

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF  
THE NORTH DORSET LOCAL PLAN PART 1  
2011- 2026 (LP1)  
ISSUES AND QUESTIONS  
INCLUDING DRAFT TIMETABLE**

**Venue:** The hearing sessions will be held in the Council Chamber, Nordon, Salisbury Road, Blandford Forum DT11 7LL, commencing on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at 10.00am.

**Council:** North Dorset District Council will be participating in all hearing sessions.

**Statement deadlines:**

All Statements, for the Hearing Sessions must be sent to the Programme Officer by **midday on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February**. This deadline relates to the receipt of the both **paper and electronic copies**.

**Statements:**

The Inspector requests written responses from the Council to all the matters raised.

Written Statements from Representors are not compulsory but if Representors feel a Statement is warranted they should seek only to answer the Inspector's Questions as far as they relate to their original representations.

The examination starts from the assumption that the Council has submitted what it considers to be a sound Plan and that the Council has fulfilled its legal duty with regard to the Duty to Co-operate. The hearings will be concerned only with considerations relating to the soundness of the document and the legality of the process followed, and all submissions should address those issues as appropriate.

The Guidance Notes provided set out the requirements for the presentation of all Statements. Its provisions should be thoroughly read and implemented as otherwise Statements could be returned. Please note the 3,000 word limit.

In the Statements from respondents it would be very helpful for the Inspector to have a brief concluding section stating:

- what part of the LP1 is unsound;
- which soundness criterion it fails;
- why it fails (point to the key parts of your original representations);
- how the LP1 can be made sound; and
- the precise change and/or wording that you are seeking.

**The Inspector will give equal weight to views put orally or in writing.**

**If you have any queries – please contact the Programme Officer at  
[ac.self@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:ac.self@blueyonder.co.uk)**

## **ISSUES AND QUESTIONS**

### **Preamble**

If the Inspector is satisfied that an Issue or question has been satisfactorily addressed in the submitted Statements it is possible that it may not be included in the final Agenda. Consequently the timetable and lists of participants may be subject to change, so please contact the Programme Officer or view the programme on the Examination page of the Council's web-site.

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March - 10.00**

**Introduction by the Inspector**

**Opening Statement by the Council**

**Issue 1 : The Duty to Co-operate, Legal Requirements and the Council's Broad Strategy (policies 1 and 2)**

### ***Potential Participants:-***

*North Dorset District Council*

*Taylor Wimpey*

*Welbeck Strategic Land Ltd*

*Barratt David Wilson Homes*

*Charborough Estate*

*Blandford St Mary Homes Limited*

*Mr Jason McGuinness (HABCO Ltd)*

*The Crown Estate*

*Lightwood Strategic Land*

*Okeford Fitzpaine Village Hall*

*Charles Church Developments*

*Sherborne School and Cancer Research UK*

*Okeford Fitzpaine Parish Council & DAPTC*

*National Home Builders Federation*

*Clemdell Ltd*

*South Gillingham Consortium*

*Mr P Dance*

*Hall and Woodhouse Ltd*

*Dorset County Council*

*Shaftesbury LVA LLP*

*Messrs Drake*

*Gleeson Strategic Land*

*Mr Vernon Knapper*

*Mr Michael Miller*

*C G Fry & Son*

*Persimmon Homes (South West)*

### **Questions**

- 1.1 Has co-operation between North Dorset District Council and other nearby local planning authorities been a continuous process of engagement from initial thinking? What evidence is there of effective co-operation (NPPF paragraph 181) and of joint working on areas of common interest being diligently undertaken for the mutual benefit of neighbouring authorities (NPPF paragraph 178)? Is there a long-term commitment to co-operation?
- 1.2 Have any cross-boundary strategic priorities or issues been identified? If so are they clearly reflected in LP1 (NPPF paragraph 179)?
- 1.3 Has LP1 been prepared in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement?
- 1.4 Is LP1 based on a sound process of sustainability appraisal and testing of reasonable alternatives, and does it represent the most appropriate strategy in the circumstances? Has the strategic site selection process been objective and based on appropriate

