

# WEYMOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2021 - 2038

## Information Statement

This information statement is about the referendum to be held on the Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan

### About town and country planning

In England, 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. A development plan sets out the planning policies for the development and use of land.

At the current time, the [adopted Local Plan for Weymouth](#), which forms part of the development plan, is the starting point for considering planning applications in the area covered by the Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan. The [National Planning Policy Framework](#) must be taken into account in the preparation of local and neighbourhood plans, and is a material consideration in planning decisions.

The Council's [Local Development Scheme](#) contains information on development plan documents that are being prepared.

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### About neighbourhood planning and the Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan

Neighbourhood planning aims to help local communities play a direct role in planning the areas in which they live and work. Weymouth Town Council has produced the plan which shows how the community wants land to be used and developed in the neighbourhood plan area. If a plan is made following a successful referendum, it becomes part of the development plan for that area.

Weymouth Town Council started preparing a neighbourhood plan in 2020. After much research and having listened to the issues and suggestions made through various consultation events, a draft of version of the plan was produced for consultation between 27 October 2023 until 8 December 2023. The plan was then revised in response to the consultation and submitted to Dorset Council in December 2024, updated January 2025. Dorset Council consulted on the submitted plan from 24 January 2025 until 10 April 2025.

Andrew Mead BSc (Hons) MRTPI MIQ was appointed to examine the plan as independent examiner. In September 2025 the examiner produced his [report](#) confirming that he was satisfied that the plan meets the basic conditions and recommended that it should, subject to some changes, proceed to referendum.

Dorset Council considered the report and issued its decision, which was in agreement with the examiner's findings, that the plan as modified should proceed to referendum.

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## What the referendum is deciding

The question which will be asked in the referendum is:

'Do you want Dorset Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Weymouth to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?'

The referendum asks you to vote 'yes' or 'no' to this question.

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## When the referendum will be held

The referendum will be held on **Thursday 11 December 2025**.

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## What is the area covered by the referendum?

The referendum area covers the jurisdiction of Weymouth Town Council, with the exception of the Nightingale Road area, the Littlemoor Urban extension and the top of Plaisters Lane, Sutton Poyntz.

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## Who is entitled to vote?

You are entitled to vote in the referendum if you live in the referendum area, you are on the electoral register to vote in local council elections and you are 18 years of age or over on 11 December 2025.

You have to be registered to vote by Tuesday 25 November 2025 to vote in the referendum. You can check if you are registered to vote **by telephoning 01305 838299 during normal office hours**.

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## How can people vote?

The referendum will be conducted in accordance with procedures which are similar to those used at local government elections.

You can vote **in person** at your relevant polling station which will be detailed on your poll card. We will issue poll cards to voters around 7 November 2025. The polling stations will be open from 7am to 10pm on 11 December 2025.

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You now need photo ID to vote at a polling station. If you don't have accepted photo ID, you can apply for a free voter ID document, which is known as a Voter Authority Certificate. Applications for Voter Authority Certificates must be received by 5:00 pm Wednesday 3 December 2025. [www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate](http://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate)

To vote by post or proxy in this referendum, you will need to have filled in an application form and sent it to the Electoral Registration Officer. Postal and proxy vote application forms are available from the elections website [www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/how-to-vote](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/how-to-vote) or by contacting Dorset Council.

Applications to vote by post must be received by 5:00 pm Wednesday 26 November 2025.

To vote by proxy, application forms should be received by 5:00 pm Wednesday 3 December 2025.

However, in certain circumstances emergency proxy vote applications can be received up until 5pm on the day of the poll. Anyone can be your proxy as long as they are eligible to vote and are willing to vote on your behalf. You will have to tell them how you want to vote.

Ballot papers for people who vote by post will be posted from 21 November 2025, and will need to be returned by 10pm on the day of the poll.

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## Referendum expenses

The referendum expenses limit that will apply in relation to the referendum is £2,362 plus £0.059 per registered elector (the electorate in December 2025 was around 40,583).

# Map of the referendum area



## What information is there available about the neighbourhood plan?

A copy of the specified documents, that is the documents listed below, may be inspected at the following locations:

- Online at <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/weymouth-neighbourhood-plan>
- At the following locations:
  - Dorset Council Offices, County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1XJ
  - Wyke Regis Library, Portland Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 9BE  
Wyke Regis Library is open Monday Midday to 6pm, Wednesday 20m to 5pm, Thursday 10am to 1pm, Friday, 10am to 1pm and Saturday 10am to 1pm.
  - Weymouth Library, Great George Street, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 8NN  
Weymouth Library is open Monday to Saturday 10am to 5pm
  - Littlemoor Library, Louviers Road, Littlemoor, Weymouth, Dorset, DT3 6SF  
Littlemoor Library is open Tuesday 10am to 5m, Wednesday 10am to 5pm, Thursday Midday to 6pm. Friday 10am to 5pm and Saturday 10am to 1pm.

The specified documents are:

- A **Summary of Representations** submitted to the examiner
- The **Examiner's Report**
- The **Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan 2021 - 2038 (referendum version)**
- The **Decision Statement**, which includes a statement by the local planning authority that the plan as proposed meets the basic conditions
- This **Information Statement**, which includes general information as to town and country planning including neighbourhood planning and the referendum