

West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan: Spatial Options Consultation and Statement of Community Involvement and West Northamptonshire Local Development Scheme – Appendix C

Respondent	Comments	Suggested Response	Suggested Action
Andrew Bodman	<p>I have read the document concerning the Consultation on a Statement of Community Involvement for the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan. Reference has been made to the national context. However within that section there is no reference to the proposed changes to the current planning system which were published on 6th August 2020. https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-the-current-planning-system</p> <p>I recognise that these proposed changes have not yet been approved by the UK Government and I personally don't agree with them. Nonetheless, if approved, they represent a significant change to the current planning system and the current housing targets. It is my understanding of these new proposals that local councils will have far less influence on the decision making of whether particular housing proposals are approved or not.</p> <p>I note that the effect on housing targets in this locality (if approved) will be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daventry District 679 target increase South Northants 245 target increase Northampton North 190 target decrease Northampton South 209 target decrease <p>That would give a net increase of 525 houses for the West Northamptonshire Unitary Authority.</p>	<p>Comments noted. The Government has consulted on proposed changes to the planning system, but there is no time scale for the implementation of any changes. It is necessary to have an SCI in place to set out the Council's approach in the interim. If and when a new planning system is brought into being, a new SCI would need to be prepared, if it continues to be part of the new system. A note to this effect will be added to the review section.</p> <p>The comments relating to housing numbers and location are a matter to be considered in the plan itself, not the SCI.</p>	<p>5 Review Add new paragraph</p> <p>5.1.3 In the autumn of 2020 the Government consulted on proposals for a new plan making system. If it is decided to bring that, or another new planning system into place, that maintains a requirement for an SCI, a new SCI will be prepared and consulted upon before being adopted by the Council.</p> <p>No change</p>

