

Statement of Community Involvement

Consultation Statement

February 2025

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Following the creation of Cumberland Council as a result of Local Government Reorganisation on 1st April 2023, a new Statement of Community Involvement is required.
- 1.2 The Statement of Community Involvement sets out how the Council will involve the local community and interested parties in the planning process to ensure that those that want to can influence and shape the areas they live and work in.

2.0 Consultation Process

- 2.1 A six week consultation on the draft Statement of Community Involvement was carried out between Friday 13th September to Friday 25th October 2024.
- 2.2 Letters and emails were sent out to those on the consultation database notifying them of the consultation. Examples of those in the consultation database include: members of the public, agents, landowners, developers, Parish/Town Councils and statutory consultees.
- 2.3 The consultation was also publicised on the Council's website¹, in the Council public newsletter (dated 22nd September 2024) and the Council's internal staff email bulletin.
- 2.4 Printed copies of the consultation document were available in the following locations:
 - Customer Contact Centre, Civic Centre, Carlisle
 - Cumbria House, 117 Botchergate, Carlisle
 - Customer Service Centre, Millom Community Hub, Millom
 - Customer Service Centre, Local Links, Wigton
 - Customer Service Centre, The Market Hall, Whitehaven
 - Customer Service Centre, Allerdale House, Workington
 - Cumberland Council libraries located in: Aspatria, Brampton, Carlisle, Cleator Moor, Cockermouth, Egremont, Longtown, Maryport and Silloth.
- 2.5 People were invited to provide a written response either online (through the online citizen engagement platform Citizen Space), email or letter.

3.0 Responses

- 3.1 In total, 44 responses were received to the consultation. Seven (16%) comments were received by email, with 37 (84%) received through Citizen Space. Comments came from a wide variety of respondents:
 - Member of the public – 23 (52%)
 - Local interest group – 6 (14%)
 - Parish/Town Council – 5 (11%)
 - Statutory Consultee – 4 (9%)
 - Organisation – 3 (7%)
 - Local Councillor/political party – 2 (5%)
 - Unknown - 1 (2%)

¹ www.cumberland.gov.uk/your-council/have-your-say/statement-community-involvement-sci-consultation

- 3.2 Of the 44 responses, six people (14%) stated that they do not wish for their comments to be published; therefore their responses have not been included in this Consultation Statement, however, their comments have been considered in the assessment process.
- 3.3 The table in Appendix 1 summarises the responses received to the consultation and provides comments from the Council in reply to these. It identifies where the Council has made changes to the document in response to comments and, where changes have been requested but not been implemented, explains why the changes have not been applied.

Appendix 1 – Summary of responses received and the Council’s response

Consultee ID	Summary of Comments	Council Response
1	The document looks pretty standard and hopefully the Council will abide by its proposals.	Noted.
1	<p>There are, however, a number of sentences in it that demonstrate that it hasn't been properly proofread. Examples are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. However, it is recognised that everyone may not be able to view this information in this way; Section 1.14 (Should be 'not everyone will' if you are going to use plain English). 2. Where consultations run over main holiday periods and Bank Holidays, this will be taken into factored into the consultation time period. Repeated in more than one of the tables. 	The document has been amended to reflect these changes in the text.
2	Declined permission to publish response	N/A
3	This document is welcomed and seems to be alerting and inviting the public to participate.	Noted.
4	This format is not user friendly – the Council does not seem to have thought of the public.	The document has been designed in an Accessible format to allow the content to be usable to all (e.g. clear use of headings, avoiding insufficient colour contrast for the text etc.)
4	Workington is deteriorating at a pace; everything is to be knocked down and destroyed. The latest is the Henry Curwen; is nowhere safe unless it's owned by a big corporation (i.e. the HSBC building)? No-one agrees with the Council's decision on this town and it's not getting better. The town is struggling and no aspect of it is inviting.	<p>The regeneration project work that is ongoing in Workington is outside the remit of the consultation on the new Statement of Community Involvement.</p> <p>However, if a planning application is required for works of this nature, they will be advertised in line with the measures outlined in the Statement of Community Involvement and members of the public will be able to comment on development proposals.</p>
5	No comments submitted	N/A

6	<p>500 new homes have been approved in the Whitehaven area thereby increasing the population by approximately 10%.</p> <p>However the number of new roads proposed is zero. The increase for the supply of water, power and sewage is zero. The increase of bus services and all other services is zero so why is this even called planning. My argument is that it should simply be called building whether it makes sense or not as any resemblance to planning as it is obvious from reality that no planning is involved.</p>	<p>The is outside the remit of the consultation on the new Statement of Community Involvement.</p> <p>However, the Local Plan process will outline the infrastructure required to support the housing levels that the Council is required to deliver based on national targets. When planning applications are assessed, the Council does consult with the relevant infrastructure providers to determine what is necessary for the development to provide.</p>
7	Declined permission to publish response	N/A
8	Declined permission to publish response	N/A
9	<p>The Council should mandate that swift bricks are required in all new build offices, houses and extensions within its jurisdiction (as Brighton and Hove Council has).</p> <p>Unless swift bricks are mandated in all new builds, they will go extinct in the next 20 years; a two bedroom house should require at least two swift bricks, three beds should have three bricks etc.</p>	<p>This is outside the remit of the Statement of Community Involvement.</p> <p>This is an area of policy which will be considered as part of the Local Plan Issues and Options consultation which is due to take place in early 2025.</p>
10	The Council is looking to run its own bus service – there needs to be a bus service two days a week from Newton Arlosh to Carlisle a bus on a Thursday and a bus on a Saturday to cover Newton Arlosh, Kirkbampton, Thurstonfield and Moorhouse as Newton Arlosh is cutoff.	This is outside the remit of the Statement of Community Involvement – the Council has sent the respondent the link to a separate Council consultation on the provision of bus services.
11	The general aims and approach to the draft Statement of Community Involvement are supported.	Noted.
11	We welcome the acknowledgement that statutory consultees will be notified in writing of plans being prepared.	Noted.
11	We note there is nothing currently in the Statement of Community Involvement with regards to Duty to Cooperate, which remains in statute at present, we advise consideration of including this within the SCI, whilst noting that it may be withdrawn.	The Council is committed to fulfilling its legal duty to working with neighbouring authorities and public bodies to address relevant strategic issues; it will continue to do this even if the legal requirement is removed. It is

