

The Purbeck Core Strategy Development Plan Document Examination March 2012

Matter 14 – Central Purbeck (Policy CEN)

Introduction/Background

Policy CEN proposes a strategic settlement extension for Wareham that is unjustified and unnecessary. No special circumstances have been put forward for moving the Green Belt boundary. There is no reason why new housing cannot be delivered elsewhere in the District. This policy frustrates other policies within the Core Strategy, notably Policy GI to retain and improve green infrastructure, sport and recreation facilities and to improve their provision in accordance with the District's own evidence as set out in its Sports & Recreation Audit & Assessment. There is no need to mention the provision of new retail floor space in Wareham town centre because there is no requirement for such (as detailed in our Statement on Matter 7).

What particular part of the Core Strategy is unsound?

Policy CEN is unsound because the strategic settlement extension proposed in this policy is unjustified for the reasons set out above and in more detail in our Statements dealing with other relevant matters. It also frustrates and conflicts with policy to retain and improve green infrastructure, sport & recreational facilities set out in Policy GI and in the Worgret Road Development Brief [CD152].

Which criteria set out in paragraph 182 of the NPPF does it fail?

As set out above, Policy CEN is not justified and makes the Plan ineffective in that it frustrates the delivery of Policy GI.

Why does it fail?

For the above reasons.

How can the Core Strategy be made sound?

Policy CEN should be deleted because such a strategic settlement extension is not required.

What is the precise change/wording we are seeking?

Delete Policy CEN and any associated text justifying it.