



Dorset
Council

Dorset Council's Local Plan 2025



**Tell us
what you
think.**

About this document



We want to know what people in Dorset think about our plans for **development**.



Development means making decisions about how we use land for things like:

- new homes
- changes to towns and villages
- businesses
- countryside
- making renewable electricity



Each page tells you about our plans, then asks what you think.

How to have your say



Read each question and fill in your answers.
You do not have to answer all the questions.
Ask someone to support you if you need to.



Send your answers back to us:

By post:

Spatial Planning Team
Dorset Council, County Hall
Colliton Park, DT1 1XJ



By email:

planningpolicyconsult@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk



Or use our online survey:

[Dorset Council Local Plan webpage](#)

**We must get your answers by the end of
Monday 13th October 2025.**

1. Our vision

Our **vision** is about how we want Dorset to be in 15 years:

- good quality homes and jobs
- towns that are well-designed and easy to travel to
- less pollution
- a healthier environment for people and nature



Tell us what you think of our vision here:

2. Our priorities



Priorities are the most important things to work on. Our priorities are to:

- make sure there are enough good quality homes, that people can afford to live in
- create more jobs for local people
- support strong, healthy communities
- protect plants and animals, and help to stop climate change



What do you think about these priorities?

3. New homes



We need to build new homes in towns and larger villages across Dorset.

Is there anywhere that:

- we **should** build new homes?
- we should **not** build new homes?
- we should build **affordable** homes?

Tell us what you think here:

4. Infrastructure



Infrastructure means all the things that support people and buildings in a new development. For example:

- schools
- electricity, gas and water
- doctor's surgeries



What types of infrastructure are most important when we build new homes?

5. Countryside



Lots of land in Dorset is countryside. It is not the right place for building lots of homes and businesses. But it can be used for:

- farm buildings
- houses for people who work in the countryside
- buildings for leisure and tourism

What should we develop in the countryside?

What shouldn't we develop?

6. Towns and villages



We want to be able to build homes in the areas around some towns and larger villages.

This will help people to live close to where they work or go to school.

☐

this is a good idea

☐

this is a bad idea

Tell us more about your answer:

7. Jobs



Many people work in places like offices and factories.

The Local Plan will mean that new workplaces can be built in some towns and larger villages.

☐

this is a good idea

☐

this is a bad idea

Tell us more about your answer:

8. Town centres



The way people use town centres is changing. Many shops are empty.

What are the most important things to have in town centres in the future?

You can choose more than 1:

☐

shops

☐

places to eat and drink

☐

cinemas

☐

offices

☐

museums and libraries

☐

hotels

☐

other:

9. Building on land



Building on **brownfield** land means using land that has been built on in the past.

We want to encourage more building on brownfield land.

How could we do this?



Green Belt land is protected countryside around large towns.

Should we build new homes on this land?



☐ yes

☐ no

Tell us more about your answer:

10. Gypsies and travellers



Gypsies and travellers need places to park.

A place where they park is called a **pitch**.

We could put **pitches** in places where new homes are being built.

☐

this is a good idea

☐

this is a bad idea

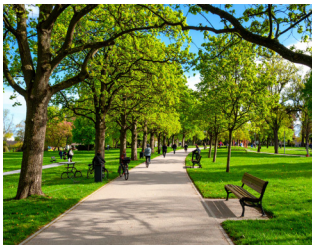
Tell us more about your answer:

11. Heathland



There is lots of heathland in Dorset.
It is important for plants and animals.

We cannot build within 400 metres of
heathland. If we build within 5 kilometres,
we must do things to protect the heath.



For example, creating new green spaces and
outdoor facilities. This means fewer people
will visit the heathland.

**Tell us what you think about protecting
heathland:**

12. Renewable energy



Making renewable energy helps us to protect the environment.

Examples of renewable energy:

- wind – using turbines
- sunlight – using solar panels

What should we think about, when we decide where to make renewable energy?

13. North of Dorchester



We are thinking about building 3,500 new houses north of Dorchester.

How close should these houses be to the A35 road?

☐

far from the road: more green space and less noise

☐

close to the road: we can use more land for more buildings

Where should we put buildings for businesses?

☐

spread amongst the houses

☐

all together in a business park



We will join the A35 road with the A37 to Yeovil. The new route will be for walking, driving and cycling.

