

## **MELBURY ABBAS AND CANN NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022 to 2038**

**At the meeting of Cabinet on 29 January 2026, Dorset Council took the decision to make the Melbury Abbas and Cann Neighbourhood Development Plan 2022 to 2038 part of the development plan for the Melbury Abbas and Cann neighbourhood area.**

In March 2025, Melbury Abbas & Cann Parish Council submitted the Melbury Abbas and Cann Neighbourhood Development Plan 2022 to 2038 and supporting material to Dorset Council. An independent examiner was appointed, and his report was received in September 2025. In summary, the examiner's report concluded that the Melbury Abbas and Cann Neighbourhood Development Plan 2022 to 2038 would meet the basic conditions and other legal requirements, subject to modifications.

The Council held a referendum in the neighbourhood area on 4 December 2025. In the referendum a majority voted in favour of the plan (128 voted 'yes' compared to 28 who voted 'no'). No other issues have become known that would suggest that the Council should decline to make the plan.

### **The area covered by the Melbury Abbas and Cann Neighbourhood Development Plan 2022 to 2038**

The neighbourhood plan area covers the civil parishes of Melbury Abbas and Cann.

### **What this means for the Melbury Abbas and Cann 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 Melbury Abbas and Cann Neighbourhood Development Plan 2022 to 2038 forms part of the development plan for Melbury Abbas and Cann, along with the North Dorset Local Plan Part 1 (adopted January 2016).

The policies contained in the neighbourhood plan will take precedence over existing non-strategic policies in the local plan, where they are in conflict, unless they are superseded by other policies that are adopted subsequently.

### **Where to find more information**

This decision statement and the made (adopted) Melbury Abbas and Cann Neighbourhood Development Plan 2022 to 2038 can be viewed online at:

[www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/melbury-abbas-and-cann-neighbourhood-plan](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/melbury-abbas-and-cann-neighbourhood-plan)