

New Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan 2045

DRAFT ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

OCTOBER 2026



Dorket Head Quarry, taken by the County Council (2023)

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council are jointly preparing a new Minerals Local Plan to provide the planning framework for mineral development across Nottinghamshire and Nottingham up to 2045. The Plan will establish a long-term vision for the sufficient and timely supply and management of minerals and will guide decisions on future mineral extraction and related development over the Plan period.
- 1.2. The Plan will cover the administrative areas of both authorities and reflects the shared commitment to delivering a consistent approach to minerals planning across Nottinghamshire and Nottingham. The Councils have chosen to prepare a joint plan in recognition of potential future local government reorganisation and to ensure comprehensive strategic planning across the wider area.

Scoping consultation

- 1.3. After publishing our Notice of Intention to Commence Plan Preparation on the 31st of July 2026, the Councils are now taking the first steps in the Plans preparation as identified in our [Local Plan timetable](#), which is to undertake a scoping consultation.
- 1.4. As set out in the regulations, the scoping consultation is inviting you to make representations on:
 - Matters relevant to the preparation of the minerals plan as the Councils consider appropriate, including what the document should contain
 - How the authority should engage with stakeholders in the preparation of the minerals plan
- 1.5. The Councils are therefore seeking views on both points in this scoping consultation and have published the following documents for consultation, each of which address a key topic:



Scoping document on Plan matters

Seeks views on key matters for the Plan and outlines what the Plan is likely to contain



Engagement strategy (this document)

Outlines the Councils proposed approach and seeks views on how we intend to engage and consult you at the consultation stages



Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening report

This screening assessment considers whether the Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects and whether a SEA is required.



Draft Local Aggregates Assessment (containing 2025 sales)

A key background document which will inform the future demand and need for minerals in Nottinghamshire



Draft site selection methodology

Outlines and seeks views on the proposed site selection methodology which will be used to assess sites for allocations.

- 1.6. We are keen to seek your views on the above documents and encourage you to respond to the questions asked within the scoping document, engagement strategy and draft site selection methodology.
- 1.7. To assist the Councils in analysing responses in a timely manner, the questions are within each document.
- 1.8. **Please note that the scoping consultation will run from the 12th of October 2026 until the 9th of November 2026.**

Engagement strategy

- 1.9. The preparation of the Minerals Local Plan provides an opportunity for communities, businesses, landowners, industry representatives, statutory consultees and other interested parties to help shape future minerals planning policy in Nottinghamshire.
- 1.10. This engagement strategy sets out how the Councils intend to involve stakeholders throughout the preparation of the Plan. It explains:
- The principles that will guide engagement and consultation;
 - How and when consultation will be undertaken;
 - Who will be consulted;
 - The methods that may be used to engage stakeholders and gather views;
 - How personal data and representations will be managed; and
 - How engagement activities will be monitored and reviewed.
- 1.11. We want to gain your views on how you want to be consulted and would appreciate your views in response to the questions posed throughout this document.

- 1.12. A finalised engagement strategy will be developed as part of our Gateway 1 self-assessment.

How to respond

- 1.13. We want to hear from you and gain your views. The best way to submit your responses to the questions is by responding via our [online consultation portal](#). You will need to create an account but by using the portal, you will be able to directly respond to the questions and select which stages of the Plans preparation you wish to be updated on. It will also reduce time taken to process responses and aid the Councils in analysing responses in a timely manner and move onto the next stages.

- 1.14. Alternatively, you can submit responses via

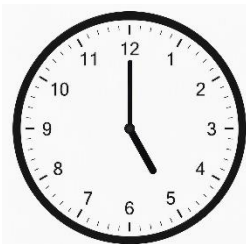


Email to: MineralsLocalPlan@nottsc.gov.uk



Post to: FAO Planning Policy Team, Nottinghamshire County Council, County Hall, Loughborough Road, West Bridgford, NG2 7QP

- 1.15. If you choose to submit responses via email or post, you must include within your response:
- Your name, and if representing an organisation, the name of the organisation and your position
 - Contact point (email or postal address)
 - The document you are responding to
 - The question number you are responding to



RESPONSES MUST BE RECEIVED BY 17:00 ON MONDAY THE 9TH OF NOVEMBER 2026.

