

Participant	Ms Loch / Neil Homer (rCOH)	Rep ID	3051
		Date response received	15 th May 2015
Representing	Blandford+ (Blandford Forum TC, Blandford St Mary PC & Bryanston PC)	Response reference number	MHD038
MHD / Change reference commented on	MHD006 MHD011 MHD008 MHD018 ref 7/14/14, 8/16/9 & 8/16/8		
Summary of comment	<p>The District Council has not responded to the matters Blandford+ raised on the Blandford strategy in the NDLP1 at the hearings within the relevant explanatory notes (notably docs MHD006 and/or MHD011).</p> <p>Support in principle the extension to the Plan period to 2031 (MHD006).</p> <p>Object to the increase in the size of site on the edge of Blandford St Mary to 450 homes (MHD008). Concern that no re-assessment in the SA/SEA of the reasonable alternatives has been undertaken. A housing scheme of 450 homes in this location will neither be able to afford to make provision for a new primary school and GP surgery nor would those facilities be able to serve the town even if they were viable. The land budget cannot accommodate the 2Ha – 3Ha required for those purposes without extending further into the countryside to the south. There is already a primary school in the village (which cannot be extended) and similarly the existing GP surgeries are in the town centre, which is reasonably accessible for the town population, but their expansion will not be easy. The main demand for such services lies in its northern and eastern areas. Steering Group are persuaded through ‘careful assessment; of the advantages of using land to the north or east of the town to make provision for a new primary school and GP survey as part of a sustainable urban extension. Acknowledge the Schedule of Changes Arising from the Hearing Sessions (MHD018) acknowledges this issue in its ref 7/14/14 & 8/16/9.</p> <p>The Steering Group is mindful of the proposed change (ref 8/16/8 in the Schedule) to para 8.13 of the supporting text to Policy 16, which appears to enable the Neighbourhood Plan to make provision for “additional greenfield sites beyond the by-pass”. Assume this change enables the Neighbourhood Plan to allocate a series of sites to the north and east of the town for sustainable development.</p> <p>The Steering Group expect the District Council to justify changes through a review of the Sustainability Appraisal.</p>		

<p>Council's response</p>	<p>Support for all points raised above is noted.</p> <p>Points of clarification:</p> <p>The Planning Inspector has not asked for the Council to respond to additional matters raised by Blandford+ on the Blandford Strategy during the Hearing Sessions.</p> <p>In light of the requirement to ensure a sufficient supply of homes to meet the Local Plan's extended housing target the estimated capacity at land at A350/A354 Junction St Marys Hill Blandford has been increased to 450 dwg (MHD008). The revised site estimate simply reflects the full development potential of this broad location for growth. Land off Ward Drove (150 dwg) having previously been excluded from the estimate as provision was not needed for the housing requirement.</p> <p>The broad strategy for growth at Blandford Forum has undergone full SA throughout policy development and will be updated to reflect Plan changes as required.</p> <p>The Schedule of Changes Arising from the Hearing Sessions (MHD018) acknowledges the issue of community facilities serving the Blandford St Mary Site in its schedule ref 7/14/14 & 8/16/9.</p> <p>Schedule of change MHD018 ref 8/168 reflects a points raised by the Planning Inspector during the Hearing sessions about the relationship between LP1 and Neighbourhood Plans and that consequently those strategic policies of LP1 provide sufficient hooks on which to hang Neighbourhood Plans. The District Council acknowledges that Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area. The District Council would however reiterate that only a submitted Neighbourhood Plan that meets the Basic Conditions and examined can be made.</p> <p>The supporting SA of the NDDC LP1 will be updated to reflect all relevant changes made to the NDDC Local Plan as a consequence of the Examination process.</p>
<p>Conclusions</p>	<p>The Comments by Ms Loch of Blandford+ are noted but do not raise new points not already covered in evidence and previous discussions.</p> <p>No further action required.</p>