan making. The National Planning Policy Framework sets out those strategic policy-making authorities should prepare and maintain one or more statements of common ground.

2.14 The City of Stoke-on-Trent is located in the north of Staffordshire and share boundaries with a total of four other local authorities:

- Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council
- Stafford Borough Council
- Staffordshire County Council
- Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

2.15 It is important for the council to communicate with its partners organisations, particularly regarding cross boundary and county-wide issues. The council will also take part in regular discussions through the following forums:

- Staffordshire Development Officers Group
- West Midlands Planning Officer Group

2.16 The City Council will continue to work closely with its partners to deliver planning under the duty to cooperate.

The Stoke-on-Trent Local Plan

2.17 The Stoke-on-Trent Local Plan will be comprised of a new overarching planning strategy to create the environment for investment and economic growth over a 15 – 20 year period, setting targets for housing, employment and retail provision. It will focus on the key issues that need to be addressed and be aspirational but realistic in what it proposes. In this way the Local Plan will make clear what is intended to happen in the area over the life of the plan, where and when this will occur and how it will be delivered.

2.18 The planning strategy will form the starting point for considering whether a planning application is acceptable, but the Local Plan will also contain site specific allocations and a set of generic development management policies to be used in the determination of planning applications.

2.19 A timetable for preparation of the Stoke-on-Trent Local Plan is available on the Council website [Stoke-on-Trent City Council Website](#) – and will be regularly updated to reflect progress on key milestones.

How will the Local Plan be prepared?

2.20 National planning policy sets clear expectations as to how a Local Plan must be developed in order to be justified, effective, consistent with national policy and positively prepared to deliver sustainable development that meets local needs and national priorities.

2.21 The key stages of plan preparation are prescribed within the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Local Planning Regulations 2012. The production of a Local Plan is an iterative process where the overarching strategy is developed through a number of stages in consultation with the public and key stakeholders. Local planning authorities should firstly assess the future needs and opportunities of their area (i.e. understanding the issues) and the options for addressing these issues. Finally, a preferred approach should be identified which will ultimately form the basis of the Local Plan.

2.22 The Local Plan will be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning practice guidance. The following diagram shows both the key stages of plan production, adapted from the Planning practice guidance, and identifies the key stages when we will be consulting.

Diagram 1: The Local Plan Production Process:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin initial evidence gathering process • Formulate initial aims and objectives for the Local Plan • Identify relevant environmental, economic and social objectives within the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report 	PRE-PRODUCTION
ISSUES AND STRATEGIC OPTIONS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial consultation and continued work on evidence gathering • Engage with local communities, businesses and other interested parties • Take in to account representations received from consultation process • Engage with duty to cooperate partners • Ensure compliance with the adopted SCI • Continue evidence gathering • Test emerging options through Sustainability Appraisal 	PLAN-PRODUCTION
PUBLIC CONSULTATION PERIOD: 6 WEEKS	
DRAFT PLAN	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft plan published for public consultation for 6 weeks • Test Draft Plan policies and proposals through Sustainability Appraisal 	PLAN-PRODUCTION
PUBLIC CONSULTATION PERIOD: 6 WEEKS	
FINAL DRAFT PLAN (FOR SUBMISSION TO SECRETARY OF STATE)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan submitted for examination, along with Sustainability Appraisal, evidence base and statement of representations and main issues 	PLAN-PRODUCTION
PUBLIC CONSULTATION PERIOD: 6 WEEKS	
INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Inspector assesses plan to determine whether it is sound and has been prepared in line with the duty to cooperate • LPA can ask Inspector to recommend modifications to make plan sound • Inspector issues report at end of examination 	POST-PRODUCTION
ADOPTION	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Plan formally adopted by Stoke on Trent City Council • Post adoption statement published 	POST-PRODUCTION
MONITORING	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Plan policies monitored against objectives and indicators 	POST-PRODUCTION

The Role of Elected Members in Local Plan Preparation:

Cabinet and Full Council

2.23 The responsibility for preparing the Local Plan will rest with the Cabinet. The legal requirement for the Full Council of the authority to ratify policies set out in the Draft and Final Local Plan and to formally adopt the Local Plan (following examination) also remains. Comments will be sought from Stoke-on-Trent's

Development Management Policy Group and the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee at appropriate times to inform this process.

Local Plan – Methods of Communication

2.24 The following tables set out the detail about the methods of communication with stakeholders and the public that will be used by the City Council in preparing the Local Plan. This indicates the minimum standards that will be applied. Occasionally other methods of involvement may be applied in response to needs identified at the time.

Table 1: Local Plan Pre-Production Stage

	Duty to Cooperate Discussions and Liaison with Statutory Consultees & Partners ¹	Draft Versions of Documents Published Online	Reference Copies of Final Documents Made Available ²	Enable Public Consultation Responses to be Submitted	Publish and consider all comments received	Make changes to documents, where considered appropriate	Final Versions of Documents Published Online	Produce a Consultation Statement
Scoping and Assembly of Evidence Base³	✓						✓	
Production of SCI	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

¹ Duty to Cooperate discussions will be held with relevant bodies when relevant cross boundary or strategic issues are identified

² Reference copies will be made available at public venues (see Glossary). Hard copies may be made available for purchase in exceptional circumstances (e.g. where the consultee is unable to use a computer).

³ Occasionally, wider engagement may take place on scoping and evidence gathering where there is a need to input more specialist knowledge. This may take the form of focus groups, workshops, surveys or one to one conversations with relevant parties.

