



Statement of Community Involvement

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council

September 2021

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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, parish and town councils 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.
- 1.2 The Borough Council is legally required to prepare an SCI under the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, and once adopted it becomes a statutory part of the development plan, and the council will be required to implement the proposals within the document when undertaking consultation on planning matters.
- 1.3 The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) requires the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) to be reviewed every five years. It is important to review the SCI, and make necessary updates, where appropriate, to reflect revisions in national policy or legislation, and changes in circumstances internally within the council where certain practices or procedures may no longer apply.
- 1.4 The SCI establishes a minimum standard of consultation whilst promoting transparency and openness to ensure all sections of the public, including businesses, local groups and organisations have the opportunity to be pro-actively involved in decision making on planning policy documents and planning applications.

Why should the community get involved in the planning process?

- 1.5 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'.
- 1.6 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.

- 1.7 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 Parts 2 and 3 to find out how to get involved in Planning Policy and Neighbourhood Planning, and Parts 3 and 4 to know more about the Development Management process.
- 1.8 Your local knowledge is 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. It is 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.

- 1.9 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

- 1.10 The Borough Council recognises that there can be barriers to effective public participation and will work hard to address and overcome these where possible.

- 1.11 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 councils can deliver their 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 Borough 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 council websites. This supports an open and transparent planning system and should reduce the number of planning enquiries. However, the Borough Council recognises 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.

National Health Emergencies

- 1.12 The Government has issued advice on the importance of progressing local plan production and continuing development management services during the COVID-19 pandemic in order to support the country's economic recovery. The Borough Council will continue to carry out its planning role in accordance with Government advice on social distancing. However, there may be some circumstances which are beyond the Borough Council's control, such as a time of national lockdown which may impact on the way the Council carries out consultation, with greater reliance on virtual and electronic forms of communication. In such circumstances the Borough Council will remain committed to involving the community as much as practically possible. Appendix 8 sets out how the Borough Council will ensure effective community involvement will continue to take place during the pandemic.

Equal Opportunity

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

1.15 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

1.16 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 and documents/ reports and information which have been used within up-to-date 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.

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

1.18 The Tables on pages 13 to 18 and in Appendices 5 to 7 set out how different groups and individuals can get involved.

The Planning System: Plan-Making and Decision-Taking

Plan-making:

1.19 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:

1.20 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.

1.21 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 (including Town and Parish Councils) 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 Borough Council acknowledges the importance of proactively engaging with a wide section of the community, so that the Local Plan 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 across the local authority area. Details of the methods of community involvement to be used at each stage of Local Plan preparation are set out in Tables 1, 2 and 3.
- 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 each council's website, this document is also known as the 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. This rests with a Town or Parish Council, or Neighbourhood and Business Forums. The methods of communication that are adopted for these types of plan will be at the discretion of these lead bodies.

Who we will be consulting?

- 2.5 The Borough Council is 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

2.6 The Borough Council will be consulting directly with groups and organisations whose details it keeps on a database for this purpose.

2.7 These include:

- Local community and voluntary sector groups.
- Parish or town councils and neighbouring local authorities.
- Local MPs and county 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.

2.8 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 the planning policy team by email: planningpolicy@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk, or by telephone: 01782 742467

2.9 Appendix 1 sets out a list of 'specific' and 'general' consultees and stakeholders. Both lists are 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.

2.10 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 covers only a limited area or topic, the Borough Council will engage those organisations with an interest in the area or topic and any others who have requested it.

Duty to Cooperate

2.11 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 NPPF sets out that strategic policy-making authorities should prepare and maintain one or more statements of common ground.

2.12 The Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme is located in the north of Staffordshire and share its boundaries with a total of six other local authorities:

- Cheshire East Council

- Shropshire Council
- Stafford Borough Council
- Staffordshire County Council
- Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
- Stoke-on-Trent City Council

2.13 It is important for the councils to communicate with their partner organisations, particularly regarding cross boundary and county-wide issues. The councils also take part in regular discussions through forums such as the Staffordshire Development Officers Group.

2.14 The Borough Council will continue to work closely with their partners to deliver planning under the duty to cooperate.

The Newcastle-Under-Lyme Local Plan

2.15 The Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Plan will be comprised of a new overarching planning strategy which will capitalise on the advantages of the local authority area to create the environment for investment and economic growth over a 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 it will also be 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.

2.16 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.