		not considered necessary to include the current requirement within the Statement of Community Involvement as it is a duty contained in the Localism Act 2011.
11	We are pleased to see that Historic England is directly mentioned as a statutory consultee in the planning application process at paragraph 4.7.	Noted.
11	We would welcome consultation at an informal level, in addition to the requirements of the legislation, where issues may benefit from our early involvement.	Noted.
12	Declined permission to publish response	N/A
13, 26, 31	The Council says it wants more public engagement so it must commit to more public engagement.	The measures included in the Statement of Community Involvement are the minimum levels of public engagement that the Council will carry out. The Council will commit to more engagement when required depending on the planning application/the type of planning policy document that is being produced.
13, 15, 24, 26, 27, 33 35,40, 41	The Council must take all public comments on planning applications into consideration, even if they are late. There is concern that, if adopted, the Statement of Community Involvement would revoke the Council's commitment to take late minerals and waste planning representations into account. This is not in accordance with the objectives sought by Cumberland's Engagement Framework which include deeper and more regular interactions with communities, trust, involvement, ownership, understanding and the incorporation of insights into decision making.	The Council applies statutory timescales to planning consultations to assist in determining applications in timely way. Whilst it assists the Council for planning representations to be made in time, it will continue to consider representations up until the point of decision.
13, 26, 27, 33, 40, 41	A Council that wants more public engagement must commit to more publicity of planning applications than the legal minimum.	The Council goes above the minimum requirement by setting 28 days as the consultation period. The Council publicises planning applications on our website, through site and press notices (where necessary) and also publishes a weekly list.

		As technology advances other forms of publicity will be considered subject to adequate resources being available.
13, 26, 27, 31, 33, 40, 41	A Council that wants more public engagement must commit to inform anyone who has commented on a planning application of any material change to that planning application.	The Council will consult on any aspect of material change on a planning application. The decision as to whether the information is a material change is at the discretion of the service management. Any changes are published on the Council website and it is good practice for interested parties to consult this regularly.
13, 26, 27, 33, 40, 41	A listening Council must increase, not reduce, the time allowed for members of the public to address the planning committee.	A scheme of public speaking was agreed by the Planning Committee and is subject to a regular review; the 'Right to Speak' policy document is available to view on the Council's website ² .
13, 26, 27, 33, 40, 41	The Council must not discriminate against those who, through disability or other reason, may be slower to register to speak than others; the Council must endeavour to give enough time for everyone to be heard. The Council must give enough time for everyone to be heard and not set an arbitrary limit on the number of people allowed to speak.	A scheme of public speaking was agreed by the Planning Committee and is subject to a regular review; the 'Right to Speak' policy document is available to view on the Council's website.
13, 26, 27, 33, 40, 41	A Council seeking more public engagement should allow those registered to speak at the planning committee to ask questions of Council officers and the applicant.	A scheme of public speaking was agreed by the Planning Committee and is subject to a regular review; the 'Right to Speak' policy document is available to view on the Council's website.
13, 26, 27, 33, 40, 41	The Council must improve planning transparency, starting with the automatic publication of all representations and, for controversial planning applications, the automatic publication of all Council communications with planning applicants (and their agents).	This approach will be adopted once the Council's new IT system is implemented across the whole Planning function.
13, 26, 27, 31, 33, 40, 41	A Council serious about listening to the public should be clear that it will consult the public on all stages of the Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents.	The Council will consult the public on all preparation stages of planning policy

² www.cumberland.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-committee

		documents as set out in Tables 2 and 3 of the Statement of Community Involvement.
13, 15, 24, 26, 27, 31, 33, 35, 40, 41	Paragraph 3.2 – a Health Impact Assessment may not be a statutory requirement, but given the emphasis the Council puts on health and wellbeing, we request the Council adds a commitment to a HIA for both Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Plan Documents.	Agreed – the text will be amended to reflect this.
14	We are supportive of the principle of meaningful and early engagement of the general community, community organisations and statutory bodies in local planning matters, both in terms of shaping policy and participating in the process of determining planning applications.	Noted.
15, 24, 27, 33, 35, 40, 41	<p>Planning processes are strongly weighted in favour of applicants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They can employ expensive consultants to hide information and attempt to exploit planning/legal loopholes. In contrast, individuals/community groups rarely have the money to employ professionals to assist them in opposing development which is considered harmful. • Paragraph 4.29 – encourages applicants to contact the Council before submitting planning applications through the pre-application enquiry system. Paragraph 4.30 even offers an enhanced pre-application enquiry service to tell applicants what to do to get an application approved. This encourages the Council's planning team to be in the pay of the applicant and creates a serious bias and perception of bias. The document says nothing about a similar service for residents who may want to know how best to oppose an application. • There is nothing in the proposed SCI to suggest residents, community groups and Parish Councils would be invited to participate in PPAs which could lead to secretive, joint working with applicants and statutory consultees. • The presumption in favour of “sustainable” development when, in reality, this is usually interpreted as a development that the applicant considers to be “financially sustainable”. • The planning process gives applicants a right to appeal and can award costs to planning applicants. The public has no right of appeal. 	<p>Planning Aid England (www.rtpi.org.uk/need-planning-advice/planning-aid-england/) is available to offer individuals and communities advice if required.</p> <p>The provision of pre-application advice from the Council is not biased. Decision making is based on the development plan and one of the main functions of pre-application advice is to highlight the policies that are relevant to any particular proposal.</p> <p>All pre-application advice is just an Officer opinion and does not commit the Council to any binding decisions.</p> <p>Where relevant, technical consultees are involved in providing advice on some pre-applications.</p> <p>For larger schemes developers are encouraged to consult with the community prior to the submission of any planning application.</p>

		The English planning system does not permit third party rights of appeal.
15, 24, 35	<p>Paragraph 4.12 states that comments must be made within a minimum of 21 days. Paragraph 4.13 shows the Council would have no obligation to take comments made after the closing date into account. Paragraph 4.22 says comments “should be made within 28 days of the date of validation of the planning application”.</p> <p>This would replace the current Minerals and Waste SCI which states that if material planning considerations are not received by the deadline, but are received before consideration of the application by Committee, they shall be taken into account, provided there is sufficient time for them to be considered and reported by officers to the Committee.”</p> <p>This change is opposed as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • those with an interest in a planning application may not hear about the application for many days, weeks or even months. • 21 days is not long enough for consultees/residents to read and comment on all the lengthy, complex and technical planning documents submitted with an application • historically, residents have had to use Freedom of Information requests to obtain information about applications from the Council; information is often not supplied in the required 20 days and therefore the residents would not be able to use this data within their responses due to the 21 day response time limit. <p>The proposed change to allow the Council to ignore objections submitted late would greatly hinder meaningful public engagement. Such an erosion of the public’s rights would also not be consistent with the “national and local ambition to increase the ability of communities to influence development in their area” considered in paragraph 1.3.</p> <p>It is vital the Council keeps the current Cumbria County Council commitment to consider all representations up to 3 working days before the Committee meeting</p>	<p>The Council provides 28 days for consultation which is beyond the statutory minimum.</p> <p>The Council applies statutory timescales to planning consultations to assist in determining applications in a timely way. Whilst it assists the Council for planning representations to be made on time, it will continue to consider representations up until the point of decision.</p>

