

Modernising the Planning System: Development Management Consultation

The Confederation of UK Coal Producers (CoalPro) represents member companies who produce over 90% of UK coal output including a similar proportion in Scotland. CoalPro is pleased to be able to respond to the above consultation as follows:-

- Q.1 - Yes
- Q.2 - No
- Q.3 - Yes
- Q.4 - No. It ought to be possible for authorities to respond on this issue within 14 days.
- Q.5 - Yes
- Q.6 - Yes
- Q.7 - Yes
- Q.8 - Yes
- Q.9 - Yes
- Q.10 - No. The right to appear should be restricted to the applicant or his representative and those who have made representations.
- Q.11 - CoalPro does not believe it necessary to refer such cases to the full Council. This seems to be a recipe for delay.
If the Scottish Government still wishes to introduce this provision, then the following additional requirements should be introduced.
- (i) Arrangements must be made to ensure that the full Council considers and decides on the Planning Committee's decision within 4 weeks of that Committee's decision.
- (ii) The full Council should be able to permit an application as well as merely ratify or refuse the Planning Committee's decision. This is particularly important in the case of a potentially perverse Committee decision.
- Q.12 - Yes
- Q.13 - No. It should be in place in advance of the submission.
- Q.14 - Yes, but see answer to Q.15 below on statutory consultees.
- Q.15 - The responses of statutory consultees represent a fundamental component in the processing of major applications. If processing agreements are to be meaningful, statutory consultees must be integrally bound into the process. CoalPro therefore believes that it is not merely a question of there being scope for statutory consultees to also sign the agreement but that they must be obliged to do so. CoalPro recognises that these

consultees have resource problems, but so do all other parties. It is up to them to ensure that they are adequately resourced and this is also a matter for the Scottish Government. Comments such as "we can't answer this at the moment because the person dealing with it is on holiday" will not do.

Q.16 - Yes

Q.17 - Yes

Q.18 - The pre-application discussions offer a major opportunity in this respect. Planning officers should be encouraged to identify and advise on what is required notwithstanding the fact that they may be aware that the application may result in a significant level of opposition.

Q.19 - Yes

Q.20 - Yes

Q.21-Q.26 No view

Q.27 - Yes

Q.28 - Yes

Q.29 - No view

Q.30 - Yes

Q.31 - Yes

Q.32 - Yes

Q.33 - Yes

Q.34 - This seems unnecessary

Q.35 - No

Q.36 - Yes

Q.37 - Yes

Q.38-Q.40 No view

Q.41 - Developments with the potential to have a major impact on communities.

Q.42-Q.48 No view

Q.49 - No