

**Appendix 2: Wirral Statement of Community Involvement update 2021: Consultation on draft SCI- 8th October and 5th November 2020
Consultation Statement.**

	Comment ID	Nature of Representation	Wirral Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) Consultation	Council response	Change required to document
1	SCI10	Objection	We have had to highlight this Submission as an 'Objection' as there are a few points with which we disagree or consider omitted, but we also make comments.	Noted	No
2	SCI10	Objection	Would it be possible to indicate what items are at variance with National Guidance and Law? 2.13 and elsewhere.	No items are at variance with national law	No
3	SCI10	Objection	Whenever Community Involvement occurs, early feedback needs to be given in form of Notes or Minutes uploaded to the Council Website under a clear heading, with what was heard/discussed, what was learned, is to be used or not and why. 2.16	Subject to the nature of the consultation and the number and complexity of comments received the Council will publish a summary of comments received and the key issues raised as soon as practicable after the end of the consultation and no later than to accompany the next stage of policy document preparation were applicable.	No
4	SCI10	Objection	Not to be "summarised" but included verbatim; and not "may be" but "will be publicised".	It is not always practicable to publish comments received on public consultations in full. The Council is piloting new digital consultation portals which will enable responses to public consultation to be provided in	Yes change 'may be' to 'will be publicised'

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				full as received subject to redacting any personal details.	
			3.11		
5	SCI10	Objection	The required arrangements for requesting to appear or be heard at the Independent Examination - timing, deadline, etc. - should be in the SCI.	The text will be amended to indicate how a request to attend the examination can be made at the time of submitting representations. It will be for the Inspector to decide who will be invited to appear at the examination.	Yes. Change Para 3.11 to read Anyone who makes representations seeking a change to the proposed submission draft Local Plan within the appropriate deadline will, at the time of submitting their representation, be given the opportunity to request to appear and be heard by the person appointed to carry out the independent examination of the local plan. The decision as to who will be invited to appear at the Examination hearing sessions will be made by the Inspector.

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					Also include new footnote in para 3.11 to state 'The Representation Form will include an opportunity to request to attend the oral part of the examination'
			3.13		
6	SCI10	Objection	In addition to the name of the Planning Inspector, their Contact Details should be provided.	All contact with the Inspector during the Local Plan Examination is through the Programme Officer. Contact details for the Inspector will therefore not be provided.	Yes insert at Para 3.13 'The Programme Officer will be the contact point for the Inspector'
			3.17 and 3.22		
7	SCI10	Objection	Why are these periods different (6 weeks and 3 months) and especially the Local Plan one being shorter?	The 6 week period for legal challenge relates to Local Plans and is set out in Primary Legislation. The 3 month period relates to Supplementary Planning Documents and is set out in secondary legislation.	No
8	SCI10	Objection	Are these periods for notice of intention or to lodge the entire Judicial Review Case?	CLAIM FORM The claim form must be submitted within the statutory time limit. Guidance on making a claim is to file a Claim Form that meets the requirements set out in Ministry of	No

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				Justice Court Procedure Rules Part 54. The primary requirement is to start the claim promptly within three months from the date of the decision challenged.	
			3.20		
9	SCI10	Objection	There has been separately the (unacceptable) suggestion that the Council would do away with Public Meetings where possible/legal. This would be anti-democratic as the 'Drop-in' events just present the Council's side of proposals whereas Public Meetings (in addition) provide the opportunity for airing and discussing other views, and questioning officers.	The SCI sets out the minimum requirements for undertaking consultation on planning policy documents and planning applications. Traditional public meetings could be arranged if the Council considered they were appropriate. However, not everyone is comfortable speaking at a public meeting. Walk in events where members of the public can have the opportunity to view information informally and inclusively and ask questions one-to-one directly to planning officers, have also been found to be the most appreciated and productive form of public engagement.	Yes add at the end of para 3.8 in the SCI saying "Traditional public meetings could also be arranged if the Council considered they were appropriate"
			Table 1.		
10	SCI10	Objection	Public Meetings should be included.	See Response to 9 above	
11	SCI10	Objection	Public Examination - include Contact Detail.	Noted thank you. Reference will be made to the contact details for the Programme Officer who will be the point of contact for the Inspector	Yes Add to Public Examination section of Table 1:

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				being made available on the Local Plan Examination web pages.	'The name of the Inspector and Programme Officer will be made available on the Local Plan Examination web pages. The Programme Officer's contact details will also be provided as the point of contact for the Inspector.'
12	SCI10	Objection	Inspector's Report - also at Principal Office	Noted thank you	Yes Add Inspectors Report Section of Table 1: 'To be available for inspection at a principal office'
			Table 2.		
13	SCI10	Objection	Ditto Table 1.	See Response to 9 above regarding public meetings. Table 2 deals with Supplementary Planning Documents and the comments on Table 1 are not relevant.	No
			3.25		
14	SCI10	Objection	Publishing Surveys, Studies and Assessments arising from one LP Stage along with the Documentation	The Council will endeavour to publish studies, assessments etc in advance of the next appropriate stage in the	No

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			of the following Stage (as was done with the 2018DOR Consultation Responses, immediately before the Reg18 'Issues & Options' Consultation Documentation was published) may be convenient for the Council but it is unsatisfactory for the Public and other organisations who can be overwhelmed with the sheer weight of documentation, issues and Questions (running into >1,000 pages).	Plan Making process where possible but in most cases the studies are required to support decision making at the next stage in response to previous comments received and cannot be published before that decision is taken by Members. Advance publication may also not always be possible if it means that the plan preparation programme would be unreasonably extended. The Council will normally consider extending consultation periods where there is significant supporting documentation, where the plan preparation process allows.	
15	SCI10	Objection	As is being done between the ongoing Reg18 and Reg19, such Surveys, Studies and Assessments should be published and consulted upon as soon as each set is ready. The list of such Surveys, Studies and Assessments should be published with anticipated consultation dates as soon as they are started. (A list for the current LP is awaited but promised).	See response to 14.	No
16	SCI10	Objection	AND, (as agreed between WGSA and the Council) the Council must keep a Local Plan Archive online	A local Plan Policy Archive has been set up on the Council's website.	No

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			and clearly labelled and accessible of all superseded and otherwise not-to-be-included-going-forward documents.		
			Table 3.		
17	SCI10	Objection	Include Local Papers notifications to each section.	This is no longer a statutory requirement in all cases. and local newspapers are becoming a less effective form of notification as readerships reduce. For example, the Wirral Globe is increasingly moving online and the Liverpool Echo is too sparsely read in Wirral. The Council will explore the establishment of an online notification system for Planning related matters where people could register their interest to be notified automatically when new items appear. Previous respondents and neighbours to site-specific proposals are already automatically notified as each new stage is reached.	No
			Table 4.		
18	SCI10	Objection	Include Local Papers notifications to sections and at Principal Office.	See response to 17 above re Newspaper notifications	Yes Add where appropriate in Table 4:

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					'To be available for inspection at a principal office'
19	SCI10	Objection	In last box, should "Making Neighbourhood Plan" be "Making Neighbourhood Order"?	Yes thank you	Yes amend text in final row of Table 4 to read 'Making Neighbourhood Plan Order'
20	SCI10	Objection	5.2 Who is consulted about CIL Charging Schedule?	Proposals will be published for public comment in the normal way. All registered contacts and statutory bodies would be consulted. Extra text could however be included in the SCI for the avoidance of doubt.	Yes amend table 5 to read 'Notification letters / emails to registered contacts and statutory consultees'
21	SCI10	Objection	5.4 and 5.7 "Anyone that" should read "Anyone who" – "that" refers to things.	Noted thank you	Yes change Paras 5.4 and 5.7 'Anyone that' to 'Any one who'
22	SCI10	Objection	Table 5. Include Local Papers notifications to each section.	See response to 17 and 18 above	No
23	SCI10	Objection	6.13 "or" to read "and/or".		Yes change para 6.13 to read 'The Council will specify the time

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					and date by which comments must be received, and the postal and/ or email address to which they must be sent.'
24	SCI10	Objection	7.7 In view of the significance of Green Belt on Wirral to its attraction and both economic and social value, it would be good and seem proportionate for Applications involving Green Belt to be highlighted as such to Ward Councillors and notified to relevant community groups. This used to occur but is now not the practice.	<p>Applications that are departures from the adopted Development Plan are subject to additional notification and decision making procedures.</p> <p>All Ward Councillors are notified by Email Alert of all new (valid) applications received in their Ward. Departures are also publicised by Press Notice. Interested third parties can register with the web page and can search for planning applications by a number of fields (including Ward) and can track the progress of such applications. <u>This allows for a significant element of self-service.</u> Statutory consultees are notified</p>	No
25	SCI10	Objection	Table 7. The information seems to differ from the national Statutory Periods of Notice, which also vary with the type and scale of the development and whether an	The information set out in Table 7 is correct	No

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			Environmental Assessment (and/or others) is required.		
26	SCI10	Objection	7.11 It would be an improvement (even if not statutorily necessary) for those provided with Neighbour Notices and organisations who are registered for Notification to be alerted to there being any amendments to an application added to the Council Planning Webpages – “non material minor amendments” is a subjective term/judgement which should be the subject of timely scrutiny.	Interested third parties can register with the web site and this allows them to track changes to planning applications and keep informed of applications. Non-material amendment applications are not subject to publicity and by definition relate to proposals that do not materially alter an earlier planning approval.	No
27	SCI10	Objection	7.23 Typo: should read “material” and not “material” in third line.	Noted thank you	Yes Correct Typo
28	SCI10	Objection	7.28 The grounds given for any Refusal should be comprehensive and include any valid ones provided by Objectors – the reason for stressing this is to assist the Council’s Case at any Appeal and to avoid comments made from time to time by Appeal Inspectors to the effect that points expressed by Objectors had been noted (and had value) but were not taken into account in the decision-making process as they did not form part of the council’s case.	Decisions must be taken in accordance with the Development Plan unless there are material considerations that indicate otherwise. The weight to be afforded to individual objections is for the decision-maker to take into account. Refusals will take account of Development Plan policies and material considerations but the Decision is the LPA's (not objectors) so the Decision would not reference specifically those objections listed by objectors (though they will be taken	No

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				into account in the decision where they are based on material planning considerations)	
29	SCI10	Objection	7.39 Typo: remove repeated “by” after bullet points as “by:” already precedes them.	Noted thank you	Yes correct typos
30	SCI10	Objection	Page 39 - General Consultation Bodies Table:		
31	SCI10	Objection	Environmental Groups & Societies - Typo: “Wirral Greenspace Alliance” should read “Wirral Green Space Alliance (WGSA)”.	Noted	Yes change title of WGSA as requested.
32	SCI10	Objection	National Bodies & Agencies – CPRE should be featured (here or elsewhere).	Noted	Yes CPRE added
33	SCI10	Objection	Heritage & History Societies – Wirral Archaeology should be added		Yes Wirral Archaeology added
34	SCI10	Objection	Should other Groups in WGSA be mentioned by Name?	Yes -Noted	Yes insert end note with list of Alliance members
35	SCI10	Objection	Wirral Green Space Alliance (WGSA) is a consortium of 31 local groups, including:		
			1. Barnston Village Conservation Society		
			2. Bebington Residents		

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		3. Bidston Village Conservation Area		
		4. Bromborough Society		
		5. Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) Cheshire		
		6. CPRE Lancashire, Liverpool City Region & Greater Manchester		
		7. Claremont Group		
		8. Conservation Areas Wirral (CAW)		
		9. Defend Wirral's Green & Open Spaces		
		10. Eastham Village Preservation Association		
		11. Frankby Conservation Area Advisory Committee		
		12. Friends of Birkenhead Park		
		13. Greasby Community Association		
		14. Hamilton Square Conservation Area		
		15. Heswall Society, Irby Cricket Club		
		16. Irby, Thurstaston & Pensby Amenity Society (ITPAS)		
		17. King's Gap Conservation Area		
		18. Meols Drive Conservation Area		
		19. Mountwood Residents		