- criteria? Is there clear evidence demonstrating how and why the preferred strategy was selected?
- 1.5 Is the Council's core spatial strategy (policy 2) justified and compatible with the principles referred to in paragraphs 17 and 55 of the NPPF? Will the policies and proposals in LP1 contribute to the sustainable growth of the District?
  - 1.6 Paragraph 1.8 of the Sustainability Appraisal (SUD003a) refers to 'five market towns which act as hubs serving their rural hinterland'. Is Stalbridge the 'fifth' market town? The town is referred to as an individual settlement throughout LP1 (rather than included generically as a village). Is this an indication that it displays different characteristics to other small settlements in the District and as such are the policies being applied to it justified?
  - 1.7 Restrictive countryside policies will apply to settlements where settlement boundaries are proposed to be removed. Bearing in mind that only 230 dwellings (as a minimum) are proposed outside the 4 main towns, will housing need (including for affordable housing) and LP1 objectives 4 and 5 (page 23) in these locations be met? What is the justification for only proposing about 230 dwellings (6% of total provision) in smaller settlements? Why has the Council placed little weight on the 2010 SHLAA (MHN007) which identified 19 smaller settlements (page 47) suitable for some market and affordable housing? Are there any significant opportunities for sustainable residential or economic development in these settlements? (see also question 6.1)
  - 1.8 Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) on Rural Housing (paragraph 001) advises that rural housing is essential to ensure viable use of local facilities and that blanket policies restricting housing development in some settlements and preventing other settlements from expanding should be avoided unless their use can be supported by robust evidence. What is the robust evidence for the Council's approach? Is there a risk that the Council's approach, which includes the removal of all settlement boundaries (except for the four main towns), will lead to uncertainty and act as an impediment to sustainable development in these locations?
  - 1.9 Local Planning Authorities should boost significantly the supply of housing, including through the promotion of sustainable development in rural areas (NPPF paragraph 55). Does the Council's option of 'opting in' to the Local Plan Part 2, or the reliance on the adoption of Neighbourhood Plans (pages 36 and 37) provide the appropriate framework for ensuring that local needs for housing and employment in rural areas will be met?
  - 1.10 What is the justification for the removal of the settlement boundaries now (with the exception of the four main towns)? What options were considered by the Council? Policy 9 refers to affordable housing schemes 'adjoining the built-up area' of Stalbridge and the villages. How would a decision maker know how to react to such a scheme when the built-up area is not defined? If the Council's approach is not sound (i.e. justified), what is the appropriate way forward?
  - 1.11 Is the relationship between LP1 and any future Neighbourhood Plans (as outlined in Chapter 1) sufficiently clear? Do the strategic policies of LP1 provide sufficient and appropriate 'hooks' on which to 'hang' neighbourhood plans?
  - 1.12 What is the justification for progressing with a plan that once adopted would only have a lifespan of about 11 years? Paragraphs 2.45 and 2.46 refer to the vision for 15 years time, so why is the plan period not 15 years from submission or likely adoption (as referred to in paragraph 157 of the NPPF)?
  - 1.13 The Planning Practice Guidance (paragraph 012 under Local Plans) confirms that while additional local plans can be produced, for example a separate site allocations document, there should be a clear justification for doing so. What is the clear justification in this case?

- 1.14 Although not necessarily a matter of soundness, LP1 is over 400 pages long. Planning Practice Guidance (paragraph 010 under Local Plans) advises that 'local plans should be as focused, concise and accessible as possible'. Are there any opportunities which the Council could take to streamline the document?

### Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March - 10.00

#### **Issue 2: Climate Change and the Natural Environment (policies 3 & 4), including Renewable and Low Carbon Energy (policy 22)**