RESPONSES RECEIVED AFTER THIS TIME MAY NOT BE ACCEPTED NOR TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION.

- 1.16. Please note that your comments and name will be publicly published on our website. Any personal information that you provide will be used by the Councils for the purpose of the Minerals Local Plan only. Please see our [privacy notice](#) on the County Councils website under Transport, environment and economy.

- 1.17. By submitting a representation or choosing the new Minerals Local Plan as a topic of interest on our consultation portal, you will be automatically added to our contact database. You will therefore be notified of when the Plans progress hits key milestones at the registered email or postal address provided to us.
- 1.18. If you wish to be removed from this database and no longer receive these notifications, this can be requested at any time by contacting us via emailing MineralsLocalPlan@nottscc.gov.uk.

Any questions?

- 1.19. If you have any questions regarding any of the documents, the consultation or the new Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan in general, please contact us via:



Email: MineralsLocalPlan@nottscc.gov.uk



Phone: 0300 500 8080

2. Principles of engagement

- 2.1. In preparing the Minerals Local Plan 2045, the Councils will be guided by the following principles:



Inclusivity

Seeking to engage all sections of the community and ensuring opportunities are available for those who may otherwise find it difficult to participate.



Accessibility

Providing information in clear formats and offering a range of consultation methods, including digital and face-to-face opportunities where appropriate.



Transparency

Clearly explaining the purpose of engagement activities, the matters under consideration, and how stakeholder feedback will contribute to decision-making.



Proportionality

Using engagement methods that are appropriate to the scale and significance of the issues being considered at each stage of plan preparation.



Collaboration

Working with communities, elected members, statutory consultees, neighbouring authorities, the minerals industry and environmental organisations throughout the process



Responsivity

Reviewing consultation responses carefully and considering whether changes to policy approaches or engagement methods are needed.

Equality, Diversity & Accessibility

Commitment to inclusive engagement

- 2.2. Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council are committed to ensuring that the preparation of the Plan is supported by an engagement process that is fair, inclusive and accessible to all.

- 2.3. The Councils recognise that different individuals and communities may experience barriers to participation. We will seek, wherever reasonably practicable, to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to engage with the plan-making process regardless of age, disability, sex, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership status, gender reassignment or sexual orientation. The Councils are committed to meeting their responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 and to promoting equality of opportunity throughout the preparation of the Plan.

Identifying and reducing barriers to participation

- 2.4. The Councils recognise that traditional consultation methods may not be accessible to everyone. In designing consultation and engagement activities, consideration will be given to potential barriers that may prevent participation. Where barriers are identified, reasonable adjustments will be considered to support participation.
- 2.5. Appendix A1 demonstrates Accessibility Measures Associated with Consultation Activities.
- 2.6. Consultation materials will be prepared in a clear and understandable manner wherever possible. The Councils will seek to:
- Use plain English and minimise unnecessary technical terminology;
 - Provide summary documents where appropriate;
 - Use maps, diagrams and visual aids to explain proposals;
 - Publish documents in accessible digital formats;
 - Ensure online consultation platforms meet recognised accessibility standards
- 2.7. Alternative formats may be made available upon request, and a small fee may apply.
- 2.8. The Councils recognise that some individuals and communities may be less likely to participate in planning consultations. Where appropriate, additional engagement activities may be undertaken to encourage participation from these groups identified in chapter 4. This may include targeted communication, partnership working with community organisations, attendance at existing community events, or the use of alternative consultation methods.
- 2.9. Whilst digital engagement will play a significant role in the preparation of the Plan, the Councils recognise that not all stakeholders have access to, or confidence in using, digital technology. To support wider participation, the

Councils will seek to provide alternative opportunities for engagement where appropriate, which may include:

- Consultation events and exhibitions;
- Paper response forms;
- Written correspondence;
- Telephone enquiries;
- Access to documents at appropriate public venues or Council offices where available.