Production of Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
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Table 2: Local Plan Production Stage

	Produce a Consultation Statement ⁹	
	Make appropriate changes to documents	✓
	Publish and consider all comments received	✓
	Enable Public Responses to be Submitted ⁸	✓
	Focus Groups & Work-shops	✓
	Hold Exhibitions ⁷	✓
	Display Site Notices ⁶	
	Leaflets and Posters	✓
	Publicise via Press Release and Social Media	✓
	Publish Documents Online & Make Reference Copies Available ⁵	✓
	Duty to Cooperate Discussions. Liaison with Statutory Consultees & Partners. ⁴	✓
Issues & Strategic Options		✓
Draft Local Plan		✓

⁴ Duty to Cooperate discussions will be held with relevant bodies when relevant cross boundary or strategic issues are identified

⁵ Reference copies will be made available at public venues (see Glossary). Hard copies may be made available for purchase in exceptional circumstances (e.g. where the consultee is unable to use a computer).

⁶ Where there are site specific proposals (such as the proposed allocation of sites at Draft Local Plan and Final Draft Local Plan stages) notices will be placed in publicly accessible and visible frontages at the boundaries of sites.

⁷ Exhibitions will be held and will provide the opportunity for people to submit comments.

⁸ A facility to submit comments online during the public consultation periods will be provided. Response forms will be provided alongside hard copy reference documents during public consultation periods.

⁹ This will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate along with all other supporting documents in advance of the Independent Examination.

Publication/S ubmission Local Plan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
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Table 3: Local Plan Post Production Stage

	Publish an Adoption Statement On the Council Website ¹⁴	Produce a Consultation Statement ¹³	Council & Inspector to consider all comments received	Enable Papers & Statements to be Submitted	Host Formal Examination Hearings	Duty to Cooperate Discussions and Liaison with Statutory Consultees & Partners ¹²	Reference Copies Available ¹¹	Publicise via Press Release and Social Media	Publish Details on the Council Website ¹⁰
Independent Examination		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Adoption	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓

¹⁰ Details of the Independent Examination will include the venue, dates and times of the Hearing Sessions, along with agendas, papers and other relevant documents. The Inspectors Report and adopted Local Plan documents will also be made available online.

¹¹ Reference copies will be made available at public venues (see Glossary). Hard copies may be made available for purchase in exceptional circumstances (e.g. where the consultee is unable to use a computer).

¹² Details of the Examination, publication of the Inspectors Report and adoption of the Local Plan will be sent via email or letter to those who have provided comments at any stage of plan production, have requested to be kept informed of these stages, or if they are listed as a specific consultee in Appendix 1.

¹³ See Glossary

¹⁴ See Glossary

2.25 Following adoption, performance and progress against the Local Plan policies and land allocations will be presented in the Authorities Monitoring Report (AMR).

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's)

2.26 Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's) will occasionally be produced in order to add greater detail and guidance to planning policies or allocations. SPD's could relate to a location or area or they may be topic-based, such as affordable housing, design guidance, etc. SPD's do not have the same status as a Local Plan but, once adopted, an SPD will be a 'material consideration' in planning decisions. National policy advises that SPD's should only be prepared where necessary, and should not be used to add unnecessarily to the financial burdens on development.

2.27 The City Council are committed to involving communities in the preparation of SPD's. The process for SPD preparation is different to Local Plan preparation. Key stages and opportunities for community involvement are set out below.

Table 4: SPD Production

	Publish Adoption Statement and send a copy to those who have requested it									
	Produce a Consultation Statement ¹⁷ and consult on this									
	Make changes to documents, where considered appropriate	✓								
	Publish and consider all comments received	✓								
	Enable Public Responses to be Submitted ¹⁶	✓								
	Leaflets and Posters	✓								
	Publicise via Social Media	✓								
	Publicise via Press Release									
	Publish Documents Online & Make Limited Hard Copies Available.	✓								
	Liaise with Statutory Consultees/ Partnerships	✓								
	Duty to Cooperate Discussions									
Evidence Gathering and SPD Preparation Stage										
Publication Stage¹⁸		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓

¹⁵ Limited numbers of hard copy SPDs will be made available for reference only at public venues (see Glossary). Copies may be made available for purchase in exceptional circumstances

¹⁶ This will be within a six week consultation period. A facility to submit comments online during the public consultation periods will be provided. Response forms will be provided alongside hard copy reference documents during public consultation periods.

¹⁷ See Glossary

¹⁸ Notification of the publication of the final version of the SPD will be sent via email or letter to those who have registered interest or provided comments.

2.28 Exhibitions may be used to publicise and receive feedback on SPDs. This will be particularly considered where the SPD is focused on a location or area. Focus groups, public meetings / webinars, workshops, surveys or one to one conversations with relevant parties may be held where there is a need for more specialist knowledge to input to SPD preparation.

2.29 Final versions of SPDs will be adopted by the council's Cabinet. Where an SPD is withdrawn a statement will be published online and those who previously made comments on it will be notified.

Preparation and Review of this Statement of Community Involvement

2.30 The following sets out how the changes to the SCI can be implemented and how community will be involved in the future review of this Statement of Community Involvement.

- The City Council will make minor revisions to improve the SCI or implement changes required by new regulations via a council resolution.
- If more fundamental changes to the document are required the City Council will consult with neighbouring authorities and individuals, organisations and interest groups named on the Local plan database of the City Council upon publication of the draft and final versions of the SCI.
- You will be able to view the authorities monitoring reports online to see how the City Council consider they are performing against the standards set out in the SCI

Part 3: Neighbourhood Planning

3.1 Neighbourhood planning was introduced by The Localism Act 2011. It gives local communities powers to help shape the areas in which they live. Unlike Development Plan Documents, Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP) is produced by local communities themselves with the support of the Local Planning Authority. NDP can allocate land or establish policies for the development of land in a designated Neighbourhood Area if the majority of voters in that Area give their approval at a Neighbourhood Plan Referendum. These plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the adopted Development Plan and have regard to national planning policy. NDP, once 'made' or adopted, are statutory plans which carry equal weight to any adopted Local Plan in making decisions on planning applications.

