### Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

[As referred to in the notice published under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scheme Name</th>
<th>Morpeth Northern Bypass</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Northumberland County Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>July 2012</td>
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1. Our Statement of Community Consultation

Northumberland County Council (NCC) are preparing to submit an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to the Secretary of State to obtain the necessary powers to construct the Morpeth Northern Bypass, from Whorral Bank Roundabout on the A197 westward to the A1, south of Fairmoor (the “scheme”). This application will be made under the Planning Act 2008, (referred to below as “the Act”). The Planning Inspectorate is the government agency responsible for examining DCO applications.

Although part of the scheme (A1 – A192 Link Road) was granted planning permission in 2003, a new planning application is necessary for the whole scheme. This will allow the scheme to be constructed in one operation, with improved benefits, less environmental impact during construction and a smaller funding requirement from central government.

As the scheme involves the construction of a new junction, and alterations to an existing junction on the A1 trunk road, it meets the criteria to be classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Act.

The Act requires NCC as the Applicant, to undertake public consultation in advance of submitting the DCO to the Secretary of State. A Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) must be prepared, setting out how we propose to consult people living in the vicinity of the scheme about the new proposals.

As required by the Act, we have consulted with the local planning authority (NCC) about the SoCC during June and July 2012. Their responses and comments have been taken into account in our published documents.

A notice stating where and when the SoCC can be inspected will be published in local newspapers.

At the same time as consulting with the local community and the public, we will be consulting with other local authorities, statutory consultees and stakeholders in accordance with the Act. NCC will take account of the responses received in developing the final proposals for the scheme prior to submitting the DCO application.

This is the public’s opportunity to comment on the proposals for the scheme and influence them.

The County Council will undertake consultation in accordance with this SoCC and is committed to being open and transparent in the dealings with the local community and key stakeholders throughout the pre-application consultation
process. Copies of the public notices, to be published in the press in advance of
the public consultation period, are included within Appendix A.

2. Proposal summary

Construction of the A1 to South East Northumberland Strategic Link Road has been a long held ambition of Northumberland County Council as an important solution to the varied transport issues faced by Morpeth and the former mining communities to the east.

Following the successful completion of the Pegswood Bypass in 2007, Council engineers have been developing proposals for the Morpeth Northern Bypass, the final section of the A1 to South East Northumberland Link Road which will link the A197 at Whorral Bank to the A1 Trunk Road south of Fairmoor.

Morpeth Northern Bypass will start from Whorral Bank roundabout on the A197 north east of Morpeth, and head westward, skirting the northern edge of Morpeth and connecting to the A192 at Lane End, Northgate. This section is referred to as the St. George's Link and will be similar in character to the Pegswood Bypass. It will include two parking laybys and a new roundabout west of How Burn which will provide access to the St. George’s hospital site. The route continues south westward until it intersects with the A1 trunk road, where an all movements grade separated junction will be constructed west of Lancaster Park. This section is referred to as St. Leonard’s Junction and will be similar in character to the one constructed at Stannington in 2004.

The overall geometry of the route will be to ‘A’ road status with a 60mph speed limit, two distinct overtaking sections and restricted junction access, making for safe motoring, particularly when joining the A1. The route of the bypass requires the crossing of three minor tributaries of the River Wansbeck and Fulbeck Lane (U6010). The tributary at Pegswood Moor will only require a large drain to accommodate the small intermittent flow, whereas the How Burn and the Cotting Burn will pass through embankments via arch structures with openings large enough to accommodate the watercourse and wildlife. At Fulbeck Lane the bypass will be in a cutting and this consultation will decide on the type of crossing to be provided; a road bridge, a footbridge or an at-grade pedestrian/cycle crossing.

The new bypass will not just cater for drivers, the proposals also include for a new 2.5 metre wide shared use cycle/footway similar to that which was successfully introduced as part of the Pegswood Bypass. The scheme will further
extend the growing cycleway network across the county and link in with existing footpaths in the area, such as a new link from Lancaster Park to provide a safe alternative to crossing the A1 trunk road.