	(and later, if possible) and we propose that the Council extend the commitment to all planning applications.	
15, 24, 27, 33, 35, 40, 41	Paragraph 1.4 claims “community involvement is encouraged and scheduled into the Plan preparation process”. This is welcome, but it is concerning that there is no similar statement that says community involvement is encouraged in planning decisions. It is requested that such a statement is added so that the Council’s intention is clear.	Planning is carried out in the public arena. Parish and Town Councils are consulted on the vast majority of planning applications and consultation is carried out in accordance with legislation. The public are able to comment on any submitted planning application.
15, 24, 27, 33, 35, 40, 41	Paragraph 4.31 - should be amended to make it clear that developers of any minerals proposal, any waste proposal, or any proposal likely to result in significant local concern, will be encouraged to consult local community groups – regardless of the size of the proposed development. In paragraph 4.31, we consider Parish Council(s) should be added. Residents Associations could helpfully be added as an example of a group that should be consulted.	Parish and Town Councils are consulted as a routine. Applicants for major developments are encouraged to take their own steps to undertake pre-submission consultation. Developers are encouraged to consult resident or liaison groups for minerals and waste development; paragraph 4.31 of the Statement of Community Involvement document has been amended to reflect this.
15, 24, 27, 33, 35, 40, 41	Paragraph 4.11 – incorrectly worded. the Council appears to only be committing to sending individual letters to properties immediately adjoining/adjacent to the application site. Whilst the Council says it “can” extend the area of letters, there is no commitment to do so. We do not consider this sufficient for a Council seeking to inform the community, desiring to carry out meaningful consultation, and wishing “to increase the ability of communities to influence development in their area”. In this paragraph, the Council should commit to informing: the elected Member, the Parish Council, any residents association/community group that has registered an interest to be informed of applications (either in terms of location or development type) and individual letters for a significantly wider area for developments that include (or are likely to need) certain documents (Air Quality Assessment, Transport Impact Assessment, Habitats Regulations Assessment, Climate Impact Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, Human Health Risk	The level of consultation is prescribed in legislation. These types of documents are normally submitted as part of major applications where more extensive consultation is required.

	Assessment, Dust Assessment/Management Plan, Noise Impact Assessment/Plan, Fire Risk Assessment/Plan, Odour Assessment/Management Plan or Visual Impact Assessment.)	
15, 24, 27, 33, 35, 40, 41	The following information should be included in all planning notifications: the development being proposed; the applicants/company name; the application reference; the location of the development with a site plan/red line boundary; where the application can be viewed; name and contact details of the case officer; the date by which representations shall be made; and where representations should be sent.	With the exclusion of the site plan/red line boundary all of these details are included on the consultation letters.
15, 24, 27, 33, 35, 40, 41	<p>Paragraph 4.16 – the Council should commit to notifying those who have commented on an application of any material changes to the application during its consideration as all material changes to an application could be of interest to those who have submitted representations.</p> <p>Furthermore, if the material change has the potential for new/increased impact on amenity or the environment, the Council should inform all people who were initially notified about the proposal in case they may now wish to comment on the proposal with its greater potential for impact.</p>	<p>The Council will consult on any aspect of material change in a planning application.</p> <p>The decision as whether the information is a material change is at the discretion of the service management. Any changes are published on the Council website and it is good practice for interested parties to consult this regularly.</p>
15, 24, 27, 33, 35, 40, 41	Paragraph 4.16 says for any reconsultation on an amended proposal, the Council will allow a minimum of 14 days to respond; this is not considered sufficient (holidays are often 14 days). 21 days should be the minimum period for any reconsultation and 28 days should be the normal minimum consultation and reconsultation period for anything other than minor planning applications.	The Council has changed paragraph 4.16 to revise the re-consultation period for amended proposals from 14 days to 21 days.
15, 24, 27, 33, 35, 40, 41, 44	Paragraphs 1.19 and 3.14 make no commitment to publish submitted comments; all submitted comments should be published for planning transparency (unless there are issues like safety concerns). Paragraphs 1.19 and 3.14 should be amended accordingly.	<p>Currently, the inadequacies of the old legacy planning systems do not make it possible to publish all representations. Once introduced, a new Planning system will address this issue.</p> <p>There is no legal requirement to publish representations on the Council website.</p>
15, 24, 27, 33, 35, 40, 41	Paragraph 3.13 says the Council will issue a summary report that will consider and respond to all matters raised in the representations received, but the context suggests this applies only to Development Plan Documents and Supplementary	All material planning issues are considered as part of the determination of planning applications. This is set out in the Delegated or Committee reports.

	Planning Documents. We request the Council commit to considering and responding to all representations received for planning applications.	
15, 24, 27, 33, 35, 40, 41	We request that the Council commit to passing on/referencing concerns/evidence to relevant formal consultee(s) for their consideration whenever representations are received that appear to raise potentially relevant concerns/evidence and when it is unclear that those concerns were considered and addressed by the relevant consultee(s).	All material planning issues raised are considered in the planning application determination and expressed in the Delegated or Committee reports.
15, 24, 27, 33, 35, 40, 41	Where planning officers do not have the technical/legal/professional expertise to consider aspects of representations, the Council should commit to providing meaningful and substantive responses to those representations from relevant experts with the appropriate expertise to consider them.	The Council relies upon the advice of its statutory and non-statutory consultees in considering the appropriate decision on planning applications.
15, 24, 27, 33, 35, 40, 41	In order to improve public transparency, the Council should commit to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • always publishing pre-application advice and screening opinions • always publishing consultation requests and other information that the planning team may have provided and any minutes of discussions/meetings with consultees • publishing details of any conflicts of interest that the Council may have with the planning application and how the Council is going to minimise these for the decision making process • publishing all minutes of Planning Performance Agreement meetings • publishing all correspondence between the Council and the applicant/agent for all planning applications that meet a threshold (e.g. 3 or more objections) 	<p>Publishing pre-application advice raises confidentiality issues as some documents provided may be sensitive.</p> <p>If information is raised in an application discussion that is material, it is considered in full in the planning application reports.</p> <p>Conflicts of interests would always be avoided in the application process and statutory procedure will be followed. There is no statutory requirement to record them with regard to processing applications. Members of the Planning Committee have a Member Code of Conduct to follow.</p> <p>PPAs are confidential and regulated by the Freedom Of Information (FOI) regime.</p> <p>Application files are open to public access and scrutiny.</p>
15, 24, 27, 33, 35, 40, 41	Paragraph 1.11 – the links provided for the complaints processes are incorrect/broken.	The link provided in paragraph 3.3 takes the reader to the Council's complaints procedure as intended in the text.