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			20. Oxton Society		
			21. Saughall Massie Conservation Area		
			22. Stop Hoylake Golf Resort Action Group		
			23. Storeton Residents Association		
			24. The Caldy Society		
			25. The Ramblers Wirral Group		
			26. The Wirral Society (CPRE Wirral)		
			27. Thornton Hough Community Trust Ltd		
			28. Thornton Hough Conservation Area Society		
			29. Wirral and Chester Wildlife		
			30. Wirral Barn Owl Trust		
			31. Wirral Footpaths and Open Spaces Preservation Society		
			Page 40 - General Consultation Bodies Table:		
36	SCI10	Objection	Local Businesses – none shown	Noted	Yes add 'Registered Local Business consultees and Wirral Chamber of Commerce'
			Glossary		

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37	SCI10	Objection	Cabinet – term not in use any longer.	Noted thank you	Yes delete 'Cabinet'
38	SCI10	Objection	Constituency Committee – do these still exist?	Noted thank you	Yes delete 'Constituency Committee'
39	SCI10	Objection	Planning Inspector – Explanation – add at end, “or non-determination”	Noted	Yes add 'or non-determination'
40	SCI10	Objection	Glossary Terms not listed include: SCI, Equality, Privacy, etc.	Noted	Yes add description of SCI and Equality Statement
41			Page 51 – Table 1 – Typo: “Inspectors Report” should read “Inspector’s Report”.		
42	SCI18	Comment	This submission relates to the entire document entitled 'Wirral Council Draft Updated Statement of Community Involvement' (SCI). In line with the Localism Act 2011 and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2019). As a local community organisation, Upton Village Community Group wishes to be involved with the planning process of Wirral Borough Council through their commitment to continuous community involvement. As a Community group we have formulated an Environmental Strategy for Upton Village and the surrounding area (copy available on	Noted.	Yes. Upton Village Community Group added to Local Civic Societies.

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			<p>request). As with everything else this has been impacted by Covid-19 and whilst it has been adopted by our Committee it has yet to be discussed with the wider area. We note that under the SCI the Council will provide advice and guidance to our group for any neighbourhood plan that we may undertake.</p> <p>I understand that you will be maintaining a database of contacts who wish to be involved or consulted on the preparation of local development documents. Would you please add my contact details to the database in question.</p> <p>Please contact me if you require any further information in order to register my wish to be involved in future planning decisions, neighbourhood planning and the Local Plan process.</p>		
43	SCI17	Comment	<p>4.14 If at least 50% of those voting are in favour ... The threshold needs to be higher than this, since the Plans will have considerable significance for the area. Neighbourhood Plans can and</p>	The threshold is set by National legislation	No

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			have been dominated by a small caucus of individuals		
44	SCI17	Comment	7.19 Weekly lists of planning applications requiring a Press notice. Your statement is that these will be published in the local press. A local press no longer exists and you will have to use other media.	Weekly/Monthly Lists can be searched via the planning applications pages on the web https://planning.wirral.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=weeklyList	No
45	SCI17	Comment	9 Glossary Terminology The terminology contains "Cabinet", a system which is now thankfully defunct.	Noted	Yes – see 37 above
46	SCI17	Comment	ANNEX COVID-19 STATEMENT Section 3 Public information and involvement is paramount. Until secure and widespread systems have been created to replace public hearings and meetings, no significant planning decisions with high impact on communities should be made by the Council.	The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 enables decisions to be made by virtual meetings of the Council and its Committees and sets out how virtual meetings are to be conducted. All decisions of the Council will be made in accordance with this legislation during the pandemic.	No
47	SCI16	Comment	25/6.9 Please do not wait to publish major evidence studies alongside the Local Plan itself. e.g. please can	This is not always possible, as approval by the Council will not normally take place until the study	See response to 14 above

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			<p>the Green Infrastructure Study and Environmental Capacity Study be published when the final version has been received and approved by WBC. These are major documents taking time to study. Volunteers such as ourselves have limited time, having to comment alongside our usual jobs/ caring responsibilities/ voluntary work for the community groups we represent. It is really important that large amounts of background information do not come out at the same time as the Local Plan Regulation 19 consultation</p>	<p>has been reported to Members, which is normally at the next major stage in the process.</p>	
48	SCI16	Comment	<p>7.7 Please make sure the statement in this paragraph works in practice. We are usually informed of applications adjacent to or affecting a SSSI, Local Wildlife site (SBI), Local Nature Reserve and some where protected species are an issue. However, occasionally applications slip through that and we only find out through other means. This shortens the time available for the relevant volunteer to respond, leading to last-minute panics. The Wirral & Cheshire Badger Group seems to have fallen off the contacts</p>	<p>Statutory consultees are consulted. Non-statutory consultees are identified by individual case officers having regards to the development proposed. Interested third parties have ways available to them via the planning search on the web to identify, keep track of and respond to applications they are interested in should they wish. This allows for a significant element of self-service.</p>	No

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			list and to have failed to get back on. This may require a little work with the Local Wildlife Sites Partnership to identify which LWS have important badger interest, where advice from the Badger Group would be important to officers and members		
49	SCI16	Comment	Annex: Covid-19 statement. We recognise the current difficulties, but wider consultation methods need to be re-instated as soon as possible. Around 10% of Wirral people are not on internet or rely on mobile phones, which have screens too small to show planning maps and designs. The libraries are not open for people to look at the Internet there. So many people are currently effectively being excluded from planning matters. If the current restrictions are still in force when the Local Plan Regulation 19 comes out in February 2021, then there must be other methods developed to use. This could include finding ways to re-open library computer suites. The Wirral Globe has shrunk in delivery since the pandemic started (I have not had one delivered since	Noted. The Council will return to normal consultation methods as soon practicable and when advised by Government and our public health team. If Covid restrictions are still in place when the Council publishes the Local Plan for consultation at Regulation 19 efforts will be made to ensure that there are opportunities for people to get access to the web through Council owned facilities such as Libraries and Leisure Centres.	No

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			March) and some areas have never had it delivered e.g. Mill Park estate, Eastham. So in much of Eastham it is only available to people who are able and want to buy it		
50	SCI15	Comment	All sections and paragraph numbers. This comments process requires a great deal of quite difficult reading comparing the Statement of Community Involvement First Revision from 2014 with the new draft Statement of Community Involvement. Documents of 35 and 53 pages respectively. Could you not have provided a summary of the differences rather like one gets when a bank changes terms and conditions. We could then have read more on specific paragraphs that were of interest.	Noted. The matters to be included in the Statement of Community Involvement have changed since 2014. We have needed to include additional information on Covid arrangements as an Annex as well as providing new information on Neighbourhood Planning. This has led to an unavoidable increase in the length of the document. We have tried to make the document format as clear as possible, so that the new SCI can be read properly as a whole.	No
51	SCI12	Comment	4.12 Referendum on neighbourhood plan. I like this idea.	Comment Noted	No
52	SC9	Comment	The document is very well put together and is clear and precise. I did not realize that there was so many different stages to planning applications. I now understand that	Comments noted	No

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			the residents have a greater say in what goes on than I previously thought.		
53	SC6	Comment	<p>Sections 3, 6 and 7 - the council has set no timescales for its own consultation arrangements. The document is simply a summary of statutory timescales for development proposals and other statutory consultation processes. The SCI should set out clearly how its running of consultation events and processes comply with the Gunning Principles, i.e.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> that consultation must be at a time when proposals are still at a formative stage; that the proposer must give sufficient reasons for any proposal to permit of intelligent consideration and response; that adequate time is given for consideration and response; and that the product of consultation is conscientiously taken into account when finalising the decision. <p>Most of the events organised by the council for the Local Plan have been advertised with a ridiculously short timescale and a very limited number</p>	<p>The SCI sets out the minimum consultation that the Council that will undertake at different stages of policy making including on the Local Plan and Supplementary Planning documents and in the determination of planning applications. The Regulation 18 stage of the Local Plan is the early stage of plan making, when the proposals are still at a formative stage and the Council undertook extensive public consultation on emerging development options and on the issues and options document including public meetings, walk in events, and face-to-face and online workshops. The proposals were widely commented on. The comments received have been taken into account in preparing the next stage of the Local Plan and the Council's responses will be set out in a statutory report of consultation to be published at the Regulation 19 stage, when further comments will be invited</p>	No

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			of delegates. Much more detail and effort is required if the council is to demonstrate that consultation not only meets statutory requirements but is otherwise fair and worthwhile.	before the Plan is submitted to the Secretary of State. The Council actively and strongly encourages landowners and developers to undertake pre-application community consultation, especially for large, complex or controversial proposals and for proposals that will be contrary to the Development Plan.	
54	SCI5	Support		Support Noted	
55	SCI3	Support		Support Noted	
56	SCI2	Comment	For this Statement to have any meaning and for it to be believed and accepted by the community, our comments must be accepted. A tick box consultation is insufficient and will generate a significant loss of trust and a diminished desire to be involved in the future.	Comments noted. Comments can however only be taken into account where they clearly relate to planning matters and within the constraints of national legislation, policy and guidance.	No
57	SCI20	Comment	3.24 and 3.25. All evidence surveys to be published in local libraries. Published in local newspapers. Sign posted in areas where surveys and studies are undertaken. Complete clarity must be guaranteed. Also include outside agencies in the surveys such as emergency services, environmental groups,	Examples of the types of bodies that will be consulted is already set out in the main body of the SCI. All relevant documents will be able to be inspected online and at a principal office, subject to any necessary Covid restrictions.	No see responses to 17 and 49

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			Campaign for the Protection of Rural England etc,		
58	SCI20	Comment	3.28 3.29 and 3.30. Any communications with public must not have multiple choice answers which are "leading answers" such as the recent brochures for the Local Plan.	The Council does not agree that the questionnaires used at the recent Regulation 18 Issues and Options Consultation were 'leading', as they were designed to help people respond as fully as possible. The questionnaire always provided for 'other' to be chosen and for additional comments to be submitted and attached.	No
59	SCI20	Comment	7.2 and 7.3. It is not enough to issue a simple site notice by a developer for a planning application, especially if this involves building on GREENBELT. Community consultation is paramount. In ALL cases there should be FULL community involvement. This could include notices posted through the doors of every resident in the ward. Planning notices should also be published in libraries and community centres. Notices should also be extended to local interested groups such as the Greasby Greenbelt Action Group.	The Council's neighbour notifications for planning applications will be undertaken to meet statutory requirements. The cost of additional publicity involving delivery of notices to all households within a surrounding Electoral Ward would be prohibitive and would not focus on the people most likely to be immediately affected. The Council will explore the publication of planning notices online with an opportunity to receive automatic notification, where requested.	No

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60	SCI20	Comment	As previously stated, planning decisions should NEVER be made by planning officers alone. There should be community involvement even at the committee stage.	<p>The procedures for decision making are set out in the Council's Constitution. It is nationally accepted good practice for all but the most complex or controversial applications to be delegated to specialist professional Officers, to allow decisions to be taken in an efficient and timely manner taking account of the representations received from the community.</p> <p>Members of the public may request to speak at planning committee meetings, subject to the criteria set out in the SCI</p>	No
61	SCI20	Comment	7.37 and table 8. Issues surrounding this section are that ALL proposed developments should be subject to community involvement. This is important for transparency. Infrastructure issues should be highlighted, discussed and agreed by consultation with the public. Council documents are too complex and too difficult to read. These documents have to be simplified and determined to the general public as acceptable to understand, even if this means public consultation.	All planning applications are subject to a statutory consultation period before they can be determined. Non-statutory pre application consultation by developers is not a legal requirement but is strongly encouraged in the SCI. Council documents are written as clearly as possible but often have to be written in a certain way to meet statutory requirements.	No