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	<p>I acknowledge that local authorities' influence will likely be diminished in future. However, with what remaining influence that you have, I hope that you will realise that people who choose to live in rural areas frequently do so as they prefer less densely populated areas. Therefore, it would be desirable if the additional housing was to be focussed on towns such as Northampton, Daventry, Towcester and Brackley. It is such towns which have the greater infrastructure and the greater employment opportunities.</p> <p>I trust that the next stage of the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan will reflect the changes to the UK Planning System, if approved.</p>	<p>These spatial matters are for the plan itself, rather than the SCI</p> <p>Comments noted</p>	<p>No change</p>
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Boughton Parish Council (Jayne Bunting)	<p>Boughton Parish Council have requested that I write to you in respect of the above consultation.</p> <p>Boughton Parish Council would like to underline the importance of a robust and comprehensive statement of community involvement that underpins a real and sincere desire to engage with the community. This should include reaching members of the general public who, as yet, may not have heard of the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan or do not presently understand its importance but who will be impacted by it, nonetheless.</p> <p>Section 3.3 references advertising and social media. It talks of using Facebook and Twitter “where possible”. Why “where possible”? The Parish Council does not understand what barrier there could be to doing this. Huge swathes of the population get their news online and via social media, bypassing local newspapers. Advertising of the consultation and related events should reflect this. Further, it is important that social media campaigns aim to reach a wide audience, including those who do not follow DDC and related accounts. Advertising on platforms, such as Twitter and Facebook, is inexpensive and should be employed to reach as wide an audience as possible. Other platforms, such as those used more by younger residents, should also be considered. The situation regarding Covid 19</p>	<p>Agree that it is important to reach the general public with any consultation, the SCI sets out how it is intended this will be achieved.</p> <p>Agree that the SCI should be more definitive about the use of social media. Regarding other social media, it is agreed that forms in addition to Twitter and Facebook could be used. The SCI already acknowledges this, by saying 'social media such as...'.(para 3.3.1)</p>	<p>No change</p> <p>Internet and Social Media (Page 10): Delete ‘Where possible and appropriate’ from second sentence.</p>
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	<p>further underlines the importance of reaching the community virtually.</p> <p>Section 3.3 also discusses questionnaires and surveys. The Parish Council would like reassurance that any such exercises will be open and provide sufficient scope for views to be expressed clearly and not simply be tick-box exercises that lead respondents to give very general answers that perhaps do not reflect accurately or sensitively enough their views.</p>	<p>Questionnaires are a useful way of gathering responses to consultations but agree that they should not be the only form or constrain how someone wants to respond.</p>	<p>Surveys and questionnaire (Page 10): Add to end of sentence, ‘...but these will be used in an open way so as not to constrain how people respond.’</p>
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Highways England (Martin Seldon)	<p>Thank you for consulting Highways England on the Draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) for the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan (WNSP). We understand that the WNSP is being developed by the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (WNJPU) which consists of Daventry District, South Northamptonshire and Northampton Borough Councils. We note that the document sets out the proposed approach that the Councils will take to engage with stakeholders and the public in the preparation of the WNSP.</p> <p>Highways England has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport as strategic highway company under the provisions of the Infrastructure Act 2015 and is the highway authority, traffic authority and street authority for the Strategic Road Network (SRN). It is our role to maintain the safe and efficient operation of the SRN whilst acting as a delivery partner to national economic growth. In relation to West Northamptonshire our principle interest is safeguarding the operation of the M1, M40 and M45 Motorways and the A5, A14, A43 and A45 Trunk Roads which route through the area.</p> <p>We note that it is acknowledged within the document that the Councils are legally required to consult specific bodies in accordance with The Town and Country Planning (Local</p>	Comments noted	No change
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	<p>Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, which identifies Highways England (a strategic highways company) as a specific consultation body and we welcome this.</p> <p>Highways England has produced a document titled 'The Strategic Road Network: Planning for the Future' which is a guide to working with Highways England on planning matters and can be used as reference point for the WNJPU. The document can be found in the following location:</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/461023/N150227_-_Highways_England_Planning_Document_FINAL-lo.pdf</p> <p>We have no further comments to provide other than to welcome the range of media that the Councils will use to engage with the public which will help to ensure that the entire cross-section of the local population has the opportunity to be involved in the planning process.</p>		
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Network Rail (Diane Clarke)	<p>Network Rail is a statutory consultee for any planning applications within 10 metres of relevant railway land (as the Rail Infrastructure Managers for the railway, set out in Article 16 of the Development Management Procedure Order) and for any development likely to result in a material increase in the volume or a material change in the character of traffic using a level crossing over a railway (as the Rail Network Operators, set out in Schedule 4 (J) of the Development Management Procedure Order).</p> <p>Network Rail is also a statutory undertaker responsible for maintaining and operating the railway infrastructure and associated estate. It owns, operates and develops the main rail network. Network Rail aims to protect and enhance the railway infrastructure, therefore any proposed development which is in close proximity to the railway line or could potentially affect Network Rail's specific land interests will need to be carefully considered.</p> <p>All planning policy consultations and planning application notifications should be issued to the following email address only:</p> <p>TownPlanningLNW@networkrail.co.uk</p> <p>Hard copy letters should not be issued going forward.</p>	<p>Comments noted. Network Rail is identified as a statutory consultee in box 1 on page 11 of the SCI.</p>	No change
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Roland Puleston Jones	Consulting the public is essential.	Comments noted	No change
Geoff Pullin	Awful lot of words, but looks to continue previous practice which is fine whatever 10DS currently think.	Comments noted	No change
Buckingham Canal Society (Terry Cavender)	<p>On behalf of Buckingham Canal Society, we welcome the SCI re the WNSP</p> <p>Along with Canal and River Trust, we would like to be put on the consultee list for all aspects relating to the Ouse Valley corridor upstream from Cosgrove to the county boundary and including the historic line of the original canal Through Cosgrove, Old Stratford, Deanshanger, Wicken up to the county boundary</p> <p>Buckingham Canal Society (BCS)</p> <p>BCS was founded in January 1992. It is a Registered Charity number 1156662 and is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). It was formerly Registered Charity number 1072924 which was an unincorporated charitable trust. The principle aims of the Society remain unchanged by this transition from one charity model to the other. The transition of members and assets to the CIO was formally completed on 1st August 2014. It is affiliated to the Inland Waterways Association and has members all over the UK.</p> <p>The Society's objectives are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote the restoration of the Old 	<p>The Trust is on the database and will be consulted.</p>	No change