2.17 A timetable for preparation of the Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Plan is set out in the Councils Local Development Scheme which is available on the Borough Council website which is available here ([LINK](#)) . Furthermore, the development plan and its constituent parts can be viewed within the Local Development Scheme published on the Borough Council's website.

How will the Local Plan be prepared?

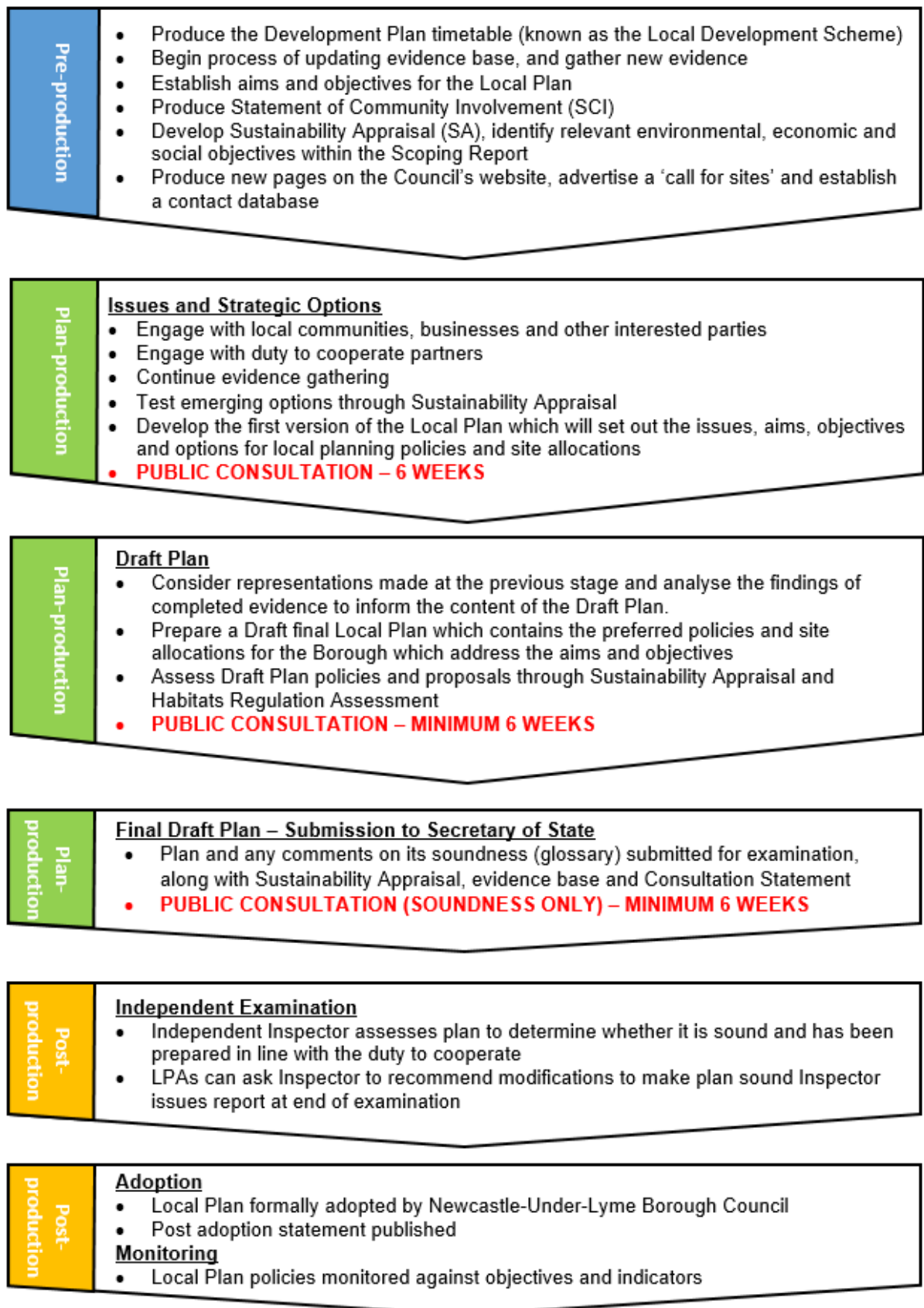
2.18 National planning policy sets clear expectations as to how a Local Plan must be developed in order to be justified, effective, consistent with national policy and positively prepared to deliver sustainable development that meets local needs and national priorities.