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62	SCI13 SCI35 SC30 SC31 SCI32	Objection	<p>1 The local planning authority must review an SCI at least every 5 years to reflect any local or national legislative changes, and to ensure effective community involvement at all stages of the planning process. This Statement therefore replaces the previous SCI published by the Council in 2014</p> <p>This update is a year late. The production of the new 15 year local plan is a major local legislative change. The SCI update should have been actioned prior to the local plan consultation in 2020.</p> <p>The opportunity for the community to make changes to the involvement statement prior to the new local plan consultation has been missed due to WBC,s failure to carry this review in 2019 .</p>	<p>The Council has recognised the need to update the SCI, which has been brought forward as soon as practicable. The most recent consultation under Regulation 18 met and exceeded the previous 2014 SCI, which still met all the relevant statutory requirements for Local Plans, following previous consultation with the local community.</p> <p>.</p>	No
63	SCI13 SCI35 SC30 SC31 SCI32	Objection	<p>2 The overall objective of the Council will be to work towards achieving consensus, wherever possible, through continuous community involvement.</p> <p>The failure to review the SCI in 2019 shows WBC's lack of interest in community involvement.</p>	<p>The Council does not accept that the delay in updating the SCI represented a lack of interest in community involvement. The key changes set out in the new SCI relate to adoption of a more modern and effective use of web-based methods, to further supplement traditional accepted</p>	No

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			<p>The Council do not work towards a consensus of opinion as many planning issues and the local plan consultations can confirm.</p> <p>In the 2018 local plan consultation 3000 people responded almost unanimously stating no greenbelt was to be released, yet in the 2020 local plan documentation over 6000 homes were identified on greenbelt.</p> <p>It does not matter what statement of community involvement is in place if WBC do not use it and act on the input from the community</p> <p>Unfortunately the statements value is not recognised by WBC. The views of the citizens are ignored.</p>	<p>approaches, in line with those successfully adopted during the most recent Regulation 18 consultation in early 2020. Previous comments have been taken into account but can only be considered within the terms of national legislation, policy and guidance.</p>	
64	SCI13 SCI35 SC30 SC31 SCI32	Objection	<p>3. Local plan</p> <p>The Council must take account of any representation made in response to invitations to comment during these early stages. The community have only one opportunity to comment on the local plan. This is at the regulation 18 stage</p> <p>The plan was not sufficiently developed by WBC for the</p>	<p>The timetable for the preparation of the Local Plan is limited by the strict programme expected by the Government. The regulations do not require a full draft plan to be prepared at Regulation 18, when the final plan is still being developed.</p> <p>The Council is satisfied that the comprehensive Issues and Options document, which also followed earlier</p>	No

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			<p>community to comment accurately at the time of the consultation. This needs to be changed in the SCI so that the community can comment on the draft plan not a raft of options and possible configurations for a plan.</p> <p>The community will not see the draft plan until councillors have voted on it to be issued for submission to the government.</p> <p>The community therefore has no involvement in the final draft plan under this system.</p> <p>A more detailed draft plan should be the basis of the regulation 18 consultation for true community involvement.</p> <p>The later stages of the local plan process are more restricted by national legislation. There is a minimum statutory six-week period for representations to be received on the soundness or legal compliance of the proposed submission draft local plan</p> <p>Regulation 19 the publication of WBC draft plan offers no community involvement. This is a 6 week public notice not a consultation. The</p>	<p>stages of detailed consultation, set out the most realistic options that were then available, as required by national legislation, as well as the Council's preferred approach for meeting housing and employment needs in the Borough during the plan period. The large number of comments received will be taken into account in the preparation of the Regulation 19 Plan.</p> <p>The public will still have the opportunity at Regulation 19 to submit further representations based on the soundness and legal compliance of the proposals, including those relating to particular sites and locations and the final wording of policies. They will still be able to request as part of their formal representations at Regulation 19 to appear at the Examination and to have their representations considered by a Planning Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State.</p>	

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			<p>community are not in a position to challenge the legal compliance or soundness of the plan.</p> <p>Indeed we expect WBC to provide a legally compliant and sound plan but we also expect that plan to reflect the views of the community from the regulation 18 consultation</p> <p>Under this system we cannot challenge WBC if our views on locations for new building have not been incorporated in the plan at this stage.</p> <p>The draft plan should be consulted on by the community before Councillors vote and before it is submitted to the government for approval.</p> <p>Anyone who makes representations seeking a change to the proposed submission draft local plan within the appropriate deadline must, if they so request, be given the opportunity to appear and be heard by the person appointed to carry out the independent examination of the local plan.</p> <p>The Covid SCI addendum will deny the community this procedure</p>		

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			<p>because WBC has brought forward the publication of the local plan to February.</p> <p>WBC should wait until Covid is resolved and complete all the necessary outstanding reports from the evidence base and allow the procedure to be completed in the proper manner with full community involvement.</p>		
65	SCI13 SCI35 SC30 SC31 SCI32	Objection	<p>4 Sustainability Appraisals</p> <p>3.23 The Council will consult on the scope and content of a sustainability appraisal with statutory consultees and will invite public comments on the appraisal to be submitted at each stage in the plan or document making process.</p> <p>The sustainability appraisals for specific greenbelt sites have not been published. They may not have even been carried out. The sustainability reports in the consultation document all stated specific sites reports were required prior to any greenbelt site being included in the final plan.</p> <p>The community were therefore not able to comment during the consultation.</p>	<p>The options set out in the Regulation 18 issues and options report were subject to an initial sustainability appraisal and were accompanied by a comprehensive series of evidence base studies and assessments, some of which are still ongoing. It would not have been appropriate to undertake further site-specific assessments when they were not finalised confirmed proposals. Regulation 18 consultation allowed people to make any relevant site-specific comments. The ability to comment on any final proposals and assessments will be provided at the Regulation 19 consultation.</p>	No

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			WBC is therefore failing to meet its Statement of Community involvement.		
66	SCI13 SCI35 SCI30 SCI31 SCI32	Objection	<p>5 Evidence Base</p> <p>3.24The Council will undertake or commission specialist technical surveys, studies or assessments to inform the content of emerging local development documents, to meet national policy requirements or to respond to issues raised in response to public consultation on emerging proposals.</p> <p>3.25 The results of the surveys, studies or assessments used in the preparation of a local development document will be published for public comment at the next appropriate stage in the plan making process.</p> <p>The evidence base reports issued with the consultation document were incomplete out of date, unco-ordinated, inaccurate and in some cases just completely incorrect. (I must add that I read every report. It took six very boring weeks. This statement is based on fact).</p>	<p>The preparation of a Local Plan is a continuous, iterative and rolling process which develops in detail over time. It is often not practicable for all the necessary detailed information to be available at an early stage. The Council has provided all the information that was available at the time of publication for public comment and had indicated where additional studies were still to be carried out. The Council will publish site specific technical studies related to potential Green Belt sites if required. The Council's preferred option, which was clearly set out in the issues and options document is to seek to meet its housing and employment needs within existing urban areas.</p>	No

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			<p>It was clear that even though it was poor that the evidence base had not been consulted in selecting proposed greenbelt sites.</p> <p>The most critical reports, sustainability, habitats , agricultural, biodiversity, flooding and infrastructure development reports all stated that further investigations were required and site specific reports were required for any greenbelt site before its inclusion in the plan.</p> <p>We have not seen these completed documents and the community is not going to be invited to comment prior to the final draft plan.</p> <p>WBC is therefore failing to meet the requirements of the Statement of Community involvement.</p>		
67	SCI13 SCI35 SCI30 SCI31 SCI32	Objection	6 Table 1 – Methods of community involvement in the production of a Local Plan Notification letters / emails to registered contacts and statutory consultees Neighbour notification letters / emails for site specific development proposals only The 15 year local plan will affect all Wirral residents a. Limiting	The Council considers that its commitment in the SCI to notify all neighbours of sites proposed for allocation for development in the Local Plan is sufficient to ensure that the households and owners most affected by such proposals are made aware and have the opportunity to comment.	No

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			<p>communications for the plan to registered contacts and neighbours to potential developments is totally inadequate considering the importance of a new local plan</p> <p>All Wirral residents should have been notified by post / email and newspaper notice. At the very least every householder responsible for paying community charges tax bill should have been notified by WBC. However as WBC failed to hold this consultation on community involvement in 2019 prior to the local plan consultation at regulation 18 it is now too late to implement this change. WBC has failed to meet the statutory timetable and consequently failed its community.</p> <p>Proposed Submission Draft (Regulation 19)</p> <p>WBC do however have the opportunity to newspaper publish and contact every community charge paying householder when the final draft submission is issued in February 2021</p>		
68	SCI13 SCI35	Objection	7 Referendums for neighbourhood plans and orders	The Council's constitution and decision-making processes are based	No

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	SCI30 SCI31 SCI32		<p>If at least 50 per cent of those voting in the referendum are in favour of the proposals, or where a business referendum is held, a majority vote in favour in both referendums, the neighbourhood development plan or order will be made and in the case of a neighbourhood development plan will come into force as part of the statutory development plan for the area.</p> <p>Referendums are used to decide planning proposals where local neighbourhood plans are formed. I suggest this is used for all planning proposals.</p> <p>For specific sites all local residents notified by WBC should carry a vote. The majority vote of the community should decide.</p> <p>Why should a small number of temporary people on a WBC planning committee decide on ordinary hard working people's permanent fate?</p>	<p>on representative democracy. The use of referendums are only provided for in relation to the preparation of neighbourhood planning proposals. Legislation does not currently allow for referendums for Local Plan or planning application matters.</p>	
69	SCI13 SCI35 SCI30 SCI31	Objection	<p>8 The major impact of the new planning laws on this document. The timing by WBC of this SCI consultation has rendered it too late to effect the local plan but it is also</p>	<p>The national planning system is always subject to continuous change.</p> <p>The revised SCI will still be applicable to the next stages of the</p>	No

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SCI32		<p>too early for the proposed new planning laws.</p> <p>Major parts of the statement of community involvement will become redundant or inadequate and need revising completely in 2021 when new laws are introduced. See examples below.</p> <p>Permitted development requiring prior notification to the planning authority (e.g. telecommunications)</p> <p>Site Notice posted by the developer</p> <p>The size and scale of permitted developments is changing, e.g. 2 storey extensions on top of existing buildings .Neighbours and local community must be notified by WBC to have some input on the appearance, placement and orientation of the development.</p> <p>Major development” is defined as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For residential development, 10 or more dwellings or if the number of dwellings is not known, where the site area is 0.5 hectares or more; <p>Under the new laws major Development will be defined as 150 or more dwellings or a site area of up to 3 hectares.</p>	<p>preparation of the current Local Plan, which is expected to be complete by the time any new legislation is brought into force.</p> <p>The Council agrees that the SCI will need to be updated if the Government legislate to introduce the proposals set out in the recent White Paper Planning for the Future.</p>	

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			The sites with up to 3 hectares will have automatic outline planning permission for up to 149 homes. WBC needs to develop a new robust detailed plan to involve the community in schemes that will have large impacts in local areas.		
70	SCI13 SCI35 SCI30 SCI31 SCI32	Objection	Pre-Application Procedures Pre-Application Community Involvement 7.32 The Council strongly encourages landowners and developers to undertake pre-application community consultation, especially for large, complex or controversial proposals and for proposals that will be contrary to the Development Plan. 7.33 The advantages of early engagement with the local community include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • allowing proposals to be explained before minds are made up on the basis of what can often be inaccurate second-hand information; • assistance in gauging community support and obtaining accurate local information; • clarification of the issues at debate, providing greater certainty and transparency, saving 	The Council agrees that the SCI will need to be updated if the Government legislate to introduce the proposals set out in the recent White Paper Planning for the Future but the current SCI will remain relevant while the existing system remains in place.	No