NDP must be prepared in accordance with the relevant Regulations which includes:

- [The Neighbourhood Planning \(General\) Regulations 2012 \(SI 2012 No. 617\)](#)
- [The Neighbourhood Planning \(General\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2015 \(SI 2015 No. 20\)](#)
- [The Neighbourhood Planning \(General\) and Development Management Procedure \(Amendment\) Regulations 2016 \(SI 2016 No. 873\)](#)
- [The Neighbourhood Planning \(General\) and Development Management Procedure \(Amendment\) Regulations 2017 \(SI 2017 No. 1243\)](#)

3.2 A Neighbourhood Forum must be formed and 'designated' to prepare a NDP. A designated group is known as the Qualifying Body (QB). To progress a NDP, a QB must apply to have a Neighbourhood Area designated.

3.3 Consultation on the early stages of the NDP preparation is carried out by the QB preparing it. A statement has to be submitted along with the draft plan indicating what consultation has been carried out and how it has informed the preparation of the draft plan.

3.4 The Council, as the Local Planning Authority (and relevant body), have a duty to support the preparation of a NDP. The Council will consult and engage during the NDP process as set out below:

Stage:	Stoke-on-Trent City Council consultation activities:
Designation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applications to designate a Neighbourhood Area will be published on the City Council's website. Designations of Neighbourhood Areas, and decisions to refuse the application to designate, will also be published on the City

	<p>Council's website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In certain cases the City Council will need to consult for a minimum of 6 weeks on the application to designate a Neighbourhood Area.
Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City Council will provide, following consultation with the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England, a Habitat Regulations Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment screening opinion of the draft plan on formal request from the Qualifying Body. • When the Qualifying Body carries out its six week consultation on the draft plan (Regulation 14) the City Council will provide a link to the Qualifying Body's website on the Council's website. • The City Council will make formal comments to the consultation on the draft plan (Regulation 14).
Publication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once the neighbourhood plan and the required supporting documents are formally submitted for examination by the Qualifying Body these will be made available for viewing on the Council's website as part of the City Council undertaking a six week consultation on the plan (Regulation 16). • Consultation Bodies referred to in the submitted Consultation Statement will be notified of the publication of the neighbourhood plan by email or letter. • Details for how to make representations on the neighbourhood plan will be provided on the website. • Submitted representations on the neighbourhood plan will be published on the City Council's website.
Examination and Referendum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correspondence from and to the Examiner during the examination will be, where requested by the Examiner, published on the City Council's website. • The Examiner's Report and the City Council's Decision Statement will be made available to view on the Council's website, the central library and a venue within the Neighbourhood Area. • The City Council will send the decision statement to the Qualifying Body and any consultees that have made representations or requested to be kept informed of the plan's progress.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City Council will publish an information statement and notice of the referendum on their website. • The results of the referendum will be published on the City Council's website.
'Making' of the Neighbourhood Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 'made' plan will be published for viewing on the City Council's website and notifications via email or letter will be sent to consultees who have made representations or requested to be kept informed of the plan's progress.

Further details can be found on the following websites:

- [Planning Portal Website](#)
- [My Community Website](#)
- [Stoke-on-Trent City Council Website](#)

Part 4: Development Management

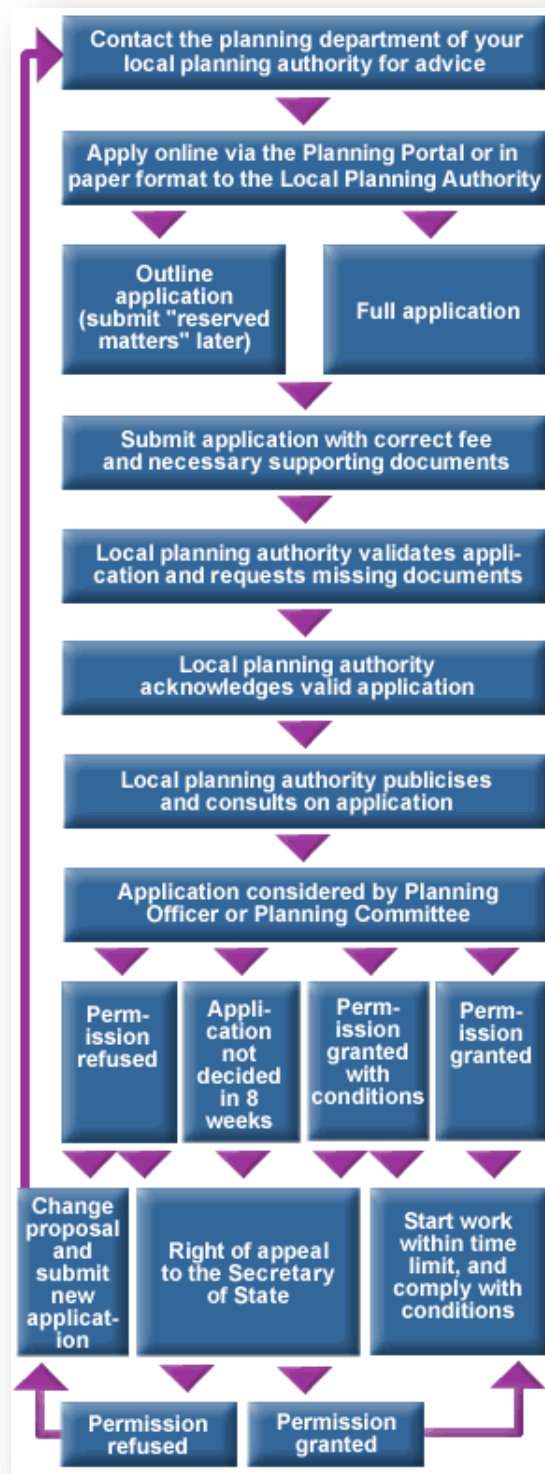
The Development Management Process

4.1 Development Management includes the process by which the City Council consider and decide applications made under planning legislation. Development Management aims to deliver the vision and objectives set out within the Local Plan and it therefore has a key role to play in improving the quality of life for the community and in achieving sustainable development.

