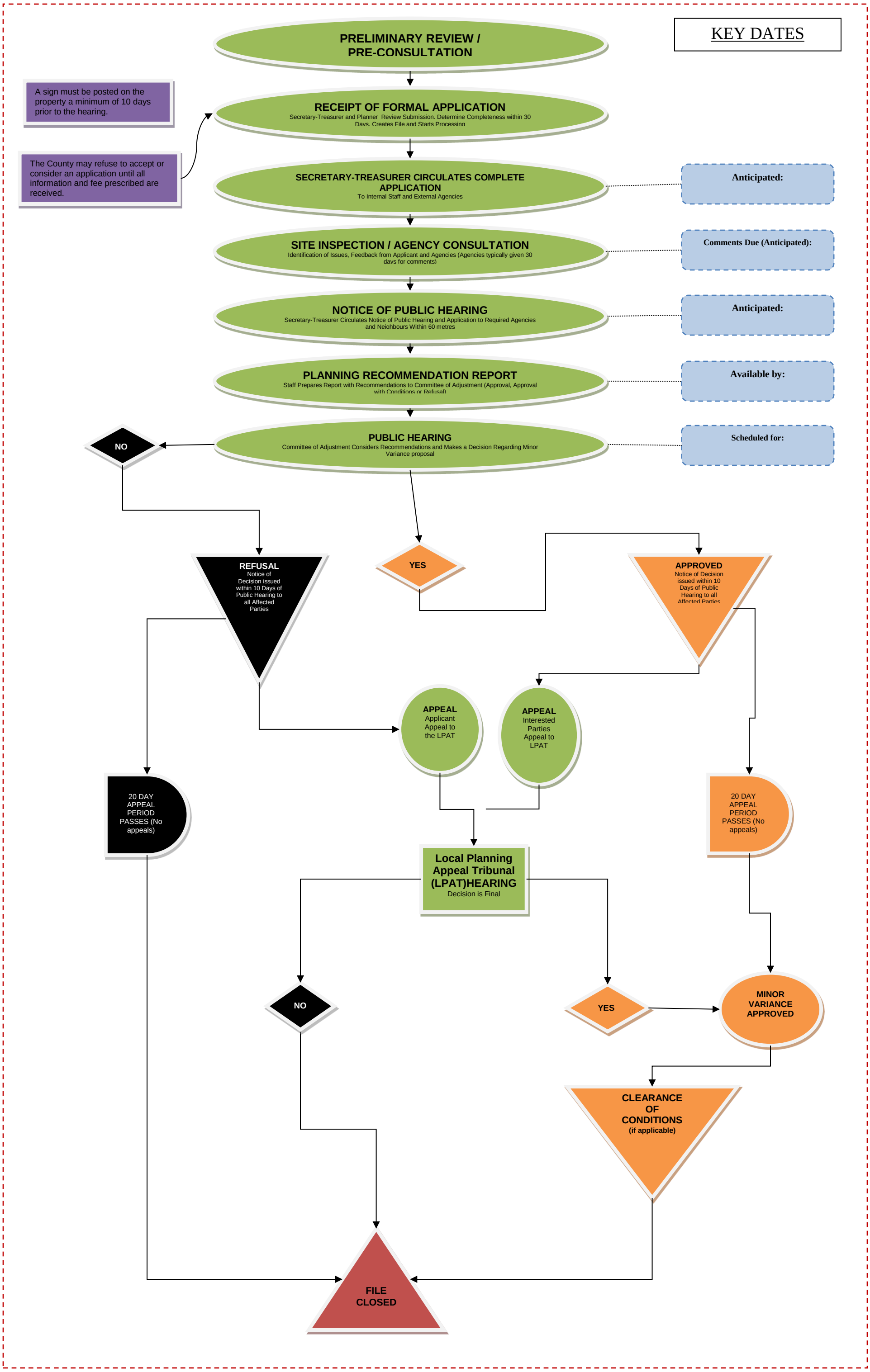MINOR VARIANCE PROCESS