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	<p>Stratford and Buckingham Arms of the Grand Union Canal to good and navigable order and to promote the maintenance and improvement of the Waterway for the benefit of the public.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To promote the fullest use of the Waterway by all forms of water borne traffic and for all forms of water-related commercial, local amenity, tourist and recreational activity for the public benefit.• To promote the education of the public in the history and use of the canals and waterways and Buckingham Canal in particular. <p>The Buckingham Canal Society would like to see the canal re-opened, using the original line wherever possible. The restoration of the canal would bring new life, new recreational opportunities and new environmentally-friendly businesses to the countryside and towns between Cosgrove and Buckingham. Restoration projects elsewhere in the UK have overcome much greater obstacles than any found on the line of the Buckingham Canal. The Society recognises that restoration is a long-term project which will involve major investment but when the canal is restored it will bring considerable benefits to the areas through which the restored canal passes. To this end two project sections have been rewatered in Buckinghamshire and work is ongoing at Cosgrove to rewater a mile of canal there</p>		
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Brixworth Parish Council (Peter Rowbotham)	The Brixworth Parish Council is supportive of the content of the Community Involvement Statement.	Comments noted	No change
Crick Parish Council (Emma Parish)	We have examined the consultation paper and are content with the approach.	Comments noted	No change
Brixworth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (Michael Parsons)	I believe that the proposed document is sound and balanced. It gives weight to the existing Local and made Neighbourhood Plans and commits to properly structured community consultation.	Comments noted	No change
Mr John Hunt	It seems unnecessarily complicated. While I appreciate that all legislation must be complied with, I think a more simple summary of when and how consultees can comment and upon the particular matters which might affect them in a practical way, might be more useful and attract a better response. Many residents struggle to keep up with the changes necessitated by the new unitary authorities and listing more committees, consultations about consultations etc, only causes confusion or lack of interest. A reference to the detail of legislation and committees etc could be added to a summary so that those wishing to delve deeper can do so.	The document is concise and contains diagrams which explain key features in an easy to read format. The council will provide further information about how to respond at each stage of consultation.	No change
Northants Police (Sharon Henley)	Northants Police are satisfied with the consultation arrangements as described. As a specific consultation body our involvement as a planning consultee across all three planning authorities has historically been very satisfactory and this document gives no cause to suggest this will be any different in the	Comments noted	No change

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	future under the West Northants Unitary Council.		
Colin Rabjohn	<p>1 - Given that the WNSP could have severe implications for some residents in the county, I think that it might be appropriate to delay the next consultation until the Covid 19 crisis has passed and/or we have a vaccine. We cannot even guarantee that libraries etc will be open to the public. Currently it would be impossible to hold exhibitions or hold public meetings and/or to consult with neighbours. At present, any information sharing would need to be online and this could significantly hinder the general understanding of what is being proposed.</p> <p>2 - In the document the words "where appropriate" appear a bit too often. Who decides what's appropriate? I think you need to decide up front exactly what you are going to do and let us comment on that</p> <p>3 - In section 3.5.4 you say that that the next draft will be written in plain English. I very much doubt that this will be the case. Unfortunately, the public sector has a lexicon which is complete gobbledegook to the rest of us. Just because it makes sense to you, it doesn't follow that it makes sense to your</p>	<p>1 - concerns about undertaking consultation activity during the pandemic are understood, nevertheless it is important that planning activity continues to ensure policies are kept up to date. The SCI notes that suitable adjustments need to be put in place to ensure the public is aware of consultation activity and can access documents, this is dealt with in section 4.</p> <p>2 – ‘where appropriate’ is used on a number of occasions (and note it is proposed to remove one of these), because it is not possible at this stage to be precise about what will happen at all stages of plan making. The Council will determine what is ‘appropriate’ in each case.</p> <p>3 – every attempt will be made to write the plan in plain English, however the nature of the plan, and plan making process, is such that some technical language is unavoidable. The SCI notes that summary versions will be made available.</p>	

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	<p>readership. I urge you to think very carefully about what you are writing and avoid abbreviations and references that mean absolutely nothing to members of the general public. Please write as though you work for "The Sun". I trust that the purpose is to INFORM the community, not to confuse it.</p>		
Mike Skidmore	<p>This document is littered with council-speak such that the campaign for plain English would have a field-day.</p> <p>Aside from that it's a completely pointless exercise since, as far as members of the public are concerned, the respective councils have a long track record of completely ignoring the weight of public opinion in planning applications.</p>	<p>See response above re plain English.</p> <p>Public opinion is not completely ignored in determining planning applications. The Council will take account of all duly made comments and weigh them in the balance with other planning considerations, as they are required to do in law.</p>	<p>No change</p> <p>No change</p>
Historic England (Emilie Carr)	<p>Thank you for consulting Historic England on the Draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) for West Northamptonshire. As the Government's adviser on the historic environment Historic England is keen to ensure that the protection of the historic environment is fully taken into account at all stages and levels of the local planning process.</p> <p>We support the general aims and approach to the draft Statement of Community Involvement. We welcome the acknowledgement of Historic England as a statutory consultee under duty to co-operate at paragraph 3.2.16 and as a specific consultation body with respect to Local Plans at</p>	<p>Comments noted. The Council will engage informally with Historic England where that would be of benefit.</p>	<p>No change</p>