13, 15, 24, 26, 27, 31, 33, 35, 40, 41	Paragraph 1.11 – the Council needs to have in place a proper complaints procedure relating to Planning. The aim of such a complaints process should be to consider, investigate and address potential failings and errors before planning applications are decided. Even where complaints are submitted after a planning decision has been made, a complaints process could still be a useful means by which the Council could learn from mistakes and improve its service. Without an appropriate complaints process for planning applications, members of the public may question whether the Council’s commitment to community engagement is genuine.	Issues are dealt with under the application process. The Council’s formal complaints procedure should be used for complaints made after a planning decision has been issued.
15, 24, 27, 33, 35, 40, 41	The Council should explain how the public can obtain the name of the relevant planning Team Leader and how to contact them.	Service and senior officer contacts are available on the Council website. The Council’s Customer Contact Centre is in place to resolve all service enquiries. Paragraph 1.8 and Appendix 2 provide the contact details for the planning teams.
15, 24, 27, 33, 35, 40, 41	<p>Paragraph 4.39 – for particularly controversial planning applications, the current limit of five people is quite likely to prevent some members of the public from being heard at Planning Committee meetings. Those people could have different views, or wish to make different points, from the five others who have already requested to speak.</p> <p>The limit of five people speaking to oppose planning applications is unfair and could disadvantage people who may find it harder to access planning information and respond to that information quickly. It is considered that the Council’s arbitrary limit of five people speaking to oppose an application should be removed.</p> <p>However, should the Council intend to keep the unfair, and potentially discriminatory, five person limit, the Council should amend paragraph 4.39 to explain that members of the public are only entitled to speak at a committee if 5 others have not already registered to speak for/against the proposal.</p>	<p>A scheme of public speaking was agreed by the Planning Committee and is subject to a regular review; the ‘Right to Speak’ policy document is available to view on the Council’s website.</p> <p>There is a balance to be struck between providing public speaking and the requirement to manage Planning Committee meetings in an efficient and reasonable manner.</p> <p>Groups of objectors are encouraged to coordinate their response and appoint a spokesperson to represent them.</p>
15, 24, 27, 33, 35, 40, 41	Some Councils have organised separate meetings to allow more time for Members to hear public concerns and more time for the public to be able to ask questions and discuss matters of particular concern. We request the Council	A scheme of public speaking was agreed by the Planning Committee and is subject to a regular review; the ‘Right to Speak’ policy

	commit to agreeing to organise such meetings for particularly controversial applications and to commit to ensuring any such meetings would set no arbitrary limit on the number of people permitted to speak.	document is available to view on the Council's website.
15, 24, 27, 33, 35, 40, 41	Paragraph 4.40 – refers to a maximum of three minutes to address the Members of the Committee is allowed, whereas the current Allerdale SCI permits members of the public to speak for five minutes. A Council seeking greater public community involvement and engagement should not reduce the length of time allowed for community involvement so we request the Council permits at least five minutes for each member of the public permitted to address the committee.	A scheme of public speaking was agreed by the Planning Committee and is subject to a regular review; the 'Right to Speak' policy document is available to view on the Council's website. It supersedes any public speaking procedure from the legacy Councils.
15, 24, 27, 33, 35, 40, 41	The Statement should be amended to also permit those registered to speak at Planning Meetings to ask questions of both Council officers and the applicant (like the Committee Members are allowed to do). In some cases, decisions can have long-lasting impacts on individuals and their families for decades. Surely a Council serious about public engagement should allow members of the public, who do not feel their concerns have been addressed, to seek answers to their concerns before a planning decision is made? This would be in line with the intentions of the Council's Community Engagement Framework.	A scheme of public speaking was agreed by the Planning Committee and is subject to a regular review; the 'Right to Speak' policy document is available to view on the Council's website.
15, 24, 27, 33, 35, 40, 41	The Council provides a service to applicants to show them how best to get an application through the planning system (paragraphs 4.29 and 4.30). The Council exists to serve local residents who, through their taxes, pay for the Council. In the interests of a more equal planning process, we would ask the Council to offer a service to advise members of the public who, for whatever reason, may wish to oppose a particular application.	<p>Paragraphs 4.29 and 4.30 relate to pre-application advice which is provided prior to the submission of a planning application.</p> <p>The public are consulted and are allowed to comment on development proposals once they have been formally submitted to the Council.</p> <p>Members of the public can seek advice from the Case Officer on any planning application submitted.</p>
15, 24, 27, 33, 35, 40, 41	Paragraph 3.5 – hard copies of documents should be made more widely available than just at Cumbria House; they should be available at all of the main libraries in Cumberland.	The Statement of Community Involvement commits the Council to placing a hard copy of consultation documents at Cumbria House; this is the designated Deposit Location as it is the Council's principal office. However, this

		does not prevent the Council from placing hard copies in other locations where it is considered appropriate in relation to the nature of the consultation being undertaken. For example, for the Statement of Community Involvement, hard copies were placed in the Council's Customer Service Centres and libraries.
15, 24, 27, 33, 35, 40, 41	<p>Whilst paragraph 3.4 considers stakeholders to refer "generally to any person or organisation that has an interest in the subject of the document being produced", paragraph 3.3 appears to see the public as being distinct from "stakeholders" and paragraph 3.5 indicates that not all "stakeholders" may be "engaged" by the Council for all documents consulted on.</p> <p>This raises the concern that the draft SCI does not actually commit the Council to consult the public on all versions of all the Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents, nor does it commit the Council to tailoring its "consultation methods" to "maximise the impact of its engagement" with the public on these documents.</p> <p>Paragraphs 3.3 to 3.5 need to be amended to make it clear that the public are an important consultee on all Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents.</p> <p>It would also be helpful for the term "stakeholders" to be defined in the glossary.</p>	<p>The term 'stakeholder' generally refers to any person or organisation that has an interest in the subject of the document that is being consulted on; therefore members of the public would be considered as stakeholders. The text in paragraph 3.3 has been amended to provide clarification.</p> <p>'Stakeholder' has been added to the Glossary.</p>
15, 24, 27, 33, 35, 40, 41	<p>Given the extent of the suggested revisions, we request the Council reconsults on a revised draft SCI. The Council's willingness to make changes and reconsult on a revised SCI will, in itself, help demonstrate the Council's commitment to community involvement in its policies and decisions.</p>	<p>The Council will not be reconsulting on the Statement of Community Involvement. All comments that the Council has received have been fully considered and responded to in this document. Where it is considered necessary, the Statement of Community Involvement has been amended in light of the consultation responses received.</p>
16	Declined permission to publish response	N/A
17	Declined permission to publish response	N/A

