

8. Appendices

8.1. Appendix 1: National Decision-Making Policies

This is an interpretation of the national decision-making policy in the NPPF by the council. Readers should refer to the NPPF for further details.

National decision-making policy	What national policy does	Suggested scope for local plan policy
DM1 to DM3: Preparing and determining proposals	Requires proportionate information, early engagement for major development, and positive, timely decision-making.	Avoid repeating process policy. Local plan should only specify locally justified information needs, for example for strategic sites, town centres, transport impacts or sensitive landscapes.
S3 to S5: Presumption, settlements and countryside	Establishes the national basis for approving sustainable development within settlements and identifies forms of development acceptable outside settlements, including rural business and tourism where a countryside location is necessary.	Define settlement boundaries, spatial strategy, countryside policy areas and site allocations. Provide local criteria for rural business/tourism only where needed to reflect Dorset's settlement pattern, landscape and infrastructure constraints.
E2: Meeting the need for business land and premises	Gives substantial weight to commercial development that enables businesses to invest, expand and adapt, especially where it supports the local economic strategy, Industrial Strategy,	Set a positive local economic vision; identify and safeguard employment areas; allocate deliverable employment land; identify sector priorities, such as clean energy, defence, advanced engineering,

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	logistics, AI Growth Zones or key infrastructure.	logistics, data/digital, tourism and rural enterprise.
E3: Freight and logistics	Supports freight and logistics development where it has good access to transport networks, limits environmental impacts and provides sufficient secure vehicle parking.	Identify suitable logistics locations, especially near strategic corridors; set local criteria for access, landscape, residential amenity, HGV routing, lorry parking and mitigation.
E4: Rural business development	Supports rural business growth, building conversion, agricultural diversification, rural tourism, local services and farm modernisation, including where locations outside settlements are necessary.	Provide a Dorset-specific rural economy policy covering farm diversification, rural workspaces, tourism facilities, local shops/services, and design/landscape expectations in countryside and protected landscapes.
TC2 to TC4: Town centres and main town centre uses	Gives substantial weight to town centre vitality, applies the sequential test for main town centre uses outside centres, and requires impact assessments for larger out-of-centre retail/leisure schemes.	Define town centre boundaries and hierarchy; identify opportunity sites; set local impact assessment thresholds where justified; support diversification, residential use, cultural uses, hotels, tourism and public realm improvements.
CO1 to CO2: Telecommunications infrastructure	Supports expansion and upgrading of telecoms networks, including 5G and gigabit broadband, while	Avoid duplicating technical criteria. local plan can identify digital infrastructure as part of the economic strategy and support delivery in growth

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	managing siting, design and safety requirements.	areas, employment sites, rural communities and strategic allocations.
W3 to W4: Renewable energy, low carbon energy and water infrastructure	Gives substantial weight to renewable/low-carbon energy, electricity network infrastructure and water infrastructure; applicants need not demonstrate need for these forms of infrastructure.	Identify suitable areas/opportunities for renewable and low-carbon energy, grid infrastructure, water/wastewater capacity and co-location of large energy users, for example data centres, with power generation or grid capacity.
L2 to L3: Effective use of land and densities	Gives substantial weight to reusing brownfield and underused land, remediating degraded sites and making efficient use of land. Inefficient land use may be refused.	Identify brownfield/regeneration opportunities, town centre intensification areas, employment estate renewal opportunities and appropriate densities for mixed-use and residential development.
TR3 to TR8: Sustainable transport, freight, ports, rights of way	Requires development to be in sustainable locations, manage transport impacts, provide access/parking, support roadside facilities, ports, airports and rights of way improvements.	Align allocations with transport corridors, public transport, walking/cycling networks and freight needs. Include local parking standards and identify transport infrastructure needed to unlock housing, employment and tourism growth.
HC3 to HC8: Community infrastructure, hot	Requires development to provide necessary community facilities, gives	Set infrastructure requirements for strategic sites; identify green space,

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food takeaways, public services and recreation	substantial weight to new/improved facilities, protects key community and recreational assets and provides a basis for assessing planning applications for hot food takeaways.	sport, recreation and community facility needs; support facilities that improve town centres, visitor destinations and healthy communities.
P2 to P6: Pollution, existing activities and security	Manages ground conditions, pollution, agent of change issues, public safety and defence/public protection assets.	Map or identify local constraints, including contaminated land, noise-sensitive areas, safeguarded defence/security sites, industrial areas and hazardous zones. Include criteria only where local issues require clarity.
F4 to F9: Flood risk, drainage and coastal change	Sets national decision tests for flood risk assessment, sequential/exception tests, Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs) and coastal change management areas (CCMA).	Use Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and shoreline evidence to steer allocations, define CCMA, safeguard flood infrastructure land and guide relocation/adaptation where necessary.
N2 to N6: Natural environment, landscapes, coast and biodiversity	Requires development to support nature recovery, protect biodiversity and provide trees. Guides development in protected landscapes, Heritage Coast and important habitats.	Identify environmental opportunities and issues, green infrastructure standards, Local Nature Recovery Strategy priorities, protected landscape sensitivities and coastal character areas.

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HE4 to HE10: Historic environment	Sets national decision tests for heritage assets, conservation areas, World Heritage Sites and archaeology.	Provide a positive local heritage strategy, local list, conservation area priorities, heritage-led regeneration opportunities and site-specific heritage requirements for allocations.