4.2 The City Council decide approximately 1000 applications made under 'planning' legislation each year, with proposals ranging from the more minor householder developments such as extensions, through to major applications for housing developments, retail and industrial schemes, and new infrastructure. There are numerous different types of applications – the principal ones being planning applications, or applications for planning permission.

4.3 As the City Council is a unitary authority, it is responsible for all local government functions and all decisions that are made by a Local Planning Authority.

Diagram 2: The Decision Making Management Process for applications for outline and full planning permission



Types and Categories of Applications

4.4 There are numerous different types of applications made under planning legislation to the City Council as the Local Planning Authority of the area. These are set out in detail in Appendix 2 to this Statement.

4.5 Applications are made for various different types of development. These are detailed in Appendix 3 to this Statement.

Community Involvement in Decision making

4.6 The City Council want to ensure that any person, groups or organisations affected by or with an interest in a planning application, have the opportunity to comment on that proposal.

4.7 Planning officers will aim to work with the applicant, the community, elected members and other statutory consultees throughout the Development Management process. Different methods of community involvement will be appropriate, depending on the scale and nature of the individual proposal. Standards for community involvement are set out within the Tables in Appendices 5, 6 and 7.

4.8 There are however many types of applications made under planning legislation which do not require being subject of any publicity.

4.9 Community involvement in planning applications is of great benefit to all affected, including the applicants themselves, and is encouraged from an early pre-application discussion stage through to the final decision.

4.10 Community involvement can allow the Development Management process to be carried out more efficiently by helping people who are most directly affected by the proposals to get involved at the outset and have a chance to influence the proposed development. This gives a 'sense of ownership' of new development, and is more likely to result in a development that is successful on the ground.

4.11 Applicants for major projects will be encouraged to engage with communities prior to submission of any formal planning application.

Pre-Application Planning Advice

4.12 The Council welcome and encourage applicants to seek pre-application advice for all types of planning application, prior to submitting an application. This pre-application advice stage is an important opportunity for officers of the Council to provide an initial view on a proposal, to identify any elements which may need amending and to identify information which should be submitted to support the application.

4.13 *“Early engagement has significant potential to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning application system for all parties. Good quality pre-application discussion enables better coordination between public and private resources and improved outcomes for the community”* - National Planning Policy Framework para. 39.

4.14 For all planning applications, the Council can advise on what is required to support an application and how planning policies will be applied when considering the proposal. In some cases, the Council will also negotiate Planning Obligations via S.106 agreements and undertakings. More significant applications will often require a series of pre-application meetings between the applicants (and/or their agents) and the Council.

Community Involvement in preparing planning applications

4.15 In certain limited situations – where on shore wind development is proposed of more than 2 turbines, or where the hub height of a turbine exceeds 15 metres, the developer has to by statute carry out pre application consultation with the local community, and in submitting an application they have to explain how they have complied with the legislation, detail the responses received as a result of this consultation, and the account taken of these responses.

4.16 Where a development is likely to have significant impacts on local communities or where the site is particularly sensitive, the Council will actively encourage applicants to undertake early consultation with that local community. It is however not compulsory.

4.17 Various methods of community involvement may be adopted by an applicant, including: direct notification, public meetings, exhibitions, websites, surveys, questionnaires, etc.

4.18 For the applicants, effective community involvement in preparing a planning application is an opportunity to explain proposals to that community and thereby reduce any misconceived objections; potentially it can help address some problems before the application is submitted; and prevent abortive work, ultimately reducing the time and cost in reaching the decision-stage. For the community, this is an opportunity to help shape proposals from an early stage, drawing on valuable local knowledge.

4.19 Applicants should demonstrate how the community has been consulted, what comments have been received and how these have been taken into account in progressing the proposal. Applicants should produce their own ‘statement of community involvement’ or Consultation Statement to accompany the planning application.

Role of Elected Members (Councillors) in pre-application discussions

4.20 For more significant developments, generally proposals for 'major development', applicants may have the opportunity to present proposals to Elected Members (Councillors). This will usually involve a presentation to Members of the Development Management Committee, followed by a question and answer session. The Council constitution – codes and protocols 'Local Code of Conduct for Dealing with Planning Matters' sets out the protocol for such scenarios.

4.21 Applicants may also wish to discuss proposals with the local ward Councillor(s). For information on how to contact Councillors, please visit: [Stoke-on-Trent City Council Website](#)

The Decision-Making Process

4.22 In dealing with applications for planning permission the City Council have to have regard to the provisions of the development plan for the area, what are termed local finance considerations, and any other material considerations. Where regard is to be had to the provisions of the development plan, the decision the Council makes should be in accordance with that plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

4.23 The Council have a statutory period within which to determine applications made under planning legislation. Unless this statutory period is extended by the applicant, they have the right once that period has passed to appeal against the Council's failure to determine the application. The statutory period for most applications is 8 weeks. However, in the case of applications for 'major development' it is 13 weeks, and in the case of applications requiring an Environment Impact Assessment it is 16 weeks. Appendix 3 explains what is meant by 'major development'.

Consultation

4.24 Once the City Council formally registers a planning application, a period of consultation is undertaken during which views on the proposed development can be expressed. This formal consultation period will usually last for 21 days. There are different types of consultation; this Statement of Community Involvement is concerned only with the consultation with the public including consultation with neighbouring residents, and community groups. Other types of consultation include consultation with statutory consultees, consultation with non-statutory consultees, and consultations required by government direction.

Public Consultation:

What steps must the City Council take to involve members of the public on planning applications?

4.25 As far as applications for planning permission are concerned the City Council are required by statute to undertake a formal period of public consultation, prior to deciding the application. Similar requirements exist for application for listed building consent, and some other types of applications.