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	<p>Box 1.</p> <p>We would welcome consultation at an informal level, in addition to the requirements of the legislation, where issues may benefit from our early involvement.</p> <p>We hope that the above comments are of assistance. If you would like any clarification or would like to discuss the above please do not hesitate to contact me.</p> <p>Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss any of these comments.</p>		
Badby Parish Council (Frances Williams)	We are pleased to see that parish councils will continue to be a key part of the consultation process and will continue to be notified directly. We would also be keen to take advantage of any opportunity for the parish council meeting to receive a direct briefing by a member of the unitary council, at an appropriate point in the process.	Comments noted	No change
Evenley Parish Council (Cathy Knott)	<p>Evenley Parish Council met on Monday and would like to submit the following response to the plan:</p> <p>Please consider different ways (other than libraries) for members of the public without internet access, to be able to take part in consultations; possibly via village shops and community halls.</p>	<p>Agree that it would be helpful to identify other deposit points.</p>	<p>3.5.2 Add sentence to end:</p> <p>The council will also seek to identify other suitable deposit points such as shops and community halls.</p>
Farthinghoe Parish Council (Mick Morris)	Farthinghoe Parish Council is in agreement with this draft Statement of Community	Comments noted	No change

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	Involvement for the West Northamptonshire Community Plan		
Dave Trill	OK so far.	Comments noted	No change
Susan Bennett	The strategic plan should include sheltered housing developments of a high standard that would appeal to older people with or without health needs to move from larger properties to properties with some support if required, whether leasehold or to rent. This would encourage the housing market for all age groups in council or privately owned or rented properties.	These comments relate to the content of the plan rather than the SCI. Would encourage respondent to make comments at plan making stage.	No change
Old Stratford Parish Council (Anthony Pateman)	I think that the draft Statement of Community Involvement is a full and comprehensive Statement.	Comments noted	No change
Steve Summers	Appears comprehensive and appropriate. The groups in section 3.1.3 are, quite rightly, particularly important to consult with, as are the lists in Box 2 & 3 on page 12.	Comments noted	No change
Bernard Knight	Reading the documents am I right in assuming that we will have three plans now? Why not merge them to create one simple document.	<p>There would be three plans in some areas and four in others namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WN Strategic Plan • any policies in the current Core Strategy (2014) that are not replaced by the Strategic plan • Part 2 plans for each of the districts that have merged to become WNC • Neighbourhood plans (for some parts of the area). <p>There are considered to be benefits of having a tiered approach. The part 1 plans deal with strategic matters such as the scale and broad</p>	No change

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		<p>location of development, and then more detailed matters dealt with in the part 2 plan. Neighbourhood plans provide an opportunity for local communities to produce their own plans.</p>	
Caroline Trotter	<p>Further to the publishing of the SCI for West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan (September 2020), I would like to make the following comments and objections before the deadline on Thursday 12th November.</p> <p>1. In the SCI, it states “The existing SCIs for the three districts will remain in place until such time as they are reviewed. It is anticipated that the West Northamptonshire authority will, in due course, produce a single SCI for the whole area covering all planning processes” - if this is the case, would it not be appropriate for all proposed developments that will have a long term impact on the district, to be halted until such time as there is a comprehensive review of the three Strategic Plans to ensure the overall future plans dovetail, reducing the likelihood of a disastrous planning decision being made e.g. the proposed Tiffield Employment Park (AL3) - it is here that the traffic modelling on behalf of IM Properties is totally inaccurate as any local resident will testify.</p>	<p>1- this consultation relates to the way communities are consulted on plans, it is not a plan in itself, therefore it will not have any impact on existing commitments.</p>	No change

