

**CONSULTATION & ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY
NORTHAMPTON LOCAL PLAN (PART 2)**

**SUBMISSION DRAFT CONSULTATION (ROUND 2)
July/August 2020**

INTRODUCTION

This Consultation and Engagement Strategy sets out the arrangements for communication and consultation with the local community and all other relevant stakeholders in respect of the Submission Draft Consultation (round 2). This follows the first round of consultation that took place on the Submission Draft in May 2019.

The strategy meets statutory requirements set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, and the Northampton Statement of Community Involvement (June 2018). It also takes into consideration the measures imposed by the Government as a result of the coronavirus (COVID19) pandemic. COVID19 has affected the way the economy functions and the way people communicate, with measures such as social distancing and the request to stay at home / work from home affecting the quantity and quality of public facing interactions. The closure of commercial organisations and community facilities where people usually congregate means that consultation exercises need to be undertaken differently. These measures have affected the way in which consultation and engagement are expected to take place. These are reflected in the strategy below.

THE STRATEGY

Timing	Actions
June 2020	Two press releases: 1. One prior to the Cabinet papers being made public, around Monday the 8 th June or thereabouts, and 2. One prior to the start of consultation, around Wednesday 1 st July or thereabouts Social media communications on the Council's Twitter and Facebook.
13 July – 24 August 2020 (During consultation)	All consultation documents to be made available at the Inspection locations (the One Stop Shop at the Guildhall and all libraries in Northampton Borough) if the libraries are permitted to be opened. Visitors to the Guildhall will be required to observe the social distancing rules or any other measures required by the Government at that time. All consultation documents to be made available for review/download with on-line response facility available on the NBC website.

	<p>All letters or emails explaining the consultation and providing details of how to respond sent to specific consultation bodies¹, the general consultation bodies², neighbouring authorities, prescribed bodies³ and other organisations and individuals as appropriate.</p> <p>Paper copies of consultation documents to be made available at Parish Council offices and other community offices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if these are permitted to be opened and • if the Government's rules on social distancing or any other requirements can be enforced <p>Virtual consultation workshop for all Borough councillors.</p> <p>Virtual consultation workshop for all Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Forums in Northampton Borough.</p> <p>Public Notice will be placed in the Chronicle & Echo (this is mentioned in the SCI but is not a statutory requirement)</p>
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¹ The specific consultation bodies are listed in Regulation 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and relate to organisations responsible for services and utilities and infrastructure provision.

² The general consultation bodies are also specified in Regulation 2 of the 2012 Regulations and comprise:
voluntary bodies some or all of whose activities benefit any part of the local planning authority's area
bodies which represent the interests of:

- different racial, ethnic or national groups in the local authority's area
- different religious groups in the local planning authority's area
- disabled people in the local planning authority's area
- persons carrying on business in the local planning authority's area

³ The prescribed bodies are specified in Regulation 4 of the 2012 Regulations (as amended) and in the case of Northampton are:
Environment Agency, Historic England, Natural England, Civil Action Authority, Homes and Communities Agency, NHS, Office of Rail Regulation, Highways England, Northamptonshire County Council Highways, , South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership, Northamptonshire Local Nature Partnership