Who is eligible to respond to a consultation?

4.26 Anyone can respond to public consultation – they do not need to be directly notified of the application by the Council. In addition to individuals who might be directly affected by a planning application, community groups and specific interest groups may wish to make representations on planning applications. The City Council invites comments both for and opposed to proposals, and upon conditions which they may attach should permission be granted.

What publicity will take place to let the public know that a planning application has been received?

4.27 Within certain legislative requirements the City Council have discretion about how they inform the public about planning applications. The City Council, within and in addition to these legislative requirements, has its own policies on what method of publicity is to be used in specific cases. The publicity methods can include press notices, site notices, and direct neighbour notification. The method/s used will depend upon the scale and type of application, with details set out in Appendix 7.

4.28 In the Council's website it is possible for users to set up a "saved search" for any applications on a property or an area and to receive email alerts whenever any application made under planning legislation is made to the Council with respect to that property or area.

What is the time period for making comments?

4.29 The publicity given by the City Council will set out the time period within which comments are invited. This is normally 21 days from the date when the publicity was first given.

4.30 Whilst the application may be determined as soon as the time period has passed, it is current practice to take into account late representations received up to the point of determination of the application. It is always best to submit representations within the time period indicated in the Council's publicity.

Will receipt of my comments be acknowledged?

4.31 The City Council will send an acknowledgement of receipt of your representation and details of how the application will be determined.

If an application is amended after it has been submitted, will it be the subject of further consultation?

4.32 It is up to the City Council to decide whether further publicity and public consultation is necessary. In deciding whether this is necessary the following may be relevant:

- Were objections or reservations raised in the original consultation stage substantial and, in view of the Council, enough to justify further publicity?
- Are the proposed changes significant?
- Did earlier views cover the issues raised by the proposed changes?
- Are the issues raised by the proposed changes likely to be of concern to parties not previously notified of the application?

4.33 Where the City Council decides that re-publicity and re-consultation is necessary it is open to the Council to set the time frame for responses, balancing the need for the public to be given time to consider the issue that is being re-consulted upon and respond, against the need for efficient decision making.

Representations

4.34 Before making a decision, we will review all relevant planning policies, any comments received during the consultation and any other material considerations.

4.35 Representations on a planning application can only be taken into account if they relate to material planning considerations.

4.36 These do **not** include the following (note: this list is not exhaustive):

- the fact that development has already begun (people can carry out development at their own risk);
- the fact that an applicant has carried out unauthorised development in the past;
- “trade objections” from potential competitors;
- moral objections, for instance against betting shops as a matter of principle;
- the belief that an application is submitted by an owner with the intention of selling on the property at an enhanced value;
- the loss of an attractive private view (for instance when development is proposed at the rear of an objector’s house);
- the fear that an objectors’ house or property might be devalued;
- the fact that an applicant does not own the land to which the application relates (this being capable of being overcome by agreement with the owner);

- the fact that an objector is a tenant of land where development is proposed (the owner of land can terminate the tenancy whether or not he carries out the development);
- A prospective forum should apply to the local planning authority for designation, setting out how it has met the requirements of section 61F(5) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as applied to Neighbourhood plans by section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. and therefore any consequences are therefore unrelated to the development, except in the case of agricultural tenants where the grant of planning permission has special consequences) and
- allegations that a proposal might affect private rights e.g. restrictive covenants; property maintenance; ownership and private rights of way disputes.

Decisions

4.37 **Delegated Decisions:** Around 90% of planning applications are decided by Planning Officers. The City Council have an 'Approved Scheme of Delegation' which gives certain officers powers to take decisions on behalf of the Council, under 'delegated powers'. The Approved Scheme of Delegation can be viewed within the Council's Constitution.

4.38 **Committee Decisions:** Where a planning application is of a more significant scale, the application may be considered and decided by a Committee, which is made up of elected Councillors, known currently as the Development Management Committee,

4.39 The Committee meetings are open to the public; unless the Committee have expressly decided to exclude members of the public because it is likely that confidential information as defined in legislation is likely to be disclosed during the consideration of the item.

4.40 When a planning application is to be decided by Committee, the Officer will produce a report summarising details of the proposal, the key planning policies and issues, and comments made during the consultation period. The report will include a recommendation to either approve or refuse the application, and the reason for that recommendation. The report will be made publicly available at least 5 clear working days before the day of the Committee meeting. Supplementary reports are also often published immediately prior to or at the committee meeting.

4.41 The Council only informs those who indicated in writing a wish to speak at any future planning committee of the committee date and the associated procedures.

4.42 At the Committee meeting itself the City Council permit public speaking subject to certain criteria being met. The members of the public and other interested parties are able to make a short presentation to the committee, to support, comment or oppose a planning application. It is normally held that only one person can address the committee for each case and so those wishing to speak are encouraged to discuss their opinions with others with a view to appointing a solitary spokesperson. The applicant also has the right to address the Committee and Councillors may also ask questions of the speakers on both sides.

4.43 For each application only one supporter and one objector are allowed to address the Committee. Councillors are not able to ask questions of the speakers. Details of the procedure and the dates for the Committee meetings are available online: [Stoke-on-Trent City Council Website](#), or by contacting the Council's Committee Services Department.

4.44 Once an application has been decided, a copy of the planning decision notice will be sent to the applicant and will also be made available online. The City Council will send notification of the decision to all third parties who have made representations.

Enforcement

4.45 Insofar as the consideration of whether or not it is expedient to take enforcement action in the case of unauthorised development, the City Council will consider comments that they receive from members of the public on the merits or otherwise of unauthorised developments. They will not however undertake any publicity expressly inviting comment upon such developments. In the event of any appeal being lodged against an Enforcement Notice appropriate publicity as required by legislation, will be given to the lodging of the appeal, providing an opportunity for members of the public to write to the Planning Inspectorate and provide comments.