Equality Impact Assessment

2.10. The Councils will consider the potential equality implications of the Plan and associated engagement activities. An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) will be undertaken to help identify:

- Any disproportionate impacts on protected groups;
- Opportunities to improve accessibility and inclusion;
- Measures that may be required to reduce or mitigate adverse effects.

2.11. The findings of any Equality Impact Assessment will help inform both the preparation of the Plan and the design of engagement activities.

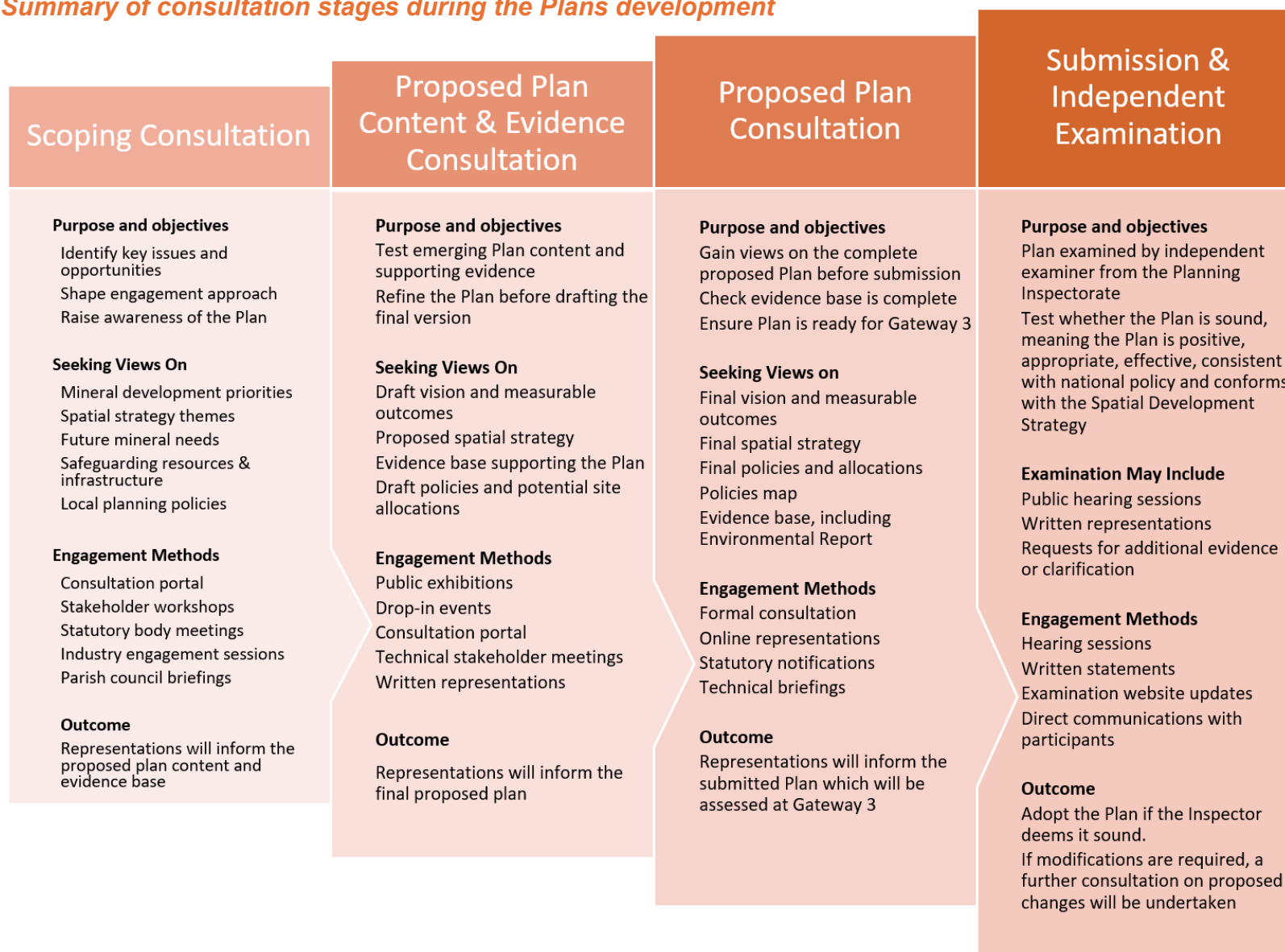
Question 1: Do you agree with the broad principles to consultation set out above? Is there any way we can make our approach more inclusive?