##### ***Potential Participants:-***

*North Dorset District Council*

*Taylor Wimpey*

*South Gillingham Consortium*

*Welbeck Strategic Land*

*CPRE North Dorset Branch*

*Barratt David Wilson Homes*

*Dorset Wildlife Trust*

*C G Fry and Son Ltd*

*Charborough Estate*

*Hall and Woodhouse Ltd*

##### **Questions**

- 2.1 Are the requirements of policy 3: Climate Change sufficiently clear and flexible – are they deliverable and viable in relation to all types of development proposal? Are any of the requirements at risk of becoming outdated in a short timescale? Is the issue of flood risk adequately covered? What are the national targets referred to in policy 3(c)?
- 2.2 Is the Council's approach to the protection of the AONBs (as revised) satisfactory and justified (policy 4)? Should the Council be seeking to identify and protect areas of tranquillity (NPPF paragraph 123)?
- 2.3 Should policy 22 provide more encouragement for renewable and low carbon energy schemes – is it sufficiently positive (NPPF para 97)?
- 2.4 Policy 4c refers to development that may have consequences for the Dorset Heathlands and paragraph 4.82 refers to development in the southern parts of the District. Firstly, is it sufficiently clear exactly what type of development (and at which locations) would be expected to contribute towards management and/or mitigation measures? And secondly how would a prospective developer know the scale of contribution that would be requested and to what project the contribution would be made?
- 2.5 What is the status of 'Important Open and Wooded Areas' – should they be referred to in LP1?
- 2.6 What does the term 'local green space' encompass (in paragraph 4.105)? Should it be included in the Glossary of Terms?

### Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March - 14.00

#### **Issue 3: Supporting Economic Development, including retail and leisure (policies 11 and 12)**

##### ***Potential Participants:-***

*North Dorset District Council*

*Hall and Woodhouse Ltd*

*Clemdell Ltd*

*D W Taylor and Son Ltd*

*Neals Yard Remedies*

*Dorset County Council*

*South Gillingham Consortium*

*CPRE North Dorset Branch*

*Mr Jason McGuinness (HABCO Ltd)*

*Hopkins Developments Ltd*

### **Questions**

- 3.1 The NPPF confirms the importance that is to be attached to building a strong competitive economy, including support for a prosperous rural economy (e.g. paragraphs 19 and 28). Has the Council attached sufficient weight to achieving these objectives? If not what more should be done?
- 3.2 Does the Plan do sufficient to encourage the regeneration and enhancement of the main town centres (NPPF paragraph 23)?
- 3.3 Are the employment and mixed use sites listed in policy 11 justified and available? Has consideration been given by the Council to allowing a residential use in appropriate circumstances?
- 3.4 The sites listed in policy 11 are measured in hectares but the overall target is for 3,630 new jobs. What is the correlation between hectares and job provision and should it be made clearer, particularly for ease of monitoring?

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March - 10.00**

### **Issue 4: Meeting Housing Needs, including affordable housing and the needs of gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople (policies 6 to 10 and policy 26**

#### ***Potential Participants:-***

*North Dorset District Council*

*National Homes Builders Federation*

*Okeford Fitzpaine Parish Council and DAPTC*

*Hall and Woodhouse Ltd*

*Taylor Wimpey*

*Clemdell Ltd*

*Persimmon Homes (South West)*

*Blandford St Mary Homes Limited*

*Shaftesbury LVA LLP*

*South Gillingham Consortium*

*The Crown Estate*

*Messrs Drake*

*Lightwood Strategic Ltd*

*Gleeson Strategic Limited*

*Barrett David Wilson Homes*

*Mr Vernon Knapper*

*Sherborne School and Cancer Research UK*

*Charles Church Developments*

*Messrs Keith, Clive and Stephen Alard*

*Dorset County Council*

*Mr Michael Miller*

*C G Fry and Son Ltd*

### **Questions**

- 4.1 Although not explicitly stated in LP1, I interpret the figure of 4,200 dwellings (280 dwgs a year) as being the Council's objectively assessed housing need for 2011 – 2026. Is this figure justified, bearing in mind it is lower than that proposed in the former Regional Strategy? What has been the role of household projections in estimating overall housing need (see PPG paragraph 015 under Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessments)?
- 4.2 NPPF paragraph 47 requires the supply of housing to be boosted significantly. Between 2001 and 2011, 370 dwellings per annum were built in the District. The figure now proposed is 280 dwellings a year. Is the Council's target justified and sufficiently aspirational, in light of past rates of housing provision, including in terms of affordable housing provision? (see also question 4.12 below)

