

Ms H Jordan  
Planning (Community and Policy Development)  
Corporate Manager  
West Dorset District Council  
South Walks House  
South Walks Road  
Dorchester  
DT1 1UZ

6<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Dear Ms Jordan

**RE: NORTH DORCHESTER GARDEN COMMUNITIES BID – LETTER OF SUPPORT**

We write on behalf of The Salisbury Diocesan Board of Finance, who has a key interest in the future of Dorchester and the surrounding area. A copy of my instruction to write to you on their behalf is attached to this letter. Our client welcomes the active lead being taken by West Dorset District Council in achieving a comprehensive and high quality design for the North Dorchester development.

The County Town has grown over the last few decades as a result of the development of Poundbury. This development site will come to an end in the coming years and the council are now considering the long term future growth of the town to support the local economy and meet the area's housing needs. The North Dorchester site is the most logical direction for growth, however, such significant expansion of the town needs to be planned appropriately.

The Diocese believe the proposals would benefit the area in many different ways including the economy, sustainability and providing a high quality environment for local families and businesses to flourish in.

The garden communities bid will help to ensure a well designed, comprehensive development that is locally led and matches the high quality of the town's recent growth. It will be essential that the development strikes the appropriate balance between the provision of significant additional housing through the creation of a new community while respecting the heritage of the area and its landscape setting.

The Diocese would therefore like to offer their support to West District Council in its efforts to secure the future of Dorchester through significant, high quality growth to the north of the town and support them in their bid.

Yours sincerely

**For and on behalf of The Salisbury Diocesan Board of Finance**

Enc. Letter of instruction