Planning Aid

4.46 Planning Aid offers free, independent and professional planning advice on all planning issues, to people and communities who cannot afford to pay to hire a planning consultant. Planning Aid can help communities engage with the planning process and influence decisions that affect their local area.

5.47 For more information, please visit: [RTPI website](#)

Appendix 1: Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Bodies

This appendix sets out the organisations which have been identified under the requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 Specific Consultation Bodies:

Specific Consultees:

- Adjoining Local Planning Authorities
- Neighbourhood Planning groups
- North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust
- Relevant government agencies & departments (including those listed in the Regulations as “specific consultation bodies”)
- Staffordshire Police and Crime Commissioner
- Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership
- Utility Companies
- North Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Clinical Commissioning

General Consultees:

- Bodies which represent the interests of different racial, ethnic or national groups in the local planning authority areas.
- Bodies which represent the interests of different religious groups in the local planning authority areas.
- Bodies which represent the interests of disabled persons in the local planning authority areas.
- Bodies which represent the interests of persons carrying on business in the local planning authority areas.
- Voluntary bodies some or all of whose activities benefit any part of the local planning authority areas.

The below lists are the detailed list of consultees used as of 2020.

Specific Consultees:

Local Planning Authorities:

- Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council
- Stafford Borough Council

- Staffordshire County Council
- Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Other Organisations:

- Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Partnership NHS Trust
- Staffordshire Police
- Utility Companies (Cadent, Seven Trent, United Utilities, Weston Power)
- Relevant Government Agencies & Departments

General Consultees:

- Voluntary bodies some or all of whose activities benefit any part of the local planning authority areas.
- Bodies which represent the interests of different racial, ethnic or national groups in the local planning authority areas.
- Bodies which represent the interests of disabled persons in the local planning authority areas.
- Bodies which represent the interests of persons carrying on business in the local planning authority areas.

Appendix 2: Types of applications made under planning legislation to Local Planning Authorities

Types of Application	Description
Full	An application where full details are submitted at the outset, sometimes called a detailed application
Outline	<p>An application for planning permission for the erection of a building where details are not given for at least one of the reserved matters as defined below. Reserved matters means any of the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> access appearance landscaping layout, and scale <p>Each of the above terms are themselves defined in legislation.</p>
Reserved Matters	An application for the approval of a reserved matter of a previously granted outline planning permission
Variation of conditions	An application to undertake development without complying with conditions subject to which a previous planning permission has been granted
Retrospective	An application for permission for development that has already been carried out

Approval of details required by conditions of a condition of a planning permission	An application for approval of details required by conditions of a planning permission, other than a condition referring to the reserved matter of an outline planning permission
Non Material Amendment	An application to the Planning Authority to change the terms of a planning permission if they are satisfied that the change is not material
Extension of time application	An application to extend the period of time within which in the case of a planning permission it can commence, and in the case of an outline planning permission either the period of time within which any application for approval of its reserved matters must be made or the period of time within which the development can be commence
Prior Approval	An application for a determination by the Authority as to whether its approval is required of certain details, as required by various Parts and Classes of the General Permitted Development Order, and if it is required whether that approval is to be given
Modification or discharge of a planning obligation	An application to vary or discharge a previously entered into planning obligation. A planning obligation can restrict development, can require specific operations to be carried out, can require land to be used in a specific way or require the payment of money to the planning authority
Modification or discharge of affordable housing requirements	An application to vary, replace, remove or discharge an affordable housing requirement within a previously entered into planning obligation
Lawfulness of existing use or development	An application for a certificate that an existing use or development was at the date of the application lawful in planning terms
Lawfulness of proposed use or development	An application for a certificate that a proposed use or development would have been, at the date of the application, lawful in planning terms

Works to Protected Trees	An application for works to trees which are the subject of a Tree Preservation Order
Work to Trees in a Conservation Area	Notice to the authority of proposed works to trees in a Conservation Area that are not the subject of a Tree Preservation Order
Advertisement	An application for express consent to display an advertisement
Listed Building	An application for consent under Listed Building legislation
Approval of details required by conditions of a Listed Building consent	An application for approval of details required by conditions of a previously granted Listed Building Consent
Lawfulness of works to a Listed building	An application for a certificate that works to a listed building do not require Listed building consent, or are already consented
Hazardous Substances Consent	An application to the authority for approval of the storage and keeping of hazardous substances
Householder	An application for planning permission for the development of an existing dwellinghouse or development within the curtilage of that dwellinghouse for any purpose incidental to the enjoyment of the dwellinghouse any consent, agreement or approval required by a planning permission, or development order in relation to such development
Permission in principle	An alternative way of obtaining planning permission for housing-led development which separates the consideration of matters of principle for proposed development from the technical detail of the development.

<p>Technical details consent following granting of permission in principle</p>	<p>Following a grant of permission in principle, the site must receive a grant of technical details consent before development can proceed. The granting of technical details consent has the effect of granting planning permission for the development. Other statutory requirements may apply at this stage such as those relating to protected species or listed buildings. Technical details consent can be obtained following submission of a valid application to the local planning authority. An application for technical details consent must be in accordance with the permission in principle that is specified by the applicant.</p>
<p>Schedule 17 approval of certain matters relating to the design and construction of HS2</p>	<p>Schedule 17 to the Act requires that the nominated undertaker (HS2 Ltd) seeks approval for matters of construction and design from the appropriate planning authority.</p>