An engineering project of the scale of the Morpeth Northern Bypass inevitably has an effect upon the natural environment. To ensure that adverse impacts are limited, the effects upon both the landscape and biodiversity of the area have been considered at every stage of the design process. The design of the bypass has been sensitive to the relationship between the proposed road and the existing landscape. For example, to help reduce the visual impact of the road and moving traffic, much of the bypass will be set below ground in cutting. Wherever possible the character of the existing landscape will be enhanced and the conditions for wildlife improved. Hedgerows with trees, for example, are proposed along all new highway boundaries. Over time, these will provide visual screening, establish field patterns, improve habitat links and help integrate the new road into the existing landscape.

Full details of the latest proposals; plans and supporting documentation (including preliminary environmental information), are available at the Northumberland County Council website (www.morpethnorthernbypass.org) or, to view (free of charge) at the locations and, for the periods stated (excluding public holidays), in the table at the end of Section 2.

Environmental Impact Assessment Development

The Morpeth Northern Bypass is an Environmental Impact Assessment Development (EIA Development), as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Regulations) 2009. This is due to the nature of the scheme and the impact it will have on the environment. EIA developments require extensive environmental investigation work and assessments to be undertaken and a full Environmental Statement to be submitted as part of the DCO application.

The scheme currently has an Environmental Statement (ES) that was undertaken for a previous planning application that had been submitted to the local planning authority, but that application has been withdrawn. For the purposes of this application the previous ES will become the Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI), updated to reflect the changes to the scheme.

The PEI summarises what environmental assessments have been undertaken, those which we plan to complete and a preliminary assessment of the key environmental issues. It also outlines the mitigation, enhancement and compensation measures that are under development. For example, to offset the adverse ecological impacts of the proposed scheme, extensive areas of new habitat; native woodland, hedgerows, ponds and wildflower areas have been
included. These extensive mitigation measures are detailed within the PEI and consultation documents.

In summary, the Morpeth Northern Bypass aims to enhance the biodiversity of the area and extend the opportunities available for walking, cycling and horse riding in the area. The areas currently suffering the effects of current congestion levels, poor air quality and noise pollution, should see an improvement in current conditions as a result of the new road scheme. In particular Morpeth town centre should see reduced traffic congestion and improvement in air and noise impacts.

For further details please consult the PEI documents.

**Proposal details**

The PEI will be available, with the other proposal information, between Monday 20th August and Friday 28th September 2012, at the locations listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location of available information</th>
<th>Availability</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Northumberland County Council</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Hall</td>
<td>Available for inspection between the hours of:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morpeth</td>
<td>9am - 5pm Monday to Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE61 2EF</td>
<td>9 am – 4:30 pm Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel: 0845 600 6400</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morpeth Library</td>
<td>Available for inspection between the hours of:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas House Lane</td>
<td>9am – 7:30pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morpeth</td>
<td>9:30am – 12:30pm Saturday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE61 1TA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel: 01670 500390</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Centre</td>
<td>Available for inspection between the hours of:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 Bridge Street</td>
<td>9am - 5pm Monday to Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morpeth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE61 1NL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel: 0845 600 6400</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Morpeth Town Council</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Morpeth Town Hall</td>
<td>Available for inspection between the hours of:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Market Place</td>
<td>9am - 5pm Monday to Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morpeth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE61 1LZ</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel: 01670 514314</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pegswood Parish Council</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Union Enterprise Centre</td>
<td>Available for inspection between the hours of:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Front Street</td>
<td>9am - 12 noon Monday to Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pegswood</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE61 6RG</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel: 01670 514299</td>
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</table>
Consultation events will be advertised in the local press and copies of the scheme information will also be available to view at these events. These public events are listed in Section 7 of this document.

Copies of the information that is available at these locations can be provided subject to the following charges. Electronic copies of the information are available to download free of charge from the website. Paper copies will be supplied at a cost of £20 per drawing and £50 per document. These are available from Morpeth Northern Bypass, Highways Design Team, County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 2EF.