18, 19, 20, 22	<p>It is also acknowledged that the council is now a unitary body, however little consideration appears to be given as to where council meetings are held to discuss local issues particularly where community engagement is encouraged.</p> <p>Whilst the Council may want to spread the location of their meetings throughout the county, surely it makes sense to hold meetings closer to the location in question where they will have an impact, if the council is genuine in their intention to promote community engagement in a transparent way (developments in Brampton should not have the planning meeting convened in Workington) – one reason is due to poor transport links. This contravenes the Council's own aims of inclusivity and accessibility. If more meetings need to be set up and more resources put in to achieve this, then the nettle needs to be grasped as this is a major bone of contention among the public.</p> <p>This is also the case for other Strategic Board meetings and only creates suspicion in the minds of local residents that the council is intentionally making it difficult for members of the community to attend.</p>	<p>Changes have been introduced regarding the location of Planning Committee meetings.</p> <p>Three venues are now used in Carlisle, Workington and Whitehaven. The decision as to where the meeting is held is made once the agenda for the meeting has been compiled. The venue reflects the area with the most applications on the agenda or the most controversial applications and is agreed by the Chair and Vice Chair in consultation with the Head of Service.</p>
20	<p>The Council should make use of email lists and segmentation to reach those who have objected before about new planning applications, not just those that they have commented on before and are 'in process'. For example, if a member of the public comments on the proposal for a new housing estate, they ought to be notified about further applications from different landowners or builders in the immediate locality.</p>	<p>The level of consultation required is prescribed in legislation.</p> <p>Once a new IT system for Planning is implemented it may be possible to introduce other methods of publicising planning applications.</p>
20	<p>The Council shouldn't just rely on the local press to pick up on the issues.</p>	<p>The Statement of Community Involvement includes a range of methods the Council will use to publicise consultations and will seek comments from specialist bodies and experts on specific issues.</p>
20	<p>Notice of planning applications above a certain land area to be disseminated by more communication routes – parish councils, local online media, emails. Just putting a notice up in a field and publishing it in print media does not suffice.</p>	<p>This is already the case as set out under paragraph 4.10.</p>
20	<p>When members of the public have questions about technical matters in an application, there should be planning officers or equivalent personnel available to answer these questions promptly (within 48 hours, not weeks).</p>	<p>The Case Officer is available to answer questions on any planning application submitted.</p>

20	Much more notice is required – longer than a fortnight – especially in the holiday season. Pre-Production (Regulation 18) states that this is taken into account, but it definitely does not happen (from experience with planning applications in Brampton).	The Council will consult for 28 days which will take into account public holidays.
20	More time is needed to deliver speeches and representation from the public. Three minutes is too short.	A scheme of public speaking was agreed by the Planning Committee and is subject to a regular review; the 'Right to Speak' policy document is available to view on the Council's website.
20	Ensure councillors are well qualified and briefed about applications – and that they don't fall asleep.	Members of the Planning Committee have to undertake mandatory training before they can sit in the Committee.
20	Allow questions from the public at all community panels – not just Brampton.	This is outside the remit of the Statement of Community Involvement – for comments relating to Community Panels, please contact the relevant Panel using details on the Council's website: www.cumberland.gov.uk/community-panels
20	The Council needs to provide clear answers to questions that objectors have asked and why they might not meet the interpretation of planning criteria in the Local Plan.	All officer reports, including those presented to the Planning Committee, assess proposals against the policies set out in the relevant Local Plan. Paragraph 3.2 of the SCI has been amended to provide the link to the current adopted Local Plan documents which are being used to determine planning applications.
20, 44	All documents available for downloading and functionality should be on the planning portal.	All details of the documents and plans submitted are published on the Council's website.
20	Present a more approachable public face of planning officers so that public are not confronted with a dismissive attitude.	All officers are obliged to follow a code of conduct and there is a strong emphasis placed on reliable public service.
20	There should not be a limit of characters in the online form.	In some areas the software used is set and determines the number of characters in the

		response forms. There are other electronic means to supplement this if needed.
20	Publish key dates clearly on planning applications (e.g. when the window for making comments closes). This currently either does not happen or is very difficult to find on the planning portal.	Consultation letters sent out clearly specify the date that comments should be made on any planning application.
20	The Council should routinely appoint independent experts to scrutinise matters like ecological and biodiversity impact, calculations relating to carbon emissions, nutrient neutrality, environmental impact assessments etc. Simply relying on consultants employed by the applicant does not allow for proper scrutiny or verification of claims, especially when it comes to BNG.	The Council employs an Ecologist who comments and provides guidance on ecological and BNG issues.
20	Require traffic surveys and data to be assessed locally, and not compared to other towns and cities that bear no relation to the locality in question.	The Council's Highways team provides guidance and comments on any traffic surveys submitted.
20	Give examples of comments which are likely to be given weight in a consultation. Also, at what point does the number of objections make a difference (hundreds, thousands?)	All material comments are considered and taken into account. It is not related to the volume of comments received but rather the content of any comments received.
20	When it comes to material planning considerations, the SCI says these can include concerns such as 'loss of privacy, overshadowing, noise or disturbance, highways issues and previous appeals.' The list should be broadened and explained in easily understood language. For many such considerations – especially those that involve impact on the environment – the claims made by an applicant should be scrutinised fully before even being put on the portal. It should not be up to the public to discover these and point out shortcomings.	All documentation submitted is scrutinised by the Council and technical consultees as part of the assessment process. These cannot be assessed prior to their publication. They have to be treated on face value and assessed accordingly. Any assessment before publication could be deemed as pre determination.
20	Equal weight should be given to appeals from the public compared to appeals by the applicant. At present, unless there is a planning enforcement issue, the public aren't allowed to appeal at all.	The English planning system does not allow third party rights of appeal.
20	Paragraph 4.3.1 should be strengthened to require applicants to hold their own consultation meetings; it should not be an optional extra.	There is no statutory requirement for public engagement prior to submission but it is best practice for larger and more controversial schemes and is encouraged by the Council.
21	Neighbouring parish/town councils outside the Cumberland boundary (e.g. those in the Scottish Borders) should be informed of any planning applications that will	National Infrastructure projects are dealt with under the NSIP process and are not