3. Consultation stages

- 3.1. The preparation of the Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan 2045 will involve three consultation stages designed to enable stakeholders to participate in the development of the Plan from its earliest stages through to adoption.
- 3.2. A summary of these stages is set out in Figure 1 below. Details of when we expect these consultations to occur are provided in the [Local Plan timetable](#). It should be noted that the timing of consultation may vary but the timetable will be reviewed and updated to reflect any changes on a regular basis.
- 3.3. The final stage highlighted in Figure 1 is the examination of the Plan by an independent inspector from the Planning Inspectorate. Whilst the engagement at this stage is directed by the Planning Inspectorate, it does offer further opportunities for individuals and organisations to be involved in finalising the Plan.

**New Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan
Draft Consultation Strategy – October 2026**

Figure 1: Summary of consultation stages during the Plans development



4. Who will be consulted

- 4.1. The Councils are committed to ensuring that anyone with an interest in minerals planning can participate in the preparation of the Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan 2045. Consultation activities will seek to engage a broad range of stakeholders, including the groups outlined below.



Local Communities

- Residents living within Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City
- Local community groups
- Parish and town councils
- Community interest groups

Communities which may be directly impacted by existing or proposed mineral development will be focused upon.



Elected Members

- Nottinghamshire County Councillors
- Nottingham City Councillors
- Parish and Town Councillors



Statutory consultees

- Environment Agency;
- Natural England;
- Historic England;
- National Highways;
- The Coal Authority;
- NHS bodies;
- Utility providers;
- Internal Drainage Boards;
- East Midlands Combined Authority
- Other government agencies and public bodies.



Minerals Industry and Landowners

- Mineral operators;
- Quarry owners;
- Site promoters;
- Landowners;
- Industry representative organisations;
- Infrastructure operators.



Environmental and Amenity Organisations

- Wildlife and conservation bodies;
- Heritage organisations;
- Landscape and countryside groups



Businesses and Economic Stakeholders

- Chambers of Commerce;
- Local businesses;
- Construction and development sectors;
- Infrastructure providers;
- Economic development organisations.



Neighbouring Authorities and Region / Sub Regional Bodies

- Neighbouring mineral planning authorities;
- East Midlands Combined Authority and Mayor;
- District and borough councils (until local government re-organisation);
- Relevant regional and sub-regional organisations such as the East Midland Aggregate Working Party



Hard-to-Reach and Under-Represented Groups

The Councils are committed to inclusive engagement and will seek to remove barriers to participation wherever possible. Additional efforts may be made to engage with the following groups, where resource allows:

- Young people;
- Older people;
- People with disabilities;
- Minority ethnic communities;
- Seldom-heard groups;
- Individuals with limited digital access.

Question 2: Have we captured the types of groups likely to need to be involved in the development of the Plan? Are any groups missing?

5. Methods and Delivery of Engagement

- 5.1. The Councils are committed to engagement that meet the principles set out in Chapter 2. A range of consultation methods will be used throughout the preparation of the Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan 2045 to maximise opportunities for participation and ensure that stakeholders can engage in a manner most appropriate to their needs.
- 5.2. The methods used at each stage will vary depending on the nature of the consultation, the complexity of the issues being considered and the audiences being targeted. Appendix A2 contains a Consultation Methods Matrix, which outlines the engagement techniques that may be used at the different stages of consultation, with each technique discussed in further detail below. This provides a framework for delivering proportionate and inclusive consultation throughout the plan-making process.