3. Purpose and context of consultation

Appendix B contains a summary of the scheme history, including the various consultations that have previously taken place. We understand that much of the community are aware of the proposals and will have been involved in previous consultations. However, we would like to take this opportunity to introduce the scheme to new members of the community and consult with everyone about the latest proposals and the changes that have been made.

We want to provide the opportunity for the community to express their opinion and become involved in developing the details of the scheme. By consulting at this pre-application stage:

- residents and businesses have the opportunity to comment on and express their opinions about proposals that will affect their community; and in particular the areas of the design that have changed.

- the consultation generates feedback that can influence the details of the design proposal and any proposed mitigation measures.

- we should be able to develop the best possible scheme by working together.

- accurate information will be provided to those directly affected by the scheme helping to allay fears and reduce uncertainty.

Other consultations in the area

We are aware that there has already been much consultation about the Morpeth Northern Bypass, but would ask that communities still become involved in this consultation activity. During this consultation period we also know of a number of other consultations that will be ongoing. We have worked with other colleagues at Northumberland County Council to ensure that we identify consultations occurring
during the same timeframe. Where there is overlap we will try to coordinate our approach to avoid multiple events on the same day, and overloading people with information and the risk of “consultation fatigue”.

Northumberland County Council are aware of the following consultations and public events that are being undertaken by the Government, local authorities, statutory agencies and other organisations in the vicinity of the proposed scheme during the coming months.

Within the Morpeth area we are aware of the following activities:

NCC Northumberland Core Strategy
Environment Agency Morpeth Flood Relief Scheme

We are aware that too much consultation occurring at the same time can lead to a level of confusion therefore we are working closely with the relevant bodies and departments within NCC to ensure that our consultation activities are clearly defined and where possible separated to avoid confusion.

4. What the consultation is about

Scope of consultation
This consultation is about our current proposals for the Morpeth Northern Bypass, including the changes that have been made since the Best and Final Bid application to the DfT in September 2011. The scheme involves the construction of the bypass from Whorral Bank Roundabout on the A197 westward to the A1 south of Fairmoor.

Design parameters
We are seeking comments on the following elements of the design.

Route and road type
Although the route of the proposed Bypass has been discussed at a number of previous consultation events since 1994, (set out in Appendix B) comments on the selected road corridor and the general alignment of the road are still welcome.

Design standards
The Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) sets out design parameters that provide standards and best practice guidance to achieve operational safety.
Our junction layouts and the overall alignment have been designed to comply with the current design standards. While we are open to suggestions and community comments and will consider where opinions or comments can be incorporated into the scheme, design parameters may restrict our ability to make certain changes.

**Construction**

We would particularly welcome community feedback and comment on the following elements of the design.

- The crossing of the bypass at the U6010 Fulbeck Lane: the alternatives are a road bridge, combined cycle/pedestrian bridge or at-grade crossing.
- Access routes: We will make available our proposals for construction access routes and in particular, those for large and irregular loads; including for example routes to be used when bridge beams are to be brought to site.
- Site compounds: Our proposed site compound areas will be detailed and we would welcome your feedback upon the proposed locations or suggestions for alternatives.

**Landscape and Ecology Proposals**

Landscape mitigation on road schemes is not purely for aesthetic or screening purposes, consideration is also given to the positive benefits that landscape design can make in terms of biodiversity and nature conservation. NCC has a 'duty' under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 to have regard for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity.

The landscape and ecological proposals have been developed in line with statutory and non-statutory legislation, and national and local planning policies. Northumberland County Council is committed to delivering a scheme which makes a positive contribution to the character of the landscape, whilst encouraging biodiversity at a local level.

There are a number of principles that have been applied to the landscape and ecological measures and it is these 'principles' that we seek comments on, these include;

- the use of native species, locally appropriate in terms species composition and preferably sourced with local provenance;
- works to conserve and enhance habitats, for example, translocating species rich hedgerows and seed banks;
- the creation of new habitats along the entire length of the scheme such as ponds, woodlands, hedgerows, meadows and bat roosts; and
- the creation of earthworks and the establishment of planting where there is particular concern about screening the road from a property or properties.
We would welcome any suggestions, possibly gained from local knowledge of the area that would help conserve and enhance biodiversity along the scheme corridor.