	affect those communities (e.g. national infrastructure projects such as power lines).	administered by Planning Inspectorate, not the Council.
21	Cumulative effects of countryside planning need to be taken into account especially where developments are driven by different developers (e.g. afforestation and onshore windfarms)	Current planning policies require a cumulative assessment to be carried out.
22	The methods used to engage people should be more participatory than they currently are. The methods outlined come at the bottom of the participatory ladder. More active and well used methods should be adopted that will bring people along with the decision making process. There is a great deal of research to show that this is extremely helpful both to the planners and to the community.	The measures included in the Statement of Community Involvement are the minimum levels of public engagement that the Council will carry out. The Council will commit to more engagement when required depending on the planning application/the type of planning policy document that is being produced.
23	The Council should have a clear commitment to prioritise and consider favourably planning proposals that align with the promotion of active travel.	This is outside the remit of the consultation on the new Statement of Community Involvement but the promotion of active travel within planning proposals is something which will be considered as part of the new Cumberland Local Plan.
23	<p>The Council should make a commitment to and make provision for an auditing process that assesses planning decisions in line with Local Plan priorities - i.e. examining the extent to which planning decisions align with and actively promote wider visions for the Council area. This would serve a number of purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increased transparency in relation to planning decisions that are taken by council officers; • increased accountability; • valuable data which can be used to highlight and broadcast good practice; • ensuring that priorities and aims contained within the Local Plan(s) are actively pursued and not simply paid lip-service. This should be undertaken at regular, but achievable, intervals and be made publicly available. Grassroots community involvement in this process could also be explored. 	This is outside the remit of the consultation on the new Statement of Community Involvement but the Council is required to undertake a review of the Local Plan every five years to ensure that the adopted policies are being used as they were intended to be and to assess if there is a need to update any of the policies.
23	Various typos/other technical comments:	Changes have been made to paragraphs 1.18, 4.11, 4.20 and 4.38.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • paragraph 1.18: duplication of the word 'planning' in the first sentence • paragraph 3.3: the link to the council website for the Local Development Scheme does not seem to lead to the correct web address • the heading prior to 4.11: should be 'Neighbours' • paragraph 4.20: 'welcome' should be 'welcomed' in the second sentence • paragraph 4.38: 'publically' should be 'publicly' towards the end of the section. 	The link provided in paragraph 3.3 takes the reader to the Local Development Scheme (March 2024-March 2027) as intended in the text.
25	No comment	N/A
27	If the Council wishes for more engagement from the public, it must do more to communicate and ensure all voices are heard	The measures included in the Statement of Community Involvement are the minimum levels of public engagement that the Council will carry out. The Council will commit to more engagement when required depending on the planning application/the type of planning policy document that is being produced.
28	A steady and adequate supply of minerals is a requirement of the NPPF. It is more productive for unitary councils which were part of former County Planning Authorities to continue to plan for supply at the county level. Cumbria provides minerals of local, regional and national importance, and it is imperative there is no interruption in supply. This includes aggregates, industrial minerals and building/dimension stone, the latter which help maintain local vernacular. It is critical the Council works collaboratively with neighbouring Councils and those within the North West Aggregates Working Party.	Noted. The Council will work with authorities in relation to mineral supply and will continue to be a part of the North West Aggregates Working Party.
29	No comment	N/A
30	Companies and organisations wanting to apply for planning are offered pre-application advice; this service is paid for and gives applicants the opportunity to get their planning application approved more easily. This means that an approval can be bought in a sense, especially as this service isn't available to members of the public or organisations who oppose a development. This should be removed.	Pre-application advice given does not formally commit the Council to a particular response. The pre-application process allows the Council to set out the level and type of documentation that is required to allow a development proposal to be fully understood and assessed.

30	All developments of three or more houses should have installations to generate electricity environmentally friendly (ground source pump, windmill or solar panels). This should be incorporated in the planning system like it is in many countries.	This is outside the remit of the consultation on the new Statement of Community Involvement but the promotion of renewable energy within planning proposals is something which will be considered as part of the new Cumberland Local Plan.
31	As a lip-reader, it is important that time is allowed for all abilities to process what is being said and have an increased chance to respond in a consultation. A listening Council really needs to increase, not reduce, the time allowed for members of the public to address the planning committee. A Council seeking more public engagement should allow all those registered to speak at the planning committee to ask questions of Council officers and the applicant.	A scheme of public speaking was agreed by the Planning Committee and is subject to a regular review; the 'Right to Speak' policy document is available to view on the Council's website.
31	An important way that the Council should improve planning transparency, starts with the automatic publication of all representations. For controversial planning applications, the automatic publication of all Council communications with planning applicants (and their agents) would help build trust. It would reduce the perception that things were decided "behind closed doors".	This standard approach will be adopted once new IT system is implemented across the whole Planning function.
32	The planning authority should actually take into consideration the communities opinion when undertaking surveys.	When the Council carries out consultation on draft planning policy documents, it will produce a Consultation Statement which summarises the responses received and how they have been considered in the next version of the document. Any comments (which are material planning considerations) that are received by the Council in respect of consultations on proposed development will be addressed in the officer's report when determining the planning application.
34	Agree with the principles contained within the draft SCI.	Noted.
34	The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority should be listed as a local stakeholder.	Noted.
36	I strongly disagree that the rights of the public to have their say on any type of planning application should be removed from the policy. In my opinion this would go against being a fair, transparent and honest process to the residents of	The purpose of the Statement of Community Involvement is not to prevent members of the public commenting on planning applications;

	Cumbria. Surely this very suggestion goes against the whole ethos of the Councils mission statement on how to conduct itself. Shame has been cast on the Council for even trying to push this through.	it is designed to set out how the Council will engage with members of the community.
37	Paragraphs 4.16 and 4.17 – when a re-consultation is carried out on an amended proposal, it would be useful if the Council could provide a brief summary of the changes proposed as part of the consultation letter. This will allow consultees to have a better understanding of the proposals which will allow for more informed responses to the consultation.	Applicants are encouraged to set out what the proposed changes are in their documentation. Given the focus on resources and timescale the Council relies upon this in the main.
38	There is nothing in the proposed SCI to suggest residents, community groups and Parish Councils would be invited to participate in Planning Performance Agreements (PPAs).	PPAs form part of the pre-application advice process. There is scope to undertake some consultation when deemed necessary for the more detailed requests for pre-application advice.
38	Paragraph 4.11 – no commitment to inform Parish Councils.	Parish Councils are a statutory consultee and are consulted on all planning applications – set out in paragraph 4.7.
38	Paragraph 4.31 – should include Parish Councils.	This is influenced by government guidance and this is considered adequate.
38	The document does not explicitly state that Parish Councils will be considered to be stakeholders. Parish Councils should be included – this is a free ‘control’ measure and should be adopted practice as it will hold the Council to account. It will aid transparency, communication and parity (and avoid a situation whereby a light industrial estate can be recategorised without consultation and permit further industrial processes without the necessary infrastructure to support them).	Parish Councils are already consulted on planning applications where relevant.
39	No specific comments to make on the SCI.	Noted.
39	The new Local Plan for Cumberland should build on the policy of ‘Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity and Geodiversity’ within the current Allerdale Local Plan in relation to Small Blue sites. Any new policy should go further by recognising species and habitats that are particularly important in this local authority area.	This is outside the remit of the consultation on the new Statement of Community Involvement – policies relating to local biodiversity and geodiversity issues will be considered as part of the ongoing work on the new Cumberland Local Plan.
39	The new Cumberland Local Plan should highlight the locally important priority habitats which are within the Council area but often not protected by statutory designation (e.g. priority habitats and open mosaic habitat on previously developed land).	Noted.