- 4.3 Is the inclusion of North Dorset District within the boundary of the Bournemouth/Poole Housing Market Area (HMA) justified? What are the consequences of the use of the HMA boundary, particularly for the northern part of the District?
- 4.4 Is the Strategic Market Housing Assessment (SHMA) sufficiently up-to-date and does it reflect the guidance on SHMAs in the NPPF (paragraph 159) and Planning Practice Guidance? The 2011 SHMA Up-date concluded that overall need for housing in the District has reduced from 350 to 280 dwellings per annum since 2008 (paragraph 4.29 of MHN001), the reason given is the economic downturn. However there is evidence that the economy is recovering so can the up-dated SHMA (2012) be relied upon, bearing in mind the current economic context?
- 4.5 Is the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) sufficiently up-to-date?
- 4.6 Can the Council demonstrate a 5 year supply of housing plus appropriate buffer; and locations for growth for years 6 to 10 and 11 to 15 (NPPF paragraph 47)?
- 4.7 Why is there no housing trajectory included within the plan or a clearly expressed housing implementation strategy (NPPF paragraph 47)?(see also question 12.1 on monitoring)
- 4.8 Is the Council's approach towards taking into account vacancy rates and second homes, in the overall housing figures, reasonable and justified?
- 4.9 Should the contribution that existing commitments and potential windfalls make to overall housing provision over the plan period be clarified?
- 4.10 Is the proposed housing distribution (policy 6) based on a sound assessment of land availability and delivery? Is there any evidence that the proposed distribution cannot be satisfactorily achieved?
- 4.11 Is the housing mix proposed in policy 7 justified? Is policy 7 too prescriptive? Should the reference in paragraph 5.34 be to bedroom numbers rather than size? Does the Council's approach meet the objectives of paragraph 50 of the NPPF, with regard to delivering a wide choice of family homes?
- 4.12 Bearing in mind the SHMA Up-date (MHN004) concludes in paragraph 5.7 that there is a need to provide an additional 387 units of affordable housing per annum (up to 2016), has the Council placed sufficient weight on meeting the District's affordable housing needs? Will the Council's policies deliver a reasonable amount of affordable housing and in the locations where need is greatest? Is the advice in paragraphs 173 and 174 of the NPPF sufficiently reflected in LP1? What is the justification for seeking a reduced provision in Gillingham?
- 4.13 Is the Affordable Housing threshold justified and would the requirements of policy 8 put at risk the financial viability of any housing schemes? Is the policy sufficiently flexible? Is there any evidence to support making a distinction between town centre and non town centre development? Is the reference to the involvement of the District Valuer appropriate?
- 4.14 Is the affordable rent/intermediate housing split justified and in line with current evidence and is it reasonable for the Council to seek the provision of social rented housing in some circumstances (paragraph 5.105)?
- 4.15 Are the requirements of policy 9 too restrictive and unduly onerous? How would the Council exercise its discretion regarding the provision of market homes?
- 4.16 How do the Council define 'in-filling' (policy 7)?
- 4.17 Has the Council properly addressed the housing needs of the elderly and people with disabilities?
- 4.18 Is the Council providing sufficient support for people wishing to build their own homes?

- 4.19 Has the Council satisfactorily considered the relationship between housing provision and employment trends (PPG paragraph 018 under Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessments)?
- 4.20 Is policy 26 on sites for gypsies and travellers clear and consistent with national guidance and does it establish appropriate and reasonable criteria?

