

**Christchurch and East Dorset Partnership Core Strategy Examination
Position Statement**

MATTER: East Dorset Rural Area

POSITION STATEMENT

For the Local Planning Authority

2nd September 2013

The Local Planning Authority (East Dorset District Council - EDDC), confirms the following:

1. East Dorset Rural Area

The Christchurch and East Dorset Core Strategy (the Plan) seeks to concentrate the majority of development in sustainable locations within the Plan area, which are largely within or adjacent to the main urban settlements within the area.

However, EDDC is committed to supporting the vitality and viability of its rural area, which comprises the majority of the land area of the District and contains about 20% of the District's population. Development in the rural area will be strictly controlled in the open countryside away from existing settlements, but where opportunities exist for economic development to come forward in or on the edge of existing settlements including Alderholt, Cranborne, Sixpenny Handley or Sturminster Marshall in particular this will be encouraged. Proposals for the re-use of appropriately located and suitably constructed existing buildings and land-based rural businesses in the countryside for economic development will also be acceptable, subject to certain provisos to protect the quality of the environment. The Council will encourage sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments that benefit rural businesses, communities and visitors and which utilise and enrich, rather than harm, the character of the local countryside.

Dated: 2nd September 2013