Online consultation portal and website

Online portal

- 5.3. The primary method of consultation will be through the Councils' dedicated consultation portal on the Nottinghamshire County Council website (and linked on the Nottingham City Council website). This will provide access to:
- Consultation documents and supporting evidence;
 - Interactive maps and site information where appropriate;
 - Online response forms;
 - Consultation reports and feedback summaries.
- 5.4. The online portal will allow stakeholders to review documents and submit comments electronically throughout designated consultation periods.

Dedicated website

- 5.5. Information relating to the progress of the Minerals Local Plan 2045 will be published on the [Nottinghamshire County Council website](#) (linked from the City Council website).
- 5.6. The website will provide:
- Information on the Plan and its timetable;
 - Notices consultations;
 - Details of consultation events;
 - Latest news on the Plans progress.

Direct notification

- 5.7. Individuals registered on the online consultation portal database will be notified of consultation opportunities and key milestones. Notifications may be provided through:
- Email;
 - Formal consultation letters where an email is not held;
- 5.8. Individuals and organisations will have the opportunity to register their interest and receive updates throughout the preparation of the Plan.

Public drop-in events

- 5.9. Where appropriate, public exhibitions and drop-in events will be organised to provide opportunities for communities and stakeholders to discuss proposals directly with planning officers. These events may:
- Present draft policies and site proposals;
 - Explain technical evidence in an accessible format;
 - Provide opportunities for questions and discussion;
 - Assist individuals in making representations.
- 5.10. We will seek to hold events in locations that are accessible to local communities and areas potentially affected by mineral development proposals.

Stakeholder workshops and meetings

- 5.11. The Councils may arrange workshops, roundtable discussions and focused stakeholder meetings on specific topic areas to enable more detailed discussion. Topics may include:
- Mineral provision and forecasting;
 - Introducing the Plan - scoping
 - Plan content and evidence
 - Cross-boundary strategic planning matters.

Parish and Town Council meetings

- 5.12. Parish and town councils play a very important role in representing local views and identifying community concerns. The Councils will seek to engage with parish and town councils through:
- Formal consultation notifications;
 - Attendance at parish meetings where appropriate;
 - Dedicated stakeholder events.

Industry meetings

5.13. Targeted engagement may be undertaken with:

- Mineral operators;
- Mineral industry representatives.

5.14. This will allow the Councils to better understand the views of commercial operators who have a direct interest in minerals planning issues.

Social media

5.15. Social media may be used to raise awareness of consultation opportunities and encourage participation. This is to complement, rather than replace, formal notification of consultations. These channels may be used to:

- Advertise consultation periods;
- Promote consultation events;
- Provide updates on the Plans progress;
- Signpost interested parties to further information.

Alternative formats and accessibility

5.16. The Councils are committed to ensuring consultation materials are accessible to all members of the community. Where reasonably practicable, information may be made available in alternative formats, where a small fee may apply, including:

- Large print;
- Accessible digital documents;
- Alternative file formats;
- Other formats on request.

5.17. The Councils will seek to comply with relevant accessibility legislation and good practice guidance when designing engagement activities and publishing consultation materials.

Question 3: Are there any alternative methods of engagement you would like to see? Please include further detail of methods and explain why these would be useful.

6. Data protection and handling of representations

- 6.1. During the consultation stages shown in Figure 1, representations can be submitted by individuals and organisations. Representations cannot be submitted anonymously and so the Councils must collect personal information for representations to be valid. This chapter details how we collect this data and how the Councils are committed to protecting and handling personal information and representations.

Commitment to protecting personal information

- 6.2. The Councils are committed to ensuring that personal information collected as part of the preparation of the Plan is handled lawfully, fairly and transparently.
- 6.3. The Councils recognise the importance of protecting personal data whilst maintaining an open and transparent plan-making process. All personal information will be processed in accordance with applicable data protection legislation and the Councils' respective privacy policies.