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			<p>time later in the decision-making process; and STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT 35 •</p> <p>The new law raises the thresholds of when developers and landowners have to consider pre-application for planning procedures. Also any land designated as a growth area will have automatic outline planning permission for houses, schools and hospitals.</p> <p>Community involvement for larger schemes is being removed from the community unless the statement is revised to state it that current thresholds will remain under new laws.</p> <p>Table 8 – Thresholds for Pre-Application Community Involvement</p> <p>Type of Proposal Threshold</p> <p>Industrial and commercial development, including retail New build and change of use in or adjacent to a Primarily Residential Area 1,500 square metres or above</p> <p>Residential development 100 dwellings or sites of 3.0 hectares or above</p> <p>Development affecting a Conservation Area or Listed Building Proposals for 10 or more dwellings</p>		

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			<p>or on sites of 0.5 hectares or above Other proposals of 1,000 square metres or above or on sites of 1.0 hectare or above Major infrastructure projects such as roads, pipelines or overhead power lines All proposals New educational or institutional proposals All proposals for new sites Extensions of 1,000 square metres or above Mineral extraction proposals All proposals Waste processing All proposals</p> <p>All these thresholds are being raised under the new planning laws granting automatic outline planning permissions for houses schools and hospitals. The document will be out of date in a few months' time.</p> <p>The new planning laws are supposed to introduce greater community input into the type of building we see built but WBC's proposed updated community involvement document ignores the new laws completely.</p> <p>WBC needs to update the statement of community involvement to deal with the new laws when they are published not before.</p>		

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71	SCI13 SCI35 SCI30 SCI31 SCI32	Objection	<p>9. Planning decisions</p> <p>The Council allows the Committee to be addressed by members of the public when a petition with the required number of signatories has been received before noon on the Monday prior to the Committee meeting. A representative of the petitioners will then be allowed to address the Committee for five minutes. In the event that more than one petition has been received, the allotted time may be divided between the petitioners or one person may present the views of all petitioners. A representative of objectors may address the Committee only if the application is before the Committee on the basis of there being 15 or more objections received from different households within the consultation period.</p> <p>WBC website e-petition rules state that it does not accept or consider any petitions that are being dealt with under the normal planning procedures or consultations.</p> <p>In addition there are two types of petition under a hundred or over 3000 people.</p>	The SCI reflects the current arrangements for decisions to be taken by the Planning Committee under the Council's constitution, which provides for petitions on planning proposals to be taken into account.	No

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			<p>These restrictions need removing and making clear that petitions are welcome on planning matters. As a note the planning committee that rejected the opposition to the proposed Lidl in Prenton cited the lack of a petition by the community for approving the proposal. The fact that 213 people from the local community objected through the planning channel counted for nothing.</p>		
72	SCI13 SCI35 SCI30 SCI31 SCI32	Objection	<p>10 Consultation bodies and consultees</p> <p>8.1 Examples of the type of bodies and organisations that are currently consulted regarding the preparation of local plans and supplementary planning documents are illustrated in the lists below: Specific Consultation Bodies³⁵ Adjoining Local Planning Authorities* Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Sefton Council Liverpool City Council Cheshire West and Chester Council Flintshire County Council Other Public Bodies and Agencies Environment Agency* Highways England Homes England*</p>	<p>This is a representation on the content of the emerging Local Plan and is not directly relevant to the SCI consultation.</p> <p>No specific green belt site is mentioned nor specific technical study so no further comment is appropriate.</p>	No

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			<p>Historic England* Marine Management Organisation* Natural England* Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner Wirral NHS Clinical Commissioning Group* Network Rail Adjacent Parish Councils Service Undertakers Electricity Companies Gas Companies Telecommunications Companies Water Undertakers Sewerage Undertakers</p> <p>The evidence base reports provided by the consultees listed above were by their own admission incomplete. They provided what they had available.</p> <p>It is clear that WBC did not use the reports to develop the local plan. An inspection of the reports against any specific green belt site in option 2a will prove it should not have been selected if the advice in the consultee's reports had been followed.</p>		
73	SCI7	Comment	<p>Page 7 Equality and Diversity. 2.11. Corporate Customer Care Standards does not load - can't access document</p> <p>2.12. This document fails the plain English test and uses unnecessary</p>	<p>We are unsure why the corporate customer care standards link did not open. We have checked the link and it appears to work.</p>	No

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			jargon. At 53 pages it is a lengthy and complicated document. Where is the consultation questionnaire?	There was no questionnaire related to this consultation but a response form which could be completed through the Council's Planning Consultation Portal was provided.	
74	SCI7	Comment	<p>Page 14 Local Plan Reg 18,19, 22, 24, 26, 34.</p> <p>A local plan has an effect on the whole Borough. Every household/business requires to be notified of the stage reached and how they can access the documents published by the Council. Whether they wish to become involved can only be ascertained after they have received this initial information. The present community involvement is too narrow which leads to a lack of community response. The Reg 18 document lacked plain English, was far too lengthy and full of jargon that only an expert would fully understand its implications.</p>	<p>The Council accepts that the Regulation 18 Issues and Options Document was a lengthy technical document which also needed to meet the necessary statutory requirements. However, the document was clearly structured by topic to enable easier navigation. A summary document was also produced and made available.</p> <p>The Council arranged walk in events across the Borough with easy to understand information panels and maps, where the proposals could be discussed with and explained by Council Officers.</p> <p>The Council accepts that planning documents do need to be as simple as possible but notifying every business and household would not be a practicable or efficient use of resources.</p>	No

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75	SCI7	Comment	<p>Page 17 Neighbourhood planning. The Government is keen to involve neighbourhoods in local planning decisions. Has the Council investigated (through dialogue with Local Societies etc.) why Wirral is bereft of such local involvement. The Council does not seem to promote such forums.</p> <p>4.12 - 4.15 A minimum of responses from those targeted by a referendum would prevent a 'cabal' from hijacking the process.</p> <p>As in my previous comment all affected by a Neighbourhood Plan should be notified where and how the published documents can be accessed.</p>	<p>The Council supports the establishment of a Neighbourhood Forum which was properly constituted and representative but is aware of the commitment of community time and resources that organising and maintaining local involvement in a Forum involves.</p> <p>Legislation does not currently set a minimum number of voters responding to a referendum.</p> <p>Legislation already requires any proposals to be advertised widely within the designated area.</p>	No
76	SCI7	Comment	<p>Sec 5 Community Infrastructure Levy.</p> <p>The Council must seek broad Borough support for a CIL. No doubt it will raise finance for infrastructure improvements etc. At a time of pressure on Council finances a CIL should not favour a developer because of the finances it might generate. A public debate is required on how and where the CIL is used.</p>	<p>The Council currently does not charge a CIL because it does not yet have an up-to-date adopted Local Plan.</p> <p>The Levy can only apply in areas where a local authority has consulted on, and approved, a charging schedule which sets out its levy rates and has published the schedule on its website. The Council would need to show and explain how any proposed</p>	No

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				levy rate (or rates) will contribute towards the implementation of a relevant Local Plan to support development across their area.	
77	SCI7	Comment	<p>Page 28. This period of Covid and lockdown has exposed the weakness in the publicity of planning applications. Council offices and libraries closed, difficult and uncertain circulation problems of the local press. the first time that many affected parties get to hear about applications is when the agenda is published for the Planning Committee meeting. By which time it is to late to be involved. A dedicated Council web page, regularly updated, listing the applications would be a solution. The allowed time for comment should be prominent, once the time period has expired the page can be updated. This would be most beneficial where the development has a wider effect than just on the neighbour population. The site notice should also be continued. Local community groups and societies, registered with the Council, should automatically be notified, the members of these</p>	Neighbour notification letters have still been issued since Covid restrictions have been in place. The Council will explore the publication of planning notices on its web pages and to allow people to register to be notified about applications within a particular geographical area.	No

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			<p>groups or societies should then be in a position to inform their members. The web page should be incorporated into the Protocols for Public Involvement. With the advent of developers sitting on green belt land and demolishing large houses to build flats has ensured that it isn't just neighbours who have an interest in the applications, people now want to know what is happening to their Borough.</p>		
78	SCI7	Comment	<p>Planning Decisions. At present Ward Councillors have the opportunity to express an opinion of a development at the application stage. Many Councillors do not take the opportunity. As the ward Councillor represents the businesses and residents of the ward it should be mandated that they make a comment in order for the local population to know whether or not the Councillor is representing their view. I consider such a proposal to be of the utmost importance, especially when 95% of the applications have been delegated to an officers resolution.</p>	<p>It is a matter for Ward Councillors to determine how best to represent their local communities.</p>	No

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79	SCI19	Comment	Sustainability Appraisals. Para 3.23 - There appears to be no mention of who to consult with. Suggest you clarify by referring to Section 8 - Group Consultations	Consultation on the sustainability appraisal is undertaken with the public and relevant statutory stakeholders at each main stage in the preparation of local plan.	No
80	SCI19	Comment	Monitoring Reports. Para 3.27 - Although WBC will consult on monitoring content, there appears to be no time period or date to achieve this objective. Please include a time frame so the public is engaged (refer Draft policy para 2.4, 2.5 , 2.6 & 2.10)	Consultation on monitoring requirements will be undertaken alongside the content of the Local Plan.	Yes. Amend para3.27 to read 'The Council will consult on the proposed content of future monitoring alongside the content of the Local Plan.'
81	SCI19	Comment	Submission of Planning Applications. Para 4.3 - No time appears to be given by WBC to advise public on ways to proceed. (refer Draft policy para 2.4, 2.5 , 2.6 & 2.10). Please give a period of time.		
82	SCI19	Comment	Independent Examination. Para 4.8 - WBC says it will appoint an "independent examiner", but it does not say how, or from where. How "independent" will that person be if chosen from WBC staff? Some calcification is needed so the Public have trust in the Consultation Process.	Noted	Yes, add as a footnote to para 4.8 'The Examiner is paid for and appointed by the Council However, the appointment must be with the agreement

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					<p>of the Qualifying Body. They essentially have the power to veto any appointment proposed by the Council if they are not happy. The Planning Act sets out the criteria for an individual to qualify to be able to examine a neighbourhood plan. The criteria are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be independent from both the QB and Council • Must have appropriate qualifications and experience • Cannot have an interest in any of the land to be covered by the plan (i.e. the Neighbourhood Area)
83	SCI19	Comment	Consultation on Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	Noted and agreed	Yes Para 5.3 amended to read

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			Draft Charging Schedule. Para 5.3 - Why can't the Draft Charging Schedule be also published in the WBC Website? Please include this with published documents available via the WBC Website (refer Draft policy para 2.4, 2.5 , 2.6 & 2.10)		'The draft Charging Schedule will be published on the Council's web site and made available for public inspection at a principal office. The consultation document and all supporting evidence base documents will be made available on the Council website'.
84	SCI19	Comment	Planning Applications. Para 7.7 - WBC will notify Local Community Groups " by arrangement". Arrangement with whom? Please clarify. (refer Draft policy para 2.4, 2.5 , 2.6 & 2.10) Para 7. 25 - What is the minimum number of "required signatures" needed to be accepted by WBC? Consultation Bodies List - Table 8	Noted. Para 7.7 does not reflect current practice and will be deleted. Para 7.25. Twenty-Five signatures are required to qualify.	Yes delete Para 7.7 Add footnote to para 7.25 to read: 'Twenty-five signatures are required for a petition to qualify.'
85	SCI23	Comment	I note in Sec 8 of your recently produced Statement of Community Involvement under the heading of Environmental Groups and Societies you have failed to Include Barnston Conservation Society. I would ask	It is incorrect that the Council does not wish the Society to be part of the community involvement process, which is why the Society has been consulted on the SCI. The Society had continued to be included under	Yes: add Barnston Conservation Society to Local Civic Societies in Section