2.19 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). Following on from this, options for addressing these issues should be developed. Finally, a preferred approach should be identified which will ultimately form the basis of the Local Plan.

- 2.20 To ensure all potential development land for housing, employment, retail, leisure and other uses are taken into account during the local plan making process, the Borough Council will invite site submissions through 'Call for Site' exercises. This will enable land owners, agents and developers to submit sites to the Borough Council for them to be considered for potential future development, and allocation within the Local Plan. More information can be found within the call for site section of the Borough Councils website
- 2.21 The Local Plan will be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework and National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG). The following diagram shows both the key stages of plan production, adapted from the NPPG and identifies the key stages when we will be consulting.

Diagram 1: Local Plan Production Process:



The Role of Elected Members in Local Plan Preparation:

Cabinet and Full Council

- 2.22 The responsibility for preparing the Local Plan will rest with the separate Executive Bodies, i.e. Cabinet. Development of the Borough Local Plan will be achieved under the stewardship of a member Steering Group chaired by the Leader of the Council or the relevant Portfolio Holder.
- 2.23 Significant Local Plan items will also be taken to the Strategic Planning Consultative Group to ensure cross party member engagement on the plan making process before reaching public forums such as Planning Committee and Cabinet.
- 2.24 The legal requirement for the Full Council of the local 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 Newcastle-under-Lyme's Planning Committee at appropriate times to inform this process.

Local Plan – Methods of Communication

2.25 The following tables set out the detail about the methods of communication with stakeholders and the public that will be used by the Borough 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
Update Evidence / Production of New Evidence³	✓						✓	
Production of SCI	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Production of Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	

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.

Table 2: Local Plan Production Stage

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

Table 3: Local Plan Post Production Stage

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

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

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

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's)

- 2.27 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.
- 2.28 The Borough Council is 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

	Duty to Cooperate Discussions	Liaise with Statutory Consultees/ Partnerships	Publish Documents Online & Make Limited Hard Copies Available. ¹⁵	Publicise via Press Release	Publicise via Social Media	Leaflets and Posters	Enable Public Responses to be Submitted ¹⁶	Publish and consider all comments received	Make changes to documents, where considered appropriate	Produce a Consultation Statement ¹⁷ and consult on this	Publish Adoption Statement and send a copy to those who have requested it
Evidence Gathering and SPD Preparation Stage		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Publication Stage¹⁸	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓

2.29 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.

2.30 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.

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.

Preparation and Review of this Statement of Community Involvement

2.31 The following table sets out how the community will be involved in the preparation and future review of this Statement of Community Involvement.

Table 5: Statement of Community Involvement Consultation

Stage:	Method of Involvement:
Production of SCI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The draft version of the SCI will be published and consulted on for a six week period. ✓ The draft and the final versions of the SCI will be made available on the Councils website and in hard copy reference format in council offices, contact centres, libraries and local information centres. ✓ A press release will be made to local media organisations to publicise the production of the draft and final versions of the SCI. ✓ The council will consult with neighbouring authorities and individuals, organisations and interest groups named on the Local plan database upon publication of the draft and final versions of the SCI. ✓ Publication of the SCI will be promoted using the councils' social media accounts. ✓ Response forms will be made available online and in public venues (see Glossary) for people to provide comments on specific aspects of the draft SCI, or the document as a whole. ✓ The Borough Council will consider all comments received and make appropriate changes to the SCI, where necessary. <p>Where further publicising of the SCI may be necessary, leaflets and posters may be produced and will be displayed in a range of public venues (see Glossary).</p>
Review of SCI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The Borough Council will make minor revisions to improve the SCI or implement changes required by new regulations via a council resolution. ✓ More fundamental changes to the document that warrant a 'fresh' SCI will repeat the process laid out above. ✓ You will be able view monitoring reports online to see how the Borough Council consider they are performing against the standards set out in the SCI

Part 3: Neighbourhood Planning

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) are 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 \(SI 2017 No. 1243\)](#)

In parished areas, only the town or parish council, or a group of parish councils can prepare a NDP. In non-parished areas, 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.

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.