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	<p>2. In July 2020 SNC adopted the South Northamptonshire Local Plan - I understand the consultation period ran for 6 weeks 20th Feb 2020 to 3rd April 2020, you will note that over a week of the consultation fell during Lockdown, perhaps the decision to adopt the SN Local Plan (2) should have been delayed until the pandemic was under control as many of the decisions taken may be inappropriate in the new post pandemic era. It's also worth noting that the 6 week consultation period was curtailed as all public places where the Local Plan could be viewed had closed. I would therefore state that there was NOT a statutory six week consultation period!</p> <p>3. To return to the proposed Tiffield Employment Park, not only is the traffic modelling suspect but the plan itself is riddled with weaknesses e.g. there is a surfeit of warehousing in the local area, some of which I understand has been empty or unsold for many months/years - Brackley, Silverstone Business Park, Tove Valley Business Park, Pury Hill Business Park, Brackmills, Grange Park not to mention the vast areas due for development alongside the M1 from Junctions 19 to 14. The proposed pedestrian crossing across A43 between the new Tiffield roundabout and the Tove roundabout will not only cause further traffic problems but it's positioning will not encourage its use by pedestrians/cyclists/horse</p>	2- comments noted.	
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	<p>riders possibly resulting in lethal ‘dashes’ across the A43.</p> <p>4. Employment - I understand that the SN Local Plan suggests the requirement for local employment to encourage those living in the area to work locally rather than commute out. However if we look at the cost of housing in the SNC area, those seeking employment will be too highly skilled to work in distribution units. Building these warehousing units will merely encourage commuting inwards thus defeating the object of the Local Plan.</p> <p>5. Focusing on AL1 Woolgrowers, developing this piece of land will further clog up the traffic on A5/A43 both important arterial roads. This in turn will have a serious impact on the local minor roads and villages.</p> <p>6. This will also apply to AL2, Bell Plantation</p> <p>7. Much of the proposed SN Strategic Plan incorporates the existence of the Towcester Relief Road which is now referred to as the “Estate Relief Road” from which obviously, once it’s eventually built, will merely provide access to A43 for the Wood Burcote estate properties. The lack of a Towcester Relief Road must demonstrate that the ‘traffic modelling’ is now out of date and therefore irrelevant. Please see page 4 of Montagu Evans</p>	<p>4 - these comments relate to a specific proposal rather than the SCI.</p> <p>5 - these comments relate to a specific proposal rather than the SCI.</p> <p>6 - these comments relate to a specific proposal rather than the SCI.</p> <p>7 - these comments relate to a specific planning matter rather than the SCI.</p>	
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	<p>Independent Assessment on behalf of IM Properties.</p> <p>8. From a residential property development point of view, the village of Greens Norton is threatened with two large housing development sites, these will not only impact on the local road system but also increase the chance of flooding and put the aged sewage system under immense strain.</p> <p>I could go on for pages with my objections but suffice it to say - a review of the Local Plan is paramount if detrimental planning decisions are to be prevented. Once built there is no going back!</p> <p>Thank you for your time and I look forward to receiving your comments.</p>	<p>8 - these comments relate to a specific planning matter rather than the SCI.</p>	
Maidwell with Draughton Parish Council	<p>Whilst it was agreed that the consultation seemed very comprehensive, concern was expressed that, because of much more digitalisation owing to the current situation, this could disenfranchise some of the population, who may not have computers or a good, reliable broadband, and it was therefore felt important that face-to-face consultations as previously held in libraries/village halls etc were carried out.</p>	<p>Comments noted, the SCI recognises (paragraph 3.1.5) that whilst digitalisation is an efficient way of communicating for many, it is not a suitable tool for some and it is important to take reasonable steps to ensure that sections of the community that do not have internet access are involved.</p>	No change

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Mr Fry - Barratt Homes	No comment to make. The Statement of community involvement, however appears as more of a scoping of options to enable the SCI to be drawn.	Noted. The SCI is in its full form, for the purposes of the Strategic Plan. As noted at paragraph 1.5.1, the existing SCIs will remain in place for planning matters outside of the Strategic Plan.	No Change
Harriet Notley	I would like to see the British Horse Society consulted in the strategic plan. Horse riders and owners are all too often overlooked but Rights of Way that are safe not only provide off-road access for horse riders but walkers and cyclists too.	The British Horse Society is on the database and will be consulted.	
LivingStreetsNorthampton (Eluned Lewis-Nichol)	As Living Streets Northampton we are a local group concerned with making Northampton's roads safer for cyclists and walkers. We would like to be involved in any consultation process involving the development of Northampton's cycling and walking infrastructure.	Living Streets is on the database and will be consulted.	No change
Rupert Knowles	<p>This is part of a creeping exercise in reducing involvement and participation as it gets tied up in terminology and things the public get more and more remote from.</p> <p>The moment in the planning process that the public understands is the final one: the one when a piece of unsuitable and unpopular development is imminent on their doorstep. Time must be allowed for locals to discuss and marshal objections at this stage if necessary.</p> <p>The Localism Act (2011) contained key initiatives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Neighbourhood Planning: that enables 	<p>The intention of the SCI is to set out mechanisms to engage with the public and stakeholders, not to reduce involvement.</p> <p>Involvement in the plan making process enables the public to engage far earlier than when development is imminent. The SCI sets out how this can happen.</p>	<p>No change</p> <p>No change</p>

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	<p>communities to write their own plans to shape development within their neighbourhood.</p> <p>2. The Duty to Cooperate: the Council is required to cooperate with other authorities, statutory bodies and organisations when producing Local Development Documents.</p> <p>3. Consultation before applying for planning permission: a requirement for planning applicants to consult local communities before applying for planning permission</p> <p>It is the last of these that really allows local communities to get involved and it is this stage that this government is trying to remove on the pretext that planning disputes are holding up house building. There is planning permission extant for a million new homes and the hold-up is with developers sitting on their assets, not with the planning process.</p> <p>West Northants needs to publicise the truth and not baffle the public with eyewash!</p>	<p>This SCI does not deal with consultation on planning applications, this is dealt with in each of the respective SCIs produced by the districts that merged to form West Northamptonshire. Paragraph 5.1.2 states that it is anticipated that these will be reviewed to set out how WN council will undertake such consultations.</p>	No change
Harborough District Council (Joanna Ellershaw)	Plain English and easy to follow, no other comments.	Comments noted	No change