### Tuesday 17th March - 10.00

#### **Issue 5: Infrastructure Provision (policies 13 to 15), including retention of community facilities (policy 27)**

##### **Potential Participants:-**

*North Dorset District Council*

*Taylor Wimpey*

*Welbeck Strategic Land*

*South Gillingham Consortium*

*Dorset Road Group*

*Barratt David Wilson Homes*

*CPRE North Dorset Branch*

*The Shaftesbury Practice*

*Hall and Woodhouse Ltd*

##### **Questions**

- 5.1 What assessment has been undertaken regarding the impact of the proposed development on existing infrastructure, for example roads, schools, community facilities (including sports pitches), health services, utilities and drainage?
- 5.2 Is it sufficiently clear what infrastructure is required, who is going to fund it and how it relates to the anticipated rate and phasing of development (PPG paragraph 018 under Local Plans)?
- 5.3 Is sufficient advice provided on drainage and flood prevention and does policy 13 achieve the correct balance between detail and flexibility and does it reflect the advice within the Written Ministerial Statement on sustainable drainage systems dated 18<sup>th</sup> December 2014? Is the threshold of two dwellings (under Drainage and Flood Prevention) justified? Is there a word missing at the start of criteria (a) and (b)?
- 5.4 Are all the components of policy 14 justified?
- 5.5 Are the components of 'green infrastructure' (Figure 7.1) appropriately identified?
- 5.6 Is it appropriate to refer to the Green Infrastructure Strategy in policy 15 when it has not yet been prepared?
- 5.7 Are all the components of policy 15 justified and is it sufficiently clear what developments would be expected to deliver requirements (i) to (m) and where? Are these requirements reasonable?
- 5.8 Are the requirements of policy 27 too onerous? How would the Council determine 'the importance of the facility to the local community'?
- 5.9 How will the Council ensure that appropriate new facilities for recreation and sport will be provided and existing facilities retained? Is it sufficiently clear to a decision-maker what outdoor sports and play space standards should be applied and to which parts of the District?
- 5.10 How will the Council ensure that sufficient land is provided for cemeteries and burial grounds (policy 14)?
- 5.11 Is the Council's approach to allotment provision sufficiently flexible (paragraph 7.139)? Is this supporting text a policy?

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March – 14.00**

**Issue 6: The Countryside (policy 20) – including policies 28 to 33**

***Potential Participants:-***

*North Dorset District Council*

*Symonds and Sampson*

*Okeford Fitzpaine Parish Council and DAPTC*

*Hall and Woodhouse Ltd*

*Mr Jason McGuinness (HABCO Ltd)*

*Messrs Drake*

*Mr Michael Miller*

*Charborough Estate*

**Questions**

- 6.1 Is sufficient support given to sustainable economic growth in the countryside (NPPF paragraph 28)?
- 6.2 Bearing in mind policy 20 is applicable to Stalbridge and other rural communities, is the policy too prescriptive? If it is, how should it be changed? Does the policy adequately support thriving rural communities (NPPF paragraph 17)?
- 6.3 Is policy 28 (existing dwellings in the countryside) justified? If not, how should it be changed?
- 6.4 Is policy 29 (re-use of countryside buildings) justified? If not, how should it be changed?
- 6.5 Is the advice in paragraph 10.200 (prevention of mixed use or residential schemes at existing countryside employment sites) too prescriptive? Is this supporting text a policy?
- 6.6 Is policy 31 justified? If not, how should it be changed? Should more support be given to sustainable tourism and leisure developments in the countryside, in line with advice in paragraph 28 of the NPPF?
- 6.7 Are all the requirements of policy 32 justified? If not, how should they be changed?
- 6.8 Are all the requirements of policy 33 justified? Why are temporary dwellings for rural workers (other than in agriculture) not referred to?
- 6.9 What is the justification for the threshold of 500 sqm referred to in paragraph 10.169?

