

LPA engagement table

DCO Stage	NNC involvement	Relevant Timescales	Explanation
<p><b>Pre-application stage</b></p>	<p>1. Joint working arrangements with other Local Planning Authorities (LPAs)</p>	<p>No fixed timescales</p>	<p>This is a means to organise joint working arrangements, where it can improve efficiency and saves on costs.</p> <p>In this case the Council should seek to establish joint Working arrangements with West Northamptonshire Council and Milton Keynes Council.</p>
	<p>2. Informal discussions on the approach to consultation with applicants and information gathering.</p>	<p>No fixed timescales.</p>	<p>This stage is simply a means to find out more information about the project and undertake informal discussions about how an applicant intends to consult with the community.</p>
	<p>3. Assist with preparation of Statement of Community Consultation (SOCC).</p>	<p>No fixed timescales</p>	<p>Some local authorities work collaboratively with a developer to prepare the SoCC in an iterative way and this is encouraged by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). But there is no requirement for the developer to work with the local authority.</p>
	<p>4. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping</p>	<p>28 days</p>	<p>Consultation by the developer on the emerging preliminary environmental information, to inform the EIA. The Council was a statutory consultee for the purposes of informing the scope of the EIA to be carried out by the developer.</p> <p>The consultation response on the EIA Scoping which was issued to PINS on the 22 August 2024.</p>

			PINS make a final decision on the scope of the EIA. PINS issued their response to the developer on 30 August 2024.
	5. Formal response to the SOCC.	28 days pursuant to Section 47(3) Planning Act 2008.	<p>A developer must give a local authority 28 days to comment on the draft SOCC.</p> <p>The Council's consultation response on the draft SOCC which was issued to the developer on the 17 September 2024.</p>
	6. Respond to Statutory Consultation (Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008)	6 weeks pursuant to Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008.	The Council has only 6 weeks to respond and as such it is not considered practical nor possible to engage with Members within this timescale. A response to the developer was required by the 19 December 2024 and will be issued to them on or shortly before that date.
	7. Commence work on the Local Impact Report (LIR)	No fixed timescales for commencement deadline for submission to be provided by PINS	In line with PINS guidance, an early start on the LIR is recommended although this would not be provided/completed within the preapplication stage (see below), but this is something that is requested in the early part of the examination phase and the timescale for this request is not fixed (it is at the discretion of the Examining Authority (ExA)). In any event, the LIR is a factual based report, which seeks to simply provide a factual presentation of the potential impacts of the proposed development, taking account of the local knowledge and experience of the authority. It does not seek to appraise the project nor indicate support or otherwise but is designed to assist the ExA in the consideration and assessment of NSIP projects.

	8. Commence work on Statements of Common Ground (SOCG)	No fixed timescales for commencement deadline for submission to be provided by PINS	The preparation of any SOCG (and there may be more than one) is something that is progressed and managed by the applicant. It is not mandatory to produce them at the pre-application stage, but they are requested by the ExA at the examination stage (see below). Any areas of agreement, if confirmed at this stage, would not relate to the merits of the development, but typically factual elements, including how the project will be assessed, including the methodology for assessment with regard to EIA.
	9. Discussion on Requirements	No fixed timescales deadline for submission to be provided by PINS	'Requirements' form part of the DCO Statutory Instrument, but they are akin to planning conditions on a planning permission. As with planning conditions, they are the mechanism for producing detailed areas of work and/or mitigating the impacts of development. If tabled at the pre-application stage, they would comprise early discussions.
<b>Acceptance Stage</b>	10. Obtaining specialist legal and other advice	No fixed timescales	Although there are no fixed timescales timely specialist advice will be important.
	11. Preliminary Meeting	Single date provided by PINS	This is a procedural meeting only, relating to how the examination will be conducted.
	12. EIA Preliminary Environmental Impact Adequacy of Consultation Response	14 calendar days	PINS then have 28 days to decide whether to accept an application for examination based on satisfying a number of statutory tests within the Planning Act 2008.  Within this period, PINS invite the relevant local planning authorities to comment on the adequacy of consultation. PINS cannot extend this timescale.

<b>Pre-Examination Stage</b>	13. Principal Areas of Disagreement Summary Statement ('PADSS') (if requested by PINS)	No fixed timescales with date to be provided by PINS	To prepare and provide the ExA a document setting out the Council's position on the key areas of disagreement.
	14. Relevant Representations	Date to be set by PINS but within 28 calendar days from day after statutory notice published	A 'relevant' representation provides the initial opportunity during pre-examination to set out the main issues, impacts and concerns that the Council may have. It is an important procedural step, as it enables registration for active participation in the examination. It is based on a fixed timetable to be decided by the ExA.
	15. Finalise LIR	Date to be set by PINS	Following the submission of the application, the finalised LIR can be drafted.  This will be a large document and so adequate time for Executive Member engagement must be factored in.
	16. Submission of LIR	Date to be set by PINS	As per the approach recommended at pre-application stage. Completion of the LIR. The timescale is discretionary and is set by the ExA. On the basis that the LIR will be drafted and finalised in the pre-examination stage in consultation with the Executive Member, the LIR will simply be released to coincide with the ExA timetable.
<b>Examination Stage</b>	17. Input into SOCG.	Date to be set by PINS	As part of an iterative process, inputs are provided throughout the examination, up to the point that a final version is agreed. Responses are dictated by the examination timetable.

			Note that there may be more than one SOCG.
	18. Written Responses	Date to be set by PINS	Written responses comprise a combination of responding to the written questions of the ExA and comments on other representations.
	19. Participation in Hearings	Date to be set by PINS	A number of hearings take place during the examination. This comprises round table discussions, where it is expected that verbal representations on the issues will be provided by the designated planning officer. It may be that Members (particularly Ward Members) may wish to be present at certain hearings to observe or actively participate and the hearing will be public so Members will be able to arrange their attendance.
<b>Post Decision</b>	20. Respond to consultation on material and non-material changes.	Timescale set by Secretary of State	Although the Secretary of State retains decision making powers, the Council will be a statutory consultee on any proposed material and non-material changes to the DCO post decision.
	21. Discharge monitoring and enforcement of any Requirements, including the discharge and enforcement of obligations contained within a Section 106 legal agreement.	Ongoing obligation with no fixed end	The 'Requirements' form part of the DCO Statutory Instrument and are finalised on the assumption that the Secretary of State approves the application. The responsibility of discharging requirements falls to the LPA, as does enforcement, in the event of non-compliance. As the DCO is a statutory instrument, there would be no need to consider public interest, as non-compliance would be a direct breach of legislation.