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<p>Country Land and Business Association - CLA (Alison Provis)</p>	<p>I write on behalf of the Country Land and Business Association (CLA) in my capacity as Regional Surveyor for the CLA East region, which includes Northamptonshire.</p> <p>We would like to comment on this Draft Statement of Community Involvement for the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan. The CLA represents some 30,000 members in England and Wales, and is the leading authority on the rural economy. Our members both live and work in rural areas, operating a wide variety of enterprises, and in the East of England, the CLA represents nearly 5,000 landowners and rural businesses.</p> <p>The CLA supports the proposals set out in this Draft Statement of Community Involvement and welcomes the Council's desire to consult members of the public. The CLA advocates the early engagement of landowners, farmers and rural businesses in future proposals associated with the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan to ensure collaborative relationships, regular communication channels and expected ways of working are established from the outset and relevant information and local knowledge is passed between parties as early as possible to facilitate a proactive, collaborative approach to the Strategic Plan.</p> <p>The CLA welcomes the methods through which the Council plan to publicise the plan, as set out</p>	<p>Comments noted</p>	<p>No change</p>
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	<p>in section 3.3. In respect of any in-person event being held e.g. Public Exhibitions and Meetings and Workshops/Meetings, it is important that the locations for these are considered carefully and include venues suitable for rural communities to access, and that the events are not focussed on urban areas.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this, Covid-19 has meant face-to-face events are currently not possible, in which case it is important that a sufficient number of online events are held at varying times throughout the day to communicate information which may have otherwise have been relayed at a face-to-face event.</p> <p>The CLA would like to be kept informed of work for the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan going forward so please add the CLA to your list of General Consultation Bodies</p>	<p>The Council would think carefully about locations for any meetings to ensure they were in rural as well as urban locations.</p> <p>Noted. The SCI sets out the need to make adjustments for 'Extraordinary Circumstances' which would include Covid 19 in section 3.8.</p> <p>The CLA is on the database and will be consulted.</p>	<p>No change</p> <p>No change</p>
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Towcester Town Council (Elizabeth Cox)	<p>A commitment is made within the statement on plans to engage with groups which are not adequately represented. It is clear that many groups remain unaware of consultations on proposals that might affect them and, as a result, have missed out on the opportunity to respond.</p> <p>Towcester Town Council would welcome the inclusion of evidence within the consultation which outlines the steps undertaken to engage with these groups.</p>	<p>The SCI sets out, in section 3.3, how it is intended that local communities would become aware of consultations, this includes the use of social media and informing town/parish councils who can use their networks to cascade information.</p> <p>Section 3.7 sets out that a report will be prepared setting out what consultation activities have been undertaken.</p>	<p>No change</p> <p>No change</p>
East Northamptonshire Council (Anne Dicks)	<p>This is a rather brief document, to supplement the West Northants authorities' existing SCIs. As it will form an important part of a suite of documents, we would suggest that the existing separate statements be appended to this document.</p> <p>We note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections on the Statement of Common Ground and Neighbourhood Plan support are not included in the document. • Two of the districts in the adjoining proposed North Northants unitary authority are not listed in the Duty to Cooperate section: East Northamptonshire and Corby, although these would be represented through the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning and Delivery Unit in any event. • As Covid-19 is likely to be with us for some time and it is acknowledged that this document will be an interim one; until the new West 	<p>The existing SCIs are referred to in this SCI, there is no need to append them, but they will be readily linked on the website.</p> <p>Neighbourhood plan support is beyond the scope of this SCI.</p> <p>Noted, it is highly unlikely that there would be any duty to co-operate matters with East Northamptonshire and Corby.</p> <p>The pandemic is not dealt with in a footnote but is dealt with in a full section dealing with 'Extraordinary Circumstances'.</p>	

