

Decision Statement

On behalf of West Dorset District Council, 8 January 2015

West Dorset District Council has taken the decision to make the Cerne Valley Neighbourhood Plan (as modified in accordance with the Examiner's recommendations) part of the development plan for the Cerne Valley neighbourhood area.

Reasons

In December 2013 the Cerne Valley Group Parish Council submitted its neighbourhood plan and supporting evidence to West Dorset District Council. An independent examiner was appointed, and her report was received in August 2014. In summary, she concluded

- The Cerne Valley Neighbourhood Plan had been prepared in accordance with the statutory requirements and processes set out in the Town and County Planning Act 1990 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) and the subsequent Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.
- The Neighbourhood Development Plan does not deal with County matters (mineral extraction and waste development), nationally significant infrastructure such as highways and railways or other matters set out in Section 61K of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
- The Cerne Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan does not relate to more than one Neighbourhood Area and there are no other Neighbourhood Development Plans in place within the Neighbourhood Area.
- The Sustainability Appraisal, which also covers the Strategic Environmental Assessment requirement, and the amended Habitats Regulations Assessment screening, meets the EU Obligations.
- The policies and plans in the Cerne Valley Neighbourhood Plan would contribute to achieving sustainable development. They have regard to national policy and to guidance, and generally conform to the strategic policies of the West Dorset Adopted Local Plan 2006, the Development Plan.
- That the Cerne Valley Neighbourhood Plan, with recommended modifications, can proceed to a Referendum.

Having considered the examiner's recommendations, the district council held a referendum on 11 December 2014. More than half of those voting in the referendum voted in favour of the plan. No other issues have come to light which would suggest that the council should decline to make the plan.

The area covered by the Cerne Valley Neighbourhood Plan

The neighbourhood plan area covers the parishes of Cerne Abbas, Godmanstone, Nether Cerne and Upcerne, which form the Cerne Valley group.

What this means for the Cerne Valley Neighbourhood Plan area

In England, development plans are used to set out the planning policies for the development and use of land.

Planning applications are determined by local planning authorities such as West Dorset District Council. Planning decisions are made in accordance with the adopted development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

The policies in the neighbourhood plan are in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan. The policies contained in the neighbourhood plan will therefore take precedence over the non-strategic policies in the adopted Local Plan.

Where to find more information...

Copies of this decision statement and the adopted Cerne Valley Neighbourhood Plan can be viewed online at <https://www.dorsetforyou.com/neighbourhoodplanning/west/weymouth> and in the district council offices at South Walks House, South Walks Road, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1UZ during standard opening hours (8.30am to 5pm Monday to Thursday and 8.30am to 4.30pm Friday).

A copy of this statement is automatically sent to the parish council who submitted the plan and anyone who has asked to be notified of this decision.