

Purbeck Local Plan Examination: opening statement by the Council

I am very pleased to be able to present the Purbeck Local Plan for examination. The plan identifies opportunities for sustainable development across the Purbeck area. Great care and attention has been taken in preparing the plan and setting out responses to the wide range of challenges facing Purbeck.

The plan is a positive strategy that will enable the successful delivery of thriving places, a mix of new homes and a dynamic economy, whilst protecting and enhancing Purbeck's outstanding natural environment. The plan will help to maintain Purbeck as a place where people wish to live, work, stay and visit.

The Purbeck Local Plan has been shaped by extensive consultation and engagement involving local people, businesses, community groups and external partners. Wide-ranging public consultations have informed the key issues and those places where change and development can best be accommodated, whilst recognising that the area must also be protected from inappropriate development. An extensive and up-to-date evidence base has also informed the drafting of the plan.

The plan sets out a strategy to spread new development across Purbeck, whilst recognising that housing growth will necessarily be focussed on the west of the plan area, where there are fewer environmental constraints. The plan also continues to support development in the towns and key service villages. The areas identified for housing are the more sustainable locations in Purbeck. They offer a range of opportunities with capacity to accommodate new homes and jobs, and will facilitate investment in much needed additional infrastructure including schools and health facilities.

I would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to take part in the public consultations which have helped to shape and inform the plan.

The Council believes that the Purbeck Local Plan provides a sound framework to deliver the strategic requirements for the area. I look forward to a successful examination and adoption of this plan.