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	<p>Northants authority produces a replacement SCI, we would suggest that the pandemic should have a more prominent headline status, rather than a footnote to this document.</p>	
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Thames Water Utilities Ltd (Thames Water)	<p>Thank you for consulting Thames Water on the above document. Thames Water is the statutory water and sewage undertake for the area and is hence a “specific consultation body” in accordance with the Town & Country Planning (Local Development) Regulations 2012.</p> <p>General Comments</p> <p>New developments have the potential to increase the requirements for water and wastewater infrastructure. Thames Water will deliver any necessary network reinforcement works required to support new development which will be funded by the Infrastructure Charge. However, the timescales for delivery of new infrastructure can be significant. In order to ensure that development is aligned with any necessary water and/or wastewater infrastructure upgrades necessary to support the development, and to minimise the need for phasing conditions to be sought on planning approvals to prevent the occupation of development ahead of the delivery of any necessary network reinforcement works, developers are encouraged to discuss their proposals and infrastructure requirements with Thames Water at an early stage.</p> <p>As such we would welcome inclusion of text within the SCI encouraging applicants to seek</p>	<p>The comments relate to planning application matters, these are dealt with in the existing SCI's</p>	<p>No change</p>
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	<p>preapplication advice from Thames Water to discuss water and wastewater infrastructure requirements ahead of the submission of any application. Further information for developers and land promoters on pre-planning enquiries can be found at:</p> <p>https://www.thameswater.co.uk/preplanning.</p> <p>A copy of this link could be included in the SCI or on the local authorities website on the preapplication page to encourage developers to utilise Thames Waters pre-application service.</p> <p>Encouraging developers to engage with Thames Water would accord with Paragraph 40 of the NPPF which states that local authorities should, where they think this would be beneficial, encourage any applicants who are not already required to do so by law to engage with the local community and, where relevant, with statutory and non-statutory consultees, before submitting their applications.</p> <p>We trust the above is satisfactory, but please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries.</p>		
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Friends of Northampton Castle (Marie Dickie OBE)	<p>The 16 page document is a useful outline of the who and when of consultation around the production of WN Strategic Plan. Friends of Northampton Castle would like to be included on your data-base for all further stages. We have the following concerns:</p> <p>there is no specific reference to the need to include local history groups among your consultees, yet these are groups with a strong stakeholder interest in planning developments.</p> <p>there is reference to the need to make extra efforts to consult with young, elderly and BAME groups but no reference to the likely underrepresentation, in planning consultation, of economically disadvantaged neighbourhoods.</p> <p>the emphasis on limiting the number and scale of face to face, public meetings will impact more on the above groups where they are unskilled in planning matters.</p> <p>there is a reference to the inclusion of Neighbourhood Plan groups but the assumption seems to be that these will be predominantly, Parish Council led. This is not entirely the case, particularly in urban Northampton.</p>	<p>The Friends of Northampton are on the Council's database and will be consulted.</p> <p>The SCI identifies those bodies where there is specific requirement to consult, in boxes 1 and 2 (pages 11 and 12), and acknowledges that other consultees should be consulted; this would include local history groups – these would be included in box 3 on page 11.</p> <p>The list in paragraph 3.1.3 is a non-exhaustive list, but agree that economically disadvantaged neighbourhoods can be added.</p> <p>The SCI does not have an emphasis on limiting the number of public meetings.</p> <p>The SCI does not have a presumption that Neighbourhood plan groups will be parish council led.</p>	<p>3.1.3 add 'economically disadvantaged neighbourhoods' after 'young'</p> <p>No change</p> <p>No change</p>
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	<p>there is no consideration given to the more innovative styles of consultation eg planning for real exercises. The credibility and sustainability of the consultation process would benefit by being less paper based.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment.</p>	<p>The SCI contains various references to exploring the best ways of engaging:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• At paragraph 3.1.3 it refers to exploring the best way of consulting and liaising• At paragraph 3.1.5 it refers to exploring new methods of communication and engagement• At 3.3.1 it refers to workshops/meetings.	No change
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Louise Croft	<p>Further to your email of 29th September I would be grateful if my comments regarding the Strategic Plan can be included, in advance of the deadline at 5pm on 12th November : -</p> <p>The Strategic Plan needs far more joined-up thinking for it to be successful. Currently it is a series of unrelated proposals without due consideration for the area as a whole and the impact for those of us who currently live here.</p> <p>I am particularly concerned regarding the proposed development of Towcester, specifically Local Plan AL1, AL2 and AL3, which in turn adversely affects the nearby villages. I would urge the Planners to reject the IMP proposal for AL3, the consequences of which will be:</p> <p>TRAFFIC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Increased traffic will use the villages and hamlets close to the A5 and A43 as rat-runs to avoid the inevitable hold ups at the existing and proposed roundabouts. b. AL3 and the proposed Hulcote roundabout will turn Northampton Road into a link road between central Towcester and the A43. The safety argument is false as it will merely shift danger from the A43 to the pedestrians and cyclists using the Northampton Road. c. The proposals by IMP for AL3 will lead to tail backs on the A5 as far as the racecourse and up 	<p>Noted, the comments made in this response relate to specific planning schemes or matters that are not dealt with in the SCI.</p>	No change
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	<p>to the Towcester roundabout given the current configuration of the Saracen's Head crossroads does not allow for the simultaneous flow of continuous and turning vehicles. This will be worsened during rush hours as this is the nearest junction to Sponne school. If IMP proposes to change the pedestrian controlled lights to become time controlled, it will encourage impatient school children to jaywalk through slow moving traffic.</p> <p>d. Lead to hold ups between the Towcester roundabout and the proposed Hulcote roundabout (as per the existing stretch of A43 between McDonalds and Towcester). IMP is pitching this development on the basis that it will provide up to 1,500 'local' jobs (which is disputable). If that is the case, and those workers are walking or cycling to work (unlikely) there will be a constant flow of pedestrians/cyclists activating the controlled crossing on the A43 and waiting in the central reservation. How can this be desirable or safe? Alternatively, If they use cars to access AL3 (much more probable) this will add significantly to the traffic in and around Towcester with the attendant light/noise and air pollution.</p> <p>ECONOMIC NEED</p> <p>This needs to be assessed and agreed for Northamptonshire as a whole county, not as piecemeal allocations. It does not make sense to build an industrial park such as AL3 in green fields near to Towcester, when there is already</p>		
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	<p>availability of similar developments (either built or in the process of being so) between Brackley/Silverstone/Collingtree/Grange Park and Panattoni Park, the huge Northampton Gateway, not to mention Brackmills, Wellingborough, DIRFT and other sites flanking the M1 corridor to junction 19. Individual Councils risk being lured into permitting such developments by the promise of increased rate revenue, regardless of whether those units are occupied or not. Once built they cannot be undone.</p> <p>HOUSING</p> <p>Regarding new housing, I ask that greater priority is given to infrastructure and particularly risk of flooding and sewage treatment before further swathes of new homes are built in the Towcester area.</p> <p>It therefore makes sense that until the two new Unitary Councils have been established, and the UK has successfully recovered from the threat of Covid, any such 'grand schemes' are put on hold and reassessed to ensure they are relevant, cohesive and beneficial for the years ahead. Indeed, there has never been a greater need for 'strategic' to mean exactly that.</p> <p>Please could you acknowledge receipt?</p>		
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Radstone Parish Meeting (Andy Smith)	<p>Following review of the draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) I can find no specific reference to Parish Meetings. Although I am sure it is intended to ensure Parish Meeting inclusion, it may appropriate to make specific reference.</p>	<p>The section headed 'Town/Parish Councils...' on page 10 is intended to equally apply to Parish Meetings, but accept that this is not entirely clear. This will be rectified.</p>	<p>Add footnote (page10) 'All references to <i>parish councils</i> includes <i>parish meetings</i>'.</p>
Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils (Danny Moody)	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the consultation on the draft Statement of Community Involvement for the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Having read and reviewed the draft SCI, Northants CALC supports its overall aims and objectives and specifically the way the process will operate.</p> <p>I note that the proposed consultation period for each stage is six weeks. Noting that some parish councils meet only once every two months, I wonder if it would be possible to give prior notice that a consultation period is coming up. For example, if two to three weeks' notice could be given of the start of the next consultation phase then it would allow councils to put the item on their next meeting's agenda, whilst still keeping the formal consultation period to six weeks.</p>	<p>Agree that it is helpful to provide advance notice to parish councils, this is covered in section 3.3 on page 10 where it states that '<i>Where possible, Town/Parish Councils will be given advance notice of forthcoming consultation periods...</i>'.</p>	<p>No change</p>