39	The new Local Plan should protect high quality 'unimproved' grassland habitats which are under threat from development; these habitats are significant for the Marsh Fritillary butterfly which has been subject to an internationally recognised reintroduction programme in West Cumbria.	Noted.
39	The former Royal Naval Armaments Depot at Broughton Moor is grazed by sheep and cattle and has had no extensive improvement through drainage, ploughing or the application of fertiliser. As such, it is a unique wildlife site which is likely to be the largest area of unimproved grassland in North West England. Derwent Forest Development Corporation has not commissioned any Phase One habitat assessments for the whole of the site – any future Local Plan needs to require this to occur and for an ecologist to make recommendations as to whether it is possible to develop at least parts of the site whilst maintaining its current value as a wildlife site.	Noted.
42	Unable to publish comment as it contains personal details.	N/A
43	Paragraph 4.7 – National Highways should be included as a consultee.	The text in paragraph 4.7 has been amended to provide clarity.
43	Paragraph 4.29 – text should be added that states that where applications are proposed near a Strategic Route Network, National Highways should be consulted.	Paragraph 4.29 relates to pre-application advice; the Council would engage with National Highways if the proposed development could affect the Strategic Route Network.
44	Paragraphs 1.1-1.4 – it will be important for the Council to ensure that information is disseminated using a wide variety of methods in communities, especially in relation to explaining why it is important for people to get involved in the Local Plan process and how the site allocation process could lead to future development.	Noted – this will be reflected in the production of the Local Plan.
44	There is no mention of how Community Panels will be involved – it should be made explicit that Community Panels will be one method in which residents can engage with the process.	The Council will utilise Community Panels as part of consultations when it is considered appropriate.
44	Paragraph 1.6 – should explain what Neighbourhood Planning is and how communities can engage in it. The document needs to reference how to view the Council's Neighbourhood Planning Protocol.	The text in paragraph 1.6 has been amended to provide this explanation. The Protocol has been appended to the document in Appendix 1 for ease of reference.
44	Paragraph 1.13 – all documents that contain planning jargon should contain a glossary.	Changes have been made to paragraph 1.13.

44	Paragraph 1.14 – the document references that people who are unable to view documents on the Council's website are able to contact the Council for assistance. This paragraph should include details of who in the Council should be contacted for this.	The text has been amended to refer to the relevant contact details.
44	Paragraph 1.15 – support the intention to encourage all sectors of society to engage with the planning process. The document should add that the Council will recognise and value the expertise within local communities and that their voice will be given equal weighting to responses from statutory bodies and organisations.	Any responses from local communities to planning policy consultations and planning applications will be given
44	Paragraph 1.18 – there is a typo with 'planning' written twice, side by side	The typo has been removed from paragraph 1.18.
44	Paragraphs 4.41-4.45 – the current enforcement system is inadequate which means that often the planning conditions do not offer the intended protection.	The use of conditions is a regular practice. The tests for use of conditions are set out in legislation; enforceability is one of the key tests. Whether it is expedient to enforce is a separate matter for the Local Planning Authority.
44	Paragraph 4.41 – should be expanded to specifically mention the list of monitoring or breaches of planning conditions which are available on the website so it is clear for those who cannot access the internet link.	The Council is not obliged to publish that information.
44	Paragraph 2.3 – 'great public transport infrastructure' should be added to the list of issues to be addressed to improve health and wellbeing. The Highways team such be using s106s to their maximum extent to achieve this.	Changes have been made to paragraph 2.3 to reflect this.
44	Paragraph 2.3 – the document should be explicit that planning functions to include the protection of important existing green spaces.	Paragraph 2.3 refers to green infrastructure.
44	Paragraph 2.4 – it is important for those who struggle to respond to written communications are able to have their comments recorded in an alternative way after discussions with officers/at consultation events.	The range of consultation techniques in the Statement of Community Involvement aims to reach all sections of the community to enable everyone who wants to be involved and have a say in developing planning policy and planning decisions are made aware of that opportunity. The Council will continue to offer in person opportunities for communities to engage in planning policy development and

		comments from those events will be recorded in an appropriate way.
44	Paragraph 2.4 – how will the Council build ‘the capacity, confidence, skills and knowledge’ to allow the community ‘to be involved and influence the planning, development and delivery of services’?	The Council’s Community Engagement Framework sets out a set of principles and standards. To support officers and Members the Council is also developing more detailed guidance through a toolkit and associated resources that provides practical advice for staff on how to select and use the most appropriate engagement tools. The Council has as skilled team of officers who can offer advice and support across the organisation in engagement techniques and the Council is developing and testing new techniques and approaches such as co-production which will bring people into the planning and development of services in a more structured way. materials that can be used by different service areas.
44	Paragraph 3.1 – clarification is needed on the terms ‘Local Development Documents’ and ‘Development Plan Documents’ and their part of the Local Plan. Could it be clarified earlier in the document that these are the same thing? Do Supplementary Planning Documents become part of the Local Plan?	Text has been added to paragraph 3.1 for clarification.
44	Paragraph 3.2 – support the inclusion of Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment in the Glossary.	Noted.
44	Paragraph 3.3 – the weblink provided didn’t go to the webpage for the Local Development Scheme, it goes to the Planning Policy page.	The link provided in paragraph 3.3 takes the reader to the Local Development Scheme (March 2024-March 2027) as intended in the text.
44	Paragraph 3.3 – how will people who don’t have access to the internet access the Local Development Scheme? Which of the many contacts in paragraph 1.8 should be contacted?	Text has been added to provide the relevant contact details.
44	Paragraph 3.4 – mentions that notifications will be sent to those who have signed up for notifications – how do people do this?	Paragraph 1.10 provides the link which will allow people to sign up for notifications.