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			<p>why? Part of your proposed local plan is the removal of a large area of green belt in Barnston. You have over the past months received a significant amount of documents from us challenging your proposals but you clearly do not wish us to be a part of your Community Involvement. I wonder why?</p> <p>I would like a reply, preferably one with an explanation as to why this society was not included.</p>	the heading of 'Conservation Area Advisory Committees' in Section 8, as it had been within the previous adopted SCI.	8, for the avoidance of doubt.
86	SCI24	Comment	<p>3.24 Evidence base.</p> <p>It has been proved that WBC has been incapable of providing an updated evidence base on which to consult at both the Development Options Review consultation and the Issues and Options consultation. The amount of documentation provided at each consultation was simply overwhelming for most people, this deters community involvement and is self-defeating.</p>	The Council prepared and published an extensive evidence base to inform the Issues and Options Regulation 18 consultation earlier this year. The consultation period was extended to 8 weeks from the normal minimum 6-week period. This was then further extended to 10 weeks to allow for the impacts of the emerging Covid 19 emergency toward the end of March 2020.	No
87	SCI24	Comment	Archive material should be available on the WBC website at all times with	See response to 16 above	No

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			updated documents completed in time for Local Plan decision making instead of the blind panic to update a poor evidence base which we have seen on this occasion.		
88	SCI24	Comment	3.25 This following on from the previous paragraph. WBC may well find it convenient to publish updated documents between Local Plan stages but this directly results in overwhelming paperwork for the public to wade through leading to decreased community engagement and less informed decision making.	See response to 14 above.	No
89	SCI24	Comment	All Surveys, Studies and Assessments should be published and consulted on in anticipation of the Local Plan process not during it.	See response to 14 above. The timescale allowed by Government does not allow for this.	No
90	SCI24	Comment	3.30 Tables should include Local Newspaper Publications and Notifications	See response to 17 above	No
91	SCI24	Comment	7.7	This is not practicable. See also response to 24 and 48 above.	No

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			Community groups should have automatic notification of individual applications. Historically this was always practised but has lapsed in recent years. This is particularly important when Green Belt applications are involved where Local Councillor notification should also be automatic.		
92	SCI24	Comment	7.11 Non material minor amendments is a subjective judgement made by the planning officer. These amendments should be consulted upon particularly where heritage and conservation issues are of concern. Notified bodies should be made aware of amendments and given time to comment	See response to 26 above.	No
93	SCI25	Comment	P31 7:13. I feel strongly that all applicants MUST publicise immediately when Green Belt /public spaces/ green spaces or farmland is threatened.	See response to 24 above.	No
94	SCI25	Comment	P34 7:32 I feel strongly that developers/ landowners MUST undertake pre planning application	See response to 59 above.	No

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			submission community consultations/debates/public meetings where ANY Green Belt is threatened, as above. To be merely “encouraged” to do so is unacceptable.		
95	SCI25	Comment	I feel strongly that the council should inform local groups/ local residents of the availability and identity of the planning Inspector in order to arrange face to face or virtual meetings with a view to debating concerns re. the Local Plan.	See response to 5, 6, and 11 above	See 5, 6, and 11
96	SCI25	Comment	I agree with identifying innovative approaches and methods concerning involving people in the consultation process. However, people resident in care homes were not mentioned.	Noted. It is not possible to contact all elderly people directly. However, we did include a presentation to the Wirral Older Peoples Parliament during the Regulation 18 consultation earlier this year, in line with our regular practice during earlier stages of consultation.	No
97	SCI25	Comment	Also, it must be taken into account that there are a large number of residents who are not on line. Libraries are closed for the foreseeable future, thus making it	The Council will make every effort to ensure that consultations are advertised as widely as reasonably practicable subject to any public health restrictions arising from the Covid 19 emergency.	No

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			even more difficult to access appropriate information. etc. I agree that council documents should be simplified, and that "jargon," especially relating to financial matters, especially so.	The Council notes that some evidence studies are unavoidably technical. The Council will require all technical evidence studies to include a non-technical summary where appropriate.	
98	SCI25	Comment	As an example of this, I mention the proposed introduction of the Infrastructure Levy. If this route is pursued, I am concerned that this would put our Council unnecessarily in the hands of developers and landowners.	This is not a matter directly related to the SCI. The Community Infrastructure Levy if introduced would be operated in line with a nationally proscribed process and would only secure funds from qualifying development for agreed infrastructure improvements across the Borough	No
99	SCI 26 SCI27	Comment	Any evidence based surveys, assessment, studies etc, should be fully consulted with the residents of Wirral, published in local papers and copies placed within our libraries. There should be complete clarity and transparency at all times	See response to 14, 15 and 66 above.	No
100	SCI 26 SCI27	Comment	Evidence base studies should also include impact statements from all of our emergency services, fire, police and Ambulance, especially when there are proposals to build in excess of 10 properties at anyone sight.	Emergency services are consulted as part of the preparation of the Local Plan and planning applications set out in Section 8 of the SCI	No

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101	SCI 26 SCI27		Evidence Base should also be sought from professional bodies such as CPRE, National Trust, Wild Life Trusts and Environmental Groups. METHODS OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT(Pge14,3.28 to 3.30)	These groups are already consulted during the preparation of the Local Plan and on relevant evidence studies, as set out in Section 8 of the SCI	No
102	SCI 26 SCI27		Any community involvement should be widely published amongst the community, this is where transparency is critical, Reg.18 and Reg 19, have somewhat failed in this area. The drop- in centres did not in some cases have the correct information. Leaflets, brochures etc, where missing from these centres, Questions that where put in booklets where directed towards the public giving certain answers, The questions given to the Public where extremely difficult to understand to the majority of our residents, therefore encouraging citizens to dismiss them. Not all residents have been made aware of the production of a Local Plan, this needs to be addressed also.	The Council undertook a wide publicity campaign for the Regulation 18 consultation including newspaper, web site, emails, posters, social media, bus adverts. The feed back received on the walk in events and workshops was overwhelmingly positive. Regulation 19 stage has not been undertaken yet. See also response to 58 re questions. It was explained on the online portal that not all questions needed to be answered. A summary document and a simplified questionnaire were available at the walk in events or online. Some 28,000 separate	No

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				comments were received from approximately 1800 respondents during the regulation 18 consultation.	
103	SCI 26 SCI27	Comment	REFERENDUMS FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS AND ORDERS(Pge19, 4.12 to 4.16) WBC, should expand referendums, far too often on important issues, especially planning issues, referendums are not conducted. It is of no use just publishing them on the council website.	See response to 68	No
104	SCI 26 SCI27	Comment	It is also noted by our group that council officers should NOT be allowed to make a planning decision without going through a planning committee, regardless how small that application is. Community involvement on planning issues is paramount.	See response to 60 above	
105	SCI 26 SCI27	Comment	Greater attention should also be given to publishing planning notices and decisions.	Weekly/Monthly Lists can be searched via the planning applications pages on the web https://planning.wirral.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=weeklyList	No
106	SCI 26 SCI27	Comment	COMMUNITY INFRASTRURE LEVY..(Pge 23)	Any proposed CIL charging schedule would be subject to consultation as set out in the draft SCI. It would not	No

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			<p>It is certainly crucial that there should be a consultation on a Community Infrastructure Levy. Although this seems to be a way of generating capital, it can also be a dangerous precedence to allow developers to have a much greater influence on our council than they may have at present.</p> <p>If our council is to charge developers of the amount of floor space or area a development may have, I feel that the developer in such cases would have the right to exercise a much larger involvement in the production of a local plan, this is an area that I feel needs further investigation particularly in community involvement. Any decisions taken, any consultations undertaken, MUST be published in our local press and libraries.</p>	allow developers any greater influence over the Local Plan.	
	SCI 26 SCI27	Comment	<p>PROTOCOL FOR PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT..(Pge 25 6.1, 6.3, 6.5, 6.8 to 6.20)</p> <p>As stated previously, the GREASBY GREENBELT ACTION GROUP, wish to be updated at all times regarding the local plan, we wish to</p>	Noted. The SCI already provides for community groups and other respondents who provide their contact details to be notified as each stage is reached.	Yes: Add Greasby Green Belt Action Group to Local Civic Societies – Section 8.

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			be added and maintained on the database of contacts.		
107	SCI 26 SCI27	Comment	Paragraph 6.6 I wish to recommend in the strongest of terms that the Reg. 19 submissions be made available to everyone who lives on Wirral, by post, local papers and libraries, I would also suggest at leisure centres. Public consultations should be sought at meetings with the public in various parts of the borough.	The Council will advertise the Regulation 19 consultation as widely as is reasonably practicable having regard to the SCI requirements and any restrictions arising from the Covid 19 emergency.	No
108	SCI 26 SCI27	Comment	THE DEVELOPMENTMANAGEMENT PROCESS..(Pge 28) Statutory Publicity for Planning Applications It is not enough to issue a simple site notice by a developer for a planning application, especially if this involves building on GREENBELT. Community consultation is paramount. In ALL cases there should be FULL community involvement. This could include notices posted through the doors of every resident in the ward. Planning notices should also be	See response to 59 above.	No

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			published in libraries and community centres. Notices should also be extended to local interested groups such as the Greasby Greenbelt Action Group.		
109	SCI 26 SCI27	Comment	THRESHOLDS OF PRE-APPLICATION COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT..(Pge 36) Issues surrounding this section are that ALL proposed developments should be subject to community involvement. This is important for transparency. Infrastructure issues should be highlighted, discussed and agreed by consultation with the public.	See response to 61 above. It is not practicable or reasonable to request applicants for smaller developments to undertake extensive pre application consultation. The Council considers that the threshold set out is reasonable and appropriate.	No
110	SCI 26 SCI27	Comment	We note that council documents are too complex and too difficult to read. These documents have to be simplified and determined to the general public as acceptable to understand, even if this means public consultation.	See response to 97 above	No
111	SCI28 & 29	Comment	1 This update is a year late. The production of the new 15 year local plan is a major local legislative change. The SCI update should	See response to 62 and 63 above.	