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The British Horse Society (Wendy Bannerman)	<p>I have read the consultation document and would like to request notification about future consultations on the Strategic Plan and associated documents.</p> <p>The British Horse Society has 1886 members across Northants and volunteers locally advocating the consideration of equestrian access in any development plans. Membership is diverse in terms of protected characteristics. There are horse owners in addition to our membership numbers and it is worth noting that nationally the equestrian sector contributes £4.7 billion to the economy. In addition to monetary value, equestrian activity is included in the definition of Active Travel (Rt Hon Jesse Norman MP) and has physical and mental health benefits.</p> <p>I look forward to the pending consultation.</p>	<p>The Horse Society is on the Council's database and will therefore be notified of consultations.</p>	<p>No change</p>
Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue (Julie Oliver)	<p>Afternoon and apologises for the latest of the reply. The below comment has been made by Barry Mullan Area Manager of Business Services.</p> <p>"NFRS would like to participate and support the development of the WNSP. If there are any areas within the plan that pertain to the Fire Service or the delivery of our Services to the community, can you advise the Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue Service , accordingly"</p>	<p>Comments noted. The Fire Service will be consulted on each stage of the plan preparation process. If there are any proposals that directly affect their estate, the Council will engage directly with the Fire Service.</p>	<p>No change</p>

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The Ramblers, Northamptonshire Area (David Craddock)	Thank you for forwarding me the Draft SCI and I am responding on behalf of The Ramblers, Northamptonshire Area, and can confirm that my Association has no comments to make on the document.	Comments noted	No Change
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