44	I would like to hope that the Council will consider (rather than may consider) requests to attend a public meeting. I think it is important the council considers all requests, even if it has to explain then why, for specified reasons, it wouldn't be able to attend.	Agreed – the text has been amended to reflect this.
44	Paragraph 3.10 – why will Oral representations not be accepted? In terms of ensuring that all residents voices can be heard, especially those who are maybe more difficult to reach or have certain disabilities, there should be a way for officers to take down and note oral representations, checking afterwards that how they have documented stuff is what the individual wanted said.	<p>The Council is unable to accept verbal or telephone comments as a formal representation. Comments need to be recorded as a public record to ensure transparency for all and that comments are not misinterpreted.</p> <p>The Council does not have the staff resources to transcribe comments from oral representations.</p>
44	Table 2 – the abbreviation DPD is introduced. It is important to have consistency throughout the document around language describing the Local Plan and if the term Development Plan Document is more important to use than DPD and Local Plan.	Text has been added to paragraph 3.15 for clarification.
44	Paragraph 3.16 – could there be some examples provided of when Supplementary Planning Documents would be used.	The text has been amended to include examples of when Supplementary Planning Documents could be used.
44	Table 3 – which Committee looks at SPDs for adoption? Is it the Planning Committee?	The Senior Leadership Team, the Executive and Full Council will look at the document as part of the adoption process.
44	Paragraph 4.6 – it would be helpful if a flowchart is included, maybe as an appendix, so it is visible for anyone who doesn't have internet access or who has printed this off and is reading it offline. This is an accessibility issue, which is important for ensuring proper community involvement and understanding.	Appendix 3 has been added to the Statement of the Community Involvement document to include a copy of the flowchart.
44	Paragraph 4.8 – could Cumbria Wildlife Trust be included in the list of possible non-statutory consultees and any other organisations that are more likely to be consulted?	<p>Non statutory consultations are at the discretion of the Local Planning Authority and made on a case by case basis depending on the nature of the development.</p> <p>Organisations are able to access details of all planning applications from the Council</p>

		website and are able to comment on any proposal that they wish to, even if they are not formally consulted.
44	Paragraph 4.9 – typo – should be Council’s	Noted and amended.
44	Paragraph 4.11 – the first sentence doesn’t quite read right. Should it be “the Council will send” individual letters?	Text has been amended to reflect this change.
44	The Council obviously needs to abide by the minimum requirements for public consultation length. Is this document an opportunity for the Council to say that we will go over and above these minimum requirements wherever possible? If people are trying to understand and scrutinise planning documents to be found on a system they are not used to and find all the things that are relevant to them this can be a time consuming process to understand what the issues are. Also formulating objections which are going to be meaningful in terms of material reasons can take some research and understanding. Especially for people whoever have busy lives trying to do this in the time that is available can be challenging for people to meet planning deadlines.	The minimum consultation period is 21 days, however, the Council has operated a 28 day consultation period as standard protocol since its formation and so it is actually going above minimum requirements; paragraph 4.22 has been amended to state this.
44	The planning department should be willing to be open to comments on planning applications for as long as it possible up towards the time when the time when the decision is to be made.	The Council applies statutory timescales to planning consultations to assist in determining applications in a timely way. Whilst it assists the council for planning application representations to be made on time, it will continue to consider representations up until the point of decision.
44	Paragraph 4.13 – should be changed so that “the Council will, whenever it is possible, take into account comments made after the closing date, even though it has no obligation to do so, because it values and wants the comments from as wide a representation of our population as possible.” This will help to reach the harder to reach and less heard voices too. And for people who may hear about the development at a later point, beyond the initial consultation. The commenting process is challenging for the public and tight timescales make it less accessible for people. The process the former Carlisle City Council had in allowing comments to come in late gave the maximum opportunity for residents to comment and have their	The Council applies statutory timescales to planning consultations to assist in determining applications in a timely way. Whilst it assists the council for planning application representations to be made on time, it will continue to consider representations up until the point of decision.

	<p>voices heard in this process and not allowing this will stifle some comments and some voices. Also, as plans get amended and altered through the process other issues can arise or change and residents should be free and able to comment on these.</p> <p>Paragraph 4.22 will need to be amended if these comments are taken into consideration. Even if accepting late comments is not explicitly written into the document, it should run as an ethos throughout the planning department as an unwritten rule.</p>	
44	Paragraph 4.19 – it would be helpful if paragraph 1.8 is referenced for contact details for the relevant planning team.	Text amended to provide reference to paragraph 1.8.
44	Paragraph 4.21 – it would be really helpful to refer people here to where they can get good information about what constitute material planning reasons for objections so that people can get a better understanding of these. Or better still have some more detail about these in an appendix (and on a page on the website – see Charnwood Borough Council’s website as an example). For meaningful community involvement in planning from the public, one of the things that is important is for them to have good information about what material planning considerations are so that they can make their objections to developments meaningful and robust.	Paragraph 4.3 of the Statement of Community Involvement has been amended to include a link to the Government’s website which details what constitutes a material planning application.
44	Paragraph 4.28 – will any resident who responded to the consultation, whether they were consulted or not, be notified of any appeal?	Yes, this is standard procedure.
44	Paragraph 4.29 – the weblink takes you to the generic planning application webpage. When Carlisle is chosen, it takes you to the search planning applications page, not a list of charges.	The weblink provided in the document has been updated.
44	Paragraph 4.32 – are wind turbine the only situation when it is mandatory for pre-application consultation with the local community?	Yes, as is set out in statute.
44	Paragraph 4.36 – typo – should be Council’s	Noted and amended.
44	Paragraph 4.36 - there is a reference here to across the “District”. Is that the right term now that we are Cumberland?	Paragraph 4.37 has the reference to ‘District’ – this is the correct term for the local authority.
44	Paragraph 4.39 – could it be specified how people find out about the Council’s public speaking procedure?	A scheme of public speaking was agreed by the Planning Committee and is subject to a regular review; the ‘Right to Speak’ policy document is available to view on the

		Council's website (www.cumberland.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-committee).
44	Paragraph 4.41 – it would help if this paragraph also specifically referred to the role of enforcement in ensuring that the conditions that are put on planning applications as part of their approval are not breached. This is important because residents have previously been reassured that conditions will protect them in objections. And when conditions aren't enforced residents feel, rightly, let down by the Council.	The Council can never guarantee that conditions will not be breached. However there is a specific procedure for addressing breaches i.e. Breach of Condition Notice. It should be noted that it always has to be expedient for the Council to issue any Notice.
44	Glossary – it would be helpful to have definitions for 'permission in principle' and 'sustainable development' included.	These definitions have been added to the Glossary.