The Borough Council, as a Local Planning Authority (and relevant bodies), 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:	Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council's consultation activities:
Designation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applications to designate a Neighbourhood Area will be published on the Council's website. Designations of Neighbourhood Areas, and decisions to refuse the

	<p>application to designate, will also be published on the Council's website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In certain cases the 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 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 Council will provide a link to the Qualifying Body's website on the Council's website. • The 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 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 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 Council's website. • The Examiner's Report and the 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 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. • The Council will publish an information statement and notice of the referendum on their website.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The results of the referendum will be published on the Council's website.
'Making' of the Neighbourhood Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 'made' plan will be published for viewing on the 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 of how the Council will support Qualifying Bodies to prepare a Neighbourhood Development Plan can be found on the Borough Council's website on the ['Neighbourhood Planning Tools and Support'](#)¹⁹ page.

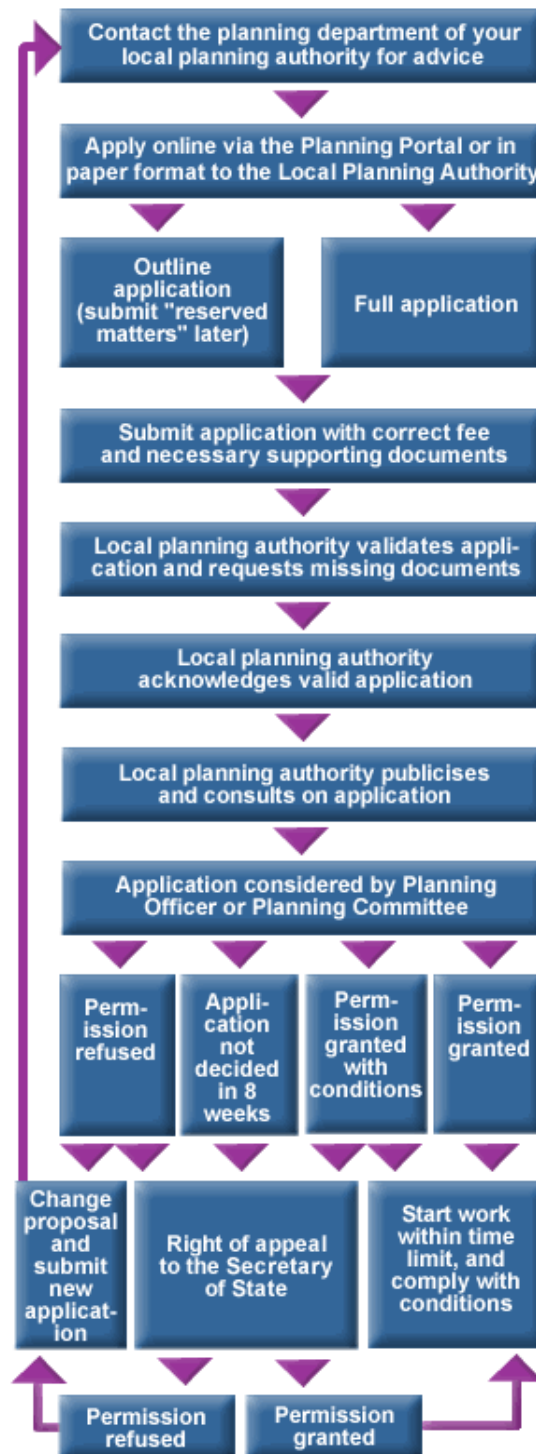
¹⁹ <https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/all-services/planning/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/neighbourhood-planning-tools-and>

Part 4: Development Management

The Development Management Process

- 3.1 Development Management includes the process by which the Borough 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.
- 3.2 The Borough Council decides 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.
- 3.3 The Borough Council is within a two-tier system (not unitary), and so planning decisions for certain types of development will be made by Staffordshire County Council. For example, all applications under 'planning' legislation dealing with quarrying, mineral processing and waste disposal, and the County Council's own developments, in Newcastle-under-Lyme are dealt with by the County Council.

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



Types and Categories of Applications

- 3.4 There are numerous different types of applications made under planning legislation to the Borough Council as the Local Planning Authority for the area. These are set out in detail in Appendix 2 to this Statement.
- 3.5 Applications are made for various different types of development. These are detailed in Appendix 3 to this Statement.

Community Involvement in Decision making

- 3.6 The Borough Council wish 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.
- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 There are however many types of applications made under planning legislation which do not require to be subject of any publicity. For the Borough Council these applications are available for members of the public to view on its website. It is possible for users of the Council's website to set up a "saved search" for any applications on a property and to receive email alerts whenever any application made under planning legislation is made to the Council, regardless of whether or not the Borough Council is taking any proactive steps to publicise the application.
- 3.9 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.
- 3.10 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.
- 3.11 Applicants for major projects will be encouraged to engage with communities prior to submission of any formal planning application.

