

Initial Response to North Dorset's Schedule of Changes as raised at the Hearing Sessions (May 2015)

Document No	Page/para no	Comment
MHD006: The Need for an Early Review of the Local Plan		<p>The Council's recognition that an early review of the Local Plan will be required is supported. Although the difficulties of promoting a fixed timescale are acknowledged, it is not considered sufficiently robust to rely on a generalised commitment to an early review. The Local Plan Part 1 needs to include a definite commitment to a timescale for this review to give clarity and certainty to all users of the Plan, including local communities and the development industry.</p>
MHD007: Reappraising the Council's approach to Development in the Countryside		<p>The Council's revised approach is supported, in part, and particularly in proposing to reinstate settlement boundaries for at least the larger of the district's villages.</p> <p>The reinstatement of settlement boundaries for the villages listed is supported, but it is not considered that an up to date exercise has been undertaken to ensure that the approach encompasses enough villages. This more thorough review is essential as the Council proposes a very restrictive approach to development in the countryside as set out under Policy 20, with no proposals to review this policy. There is concern at the statement within paragraph 4.9 of MHD007, for example, that other villages would be <i>discouraged</i> from preparing a Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>Moreover, the way in which all the relevant Plan objectives, policies and text are re-couched is fundamental to see, for example Policy 2, to ensure that the change in approach is a comprehensive one to embrace government policy to support a robust and sustainable rural economy with thriving rural communities. The strategic approach to development in these rural communities is also critical to be set out positively in Local Plan Part 1 to set the strategic approach to Local Plan Part 2/ Neighbourhood Plans.</p>

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MHD018	4/4/46 Policy 4	<p>The deletion of the reference to green belt is supported at para 4.105 of Local Plan Part 1.</p> <p>However, it continues to be argued that it would be more appropriate and less confusing to include reference to Local Green Space under Policy 15, as Policy 4 deals more specifically with the natural environment, where land has a national landscape designation or a wildlife/environmental designation.</p>
MHD018	5/6/13 Policy 6	<p>Support is given to the approach of presenting the figures with the words 'at least'.</p> <p>It is suggested that in order to express the approach more positively the words 'should housing supply across the district exceed the 280 dwellings per annum target' be replaced with 'should housing supply across the district exceed 280 dwellings per annum' (recognising that the figure of 280 is the subject of further consideration).</p>
MHD018	5/16/19 Policy 6	<p>The final paragraph of the policy does not appear to have been reviewed in line with the revised approach to the larger villages to ensure a strong rural economy and thriving rural communities.</p>
MHD018	7/15/11 Policy 15 7/15/12 Policy 15	<p>This additional wording is considered helpful to clarify the interim status of the IOWAs, the review process both in the interim and longer term and the very special nature of Local Green Space designations.</p>
MHD018	7/15/16 through to 7/15/19 Policy 15	<p>The deletion of the references to Green Infrastructure Strategy in the actual Policy (Policy 15) is supported.</p> <p>At the risk of lengthening the policy, and notwithstanding the additional text proposed at 7/15/11 and 7/15/12, it is considered that it would be helpful to amend the final paragraph of the actual policy wording to make it more explicit that such designations are not appropriate for most green areas or open spaces.</p>

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MHD018	8/16/11 Policy 16 8/17/6 Policy 17 8/18/10 Policy 18 8/19/25 Policy 19	The wording change for all the four towns to promote development within the settlement boundaries rather than unnecessarily restricted to the built up areas is supported. This provides the flexibility for LP2 or Neighbourhood Plans to develop their own strategies to meet their own requirements without unnecessary constraint in the areas to be considered.
MHD018	10/27/1 Policy 27	The proposed policy wording serves to complicate rather than clarify the policy approach and cannot therefore be supported. Paragraph 17 of the Framework sets out that plans should provide a practical framework within which decisions on planning applications can be made with a high degree of predictability and efficiency. The final paragraph of the policy fails this test; it is not necessary and should be deleted.
MHD018	APP/D/7 Appendix D	It is considered helpful to include a definition of infilling in the glossary and the Council's proposed definition is supported.

LJE/14/05/15