Consultation Timing
The consultation period is required to run for a minimum of 28 days. In agreement with NCC Planning we intend to undertake consultation over a 6 week period beginning Monday 20th August through to Friday 28th September 2012.

All comments and suggestions must be received by the close of the consultation period; Friday 28th September 2012.

We will continue to engage with the community, stakeholders, and statutory consultees in advance of and after this period prior to the DCO application being submitted.

5. Consultation strategy

As the scheme has been in the planning process for quite some time, we are looking to undertake a single stage consultation. The full proposals will be available to view to ensure that people new to the area or the proposals can gain a full understanding of them and give their own comments.

A newsletter, Morpeth Northern Bypass News, summarising the scheme, and the consultation process will be circulated to residents in the Morpeth area. It will also set out where and when consultation events will be held and other public meetings where people can have the opportunity to comment.

Two formal consultation events will be held in Morpeth (detailed in Section 7) during the consultation period. We will also be happy to attend meetings of established community groups (on request) to inform people of the changes and gather feedback and comments.

Upon completion of the consultation period we will prepare a Consultation Report. This report will summarise the comments that we have received to the proposals. The changes that have been made to the design in response to consultation will be detailed and where suggestions have not been incorporated into the design feedback will be provided as to why.

This report will be available to view on our website and copies of the report will be available to view at a list of locations to be published on the website in
November.

A copy of the report will also be made available on the scheme’s dedicated website.

Following consultation and the production of the Consultation Report, the next stage will be for NCC to formally submit an application and a draft DCO for the Morpeth Northern Bypass to the Secretary of State.

6. Who we will consult

Under Section 47 of the Act, Northumberland County Council is required to consult people living in the vicinity of the development. The ‘vicinity’ has broader implications than just those that live within the area; it extends to those who work in and or use the area (this can include small businesses, leisure users etc.).

To do this we will inform everyone living in residences in the Morpeth area of our public events by sending every property a newsletter. This will be the primary consultation area. A map showing our primary public consultation zone can be found in Appendix C.

In addition we will notify and send copies of the newsletter to all parish and town councils in the Morpeth area. This will be the secondary consultation area.

However, people outside these areas who may wish to comment are welcome to attend public events or contact us directly for information, through the project website or the telephone number included within Section 10. To encourage wider knowledge of the consultation process we will propose to seek agreement with other locations such as leisure and tourist places to allow us to install information boards detailing our proposals and consultation events.

In line with Section 47 of the Act we will consult with;

- Parish and Town Councils
- Organisations representing the business community including the Morpeth and District Chamber of Trade.

Outside the scope of the Section 47 consultation, but under Section 42 of the Act we are also required to consult the following groups, a process that will run in parallel to this community consultation.

- Statutory consultees, as specified in regulations and the scoping opinion provided by the Planning Inspectorate. This includes regional stakeholders and others such as the Environment Agency and Natural England.
• The local authority within whose boundaries the land falls; Northumberland County Council.

• Owners, lessees, tenants and occupiers of the land within the areas we propose to develop and those affected by the proposals.

• All neighbouring local authorities that share a boundary with the County of Northumberland and The National Park Authority. A map showing these authorities can be found in Appendix C.

7. How we will consult

During the pre-application phase, we will use a range of communication techniques and consultation events to ensure that the public and stakeholders have an opportunity to comment on proposals for the Morpeth Northern Bypass.

We will work closely with the local authorities to identify and engage with those people who do not want to make formal written representations or feel that they cannot engage with the planning process.

Our proposed consultation methods are set out below:

Parish/Town council meetings: we will offer to attend the meetings of Parish/Town Councils (Mitford, Pegswood & Morpeth) for those areas directly affected or impacted by the proposals. If requested, we will also attend meetings of Parish Councils not directly affected by the development.