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March – 10.00**

**Issues 7 to 11: The Market Towns**

**Issue 7: Blandford (policy 16)**

***Potential Participants:-***

*North Dorset District Council*

*Mr Richard Bugg*

*Davis and Coats Families*

*Blandford Forum Town Council*

*Clemdell Ltd*

*Mrs J Miller*

*Blandford St Mary Homes Limited*

*Persimmon Homes (South West)*

*Bryanston Park Preservation Group*

*D W Taylor and Son*

*Dorset County Council*

*Mr R Jones*

*Blandford St Mary Parish Council*

*The Crown Estate*

*CPRE North Dorset Branch*

*Blandford+*

*Charles Church Developments*

*Gladman Developments*

*Messrs Keith, Clive and Stephen Allard*

## Questions

- 7.1 Is there any evidence that the proposed residential development sites at Blandford Forum, including the development of land to the south-east and west of Blandford St Mary, is not available, sustainable or deliverable? If such evidence exists what alternatives are available and have they been satisfactorily considered by the Council?
- 7.2 Can development at Blandford St Mary be satisfactorily assimilated into the existing settlement and the wider setting, including the AONB?
- 7.3 Is there any evidence that the proposed economic development sites in Blandford Forum are not available, sustainable or deliverable? If such evidence exists what alternatives are available to the Council?
- 7.4 Can it be demonstrated that the proposed development in Blandford Forum and Blandford St Mary would not have a significant adverse effect on highway safety or on the ability of other infrastructure to satisfactorily accommodate the growth?
- 7.5 Are all the infrastructure requirements listed in policy 16 justified and deliverable?
- 7.6 Should Figure 8.1 show the safeguarded route for the Spetisbury and Charlton Marshall by-pass?
- 7.7 Figure 8.1 identifies land at Black Lane (No 7) for housing growth but this is not referred to in policy 16. Why not?
- 7.8 Is the Council's delivery strategy, as summarised in paragraph 8.12, justified bearing in mind the presumption in favour of sustainable development?

## Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March – 14.00

### **Issue 8: Gillingham, including Gillingham Southern Extension (policies 17 & 21)**

#### ***Potential Participants:-***

*North Dorset District Council*

*Mr P Maddock*

*Persimmon Homes (South West)*

*Mr H J Kelliher*

*Neals Yard Remedies*

*Hopkins Developments Ltd*

*Sherborne School and Cancer Research UK*

*South Gillingham Consortium*

*Welbeck Strategic Land Ltd*

*Taylor Wimpey*

*Lagan Farms (Dorset) Ltd*

*C G Fry and Son Ltd*

### **Gillingham Town (Policy 17)**

#### **Questions**

- 8.1 Is there any evidence that the proposed residential development sites in Gillingham, including the development of land east and south of Ham; Station Road; and south and south-west of Bay, are not available, sustainable or deliverable? If such evidence exists what alternatives are available and have they been satisfactorily considered by the Council?
- 8.2 Is there any evidence that the proposed economic development sites in Gillingham, including in Station Road; south of Brickfields Business Park; at Kingsmead Business Park; and at Neal's Yard Remedies, Peacemarsh; are not available, sustainable or deliverable? If such evidence exists what alternatives are available to the Council?
- 8.3 Can the proposed development be satisfactorily assimilated into the town without significant detriment to the character of the environment and the living conditions of nearby residents?

- 8.4 Are all the infrastructure requirements listed in policy 17 justified and deliverable?
- 8.5 Is the development of land at Neal's Yard Remedies, Peacemarsh, for high value business use justified (criterion m)?
- 8.6 Is the Council's approach to retail development in Gillingham justified and will it result in appropriate regeneration of the town centre?

## **Gillingham Strategic Site Allocation (SSA) (Policy 21)**

### **Questions**

- 8.7 Is there any evidence that the proposed Gillingham Strategic Site (or any part of it) is not available, sustainable or deliverable? If such evidence exists what alternatives are available to the Council? Is the proposed boundary of the SSA justified?
- 8.8 Are all the infrastructure requirements related to the southern extension (as set out in policy 21) justified, viable and deliverable? For example the off-site highway improvements; other off-site measures and the improvements relating to social infrastructure, including the proposed local centre. Is it sufficiently clear how a decision maker should re-act to a proposal – the 'what, where, when and how'<sup>1</sup>.
- 8.9 Are the proposals identified on the Concept Plan (Fig 9.3) justified and sufficient to ensure the provision of a sustainable development?
- 8.10 Are the contents of the Concept Statement (Fig 9.2) and the Design Principles (Fig 9.4) justified?
- 8.11 What are the risks to the delivery of the southern extension at Gillingham and does the Council's approach ensure that they are, as far as possible, minimised? What is the trajectory for the provision of the housing and what is the Council's fall-back position should the southern extension not deliver housing at the rate currently anticipated?
- 8.12 What is the relationship between LP1, the Neighbourhood Plan (paragraph 9.7) and the Master Plan Framework? Should it be made clearer?
- 8.13 Are the requirements set out in paragraph 9.20 (including a Habitats Regulations Assessment), and in paragraph 9.57 (alternative use for the local centre site) justified?