Pre-Application Planning Advice

- 3.12 The Borough 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.
- 3.13 *“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”* - NPPF para. 39, Feb 2019.
- 3.14 For all planning applications, the Borough 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, both 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 Borough Council.

Community Involvement in preparing planning applications

- 3.15 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.
- 3.16 Where a development is likely to have significant impacts on local communities or where the site is particularly sensitive, the Borough Council will actively encourage applicants to undertake early consultation with that local community. However, it is not compulsory.
- 3.17 Various methods of community involvement may be adopted by an applicant, including: direct notification, public meetings, exhibitions, websites, surveys, questionnaires, etc. The Borough Council does not maintain a specific list of local organisations for this purpose. However, it can guide an applicant to contact a Town and/or Parish Council or Locality Action Partnership, as appropriate.
- 3.18 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.

- 3.19 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. One local validation requirement that is currently applied by the Borough Council for applications for major development is that the developer submits with their application a 'Statement of Community Involvement'. Details of this and other local validation requirements can be obtained from the Borough Council's website. The validation requirements refer back to this Statement of Community Involvement.

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

- 3.20 For more significant developments, generally proposals for 'major development', applicants may have the opportunity to present proposals to Elected Members (Councillors). At the Borough Council this is currently done at the Council's Strategic Planning Consultative Group (which comprises senior members of all political groups, together with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Council's Planning Committee).
- 3.21 Applicants may also wish to discuss proposals with the local ward Councillor(s). For information on how to contact Councillors, please visit: www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk.

The Decision-Making Process

- 3.22 In dealing with applications for planning permission the Borough 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 will make should be in accordance with that plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
- 3.23 The Borough Council has 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

3.24 Once the Borough Council formally register 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 Borough Council take to involve members of the public on planning applications?

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

Who is eligible to respond to a consultation?

3.26 Anyone can respond to public consultation – they do not need to be directly notified of the application by the Borough 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 Borough Council invite 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?

3.27 Within certain legislative requirements the Borough Council has discretion about how they inform the public about planning applications. The Borough 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 within Appendices 6 and 7.

3.28 In the local authority area it is possible for users of the Council's website 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 Borough Council with respect to that property or area.

What is the time period for making comments?

3.29 The publicity given by the Borough 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.

3.30 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. However, with respect to items that are being considered by its Planning Committee, a guillotine or deadline is operated, after which any further representations received will not be reported to or considered by the Planning Committee.

Will receipt of my comments be acknowledged?

3.31 No acknowledgement will be sent but as representations are displayed on the Council's website you will be able to check that they have been received, provided you allow sufficient time for the representation to be uploaded.

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

3.32 It is up to the Borough 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?

3.33 Where the Borough Council decides that re-publicity and re-consultation is necessary, it must 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

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

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

3.36 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 his 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; 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)
- allegations that a proposal might affect private rights e.g. restrictive covenants; property maintenance; ownership and private rights of way disputes.

Decisions

3.37 **Delegated Decisions:** Around 90% of planning applications are decided by Planning Officers within the Borough Council. The Borough Council has an ‘Approved Scheme of Delegation’ which gives certain officers powers to take decisions on behalf of the Council, under ‘delegated powers’. A link is provided to the agreed report which has led to the decision.

3.38 **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. At the Borough Council the Committee is called the Planning Committee.

3.39 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.

- 3.40 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.
- 3.41 Those who have made representations in writing concerning the application are advised at the date of the publication of the agenda of the meeting about how they can view the report that has been prepared on the application, how and by when they can request to address the Planning Committee and of the deadline for any further representations.
- 3.42 At the Committee meeting itself the Borough Council permit public speaking subject to certain criteria being met. Only those who have either made a written representation or who have submitted the application, or persons who speak on their behalf, are permitted to address the Committee. 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: www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk, or by contacting the Borough Council's Committee Services department.
- 3.43 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 by the Borough Council. Third parties will only be written to where there is a need to comply with legal requirements in this respect, but it will promptly make the decision available to view on its website, along with the reports that have been considered in the reaching of the decision.

Enforcement

- 3.44 Insofar as the consideration of whether or not it is expedient to take enforcement action in the case of unauthorised development, the Borough 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

3.45 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.