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			<p>have been actioned prior to the local plan consultation in 2020.</p> <p>The opportunity for the community to make changes to the involvement statement prior to the new local plan consultation has been missed due to WBC,s failure to carry this review in 2019 .</p>		
112	SCI28 & 29	Comment	<p>2 The failure to review the SCI in 2019 shows WBC’s lack of interest in community involvement. The Council do not work towards a consensus of opinion as many planning issues and the local plan consultations can confirm.</p> <p>In the 2018 local plan consultation 3000 people responded almost unanimously stating no greenbelt was to be released, yet in the 2020 local plan documentation over 6000 homes were identified on greenbelt.</p> <p>It does not matter what statement of community involvement is in place if WBC do not use it and act on the input from the community</p>	See response to 62, 63 and 64 above.	No

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			<p>Unfortunately the statements value is not recognised by WBC. The views of the citizens are ignored.</p> <p>The community therefore has no involvement in the final draft plan under this system.</p> <p>A more detailed draft plan should be the basis of the regulation 18 consultation for true community involvement.</p>		
113	SCI28 & 29	Comment	<p>3 SCI and the local plan regulation 18</p> <p>The community have only one opportunity to comment on the local plan. This is at the regulation 18 stage</p> <p>The plan was not sufficiently developed by WBC for the community to comment accurately at the time of the consultation.</p> <p>This needs to be changed in the SCI so that the community can comment on the draft plan not a raft of options</p>	See response to 64 above.	No

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			<p>and possible configurations for a plan.</p> <p>The community will not see the draft plan until councillors have voted on it to be issued for submission to the government.</p>		
114	SCI28 & 29	Comment	<p>4 SCI and the local plan regulation 19</p> <p>Regulation 19 the publication of WBC draft plan offers no community involvement. This is a 6 week public notice not a consultation. The community are not in a position to challenge the legal compliance or soundness of the plan.</p> <p>Indeed we expect WBC to provide a legally compliant and sound plan but we also expect that plan to reflect the views of the community from the regulation 18 consultation</p> <p>Under this system we cannot challenge WBC if our views on locations for new building have not</p>	See response to 64 above.	No

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			<p>been incorporated in the plan at this stage.</p> <p>The draft plan should be consulted on by the community before councillors vote and before it is submitted to the government for approval.</p>		
115	SCI28 & 29	Comment	<p>5 SCI Covid addendum and local plan</p> <p>The Covid SCI addendum will deny the community the opportunity to appear and be heard by the person appointed to carry out the independent examination of the local plan because WBC has brought forward the publication of the local plan to February.</p> <p>WBC should wait until Covid is resolved and complete all the necessary outstanding reports from the evidence base and allow the procedure to be completed in the proper manner with full community involvement .</p>	See response to 49 above.	No

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116	SCI28 & 29	Comment	<p>6 Sustainability Appraisals</p> <p>The sustainability appraisals for specific greenbelt sites have not been published. They may not have even been carried out. The sustainability reports in the consultation document all stated specific sites reports were required prior to any greenbelt site being included in the final plan.</p> <p>The community were therefore not able to comment during the consultation.</p> <p>WBC is therefore failing to meet its current Statement of Community involvement.</p>	See response to 65 above	No
117	SCI28 & 29	Comment	<p>7 Evidence Base</p> <p>The evidence base reports issued with the consultation document were incomplete out of date, unco-ordinated, inaccurate and in some</p>	See response to 66 above.	No

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		<p>cases just completely incorrect. <u>This statement is based on fact.</u></p> <p>It was clear that even though it was poor that the evidence base had not been consulted in selecting proposed greenbelt sites.</p> <p>The most critical reports, sustainability, habitats, agricultural, biodiversity, flooding and infrastructure development reports all stated that further investigations were required and site specific reports were required for any greenbelt site before its inclusion in the plan.</p> <p>We have not seen these completed documents and the community is not going to be invited to comment prior to the final draft plan.</p> <p>WBC is therefore failing to meet the requirements of the Statement of Community involvement.</p>		

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118	SCI28 & 29	Comment	<p>8 Table 1 – Methods of community involvement in the production of a Local Plan</p> <p>The 15 year local plan will affect all Wirral residents at some time. Limiting communications for the plan to registered contacts and neighbours to potential developments is totally inadequate considering the importance of a new local plan</p> <p>All Wirral residents should have been notified by post / email and newspaper notice. At the very least every householder responsible for paying community charges tax bill should have been notified by WBC.</p> <p>However as WBC failed to hold this consultation on community involvement in 2019 prior to the local plan consultation at regulation 18 it is now too late to implement this change. WBC has failed to meet the statutory timetable and consequently failed its community.</p>	See response to 62, 63 and 67 above	No

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			WBC do however have the opportunity to newspaper publish and contact every community charge paying householder when the final draft submission is issued in February 2021		
119	SCI28 & 29	Comment	<p>9 Referendums for neighbourhood plans and orders</p> <p>Referendums are used to decide planning proposals where local neighbourhood plans are formed.</p> <p>We suggest this is used for all planning proposals.</p> <p>For specific sites all local residents notified by WBC should carry a vote. The majority vote of the community should decide.</p> <p>Why should a small number of temporary people on a WBC planning committee decide on ordinary hard working people's permanent fate?</p>	See response to 68	No

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			<p>This would be genuine community involvement.</p> <p>In addition Wirral's community should have a referendum on the draft local plan prior to submission?</p>		
120	SCI28 & 29	Comment	<p>10 The impact of the new planning laws on the SCI document.</p> <p>The timing by WBC of this SCI consultation has rendered it too late to effect the local plan but it is also too early for the proposed new planning laws.</p> <p>Major parts of the statement of community involvement will become redundant or inadequate and need revising completely in 2021 when new laws are introduced.</p> <p>See examples below.</p>	See response to 69 above	No
121	SCI28 & 29	Comment	<p>Permitted development</p> <p>The size and scale of permitted developments is changing, e.g. 2</p>	Consultation will be undertaken where required/appropriate though the Council can only take into account those matters that are	No

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			storey extensions on top of existing buildings. Neighbours and local community must be notified by WBC to have some input on the appearance, placement and orientation of the development.	restricted for consideration in the relevant Permitted Development legislation. It cannot have regard to other matters.	
122	SCI28 & 29	Comment	<p>Definition of Major Development</p> <p>Under the new laws major Development will be defined as 150 or more dwellings or a site area of up to 3 hectares.</p> <p>The sites with up to 3 hectares will have automatic outline planning permission for up to 149 homes.</p> <p>WBC needs to develop a new robust detailed plan to involve the community in schemes that will have large impacts in local areas.</p>	See response to 69 above.	No
123	SCI28 & 29	Comment	<p>Pre-application procedures</p> <p>The new law raises the thresholds of when developers and landowners have to consider pre-application for</p>	See response to 70 above.	No

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			<p>planning procedures. Also any land designated as a growth area will have automatic outline planning permission for houses, schools and hospitals.</p> <p>Community involvement for larger schemes is being removed from the community unless the statement is revised to state it that current thresholds will remain under new laws.</p> <p>All thresholds are being raised under the new planning laws granting automatic outline planning permissions for houses schools and hospitals. The document will be out of date in a few months' time.</p> <p>The new planning laws are supposed to introduce greater community input into the type of building we see built but WBC's proposed updated community involvement document ignores the new laws completely.</p>		

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			WBC needs to update the statement of community involvement to deal with the new laws.		
124	SCI28 & 29	Comment	<p>11. Planning decisions</p> <p>All planning decisions should be decided on local referendum as already practiced where local neighbourhood plans exist.</p>	See response to 68 above	
125	SCI28 & 29	Comment	<p>WBC website e-petition rules state that it does not accept or consider any petitions that are being dealt with under the normal planning procedures or consultations.</p> <p>In addition there are two types of petition under a hundred or over 3000 people.</p> <p>These restrictions need removing and making clear that petitions are welcome on planning matters.</p> <p>As a note the planning committee that rejected the opposition to the proposed Lidl in Prenton cited the</p>	<p>See response 71 above.</p> <p>Petitions for planning applications has been explained elsewhere in this response. For planning applications petitions are accepted and those with 25 or more signatures mean the application is referred to Committee for determination</p>	No

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			lack of a petition by the community for approving the proposal. The fact that 213 people from the local community objected through the planning channel counted for nothing.		
126	SCI28 & 29	Comment	<p>12. Consultation bodies and consultees</p> <p>The evidence base reports provided by the consultees listed were by their own admission incomplete. They provided what they had available.</p> <p>It is clear that WBC did not use the reports to develop the local plan. An inspection of the reports against any specific green belt site in option 2a will prove it should not have been selected if the advice in the consultee's reports had been followed.</p>	See response to 72 above	No
127	SCI44	Comment	As a member of Greasby Action Group, I totally with the statement put forward by Phil Simpson to have far more visibility from WBC Council on all planning applications to	Noted	No

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			ensure that there is nothing untoward, or secretive being put forward.		
128	SCI43	Comment	<p>Taylor Wimpey is broadly supportive of the contents of the updated SCI which acknowledges that the precise nature of community engagement will vary with the main objectives of each stage of the planning process.</p> <p>Chapter 3 relates to the production of development plan documents. Table 1 of Page 14 specifically sets out the methods of community involvement that may be used at each stage in the preparation of a Local Plan. Whilst Taylor Wimpey does not disagree with the contents of Chapter 3 in principle, it considers that a further section should be included (at the end of Page 16) which covers engagement with the Local Planning Authority during the Local Plan process. Suggested</p>	The Council has already engaged with landowners and developers of sites at an early stage in the Local Plan preparation. As the Local Plan preparation progresses the Council will prioritise engagement on sites which are likely to contribute to the preferred spatial option.	No

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			<p>text is provided below:</p> <p><i>“Engagement with the Local Planning Authority in the preparation of Local Plans</i></p> <p><i>At all stages in the production of a Local Plan, Officers should undertake engagement with developers and landowners who have sites being considered for allocations early on in the process to enable any key issues to be raised and addressed prior to any formal allocations being made. This proactive and collaborative approach will ensure that the site’s being brought forward through the Local Plan are available, suitable and deliverable and that there are no technical constraints that would preclude them coming forward during the plan period. It also provides greater certainty and transparency to both parties, saves time later in</i></p>		

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129	Comment	<p>Chapter 7 relates to the development management process and notes at paragraph 7.32 that the Council strongly encourages landowners and developers to undertake pre-application community consultation, especially for large, complex or controversial proposals and for proposals that will be contrary to the Development Plan.</p> <p>Taylor Wimpey is supportive of this approach and is committed to undertaking meaningful community engagement on all sites it promotes and/or has an interest in bringing forwards, to ensure that local residents' and key stakeholders' views are heard and taken of board, where possible.</p>	The Council will engage with all developers who wish to enter into formal pre application discussions in accordance with the Council's approved protocol.	No

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		<p>Taylor Wimpey also welcomes the inclusion of Paragraph 7.34 which encourages developers to contact the Council before commencing a community involvement exercise, to agree the scope of the exercise and the types of method that will be employed. This approach acknowledges that there is no 'one size fits all' approach to community consultation and therefore it would not be appropriate to impose any rigid or restrictive requirements through the SCI.</p> <p>However, as per its comments on Chapter 3, Taylor Wimpey considers that additional text relating to pre-application engagement with WMBC Officers should also be included in Chapter 7, rather than focusing solely on engagement with the community. Suggested text is provided below:</p> <p><i>“Pre-application Engagement with</i></p>		

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		<p><i>the Local Planning Authority</i></p> <p><i>Developers are encouraged to engage with the council in pre-application discussions prior to the submission of a major planning application to discuss a development proposal and any issues that may arise from it. This has the benefits of allowing relevant issues to be raised and resolved early, providing more time to consider and develop better quality solutions, and removing delay to the formal planning process. Entering into pre-application discussions with potential developers enables effective communication between the developer, the council and interested parties.”</i></p> <p>Summary</p> <p>Overall, Taylor Wimpey is broadly supportive of the contents of the</p>		

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		<p>updated SCI, however has suggested some additional text for inclusion which details the importance of pre-application engagement between developers and the Council at both the plan-making and decision-making stages.</p> <p>Taylor Wimpey would not support the introduction of any amendments to the SCI that introduce any highly prescriptive or onerous consultation requirements.</p> <p>If and when the Taylor Wimpey sites come forward for residential development, Taylor Wimpey is committed to taking an appropriate and proportionate approach to consultation at the earliest opportunity, including engaging with both the Council, the local community and any relevant stakeholders to ensure that their views are considered and any key issues resolved.</p>		

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130	SCI33 SCI34	Comment	As an over-arching comment, I find the document to be a useful reference point in that it sets out the Council's obligations under national legislation. In particular, in light of the recent consultations re the Draft Local Plan and on-going liaison between your department and the Wirral Greenspace Alliance, Table 1 (pp. 14, 15 & 16) is a timely reminder of the Council's obligations in this respect.	Noted	No
131	SCI33 SCI34		<p>Section 3</p> <p>Local Plans and the Local Plans Examination Process.</p> <p>3.9 Assurance is needed and evidence shown that this requirement of the Council has been fully met.</p> <p>3.10 It is vital that maximum publicity is given where any time constraints are concerned</p> <p>3.11 This is crucial. The choice of those people appearing before the independent examiner needs careful management.</p> <p>3.12 Ditto.</p>	<p>3.9 The Council will publish a formal consultation statement under Regulation 22 when submitting the Local Plan for Examination setting out a summary of the comments received, of the key issues that have been raised and how these issues have been addressed.</p> <p>3.10 The Council will advertise the Regulation 19 consultation widely, in line with commitments set out within the SCI.</p> <p>3.11 and 3.12 -See response to 64 above</p>	No

