

Decision Statement

On behalf of Dorset Council, 05 May 2020

At the meeting of the Cabinet on 5 May 2020, Dorset Council has taken the decision to make the Upper Marshwood Vale Neighbourhood Plan (as modified in accordance with the Examiner's recommendations) part of the development plan for the Upper Marshwood Vale Neighbourhood Plan Area.

Reasons

In July 2019 Upper Marshwood Vale neighbourhood plan group (which encompasses the parishes of Marshwood, Stoke Abbott, Pilsdon and Bettiscombe) submitted the draft neighbourhood plan and supporting material to Dorset Council. An independent examiner was appointed, and the examiner's report was received on 12 December 2019. In summary, the examiner's report concluded that the Upper Marshwood Vale Neighbourhood Plan, subject to minor modifications, would meet the Basic Conditions and other legal requirements.

Dorset Council considered each of the recommendations and modifications contained in the examiner's report and agreed the amendments in an Executive Decision Statement dated 20 December 2019. Dorset Council issued its decision which was in agreement with the examiner's findings, and that the plan as modified should proceed to referendum.

Dorset Council held a referendum on 13 February 2020. More than half of those voting in the referendum voted in favour of the plan. No other issues have come to light which would suggest that the council should decline to make the plan.

What this means for the Upper Marshwood Vale Neighbourhood Plan area

In England, development plans are used to set out the planning policies for the development and use of land.

Planning applications are determined by local planning authorities such as Dorset Council. Planning decisions are made in accordance with the adopted development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The neighbourhood plan forms part of the development plan for the Upper Marshwood Vale Neighbourhood Plan Area alongside the adopted West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland joint local plan.

The policies in the neighbourhood plan are in general conformity with the strategic policies of the local plan. Therefore the policies contained in the Upper Marshwood Vale Neighbourhood Plan will take precedence over the non-strategic policies in the adopted local plan when decisions are being made on development proposals.

Where to find more information...

Copies of this decision statement, the Examiner's Report and the Upper Marshwood Vale Neighbourhood Plan (as proposed) can be viewed online at

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/upper-marshwood-vale-neighbourhood-plan>

or at Council Offices¹:

- **Dorset Council offices**, South Walks House, South Walks Road, Dorchester DT1 1UZ which is open 8.30am to 5.00pm Monday to Thursday and 8.30am to 4.30pm on Fridays.
- **Beaminster Town Council**, Council Offices, 8 Fleet St, Beaminster DT8 3EF

Copies of the following documents will be available.

A copy of this statement is automatically sent to the Parish Council who submitted the plan and anyone who has asked to be notified of this decision.

¹ Please note the information will be made available when the council offices re-open to the public.