Public exhibitions: we will hold public exhibitions at the locations below during the consultation period. These exhibitions will take place over mornings, afternoons and evenings to provide an opportunity for people to attend at a time to suit them. Public exhibitions will be staffed by members of the project team, including designers, engineers, and landscape architects to ensure that we can answer any questions.

At the public exhibitions we will have display boards outlining the scheme, the changes and key elements of the proposals. Selected design drawings and preliminary environmental information will also be available to view at these consultations.

We propose to hold public exhibitions on the following days:

Thursday 23 August, 11.00am – 7.30pm
Morpeth Town Hall, Market Place, Morpeth NE61 1LZ

Tuesday 4 September, 11.00am – 7.30pm
Morpeth Town Hall, Market Place, Morpeth NE61 1LZ
Residents meetings: where the proposals have a direct impact on properties, we will arrange meetings with those affected to discuss what has changed, the effects of the changes and attempt to address any concerns. Our engineers and design team members will attend these meetings to ensure that we can provide answers to any queries at the event. This process is already underway, but will continue throughout the consultation process.

If any established residents groups would like us to attend any meetings to answer questions we would be willing to do so on request.

Stakeholder meetings: during the consultation period we will invite key stakeholders to meetings to discuss our proposals and seek their comment.

Other communications techniques

We intend to use the following communication techniques to explain our proposals to the local community and stakeholders, advertise the consultation events, obtain comment and publicise the outcome of the consultation process:

Newsletters: we will distribute our newsletter to the community and stakeholders prior to and throughout the consultation period. The newsletter will be used to explain the scheme and the DCO application process.

Newsletters will be left in public areas such as shopping centres, parish/community halls and libraries for people to pick up if interested. Copies of the newsletters will also be available to view, or download, from the scheme website.

The newsletter, detailing our consultation events and how to engage with the DCO application process will be directly mailed to people within the primary consultation area listed in Section 6.

Copies of the newsletter will also be sent to all councils in the secondary consultation area.

Website: we will continue to update the scheme website (www.morpethnorthernbypass.org) with progress, key events and details of consultations etc. Consultation documents will also be placed on the scheme website for the duration of the consultation period and in advance of the exhibitions. This will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to view and consider areas they may specifically wish to discuss prior to the consultation events taking place.

There will also be a facility to submit comments about the proposals using the “Contact Us” link on the scheme website. Details of the consultation will be added to the consultation database in conjunction with the Communications and Consultation Team. The entry will provide a brief overview of the project and
options for users to submit their views.

**Media:** The local media, including the Morpeth Herald and the Newcastle Journal, will be used as appropriate to provide features and updates about our progress and proposals. We will also utilise them to publish details of exhibition dates, times and locations and of the final proposed DCO application.

**Council publications:** we will put information and articles into Northumberland County Council’s own publications and approach other local councils and parishes to put information and articles into their publications.

**Telephone contact - 0845 600 6400:** can be used to contact the County Council customer care centre, and in turn the project team, with queries and questions.

**Twitter:** http://twitter.com/N_landCouncil - the County Council’s twitter account will be used to promote the consultation process. Tweets will be posted to promote the individual consultation events as well as promote the range of ways in which stakeholders can engage in the consultation process.

**Facebook:** www.facebook.com/NorthumberlandCC - the corporate Facebook page will be used to highlight the project and the consultation process. This includes embedding the fly-through animation, details of consultation events and photos from events when available.

Users will be encouraged to post their comments and opinions to the page.

Throughout the consultation process comments can be supplied in writing using the project email address or postal address in Section 10.

To allow us time to consider the responses received we must set a deadline for receipt of all comments by letter or email, by Friday 28th September 2012.

**Feedback following consultation**

Upon completion of the consultation exercise, we will produce a Consultation Report, as detailed in Section 5. This will be available to view at our website and at the locations used for the proposal information in Section 2.
8. Indicative consultation timetable

A planned timetable for the pre-application consultation activities is shown below. This is indicative and may be subject to change depending upon how the scheme evolves, though we will make best efforts to achieve the dates shown.