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			3.17 As in 3.10 above.	3.17 Notice of Adoption will advertised in line with the commitments set out in Table 1	
132	SCI33 SCI34	Comment	<p>Evidence base.</p> <p>3.24 In common with many others, I believe that some of the most fundamentally important parts of the evidence base are flawed and, most importantly, out-dated. The last part this subsection refers to “ the need to respond to issues raised in response to public consultation on emerging proposals”.</p> <p>WBC has been unable – unwilling? – to provide an updated evidence base on which to consult at both the Development Options Review consultation and the Issues and Options consultation. The amount of documentation provided at each consultation was simply overwhelming for most people, and needed to be much more focused. Archive material should be available on</p>	<p>3.24 See response to 16 and 66 above.</p> <p>3.25 See response to 14 and 66 above.</p> <p>3.30 See response to 17 above</p>	No

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			<p>the WBC website <u>at all times</u>, with updated documents completed in time for Local Plan decision-making instead of seeking to change – at the eleventh hour – the flawed and discredited original evidence base which the Council used at the outset.</p> <p>3.25 The same basic point as in 3.24. WBC may well find it convenient to publish updated documents between Local Plan stages but this directly results in overwhelming paperwork for the public to access and assimilate. This inevitably will have an adverse effect on community engagement and, as a consequence, less informed decision making.</p> <p>All Surveys, Studies and Assessments should be published and consulted on in anticipation of the Local Plan process not during it.</p>		

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			3.30 Tables should include Local Newspaper Publications and Notifications		
133	SCI33 SCI34	Comment	<p>Section 4</p> <p>Neighbourhood planning</p> <p>In 4.1, it states that the Council will provide advice and guidance. It would clearly be helpful if the Council will give some indication of the criteria which they will use to approve the setting up of community groups. Particularly relevant is an indication of the minimum size of any such group. This information needs to be available <u>before</u> any initial work is done by those wishing to participate. The current Section 4 is far too vague.</p>	The criteria and minimum size are set out in the relevant legislation and are not appropriate to reproduce within the SCI. The criteria and examples of how they have been applied can be found on the Neighbourhood Planning pages of the Council's website.	No
134	SCI33 SCI34	Comment	<p>Section 5</p> <p>Community Infrastructure Levy</p> <p>There are no free lunches! The concept of widening community involvement is laudable and</p>	See responses to 76, 98 and 106 above.	

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			<p>there clearly will be a cost which the Council will wish to cover – or recover.</p> <p>There is a danger that a Levy will be viewed by many as a device to put more money into the Council’s coffers and that the above concept is little more than a “box-ticking” exercise by the Council.</p>		
135	SCI33 SCI34	Comment	<p>Section 7</p> <p>The development management process</p> <p>Whilst the Council, in exercising its function as a Planning Authority, is required by law to give publicity to all planning applications, there remains widespread concern that Press Notices fail to reach large sections of the community. It is one thing for the Council to be able to claim that it has met its statutory duties but quite another for it to ignore that people’s access to newspapers and</p>	<p>See Response to 59 above.</p> <p>7.7 See response to 24 above</p> <p>7.11 See response to 26 above.</p>	

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			<p>reading habits have changed. Ensuring the “Heineken Effect” of publicity should be regarded as an extra obligation. For instance, previous use of bin collection lorries for advertising the Council’s policies/plans and general information proved an excellent way of reaching out to the public.</p> <p>7.7 Community groups should have automatic notification of individual applications. Historically this was always practiced but has lapsed in recent years. This is particularly important when Green Belt applications are involved where Local Councillor notification should also be automatic.</p> <p>7.11 The reference to “Non material minor amendments” allows a subjective judgement to be made by the planning officer. Any such amendments should be consulted upon particularly where heritage and conservation issues are of concern. Notified</p>		

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			<p>bodies should be made aware of amendments and given time to comment.</p>		
136	SCI33 SCI34	Comment	<p>Section 8</p> <p>Consultation bodies and consultees</p> <p>8.1 In that part of the table headed “General Consultation Bodies”, I am concerned by the omission of the Barnston Conservation Society. This society has been actively and closely involved in all consultations thus far and its leading members, strongly supported by the wider membership, have produced a great deal of accurate, well-researched documentation which has previously been submitted to the Council in the earlier consultations.</p> <p>This omission should be remedied forthwith.</p>	See Response to 85 above	

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137	SCI33	Comment	In conclusion, for Community Involvement to work – to be more than just words – the Council must demonstrate its active commitment to establishing and operating a system which the public trusts. Sadly, the absence of such trust is all too evident.	Noted	
138	SCI34	Comment	Overall, the document is a useful reference point as it sets out the Council's obligations under national legislation. In particular, with regard to the recent consultations re the Draft Local Plan and on-going liaison between your department and the Wirral Greenspace Alliance, Table 1 (pp. 14, 15 & 16) is a timely reminder of the Council's obligations in this respect.	Noted	No
139	SCI39	Comment	Thank you for the consultation on the updated Statement of Community Involvement. The Canal & River Trust have the following comments to make.	Noted	Yes Add the Canal & River Trust to National Bodies and Agencies in Table at Section 8.1

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			<p>The Canal & River Trust would welcome being listed as a 'National Bodies & Agencies' in the table at section 8.1, in relation to being consulted on planning policy matters.</p> <p>The Canal & River Trust are a statutory consultee on development management matters.</p>		
140	SCI28	Comment	<p>It seems that the opportunity for the community to make changes to the involvement statement prior to the new local plan has been missed, as WBC failed to review the SCI in 2019. The SCI update should have been actioned prior to the local plan consultation in 2020.</p>	Please see response to 62 above.	
141	SCI28	Comment	<p>In the 2018 local plan consultation 3000 people responded almost unanimously stating no Greenbelt was to be released, yet in the 2020 local plan documentation over 6000 homes were identified on Greenbelt. If the Council wants a community's views, those views should not be ignored.</p>	<p>The Council has taken account the comments submitted during the 2018 consultation. The Issues and Options Regulation 18 consultation set out the Council's preferred Options to meet the Borough's housing and employment needs entirely within the urban area. However, due to uncertainties over the delivery of some sites the Issues and Options</p>	No

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				document set out two options for potential green belt release.	
142	SCI28	Comment	<p>SCI and the local plan regulation 18 The community will not see the draft plan until councillors have voted on it to be issued for submission to the Government. – this gives the community no involvement in the final draft plan.</p> <p>SCI and the local plan regulation 19 No community involvement here - it is a 6 week public notice not a consultation.. The community are in no position to challenge the legal compliance or soundness of the plan. We expect the plan to reflect the views of the community from the regulation 18 consultation. The draft plan should be consulted on by the community before councillors vote and before it is submitted to the Government for approval.</p> <p>SCI Covid addendum and local plan The Covid addendum denies the community the opportunity to be heard by the person appointed to carry out the independent</p>	See response to 63, 64 and 49 above.	No

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			examination of the local plan, because WBC has brought forward the plan's publication to February 2021. WBC should wait until Covid is resolved and complete the necessary outstanding reports from the evidence base and allow the procedure to be completed with full community involvement.		
143	SCI28	Comment	Sustainability Appraisals The sustainability appraisals for specific greenbelt sites have not been published. The sustainability reports in the consultation document all stated specific site reports were required prior to any greenbelt site being included in the final plan.	See response to 65 above	No
144	SCI28	Comment	Evidence Base The evidence base reports issued with the consultation document were incomplete. The most critical reports, sustainability, habitats, agricultural, biodiversity, flooding and infrastructure development reports all stated that further investigations were required and site specific reports were required for	Please see response to 14 and 66 above.	

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			any greenbelt site before its inclusion in the plan. We have not seen these completed documents and the community is not going to be invited to comment prior to the final draft plan.		
145	SCI28	Comment	Referendums for neighbourhood plans and orders We suggest that, the views of all residents who will be affected by the plans concerning their area, should be sought.	Please see response to 68 above	No
146	SCI28	Comment	The impact of the new planning laws on the SCI document. The timing by WBC of this SCI consultation has rendered it too late to affect the local plan but it is also too early for the proposed new planning laws. Major parts of the statement of community involvement will become redundant and need revising in 2021 when new laws are introduced. Pre-application procedures	Please see response to 69 above	

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			<p>Update the statement of community involvement to deal with the new laws.</p> <p>Planning decisions All planning decisions should be decided on local referendum.</p>		
147	SCI28	Comment	<p>Consultation bodies and consultees The evidence based reports provided by the consultees listed were, by their own admission incomplete. Clearly WBC didn't use the reports to develop the local plan. Regarding our local site Option 2A the consultee's report was against that greenbelt site's development but the Council included it in their plan.</p>	See response to 66 above	
148	SCI31	Comment	<p>2.13 In order to minimise duplication of effort, maximise the value of public consultation and safeguard the use of public resources, the Council will, wherever possible, use existing consultation arrangements to engage and involve the community in the land-use planning system, where these can be used effectively within the timetable for</p>	See response to 3 above	No

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			<p>the preparation of local development documents or for informing individual planning decisions. However, the Council will where appropriate use tailored digital and web-based systems to improve community engagement in the preparation of policy document and decisions on planning applications. Response: Whenever Community Involvement occurs, early feedback needs to be given in form of Notes or Minutes uploaded to the Council Website under a clear heading, with what was heard/discussed, what was learned, is to be used or not and why.</p>		
149	SCI31	Comment	<p>2.16 Responses to public consultation will be summarised and may be made publicly available to view on the Council's website. Response: The Council <i>needs to</i> make publicly available the summary of responses. (This has not been done with the Local Plan).</p>	<p>The Council has always published a summary of responses as each stage in the process is reached. The Council is still preparing the summary of responses to the latest consultation and the Council's responses to each of the comments received, which cannot be completed until the final Plan has been prepared. The Council received some 28,000 separate comments from 1,800 individuals and organisations on the Regulation 18</p>	No

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				Issues and Options Consultation. This has led to an unavoidable delay in publishing the comments received. See also response to 3 above.	
150	SCI31	Comment	3.8 The emphasis during these early stages [of prep Local Plan] will be on making simple background information as widely available as possible. Response: This has not been seen with current Local Plan documentation or consultations.	This is not a comment on the content of the SCI.	No
151	SCI31	Comment	3.9 The Council must take account of any representation made in response to invitations to comment during these early stages ¹² . Response: In addition, the Council needs to let consultees know what changes have been made in light of responses received.	This is a standard and statutory part of the reporting process and the Council's responses to each comment received will normally be set out in the Consultation Statement which will be produced at each stage of the Local Plan preparation.	No
152	SCI31	Comment	3.20 Walk in exhibitions are likely to be the most effective method for testing area specific proposals, whereas more limited, targeted consultations are likely to be more relevant for documents on more specialist themes and topics.	See response to 9 above.	