3.46 For more information, please visit: <http://www.rtpi.org.uk/planning-aid/>

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
- Adjoining Parish & Town Councils
- Neighbourhood Planning groups
- North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust
- Parish and Town Councils in plan area
- 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 2021.

Specific Consultees:

Local Planning Authorities:

- Cheshire East Council
- Shropshire Council
- Stafford Borough Council
- Staffordshire County Council
- Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
- Stoke-on-Trent City Council

Parish Councils within the Local Plan area:

- Audley Rural Parish Council
- Betley, Balterley & Wrinehill Parish Council
- Chapel and Hill Chorlton Parish Council
- Keele Parish Council
- Kidsgrove Town Council
- Loggerheads Parish Council
- Madeley Parish Council

- Maer and Aston Parish Council
- Silverdale Parish Council
- Whitmore Parish Council

Adjoining Parish & Town Councils:

- Alsager Town Council
- Barthomley Parish Council
- Biddulph Town Council
- Cheswardine Parish Council
- Church Lawton Parish Council
- Doddington and District Parish Council
- Eccleshall Parish Council
- Hough & Chorlton Parish Council
- Market Drayton Town Council
- Norton in Hales Parish Council
- Odd Rode Parish Council
- Standon Parish Council
- Sutton Upon Tern Parish Council
- Swynnerton Parish Council
- Weston & Basford Parish Council
- Woore Parish Council

Other Organisations:

- Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Partnership NHS Trust
- Staffordshire Police
- Utility Companies (Cadent, Seven Trent, United Utilities, Western 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	
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"> (a) access (b) appearance (c) landscaping (d) layout, and (e) 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	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,

planning obligation	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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) 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 (b) 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.
Technical details consent following granting of permission in principle	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.
Schedule 17 approval of certain matters relating to the design and construction of HS2	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.

Appendix 3: Development Types

Types of Development	
Major Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential: 10+ dwellings / Site area of over 0.5 Hectare • Non-Residential: floorspace of 1,000+ m² / site area of over 1 Hectare (includes: office, industrial, retail) <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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential: 1-9 dwellings / under 0.5 Hectare • Non-Residential: floorspace of up to 999 m² / site area under 1 Hectare (includes: office, industrial, retail) <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>

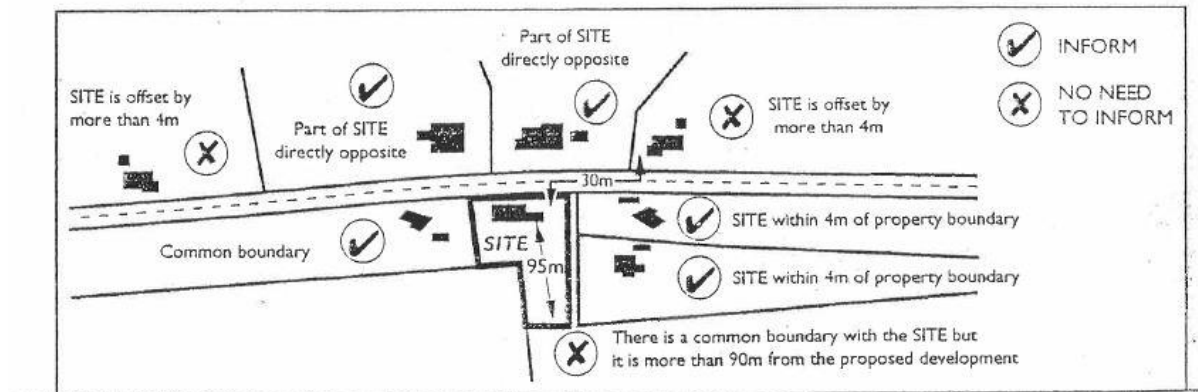
Appendix 4: Identification of adjoining land whose owners/occupiers are to be notified of an application

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.