All public exhibitions, meeting and events will be published in the local press not less than 14 days in advance to confirm dates, locations and times.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposed date/activity</th>
<th>Consultation period</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre Consultation</td>
<td>As required by the Secretary of State the following publications will be made available in advance of our consultation period:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 9/8/12: Notice of SoCC and s48 Public Notice published in Morpeth Herald newspaper</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 9/8/12: s48 Public Notice published in The Times newspaper</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 9/8/12: s48 Public Notice published in London Gazette newspaper</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 9/8/12: Notice of SoCC and s48 Public Notice published in Newcastle Journal newspaper</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• 14/8/12: s48 Public Notice published in Newcastle Journal newspaper</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 16/8/12: s48 Public Notice published in Morpeth Herald newspaper</td>
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<tr>
<td>20th August to 28th September 2012</td>
<td>Consultation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Formal consultation process begins 20th August 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Meetings with councils, stakeholders, residents and community groups</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Project information available on project website <a href="http://www.morpethnorthernbypass.org">www.morpethnorthernbypass.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Public exhibitions, including exit interviews</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Press announcements</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Deadline for responses 28th September 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 2012</td>
<td>Analysis of consultation comments and preparation of feedback</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Assessment of feedback received to the proposals</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Assessment of benefit to the scheme</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Design amendments, where possible, based upon community comments</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Production of Consultation Report detailing findings, changes as a result of consultation</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 2012</td>
<td>Anticipated submission of the application for the Development Consent Order to the Planning Inspectorate</td>
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9. How we will respond to consultation

NCC will carefully consider the responses received during the pre-application consultation period. Upon completion of the consultation period, we will publish a Consultation Report that will:

- provide a summary of the consultation process;
- set out how we have complied with the Act and relevant guidance;
- summarise the feedback received throughout the consultation process;
- explain how we have taken account of the feedback from all consultees, the community, local authorities and the statutory consultees;
- describe how the DCO application has been influenced or directly changed in response to the feedback received;
- explain where changes haven’t been made in response to comments with a statement of reasons why; and
- detail any instances where we have not followed the advice of a relevant local authority or the guidance issued by the Planning Inspectorate and explain why.

As this scheme has been subject to consultation over many years, this report will be supported by an Appendix covering historic consultations.

The Consultation Report will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate as part of the formal application.

To ensure that the community are aware of how their feedback has been incorporated into the design we will:

- Make the Consultation Report available for the public to view via our dedicated website and in hard copy at the locations listed in Section 2; where proposal information was available to view during the consultation period.
- Provide a downloadable copy of the Consultation Report on the dedicated website; and
- Use the local press to notify the community that the Consultation Report is available to view.
10. Further information

For further information about this community consultation or the Morpeth Northern Bypass proposals please:

- Visit the project website: [www.morpethnorthernbypass.org](http://www.morpethnorthernbypass.org)
- Email questions, comments or queries to: morpethnorthernbypass@northumberland.gov.uk
- Call us on 0845 600 6400
- Write to us at:

  Morpeth Northern Bypass  
  Highways Design Team  
  Northumberland County Council  
  County Hall  
  Morpeth  
  NE61 2EF
Appendix A: Published Notice of SoCC & s48 Public Notice
PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Statement of Community Consultation
(Published under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008)

About the Statement of Community Consultation

The process of Community Consultation sets out how Northumberfield County Council intends to consult the local community, interest groups and statutory consultees affected by the proposed Morpeth Northern Bypass (the "Scheme") from Wimborne Bank Roundabout on the A1/197 to the A1186 at Hounsfield. Details of these discussions and their outcomes can be read on the proposals. The Statement of Community Consultation can be viewed on the scheme website www.morpethnorthernbypass.org.uk or at the following locations listed below. Classification of the scheme as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) will involve the compulsory acquisition of land and other highway improvements and licenses. The Secretary of State’s decision will be made in consultation with the local impact of the Scheme.

The Planning Inspectorate is the government agency responsible for assessing DCO applications on behalf of the Secretary of State.

