

APPENDIX A
TESTS OF SOUNDNESS

Examination of the soundness of the statement of community involvement

3.10 The purpose of the examination is to consider the soundness of the statement of community involvement. The presumption will be that the statement of community involvement is sound unless it is shown to be otherwise as a result of evidence considered at the examination. A hearing will only be necessary where one or more of those making representations wish to be heard (see Annex D). In assessing whether the statement of community involvement is sound, the inspector will determine whether the:

- i. local planning authority has complied with the minimum requirements for consultation as set out in Regulations;¹
- ii. local planning authority's strategy for community involvement links with other community involvement initiatives e.g. the community strategy;
- iii. statement identifies in general terms which local community groups and other bodies will be consulted;
- iv. statement identifies how the community and other bodies can be involved in a timely and accessible manner;
- v. methods of consultation to be employed are suitable for the intended audience and for the different stages in the preparation of local development documents;
- vi. resources are available to manage community involvement effectively;
- vii. statement shows how the results of community involvement will be fed into the preparation of development plan documents and supplementary planning documents;
- viii. authority has mechanisms for reviewing the statement of community involvement; and
- ix. statement clearly describes the planning authority's policy for consultation on planning applications.

From: Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks

¹ The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations, 2004.

APPENDIX B
GATESHEAD COUNCIL
CORRESPONDENCE



The Planning Inspectorate

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Gateshead
NE8 1HH

Your Ref:

Our Ref: PINS/H4505/429/3

Date: 5th September 2007.

GATESHEAD COUNCIL- STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Dear Mr.Coyne,

As the appointed Inspector for your Authority's Statement of Community Involvement I am requesting comments from the Council on the following points in order to assist in assessing the soundness of Gateshead Council's Statement of Community Involvement.

Test ix

The SCI should provide a clear definition of those applications which fall into the category defined as 'Major Applications'. Although Paragraph 4.12 is concerned with this matter, additions to this paragraph are necessary so that the definition is clearly stated. Could the Council, therefore, provide this additional text for insertion into Paragraph 4.12?

Other Matters.

In order that the SCI is suitable for adoption, it will be necessary to remove text that is associated with previous stages of the process and which would be redundant on adoption, for example Paragraph 6.4. Could the Council, therefore, provide a schedule of changes for the removal of such text from the document?

These answers are to assist in the production of a binding report. Once you have submitted your response to these questions, the report will be produced as quickly as possible. Please reply to Steve Carnaby whose details are given above. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Holland

Keith Holland BA(Hons) Dip TP MRTPI ARICS



Mr. S. Carnaby,
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Our Ref: SCI/PINS/Sep07

Your Ref: PINS/H4505/429/3

Date: 18 September 2007

Dear Steve,

Please find attached a copy of Gateshead Council's Regulation 31 consultation statement and a schedule of changes to remove redundant text from the SCI document prior to adoption.

Additionally as requested the text which we would like to add to paragraph 4.12 would read as follows;

"Major applications are defined as applications for residential development where 10 or more dwellings are to be constructed or, if this is not known, where the site area would be 0.5 hectares or more. For other types of development applications are considered to be major where the floorspace would be equal to or greater than 1,000 square metres or more, or the site area would be 1 hectare or more."

Should you have any queries then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Clive Coyne,

Planning Officer, Planning & Environmental Strategy.

APPENDIX C
GATESHEAD COUNCIL
SCHEDULE OF REDUNDANT INFORMATION

Local Development Framework
Statement of Community Involvement Document
Schedule of Changes Prior to Adoption.

The following paragraphs will be removed from the SCI document after the receipt of the Planning Inspector's binding report and prior to the adoption of the document.

- Paragraph 1.20
- Paragraph 1.21
- Paragraph 6.4

The text in paragraph 1.10 will be amended to read;

“A failure to meet the standards as set out in **this SCI document** may result in development plan documents not being able to progress to the adoption stage and may also leave supplementary planning documents open to legal challenge. The primary test for these documents as set out by government guidance (when they are subject to public examination) is that they are deemed to be ‘sound’. One ‘test of soundness’ is that the planning document has been prepared in accordance with the approved SCI (or the relevant regulations if the SCI is not yet adopted). The tests of soundness can be found in Appendix 1.”

The SCI document will also be changed to reflect the binding recommendations as contained within the Inspector's report. The numbering of paragraphs, tables and appendices will be altered where necessary to accommodate any changes.