Collection of personal information

- 6.4. To administer consultations and maintain statutory consultation records, the Councils may collect personal information from individuals and organisations who participate in consultation activities. This information may include:
- Name;
 - Organisation (where applicable);
 - Postal address;
 - Email address;
 - Consultation responses and representations submitted;
 - Areas of interest relating to the Minerals Local Plan;
 - Preferred methods of communication.
- 6.5. Only information necessary for the administration of the consultation process will be collected. Personal information may be used for the following purposes:
- Managing and administering consultations;
 - Maintaining the Minerals Local Plan consultation database;
 - Notifying interested parties of future consultation stages;
 - Recording and considering consultation responses;
 - Preparing consultation reports and statutory planning documents;
 - Complying with legal and regulatory requirements associated with plan preparation.

6.6. Personal information will not be used for any other purpose.

Consultation database

6.7. The Councils maintain a consultation database to facilitate engagement with individuals, organisations and statutory consultees interested in planning policy matters.

6.8. Individuals may request to:

- Join the consultation database;
- Update their contact details;
- Amend communication preferences;
- Be removed from the consultation database.

6.9. The Councils will maintain consultation records in accordance with relevant records management and retention policies.

Handling representations

How representations can be submitted

6.10. Representations on the Plan should be submitted using the dedicated online portal which enables individuals and organisations to prepare, save and submit their representations. It is the most efficient way of making comment.

6.11. However, one or more of the following methods may also be used:

- Email;
- Written correspondence, preferably typed and able to be scanned and automatically converted into digitised format
- Responses made at consultation events, subject to them being able to be scanned and automatically converted into digitised form.

6.12. Details of submission methods and consultation deadlines will be published at each consultation stage.

Publication of representations

6.13. The preparation of a Local Plan is a public process, and transparency is an important part of the planning system. Representations submitted during consultation periods will be published on the online portal as well as within consultation reports, examination documents and other public records associated with the preparation of the Minerals Local Plan 2045. Where representations are published, the Councils will include:

- The respondent's name;
- The organisation represented (where applicable);
- The content of the representation.

- 6.14. Personal contact details such as home addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses will not be published. Respondents should be aware that representations submitted to the Councils may be made available for public inspection and will be provided to the Planning Inspectorate as part of any independent examination.
- 6.15. Respondents are advised not to include confidential, commercially sensitive or unnecessary personal information within their consultation responses unless such information is directly relevant to the matters being considered.

Feedback and reporting on representations

- 6.16. All representations received during formal consultation periods will be recorded by the Councils. Where representations are submitted electronically through the consultation portal or by email/hard copy, an acknowledgement of receipt will be provided. The acknowledgement will confirm that the representation has been received and will be considered.
- 6.17. Following each formal consultation stage, the Councils will prepare a consultation report summarising:
- The engagement activities undertaken;
 - The number of responses received;
 - Key issues raised by consultees;
 - How the comments have been considered in preparing the next stage of the Plan.
- 6.18. This feedback process is intended to provide transparency and demonstrate how stakeholder engagement has influenced the development of the Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan 2045. It may be prepared using AI to help digest and summarise large amounts of data, but officers will check, validate and professionally assess the merits of the issues raised.
- 6.19. Consultation is an important part of the plan - making process but does not constitute a referendum on planning policy or site allocations. The purpose of engagement is to inform planning decisions by providing local knowledge, evidence and stakeholder views. Decisions must also take account of:
- National planning policy and guidance;
 - Legal requirements;
 - Evidence-based assessments;
 - Strategic planning considerations;
 - Sustainability objectives.
- 6.20. The Councils will endeavour to communicate these constraints clearly throughout the preparation of the Plan.