Proposal for the Consultation

This consultation is being carried out in accordance with paragraph 42 of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application. Northumberfield County Council will consider any comments received during the DCO application period. Northumberfield County Council will conduct an exhibition of information within the Morpeth area in the Lead in to the DCO application period. The exhibition will be held on the following dates to provide opportunities to come along and ask questions.

View our consultation documents

Part of the scheme, the Provision of Environmental Information and our Statement of Community Consultation will be available to view at the following locations from 20th August, throughout the consultation period until 28th September 2012. Excluding public holidays, the offices of Northumberfield County Council and Morpeth Library will be open for consultation.

Council Offices and Libraries

Morpeth Library
Gas House Lane
Morpeth
NE61 1TA
Tel: 01670 503935

Morpeth

Town Council
Morpeth Library
Market Place
Morpeth
NE61 1LZ
Tel: 01670 513414

Northumberfield County Council
Council Offices
28 Bridge Street
Morpeth
NE61 1LF
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**Notice of Statement of Community Consultation**
(Published under Section 67 of the Planning Act 2000)

**About the Statement of Community Consultation**

The Statement of Community Consultation sets out the context, how and why the proposed Development is needed and will need to be made to the Secretary of State.

The Application Process

The Development will apply to the Secretary of State for a DCO to construct, operate and maintain the scheme, and only if the Secretary of State is satisfied that the application is made in accordance with the relevant planning and other laws and regulations, will it be considered. The application will be determined by the Secretary of State.

The Application Process

The application is being made in accordance with the planning and other laws and regulations. The application is made in accordance with the relevant planning and other laws and regulations. The application is made in accordance with the relevant planning and other laws and regulations.

**Environmental Information**

The application will be made to the Secretary of State and the planning and other laws and regulations will be applied. The application is made in accordance with the relevant planning and other laws and regulations.

**How you can be involved**

You can help shape and influence the final scheme by viewing the proposals, attending our exhibitions, viewing the website and submitting your comments. A number of meetings will be undertaken to discuss the proposals. Further details will be provided on our website.

**View our consultation documents**

Please visit our website for further information on the consultation process and the development of the scheme and, as noted above, the consultation will be advertised in the local press and on the website.

**Meeting details**

To be held with all interested parties and community groups to explain the key changes from the previous proposals.

**Contact details**

For further information, please contact the parish council or the Local Authority. Further information can be found on our website.
Appendix B: Summary of consultation history

