

SCI Consultation Responses

Consultee ID	Summary of comments	Council response
1	Confirmation of statutory arrangements for consultation with network rail, and circumstances where Network rail need to be consulted.	Noted. The Council meets all its statutory obligations
2	Support general aims and approach	Noted
2	In respect of Neighbourhood planning, would welcome notification of proposed neighbourhood planning areas as well as consultation on draft plans. Further guidance on neighbourhood planning is available at: https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/improve-your-neighbourhood/	Noted & agreed. Will signpost HE guidance on neighbourhood planning
2	Welcome consultation at an informal level in addition to the requirements of the legislation where issue may benefit from our early involvement. Consultation email address is e-nwest@historicengland.org.uk	Noted
3	Supportive of the principle of meaningful and early engagement of the general community, community organisations and statutory bodies in local planning matters, in shaping policy and determining planning application, but unable to comment in detail on the SCI	Noted
3	Information on the planning services we offer, including advice on how to consult us can be found at https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-planning-authorities-get-environmental-advice	Noted

SCI Consultation Responses

4	No objections providing traditional methods of communication are maintained, and use of social media only supplements the following: planning documents sent to parish councils, notifications sent to those on the planning database, posting of site notices for planning applications, hard copies being available at public libraries & and on the website, and named officers being contactable by phone.	Hard copies of planning policy documents will still be made available to view at libraries and Council offices in addition to electronic versions on our website. Town & Parish Councils are all notified electronically. Planning applications are all dealt with electronically and are available for inspection on the Council's website. Town & Parish Councils are notified accordingly. The development management team will assist those who have difficulties viewing the plans online and are able to arrange contact with the case officer where necessary.
4	The principal of more transparency in planning decisions is the aim, and where planning decisions are voted on, officers must make a declaration of interest and stand down from any vote where appropriate.	The constitution sets out a scheme of delegation for the determination of planning applications. Where applications are determined by the Development Panel (which includes applications directly affecting or involving a Member or Officer of the Council) Councillors are required to declare interests and in some circumstances not participate in decision-making. They have to adhere to a code of conduct which is available to view on the Council's website (www.allerdale.gov.uk) The Constitution also includes a code of conduct for employees.
5	Further consultation may need to be undertaken on additional evidence documents and main modifications - this falls between the stages identified in the draft document. You may wish to consider whether there is a need for an additional row for the stage between examination and publication of inspector's recommendations	Comments noted. Have amended text in table to reflect consultation that may arise as part of the examination process at the instruction of the Inspector.
6	If referred to and consistently applied by all parties many difficulties will be avoided	Noted
7	Para 1.4 – worth adding that members of the public can also get involved through submitting sites to be considered for allocation	1.4 lists ways in which to be involved in the planning process at a high level rather than in detail. It is considered unnecessary to add 'Submitting sites to be considered for allocation' as this activity essentially falls within engagement with the local plan process.

SCI Consultation Responses

7	Paras 1.7-19 - the risk of including live links within a document is that people need to access the document to be able to access the link. If they have a hard copy, they cannot see the website address they should be accessing. It is suggested that the full website address is provided which will also resolve the issue of any links being broken through the lifetime of the document.	Agree - text amended
7	Para 1.11 - suggest making it clear that online, in this instance, means on the Council's website. Might also be useful to provide the address (see comment above).	Agree - text amended
7	Table 1 - would be useful to include the Local Plan regulation stage within the left 'Stage' column too e.g. Reg 18, 19 etc.	Comments noted. Have considered this, but have decided not to pursue this approach
7	Para 3.4 - may be helpful to provide examples of what constitute a 'minor' application and what 'reserved matters' mean - or include in a Glossary of Terms. Para 3.6 - is there a specific, consistent radius applied or just "properties immediately adjacent"? Para 3.8 - may be helpful to describe the term "materially" or include in a Glossary of Terms. Para 3.9 - what is the Council's website address / planning application search address?	Glossary now included. There is no specific radius applied
7	Is there a Council protocol on any applications that might be shared on social media opening up debate? Sometimes the local press make planning application announcements which spark debate and in some rare cases, bring Members into the online discussion. Is there a Council protocol which protects the Council / Members in this regard? If so – it might be worth mentioning this briefly. If not – it might be worth having one in place for the more controversial applications this may apply to.	Councillors receive advice on handling social media, and Members of the Planning Panel receive specific training relating to the handling of planning applications.
9	Whilst not wishing to make specific representations on the SCI Homes England will continue to engage with ABC	Noted

SCI Consultation Responses

<p>10</p>	<p>Will the list of organisations and consultees in the appendix attached to the 2010 SCI be automatically included in the new SCI</p>	<p>No, not all. Government Departments will not be consulted, some of the organisations no longer exist or do not wish to be consulted. New organisations have been formed. The Council is required to consult a number of different authorities and general and specific consultation bodies as set out in legislation (The Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, as amended), depending on the nature of what is being consulted on. In addition, any organisation or individual can ask to be added to the planning policy consultation database to be notified of any consultations on planning policy documents.</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Section 3.4 In terms of Major applications, it mentions Statutory consultees and local interest groups will be consulted. Will all groups on the list be notified or just a chosen few? If a few then who decides?</p>	<p>The list in appendix 1 of the 2010 SCI related to planning policy consultations rather than planning applications. There are certain organisations that the planning authority is statutorily required to consult (as set out in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management procedure) (England) Order 2015, as amended), depending on the nature of the proposals, other organisations are consulted at the discretion of the LPA where appropriate. Some non-statutory organisations are consulted in specific circumstances agreed with the Local Planning Authority for example Butterfly Conservation or Cockermouth Civic Trust.</p>

SCI Consultation Responses

10	Where can we find information on which applications will be referred to the Development Panel?	<p>The constitution sets out a scheme of delegation for the determination of planning applications. These are:</p> <p>Any application or matter (except an application for prior approval) which is referred to the Development Panel by any Member of the Council within 21 days of the issue of the weekly list of planning applications. All applications where the proposed decision of the Head of Service would, in his or her opinion, be contrary to the policies of the Council as expressed in the Development Plan and/or any emerging plan approved by the Council for the purposes of development control decision making. Any application submitted on any matter directly affecting or involving a Member or Officer of the Council where the Head of Service has been informed of the involvement. Matters which the Head of Service considers to raise issues of major importance or of wider interest or of an innovative or controversial nature and which Members will therefore wish to discuss.</p> <p>The case officer will often know early on whether an application is likely to need to go to the Development Panel, but only when an application is scheduled for a specific panel date does the LPA write/email commentators to ask whether they wish to speak, and the website updated (the record of the planning application) to reflect the committee date at which the application will be heard.</p>
----	--	---

SCI Consultation Responses

10	<p>Would the Council consider giving the public participants at a panel meeting the right to respond to the applicant's representatives? People who take the time to prepare evidence for the meeting deserve the right to say when the applicant's representatives are misrepresenting the truth in their response to the public participant's evidence. This is the practice in some other Councils and allows the public participants to feel that they had a fair say in the proceedings. The lack of this right leaves people feeling that they have been ignored when the Councillors on the panel fail to pick up on untruths in the response or "evidence" provided by the applicant's representatives. This is a massive source of mistrust in both the present and the proposed systems since after the panel decision there is no further opportunity for Community appeal</p>	<p>Comments are acknowledged, although there are no plans to revise the order of speakers at present. However, there is the opportunity for procedures to be revised in the future with the merger of the District & County Councils to establish the new 'Cumberland' Council.</p>
----	---	---