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			Response: Limiting the use of public meetings is not acceptable. Drop in meetings may be useful but should not replace proper public meetings.		
153	SCI31	Comment	<p>Sustainability Appraisal</p> <p>3.23 The Council will consult on the scope and content of a sustainability appraisal with statutory consultees and will invite public comments on the appraisal to be submitted at each stage in the plan or document making process.</p> <p>Response: Also need to know what changes Council made in light of responses.</p>	This is already a normal part of the reporting process.	No
154	SCI31	Comment	<p>Evidence Base</p> <p>3.24 The Council will undertake or commission specialist technical surveys, studies or assessments to inform the content of emerging local development documents, to meet national policy requirements or to respond to issues raised in response to public consultation on emerging proposals.</p> <p>Response: Residents need to be able to view and if possible comment on brief</p>	This is not practicable and would lead to unnecessary delay. It could also compromise the professional independence of any work to be undertaken. In most cases the brief is already drawn up to respond to comments received through previous public consultation and the contents may be commercially confidential. The key elements of the brief are set out in the evidence study itself.	No

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155	SCI31	Comment	3.25 The results of the surveys, studies or assessments used in the preparation of a local development document will be published for public comment at the next appropriate stage in the plan making process. Response: Also need to know what changes Council made in light of responses.	The Consultation Statement produced at the next stage of the local plan will indicate where changes have been made to evidence studies arising from comments received. Comments received at Regulation 19 stage on evidence studies will be passed directly to the Inspector appointed to undertake the Examination.	No
156	SCI31	Comment	Table 1 – Local Plan REG 18 All documents to be available for inspection at Principal Office Response: Documents also need to be made available online	This is stated in the Table 1	No
157	SCI31	Comment	Reg 25 Publication on the Council website Response: Documents also need to be available for inspection at Principal Office	See response to 12 above	
158	SCI31	Comment	Reg 34 Publication of monitoring reports on the Council website Response: Documents also need to be available for inspection at Principal Office		No

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159	SCI31	Comment	Table 2 - SPD Reg 14, 34 Response: Documents also need to be available for inspection at Principal Office and not just online.		Yes add 'All documents to be available for inspection at a principal office' in Table 2, Reg 14
160	SCI31	Comment	4 Neighbourhood planning 4.1 The Council will provide advice and guidance to community groups undertaking neighbourhood planning. Response: The Council needs to be better and adequately resourced to achieve this.	Noted but Council officers are normally closely and regularly involved with both emerging and designated community groups, as their proposals emerge.	No
161	SCI31	Comment	Table 3 Neighbourhood Forums Methods Community Involvement Designation of Neighbourhood Forum Response: It is not sufficient to just use electronic means to publish documents online– need to advertise to residents by other means as well	See response to 17 above. The qualifying body is expected to publicise its intended formation widely within the local community before submitting their application and to include details about the consultation undertaken within their application. They normally publicise their own application to demonstrate community support as part of the application and designation process, which is likely to be more effective than anything the Council might do.	No

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162	SCI31	Comment	Designation of Neighbourhood Area Response: It is not sufficient to just use electronic means to publish documents online– need to advertise to residents by other means as well.	See response to 17 above. The qualifying body is expected to publicise its proposed boundaries of operation widely within the local community before submitting their application and to include details about the consultation undertaken within their application. They normally publicise their own application to demonstrate community support as part of the application and designation process, which is likely to be more effective than anything the Council might do.	No
163	SCI31	Comment	Making Neighbourhood Plan Response: It is not sufficient to just publish online, documents need to be available for inspection at Principal Office.		Yes add 'Main documents to be available for inspection at a principal office' to Table 3, final row.
164	SCI31	Comment	Table 4: Methods of Community Involvement in production of Neighbourhood Development Order or Community Right to Build Order		
165	SCI31	Comment	Designation of Neighbourhood Forum Response: It is not sufficient to just publish online, documents need to	The qualifying body is expected to publicise its intended formation widely within the local community before submitting their application and to include details about the consultation	No

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			be available for inspection at Principal Office	undertaken within their application. They normally publicise their own application to demonstrate community support as part of the application and designation process, which is likely to be more effective than anything the Council might do.	
166	SCI31	Comment	Examiner's Report Response: It is not sufficient to just publish online, documents need to be available for inspection at Principal Office		Yes add 'Examiner's report to be available for inspection at a principal office' to Table 4, row 6.
167	SCI31	Comment	Making Neighbourhood Order Response: It is not sufficient to just publish online, documents need to be available for inspection at Principal Office.		Yes add 'The made order to be available for inspection at a principal office' to Table 4, final row.
168	SCI31	Comment	7 The development management process 7.4 The Council currently uses neighbour notification letters as a means of publicising planning applications. It has found that this is currently the most effective method, where small numbers of residents are likely to be affected by a development and enables people who have been unable to see a Press Notice to express their views.	The Council notifies those with an immediate (shared) boundary with the application site. This does not include those on the opposite side of a road. However, having regards to the nature of the development being proposed the LPA may widen its neighbour notifications to include properties who do not share a common boundary. Clearly there has to be a cut off point and this will be at the discretion of the case officer	

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			Response: The Council need to be more efficient in during this as the current approach is very inconsistent with some neighbours receiving notification whilst others not.	and/or in consultation with Team Leaders and/or the DM Manager. For local plan site notifications - we do include the other side of the road - we include all immediately surrounding properties	
169	SCI31	Comment	Table 6: Permitted development requiring prior notification to the planning authority - Site Notice posted by the developer. Response: Does this Council check that this has been done?	Yes. And where appropriate the LPA may also post its own Site Notice	No
170	SCI31	Comment	7.6 Additional publicity, in the form of Site Notices and additional notification letters, may be given to developments likely to create wider concern at the discretion of the Case Officer, in consultation with the Development Management Manager. Response: Site notices in Table 6 seem to be required for all applications, so why are site notices here at the discretion of the case officer? In our experience the use of site notices is very patchy and their	Site Notices are posted having regards to our Statutory requirements. Neighbour Notifications are generally more effective. However, the Regs require a Site Notice as well then we will post one. Also, for development that is likely to have wider impacts we will post a Site Notice.	No

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			frequency of use is decreasing. Is Table 6 to be interpreted as only one of the options that needs to be implemented, in which case this should be made clearer?		
171	SCI31	Comment	<p>7.7 Local community groups can be notified of individual applications, by arrangement.</p> <p>Response: This can be very important. What criteria are used to decide? Community Groups should automatically be notified of proposals to build on Green Belt in their area. We understand that WMBC has refused to notify the Wirral Society of all Green Belt applications. We would like to see a facility for a local group to respond online in the name of the organisation, rather than the private address of the representative, so members can determine when comments have been made by their organisation.</p>	Please see response to 84 and 91 above.	
172	SCI31	Comment	7.11 Non material minor amendments to a planning application, required by the Council or by the applicant, will be accepted	There is no statutory obligation to re-consult on amended plans. The Case Officer in consultation with his/her Team Leader and/or the DM	

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			<p>where the planning application has not yet been determined. Re-notification and publicity will not be undertaken on minor amendments but the amended plans will be placed on the Council's website.</p> <p>Response: Re-notification & publicity should be given at least to neighbours and organisations who are registered for notification to be alerted to there being any amendments to an application. Also it is not just sufficient for these notifications to be added to the Council Planning Webpages, they must also be available for inspection at the Planning Office.</p> <p>Our experience is that significant amendments can be made to plans without adequate time made for re-consultation before a decision is made, and in at least one case a revised plan has never been put on the portal, which limited the Society's ability to contribute to the subsequent appeal.</p>	<p>Manager will take a view as to whether additional consultation is required having regard to the amendments proposed. Generally, this will only occur if the amendments are considered to present new issues that may not have arisen with the original plans.</p>	
173	SCI31	Comment	7.15 In the second case, the Council will require that a Site Notice be posted. In both cases, developers	Yes	No

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			<p>have to complete a certificate to confirm that appropriate publicity has been undertaken.</p> <p>Response: Does this Council check that this has been done?</p>		
174	SCI31	Comment	<p>7.20 All planning applications will be made available for public inspection at the local planning authority's principal office during normal office hours....</p> <p>Response: This is very important. At present, however access to such documentation is very limited – selected days in the week at limited hours. The Council must be adequately resourced to ensure access 5 days a week during normal working hours as a minimum.</p>	<p>The Council provide access wherever possible subject to resources. All plans and supporting documentation are uploaded online and people are encourage to use the online search facility. Appointments can be made for the public to view documents at the Council Office. Offering selected days allows the Service to ensure this can be adequately managed and resourced.</p>	

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175	SCI31	Comment	<p>.....and on the Council's website at www.wirral.gov.uk/planning. The website allows simple searches to be made by keyword, reference number, postcode or single line of address. The website also allows a more advanced search to be made by applicant name, application type, Ward, Conservation Area, development type and date of submission. Searches can also be made by Committee Date and Weekly/Monthly Lists.</p> <p>Response: Discharge of conditions information is not provided online so there is no way that conformance can be monitored. This is particularly important for landscape plans which no longer appear to be mandatory as part of the original application but are required to be produced as a condition of approval. Good community engagement would allow the public to see the plans which had been submitted and to ensure they were actually implemented.</p>	There is no statutory requirement to publish/consult on plans submitted for discharge of conditions. However, the Council do consult with statutory consultees where appropriate and the final Decision Notice is posted online.	No
176	SCI31	Comment	7.27 People who have submitted comments on the application will not	If a name/contact details and an email address is provided we can	No

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			<p>normally be advised of the final decision in writing. People who have submitted comments are encouraged to keep up to date with the application via the Council's website. You can register with the website which can provide you with updates in relation to an application including when the decision has been made.</p> <p>Appeals Response: The Heswall Society receives a number of notifications by mail. We would prefer such communications to be by email to avoid the cost of postage and to make dissemination of the information easier and faster.</p>	arrange for notifications to be sent via email rather than post.	
177	SCI31	Comment	7.30 In the case of an appeal, the Council will write to all those who were notified of the original application, all the individuals and organisations that commented on the planning application, Ward Members and the Chair of Planning Committee, to inform them that an appeal has been submitted, so that they can make further representations to the Planning	The Council will consider making this a permanent solution	No

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			<p>Inspector appointed to handle the appeal.</p> <p>Response: The appeal documentation should be online to encourage community engagement in the process. This has been introduced as a COVID measure and should be made permanent. As in our response to 7.27 we would such communication to be via email.</p>		
178	SCI31	Comment	<p>Page 39 - General Consultation Bodies Table:</p> <p>Response: The Wirral Green Space Alliance (WGSA), a consortium of 31 local groups, should be included in the list.</p>	See response to 31 above.	Yes see 31
179	SCI22	Comment	I strongly object to the removal of any green belt allocations in the local plan. Further housing is not required on our green belt. There is adequate brownfield land.	This comment is not relevant to the SCI but is a comment on the content of the emerging Local Plan	No
180	SCI21	Comment	Sir I note that your Statement of Community Involvement documentation states the importance of involving all residents	This has been an unavoidable side-effect of publishing a weekly notice in a local newspaper. The Council can only currently address the issue of	No

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			<p>irrespective of race, gender, disability, age, etc. I also note that the main indicated ways in which information on site planning applications are communicated are on-site notices and notices in the local press.</p> <p>May I point out that the notices in the local press are always presented in a very small font size. At 74 I have very great difficulty reading them with or without reading glasses. I am certain I am not alone in this. My stroke disabled wife who has age related macular degeneration, cannot read them at all but can read normal size fonts. The E&HR Act requires that public service providers make reasonable adjustments for disability in the provision of services. May I suggest that printing planning notices in a normal or larger font size in press notices is a reasonable adjustment, possible at minimal cost. I also bring this to the attention of local activist groups involved in local planning issues.</p>	<p>font size in any formal notifications, such as in letters and on-line. The Council's planning portal is used by many other Council's for consultation purposes and was adopted for the Regulation 18 consultation on this basis. The Council will review the comments received on the practicalities of using the portal ahead of the Regulation 19 consultation.</p>	

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			By the way, not every Wirral citizen has access to a computer and your Consultation Portal, for many older, less savvy people, even with a computer, is not a portal but an obstacle.		