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Outcome(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>A1 – South East Northumberland Link Road included in County Council Transport Programme. This includes the Morpeth Northern Bypass as part of the scheme.</td>
<td>Document approved and published</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul &amp; Aug 2002</td>
<td>Public Exhibitions held at Morpeth Leisure Centre (16/07/2002) and Pegswood &amp; District Social Club &amp; Institute (18/07/2002). Smaller exhibition put up in County Hall (19 – 26/07/2002). Members Exhibition in County Hall (20/08/2002). These exhibitions showed the plans for the whole of the A1 – South East Northumberland Link Road (as it was known at the time) covering the Pegswood Bypass section, the A1 – A192 Link Road and the St Georges Link (the latter two sections make up the Morpeth Northern Bypass as it is now known). People were asked to comment on all sections of the proposals with comments to be received by 31/07/2002.</td>
<td>Approx. 350 attended the Leisure Centre. Approx. 200 attended the Social Club. 60 comments received. Comments noted and where possible incorporated into the design.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2003</td>
<td>Planning Application for Pegswood Bypass submitted to Northumberland County Council. Mentions other parts of the A1 – South East Northumberland Link Road including what is now known as the Morpeth Northern Bypass.</td>
<td>Planning Application for Pegswood Bypass approved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2003</td>
<td>Planning Application for A1 - A192 Link Road (which now forms the eastern part of the Morpeth Northern Bypass) submitted.</td>
<td>A1 - A192 Link Road Planning Application approved. Now lapsed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Outcome(s)</td>
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<td>---------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Castle Morpeth District Local Plan 1991 – 2006 adopted 2003. The route of the A1 – South East Northumberland Link Road was included in the Castle Morpeth District Local Plan which was approved via a Public Inquiry process which considered valid objections. The Plan was adopted in 2003.</td>
<td>The Planning Inspector indicated that the need for the road scheme had been established through consideration of the Northumberland County Structure Plan which had previously identified that the scheme was intended to improve access for communities in the South East of the County to the A1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of 2005</td>
<td>Regional assessment by Government Office North East included the Morpeth Northern Bypass in a 10 year programme of preferred major transport schemes.</td>
<td>Endorsement by the Department for Transport.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Northumberland County Council LTP 2 produced covering the years 2006 to 2011. Consultations prior to and during production of the document were done. The Morpeth Northern Bypass is considered as part of the proposed major transport schemes.</td>
<td>Scheme welcomed by Castle Morpeth while the Highways Agency wanted discussions connected with it. Final document accepted and published March 2006.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 2008</td>
<td>Public Exhibitions held at County Hall (5-7/03/2008) and Morpeth Library (8/03/2008). Following the completion of the Pegswood Bypass these exhibitions showed revised proposals consisting of a brief scheme history, alternatives considered, plans of the preferred route (&amp; reasons) and traffic &amp; environmental impacts of the completed scheme. Comments were requested prior to a 'Bid for Programme Entry' submission to the Department for Transport. Consultation letters were also sent out to all statutory &amp; non statutory bodies, councils, interest groups and stakeholders requesting comments.</td>
<td>Approx. 330 people attended over the 4 days. 59 written comments were received. For scheme 41% Against scheme 29% No decision but commented 25% Others 5%. Comments received back from consultees. Report written and published. The report discussed the comments raised, their merits and made recommendations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug to Nov 2009</td>
<td>Business Survey Questionnaire issued to over 600 companies employing 10 or more people.</td>
<td>Results included in Economic Impact Report.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
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<td>Outcome(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 2009 – Present</td>
<td>New website launched giving details of the scheme along with the ability to contact the design team, ask questions and make comments. Updated with latest information as and when required.</td>
<td>Ongoing. Regularly viewed by the public with some queries and questions raised. Up to end of June 2012 visitors had numbered in excess of 11000 with only 9 queries or comments relating to the scheme.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 2010</td>
<td>Public Exhibition held at Morpeth Town Hall (25/03/2010) prior to a Planning Application submission. The exhibition presented detailed scheme information and development since 2008 showing what was to be submitted for the planning application. The information included a brief scheme history, plans, traffic projections, visualisations, drainage and environmental details and a computer generated fly through which could be used to show views of the final proposals from anywhere within the scheme proximity such as views from specific properties. As per the 2008 consultation letters were also sent out to statutory &amp; non statutory bodies, councils, interest groups and stakeholders.</td>
<td>Over 500 people attended. 23 written responses were received. None raised issues which would prevent the submission of the planning application. Report written and published.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 – Mar 2011</td>
<td>Northumberland County Council LTP 3 produced covering the years 2011 to 2016. Consultations held between Nov 2010 and Jan 2011. The document mentions Morpeth Northern Bypass several times and other aspirations discussed are reliant on the construction of the bypass. The 2011 – 2015 implementation plan produced alongside the LTP states &quot;The scheme is the second phase in the construction of a strategic link road between south-east Northumberland and the A1 trunk road. The strategic link road has been an aspiration of this Council since 1995-6, when it was first proposed as a priority in the Transport Policy and Programme for that year.&quot;</td>
<td>Documents accepted and published. No adverse comments received relating specifically to the scheme.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 2011</td>
<td>Morpeth Northern Bypass Planning Application submitted to Northumberland County Council. Consultation on planning application October 2011 and February 2012. Legal advice received that the scheme now constituted a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project.</td>
<td>Planning Application withdrawn. Preparations begun for submission of application for Development Consent Order.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix C: Consultation maps

- Primary Consultation Zone
- Neighbouring Authorities
APPENDIX C
NEIGHBOURING AUTHORITIES

- Eden
- Cumbria
- Northumberland
- Northumberland National Park
- North Tyneside
- Newcastle upon Tyne
- Gateshead
- County Durham
- Carlisle
- Scottish Borders