Appendix 3: Development Types

Types of Development	Description
Major Development	<p>Residential: 10+ dwellings / Site area of over 0.5 Hectare</p> <p>Non-Residential: floorspace of 1,000+ m² / site area of over 1 Hectare (includes: office, industrial, retail)</p> <p>The period after which an applicant can appeal against any failure to determine the application, unless they agree to extend that period, is 13 weeks</p>
Minor Development	<p>Residential: 1-9 dwellings / under 0.5 Hectare</p> <p>Non-Residential: floorspace of up to 999 m² / site area under 1 Hectare (includes: office, industrial, retail)</p> <p>The period after which an applicant can appeal against any failure to determine the application, unless they agree to extend that period, is 8 weeks</p>
Other Development	<p>Changes of use, Advertisements, Telecommunications, TPO's, Lawful Development Certificates, etc.</p> <p>The period after which an applicant can appeal against any failure to determine the application, unless they agree to extend that period, is 8 weeks.</p>

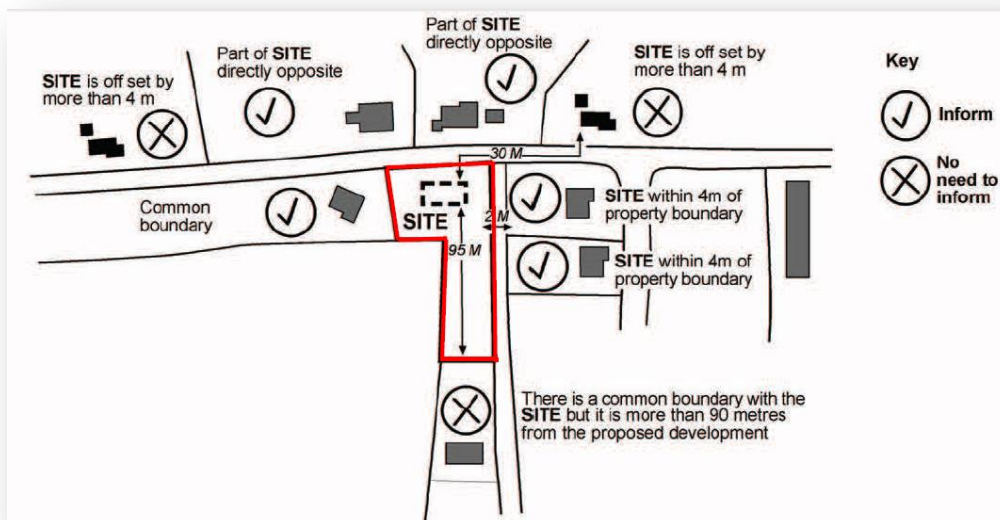
Appendix 4: Identification of adjoining land whose owners/occupiers are to be notified of an application

Which neighbours are to be notified?

Notifications are to be sent to:

- The occupiers/ owners of any land or buildings which share, or lie within 4 m of, a boundary of the application site (normally the area outlined in red) (ignoring any road 20 m or less in width when measuring the 4 m).
- No notification is required where a road wider than 20 m separates adjoining land from the application site.
- No notification is required where there is at least 90 m between the application site and the boundary with adjoining land.

The diagram below provides further guidance



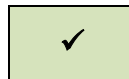
Appendix 5: Pre-Application Consultation

The following table sets out the methods to be applied where pre-application consultation is a compulsory requirement upon the developer.

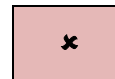
	Method of Consultation to be Applied:	Method of Consultation to be Applied:	Method of Consultation to be Applied:	Method of Consultation to be Applied:	Method of Consultation to be Applied:	Method of Consultation to be Applied:
Type of Application:	Direct Mailing	Press and other Media releases	Press Notice	Site Notice	Exhibition	Public Meeting
Applications for planning permission for Wind farms (more than 2 turbines) and turbines of a hub height of more than 15 metres	✓	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇

Key:

Method will be appropriate =



Method will not be appropriate =



Method will sometimes be applied =



Appendix 6: Publicity for planning applications made under planning legislation


Planning application for	Methods of publicity to be used	Methods of publicity to be used	Methods of publicity to be used	Methods of publicity to be used	Methods of publicity to be used	Methods of publicity to be used	Methods of publicity to be used	Methods of publicity to be used	Methods of publicity to be used
	During application Process	During application Process	During application Process	During application Process	During application Process	During application Process	Following decision	Following decision	Following decision
	Publication on the Council website	Making hard copy of application documents available for inspection (upon request)	Press Notice	Site Notice	Neighbour Notification letter	Notification to previous interested third parties on similar applications within 12 months	Publication on Council website	Press Notice	Direct Notice to affected owners or agricultural tenants of applications site
Major Development	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓

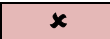
Residential development up to 9 dwellings, or where number of units is not known up to 0.4ha	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓
Householder development	✓	✓	x	x	✓	✓	✓	x	✓
All Other applications for planning permission	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓


Development that does not accord with the development plan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓
EIA Development	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Development that affects a public right of way	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓

Development affecting the character or appearance of a Conservation Area (sn 73 of LBA)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Development affecting the setting of a Listed Building	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
(sn 67 of the LBA)									

Key:

Method will be used = 

Method will not be used = 

Method might be used = 

Appendix 7: Publicity for other types of applications made under planning legislation

Application type	Methods of publicity to be used										
	During application process							Following decision			
	Publication on the Council website	Making hard copy of application documents available for inspection upon request	Press Notice	Site Notice	Neighbour Notification letter	Notification to previous interested third parties on similar applications within 12 months	Notification to owner of tree to which works are to be done	Publication on Council website	Press Notice	Direct Notice to affected owners or tenants of applications site ¹⁹	Direct notice to other interested parties

¹⁹ Only where the owner or tenant has requested this and/or made a comment or objection to the application

Approval of details required by conditions of a condition of a planning permission	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Non Material Amendment	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗		✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Extension of time application	✓	✓	◇	◇	◇	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗
Prior Approval	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Modification of a planning obligation	✓	✓	◇	◇	◇	◇	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗
Discharge of a planning obligation	✓		✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Lawfulness of existing use or development	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Lawfulness of proposed use or development	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗

