

7 CONSULTATION

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 An engagement strategy programme has been undertaken in preparation of the planning application and EIA. This engagement process provided an opportunity for external parties to express their views on the proposals prior to submission of the planning application. Responses from consultees have, where appropriate, contributed to and influenced the site design, development proposals and informed the EIA. Barr and its project team are committed to undertaking a comprehensive and inclusive engagement process.

7.2 Consultations

7.2.1 An acknowledged and important aspect of the EIA process, critical to scoping, is effective consultation. This has been carried out with relevant statutory bodies, which have a responsibility for the local environment, together with non-statutory bodies, to enable the evolution of an informed perspective.

7.2.2 Public consultation in accordance with the requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2008 has been carried out during the preparation of the planning application and the EIA.

7.2.3 The following statutory and non-statutory consultees were consulted during the formulation of the development proposals:

- East Ayrshire Council
- Local Community Councils
- Constituency MP's
- Constituency MSPs and Regional MSPs for South Scotland
- National Farmers' Union
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- Ayrshire Roads Alliance
- Glasgow Prestwick Airport
- Dumfries House
- Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce

- Cumnock Rotary
- Coal Authority
- Hargreaves
- ScottishPower Energy Networks
- The general public
- Local media

7.2.4 A summary of specific consultation events that have been undertaken prior to submission of the application is provided below. Full details of these events, and the issues raised and discussed by attendees, is provided in the Pre-Application Consultation Report that has been prepared by Barr and is attached as Appendix 7.1 to this Environmental Statement.

National Farmers' Union

- Boswells Coach House - Monday 23rd March

Cumnock Rotary

- The Royal Hotel – Tuesday 24th March

Public Events

- Tuesday 24th March, 4pm-8pm at Auchinleck Community Education Centre
- Wednesday 25th March 2015, 4pm-8pm at Drongan Community Education Centre
- Thursday 26th March, 4pm-8pm at Netherthird Community Education Centre
- Tuesday 31st March, 4pm-8pm at Ochiltree Community Education Centre
- Thursday 9th April, 4pm-8pm at Mauchline Community Education Centre

East Ayrshire Council

- Pre-application meeting – Thursday 22nd January 2015
- Site visit – Wednesday 18th February 2015