To do this, should we:



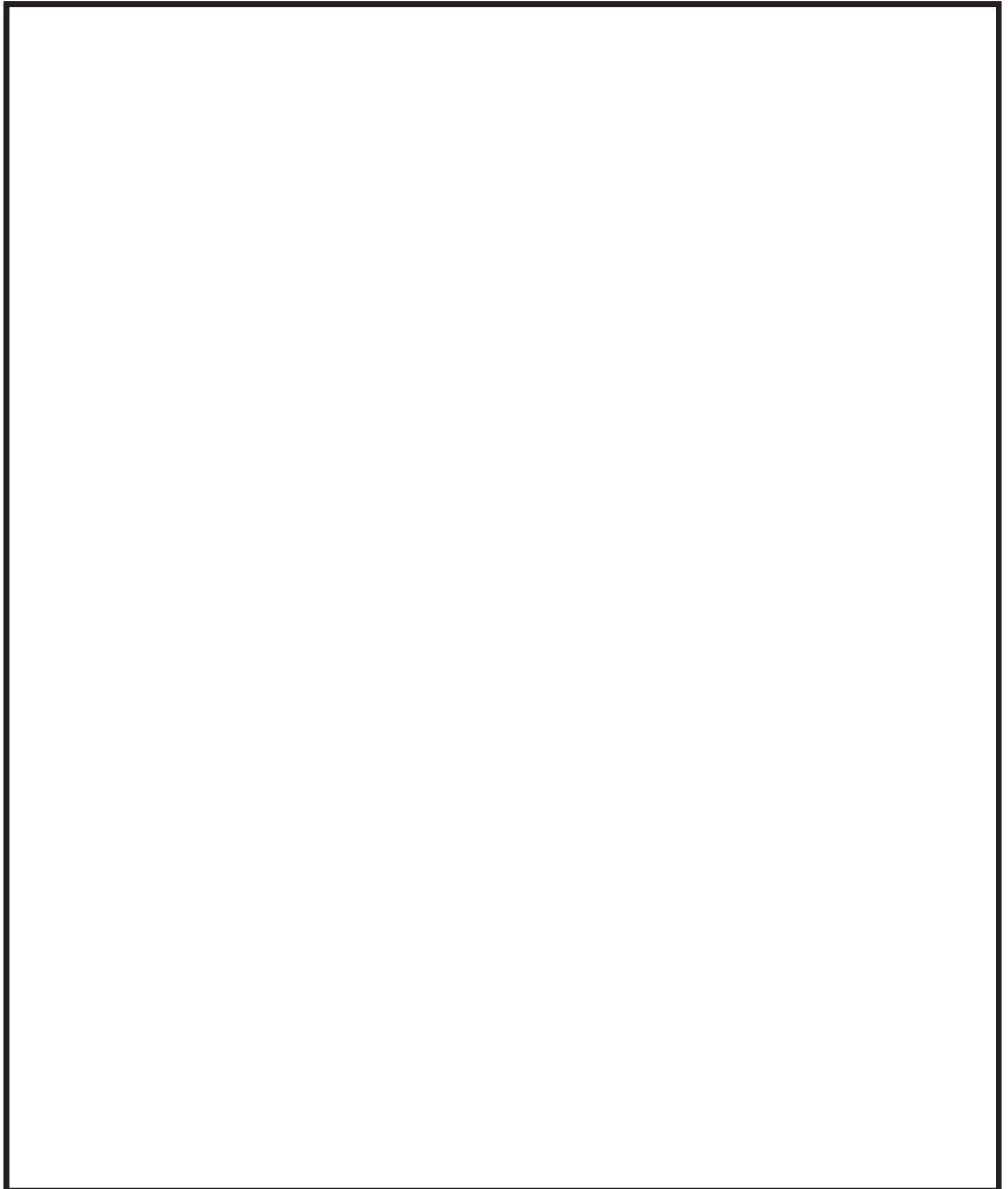
- ☐ build a main route through the centre of the development
- ☐ improve the road that is already there
- ☐ build a few smaller roads

Is there anything else you would like to say about building north of Dorchester?



14. More places for homes

Where else in Dorset could we build new homes and businesses?





Anything else?

Is there anything else that you want to say about the plan?

What next?



We will look at all of the things people have said about our plans.



We will write a draft Local Plan. People can read the plan and say what they think.



Dorset Council will check to plan to make sure that it follows the law.



We will finish writing the plan.

We will start to do the things in the plan in 2027.