Works to Protected Trees	✓	✓	x	◇	◇	x	x		x		x
Work to Trees in a Conservation Area	✓	✓	x	◇	◇	x	x		x		x
Advertisement	✓	✓	x	x	x	✓	x	✓	x	x	x
Listed Building	✓	✓	✓			✓	x	✓	x	?	?
Approval of details required by conditions of a Listed Building consent	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	?	?
Lawfulness of works to a Listed building	✓	✓	x	x	x	✓	x	✓	x	x	x
Hazardous Substances Consent	✓	✓	x	✓	x	x	x	✓	x	x	x
Permission in principle	✓	x	x	✓	x	x	✓	x	x	x	x

Technical details consent following granting of permission in principle	✓	x	x	✓	x	x	✓	x	x	x	x
Schedule 17 approval of certain matters relating to the design and construction of HS2	✓	x	x	x	◇	x	✓	x	x	x	x

Key:

Method will be used = ✓

Method will not be used = x

Method might be used = ◇

Appendix 8: Glossary

Adoption Statement: A statement prepared when a local planning authority adopts a local plan, detailing the date at which a Local Plan has been adopted, any modifications made to the Local Plan and the grounds and time period within which aggrieved parties can apply to the High Court regarding the plan.

Business Forums: A group of businesses, investors, developers and other commercial organisations which has been formally designated as a body that can produce a neighbourhood plan for an area.

Consultation Statement: A statement produced describing how consultation has been undertaken and taken into account in preparing a planning scheme or policy document.

Development Management (Decision-taking): A function of the respective council which considers and decides submitted planning applications against relevant planning policy and any other material considerations.

Development Plan/Development Plan Documents (DPDs): Planning strategies and policies to direct the future development of an area. They include Local Plans and neighbourhood plans (as defined in section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004) and are prepared by the local planning authority or qualifying neighbourhood plan body in consultation with the community.

Duty to Cooperate: This is a legal requirement introduced by the Localism Act 2011. It requires that public bodies should engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis on strategic planning issues that cross administrative boundaries.

Enforcement Notice: A notice issued at the discretion of the local planning authority where a breach of planning control has occurred. The notice will contain information as to what the breach of planning control is and what steps will be required to correct this.

Environmental Impact Assessment: An assessment that establishes any likely significant effects a proposal is likely to have on the environment, so that these can be fully taken into account in the decision-making process. The types of development which require assessment are described in the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011.

Evidence Base: Up-to-date and relevant studies, data, information and analysis on the economic, social and environmental characteristics and prospects of the area to inform and support the preparation of the Local Plan.

Examination in Public: Before it can be adopted, a Local Plan must be examined by an independent inspector whose role is to assess whether the plan has been

prepared in accordance with legal and procedural requirements, and whether it is considered 'sound'. To be 'sound' a document must be positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy.

General Consultee: General categories of interest groups that by law the local planning authority is required to consult with under the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

Local Development Scheme: The Local Development Scheme sets out the Council's timetable for the production and review of planning documents that form the Local Development Framework.

Local Development Framework: The collection of local Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents adopted by a local planning authority.

Local Plan: The Local Plan is being prepared by the city council to guide future development across the local authority area. The final, adopted version of this development plan document will detail the strategy for development across the areas up to 2040 and will contain detailed policies which the City Council will use to manage future development.

Local Planning Authority: The public authority whose duty it is to carry out specific planning functions for a particular area, such as creating planning policies or deciding planning applications.

Material Consideration: A material consideration is a matter that should be taken into account in deciding a planning application or an appeal against a planning decision. Examples of material considerations include representations made by the public, comments made by statutory and non-statutory consultees, draft plans, design issues and development impacts. Some material considerations may be more significant than others.

Monitoring: Involves the collection and analysis of data and statistics to understand how patterns of development are changing. An example of this is the collection of housebuilding statistics. Monitoring data can show how effective planning policies are in influencing development. Such information is reported by local planning authorities in their Authority Monitoring Report (AMR).

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF): The Government's planning policies for England, which provide a policy framework that sets the parameters in which Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans can be prepared, and decisions on planning applications should be made.

National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG/PPG): The Government's more detailed online guidance on national planning policies, which adds detail to the NPPF.

Neighbourhood Plans: Development plan documents which can be prepared by local communities, such as neighbourhood forums, business forums or forums. Neighbourhood Plans must conform to the strategic development priorities of the Local Plan but can shape and direct local development within their neighbourhood area.

Planning Inspectorate: A national body which acts on behalf of the Secretary of State. The Planning Inspectorate deals with appeals on planning applications, as well as independently examining any local plans a local authority wants to adopt as planning policy.

Planning Obligations: Legally binding agreements entered into under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 between local planning authorities and applicants for planning permission. These agreements are used to ensure developments provide schemes and infrastructure to mitigate any unacceptable impacts they might have on an area. This often includes measures such as affordable housing or open spaces to be provided as part of a development.

Planning Policy (plan-making): A function of local planning authorities that prepares planning policies and development plan documents to direct decisions on development proposals within the authority's area.

Public venues: venues used for making reference copies of planning policy documents and response forms available, e.g. council offices, libraries and local centres.

Specific Consultee: Organisations named in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 that the local planning authority is required to consult.

Statement of Community Involvement: A document adopted by a local planning authority which describes how the public, business and interest groups within a local authority area can get involved in plan-making and the decision-taking.

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs): Documents which add further detail to policies contained within Development Plan Documents. They can be used to provide further guidance for development on specific sites, or on particular issues, such as design. Supplementary planning documents are capable of being a material consideration in planning decisions but are not part of the development plan.

Sustainability Appraisal: An assessment of the impacts of policies and proposals on economic, social and environmental issues, i.e. 'sustainable development'.

Sustainable Development: Development which contributes to meeting the long term economic and social needs of the community, whilst balancing this against the need to avoid creating an unacceptable long term impact on the environment.