Freedom of information and environmental information requests

- 6.21. Information submitted as part of the plan-making process may be subject to requests under:
- The Freedom of Information Act 2000;
 - The Environmental Information Regulations 2004;
 - Other relevant disclosure legislation.
- 6.22. Where such requests are received, the Councils will consider whether information can be disclosed in accordance with the applicable legal requirements and any relevant exemptions.

Retention of information

- 6.23. Consultation responses and associated records may be retained for as long as necessary to support:
- Preparation of the Minerals Local Plan 2045;
 - Independent examination proceedings;
 - Subsequent monitoring and review activities;
 - Compliance with legal and audit requirements.
- 6.24. Retention periods will be determined in accordance with the Councils' records management policies and statutory obligations.

Further information

- 6.25. Further information regarding the Councils' handling of personal data, privacy arrangements and information rights can be found within the respective privacy notices published by Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council. The Councils are committed to ensuring that consultation participants can engage with confidence, knowing that their personal information will be handled responsibly whilst maintaining the openness and transparency required by the planning process.

Question 4: Do you have any comment on our approach to handling the information we receive during engagement on the Plan?

7. Monitoring and review of the engagement strategy

- 7.1. Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council are committed to ensuring that engagement and consultation activities remain effective, inclusive and proportionate throughout the preparation of the Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan 2045.
- 7.2. Monitoring will enable the Councils to assess whether the objectives of this Engagement Strategy are being achieved and whether stakeholders have been provided with appropriate opportunities to participate in the plan-making process. The findings of monitoring activities will be used to inform continuous improvement and help ensure that future engagement activities are responsive to the needs of consultees.
- 7.3. Monitoring findings may be reported through consultation reports, committee reports and other published documents prepared during the development of the Plan. The Councils are committed to a culture of continuous improvement in engagement and consultation. Throughout the preparation of the Minerals Local Plan 2045, the Councils will seek to:
- Learn from consultation experience;
 - Adopt best practice where appropriate;
 - Improve accessibility and inclusivity;
 - Enhance communication methods;
 - Strengthen opportunities for stakeholder participation.
- 7.4. By regularly reviewing engagement activities and incorporating lessons learned, the Councils aim to ensure that communities, businesses, statutory consultees and other stakeholders remain at the centre of the plan-making process.

Question 5: Do you have any response to our approach to monitoring and seeking to improve our approach to engagement?

Appendix A: Consultation Methods Matrix

A1. Accessibility Measures Associated with Consultation Activities

The Councils will seek to ensure that consultation activities are accessible and inclusive by the following measures:

Accessibility Measure	Application
Accessible Digital Documents	All online consultation material
Plain English Summaries	Key consultation documents
Alternative Formats on Request	Consultation information
Accessible Event Venues	Public exhibitions and meetings
Hybrid/Online Participation Options	Workshops and briefing events where appropriate
Multiple Response Methods	Online, email and written submissions
Targeted Community Engagement	Under-represented and seldom-heard groups

A2. Consultation Methods by Plan Stage

Consultation Method	Scoping	Proposed content and evidence	Proposed Plan	Examination	Adoption
Consultation Portal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Council Website Updates	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Email Notifications	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Statutory Consultation Letters	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Public Notices	✓	✓	✓		
Social Media Campaigns	✓	✓	✓		✓
Public Exhibitions	✓	✓			
Drop-in Events	✓	✓			
Stakeholder/Online Workshops	✓	✓			
Industry Liaison Meetings	✓	✓	✓		
Parish and Town Council Briefings	✓	✓	✓		
Community Group Meetings	✓	✓			
Formal Written Representations		✓	✓	✓	
Examination Hearing Sessions				✓	
Consultation Reports	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Monitoring Reports					✓

Appendix B: List of consultation questions

Question 1: Do you agree with the broad principles to consultation set out above? Is there any way we can make our approach more inclusive? 7

Question 2: Have we captured the types of groups likely to need to be involved in the development of the Plan? Are any groups missing? 11

Question 3: Are there any alternative methods of engagement you would like to see? Please include further detail of methods and explain why these would be useful. ... 14

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