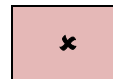
Type of Application:	Method of Consultation to be Applied:					
	Direct Mailing	Press and other Media releases	Press Notice	Site Notice	Exhibition	Public Meeting
Applications for planning permission for Wind farms (more than 2 turbines) and turbines of a hub height of more than 15 metres	✓	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇

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 by Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council								
	During application Process						Following decision		
	Publication on the Council website	Making hard copy of application documents available for inspection	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 ²⁰
Major Development	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗
Residential development up to 9 dwellings, or where number of units is not known up to 0.4ha	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Householder development	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
All Other applications for planning permission	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Development that does not accord with the	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✗	✗

²⁰ Only where the owner or tenant has requested this and/or made an comment or objection to the application

Planning application for	Methods of publicity to be used by Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council								
	During application Process						Following decision		
	Publication on the Council website	Making hard copy of application documents available for inspection	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 ²⁰
development plan									
EIA Development	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Development that affects a public right of way	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗
Development affecting the character or appearance of a Conservation Area (sn 73 of LBA)	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Development affecting the setting of a Listed Building (sn 67 if 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 by Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council										
	During application Process							Following decision			
	Publication on the Councils' website	Making hard copy of application documents available for inspection	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 agricultural tenants of applications site ²¹	Direct notice to other interested parties
Approval of details required by conditions of a condition of a planning permission	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗
Non Material Amendment	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Extension of time application	✓	◇	◇	◇	◇	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗
Prior Approval	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Modification or discharge of a	✓	◇	◇	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗

²¹ Only where the owner or tenant has requested this and/or made an comment or objection to the application

Application type:	Methods of publicity to be used by Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council										
	During application Process							Following decision			
	Publication on the Councils' website	Making hard copy of application documents available for inspection	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 agricultural tenants of applications site ²¹	Direct notice to other interested parties
planning obligation											
Lawfulness of existing use or development	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Lawfulness of proposed use or development	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Works to Protected Trees	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
Work to Trees in a Conservation Area	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
Advertisement	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Listed Building	✓	✗	✓			✓	✗	✓	✗	?	?
Approval of details required by conditions of	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	?	?

Application type:	Methods of publicity to be used by Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council										
	During application Process							Following decision			
	Publication on the Councils' website	Making hard copy of application documents available for inspection	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 agricultural tenants of applications site ²¹	Direct notice to other interested parties
a Listed Building consent											
Lawfulness of works to a Listed building	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Hazardous Substances Consent	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Permission in principle	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Technical details consent following granting of permission in principle	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Schedule 17 approval of certain matters relating to the	✓	✗	✗	✗	◇	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗

Application type:	Methods of publicity to be used by Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council										
	During application Process							Following decision			
	Publication on the Councils' website	Making hard copy of application documents available for inspection	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 agricultural tenants of applications site ²¹	Direct notice to other interested parties
design and construction of HS2											
Application type:	Methods of publicity to be used by Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council										
	During application Process							Following decision			
	Publication on the Councils' website	Making hard copy of application documents available for inspection	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 agricultural tenants of applications site ²²	Direct notice to other interested parties
Approval of details required by conditions of a	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗

²² Only where the owner or tenant has requested this and/or made an comment or objection to the application

Application type:	Methods of publicity to be used by Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council										
	During application Process							Following decision			
	Publication on the Councils' website	Making hard copy of application documents available for inspection	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 agricultural tenants of applications site ²¹	Direct notice to other interested parties
condition of a planning permission											
Non Material Amendment	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Extension of time application	✓	◇	◇	◇	◇	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗
Prior Approval	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Modification or discharge of a planning obligation	✓	◇	◇	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Modification or discharge of affordable housing requirements	✓	◇	◇	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Lawfulness of existing use or development	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓		✗	✗
Lawfulness of proposed use	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓		✗	✗

Application type:	Methods of publicity to be used by Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council										
	During application Process							Following decision			
	Publication on the Councils' website	Making hard copy of application documents available for inspection	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 agricultural tenants of applications site ²¹	Direct notice to other interested parties
or development											
Works to Protected Trees	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓		✓	✗
Work to Trees in a Conservation Area	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓		✓	✗
Advertisement	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓		✗	✗
Listed Building	✓	✗	✓			✓	✗	✓		?	?
Approval of details required by conditions of a Listed Building consent	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓		?	?
Lawfulness of works to a Listed building	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓		✗	✗

Application type:	Methods of publicity to be used by Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council										
	During application Process							Following decision			
	Publication on the Councils' website	Making hard copy of application documents available for inspection	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 agricultural tenants of applications site ²¹	Direct notice to other interested parties
Hazardous Substances Consent	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓		✗	✗

Key:

Method will be used = ✓

Method will not be used = ✗

Method might be used = ◇

Appendix 8: COVID-19 Statement

1. This Appendix presents how the Borough Council will continue to undertake effective community involvement within planning matters during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Covid-19 outbreak has forced the Government to place restrictions on people's movements and social interaction in order to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. These restrictions will impact on the scope and nature of community involvement. It will also impact on the Borough Council's ability to engage with the community.
2. Whilst restrictions remain in place, the Borough Council may be unable to fulfil some of its commitments as set out within this document relating to how it consults on planning matters, such as the determination of planning applications and the production of planning policy documents. However, the Government has stressed the importance of progressing local plan production and continuing development management services during the Covid-19 pandemic in order to support the country's economic recovery.
3. Government guidance from the Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) recommends where necessary to review processes and procedures within local authorities SCIs to allow plan making and decision a making to continue. This should be undertaken by making temporary amendments to community involvement processes.
4. The Borough Council will continue to be guided by public health advice from the Government and other relevant bodies to protect the health of council employees, community groups and other interested parties whilst ensuring effective community involvement.

Public Consultation Events on Planning Matters

5. The Covid-19 restrictions on people's movement and social interaction may have an impact on the ability to carry out public consultation events such as meetings or workshops. To support the Local Plan development process and decision making during the pandemic, the Government has recommended maximising existing methods of engagement where possible, and to use alternative methods that adhere to restrictions on social interaction.
6. When social interaction is restricted and does not enable community events to take place, the Borough Council will seek to maximise the use of virtual

and electronic forms of communication, and engage with the community through online presentations, telephone meetings or appointments and video conferencing. The use of I.T tools such as Microsoft Teams or Zoom will help to facilitate this process. Furthermore, the Borough Council will liaise with relevant representatives of the public and community groups to ensure effective engagement and communication.

7. The Borough Council may temporarily suspend making hard copies of consultation material (such as planning policy documents or planning application information) available within the Newcastle Town Centre Library or at any other public venue to ensure safety and compliance with public health guidance.

Planning Committee and Cabinet

8. The Local Authorities and Police Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 came into force on 4th April 2020. During a time where social distancing and self-isolation measures were fully in place, the 2020 regulations enabled local authorities and parishes to make provisions for holding remote meetings via video and telephone conferencing for a specified period until May 2021. The regulations applied to local council meetings, committee meetings and parish meetings.
9. As the regulations have not been carried forward, the Borough Council has reverted to undertaking in person meetings including Planning Committee, Cabinet and Full Council. Whilst voting members are required to attend in person, the Council has taken on board some opportunities for improved public engagement including the live streaming of meetings via the YouTube website and allowing some remote public speaking where the meetings are live hosted on platforms like Zoom or Microsoft Teams.
10. The Council will continue to use opportunities created through such solutions to improve public access to its meetings and as the technology evolves, the Council will provide guidance on its website for the benefit of the public to improve access online and also through in person routes for those cases where a more traditional forms of engagement are appropriate. For further information about access and taking part in the virtual meetings please contact

planningpolicy@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk or
planningapplications@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk

11. All documents subject to Planning Committee and Cabinet can be viewed within the meetings and agendas section of the Borough Councils website ([LINK](#))

Neighbourhood Plans

12. Neighbourhood planning groups are encouraged to continue the preparation of Neighbourhood plans, but must adhere to the restrictive measures on people's movements and social interaction as set out by the Government.
13. The Local Government and Police and Crime Commissioner (Coronavirus) (Postponement of Elections and Referendums) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 states that no referendums can be undertaken until May 2021. The guidance and will be kept under review. ([LINK](#))
14. The Borough Council will continue to support Qualifying Bodies in preparing Neighbourhood Plans

Appendix 9: 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 councils 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 Borough Council to guide future development across the authority's area. The final, adopted version of this development plan document will detail the strategy for development up to 2040 and will contain detailed policies which the 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. Stoke-on-Trent City Council and Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council are the local planning authorities for their respective areas.

Locality Action Partnership: Applies to Newcastle-under-Lyme only. Bodies that bring together elected members, residents, mainstream services (such as Police) and key local stakeholders (such as housing associations). These partnerships act as a mechanism to allow residents to set their own priorities for action in their neighbourhoods.

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 parish and town councils. Neighbourhood Plans must conform to the strategic development priorities of the Local Plan but can shape and direct local development within their neighbourhood area.

Parish and Town Councils: Elected local authority bodies responsible for civil parishes. Parish and town councils have the ability to be designated as bodies to produce Neighbourhood Plans for their local areas.

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, customer contact centres at Kidsgrove

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: This document. 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.