### **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March – 10.00**

## **Issue 9: Shaftesbury (policy 18)**

### ***Potential Participants:-***

*North Dorset District Council*

*Dorset County Council*

*Gleeson Strategic Land*

*Barratt David Wilson Homes*

### **Questions**

- 9.1 Is there any evidence that the proposed residential development sites in Shaftesbury, including the development of land to the east of the town; to the south-east of Wincombe Business Park; and to the west of the A350 are not available, sustainable or deliverable? If such evidence exists what alternatives are available and have they been satisfactorily considered by the Council?
- 9.2 Is there any evidence that the proposed economic development sites in Shaftesbury, including the development of land to the south of the A30; are not available, sustainable or deliverable? If such evidence exists what alternatives are available to the Council?

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<sup>1</sup> Planning Practice Guidance Para 10 under Local Plan

- 9.3 Can the proposed development be satisfactorily assimilated into the town without significant detriment to the character of the environment and the living conditions of nearby residents?
- 9.4 Are all the infrastructure requirements listed in policy 18 justified and deliverable?
- 9.5 Should there be a reference to the Minerals Safeguarding Area? (see rep 2783)

### **Issue 10: Sturminster Newton (policy 19)**

#### **Potential Participants**

*North Dorset District Council*

*Hall and Woodhouse Ltd*

*Taylor Wimpey*

#### **Questions**

- 10.1 Is there any evidence that the proposed residential development sites in Sturminster Newton, including to the north of the former livestock market; to the north of Northfields; and to the east of the former creamery site; are not available, sustainable or deliverable? If such evidence exists what alternatives are available and have they been satisfactorily considered by the Council?
- 10.2 Is there any evidence that the proposed economic development sites in Sturminster Newton, including at the North Dorset Business Park, are not available, sustainable or deliverable? If such evidence exists what alternatives are available to the Council?
- 10.3 Can the proposed development be satisfactorily assimilated into the town without significant detriment to the character of the environment and the living conditions of nearby residents?
- 10.4 Are all the infrastructure requirements listed in policy 19 justified and deliverable?
- 10.5 Is the reference to 'the existing built-up area' in criterion (a) appropriate? Why is the reference not to the settlement boundary?

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March - 14.00**

### **Issue 11: Development Management Policies**

- **parking standards (policy 23)**
- **design (policy 24)**
- **amenity (policy 25)**

#### **Potential Participants:-**

*North Dorset District Council*

*Clemdell Ltd*

*Taylor Wimpey*

*South Gillingham Consortium*

*Barratt David Wilson Homes*

#### **Questions**

- 11.1 Does policy 24 (Design) satisfactorily encapsulate the requirements of NPPF paragraph 58? Would a decision-maker know how to re-act to a proposal in terms of design (NPPF paragraph 154)?
- 11.2 Are the Council's parking standards adequately justified?
- 11.3 Is the Council's approach to the size of garages justified (para 10.46)? Is this supporting text a policy?
- 11.4 What is the status of the Dorset Waste Partnership Guidelines (paragraph 10.55)?

- 11.5 Is it sufficiently clear in policy 25 exactly what the expectations of the Council are in terms of open space provision; light availability; unacceptable levels of noise/vibration; and exposure to unpleasant emissions? If not how could those expectations be clarified? Would a criteria-based policy be clearer?

**Issue 12: Implementation, Viability and Monitoring**

**(Hearing Session unlikely to be Required)**

***Potential Participants:-***

***North Dorset District Council***

**Questions**

- 12.1 In order for the plan to be found sound it must be effective. In order to test its effectiveness over the course of the plan period it must be capable of appropriate monitoring. The monitoring section confirms that a Monitoring Report will be prepared at least annually but it is not clear if this relates to all policies; to whom the Report would be presented; or what actions may be taken if the expected outcomes of the policies are not being achieved. Some of the targets in Figure 11.1 are very loose, for example 'minimise', 'reduce' and 'increase' and there are no time-related targets (e.g. dwellings built each year). Are these matters capable of more detailed appropriate measurement? How will the Council take action, to address any problems that arise, in a timely fashion.
- 12.2 What are the main risks to delivery; does the Council have an appropriate fall-back position; and is there sufficient flexibility to accommodate any unforeseen circumstances? What are the triggers for a review of the document?

**CLOSING STATEMENT BY COUNCIL**

**CLOSING REMARKS BY INSPECTOR**