Neighbourhood Plan:
DECISION STATEMENT (MAKING)

SHAFTESBURY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2019 to 2031 – FIRST REVIEW

At the meeting of Cabinet on 28 July 2026, Dorset Council took the decision to make the Shaftesbury Neighbourhood Plan 2019 to 2031 – First Review part of the development plan for the Shaftesbury neighbourhood area.

In November 2025, Shaftesbury Town Council submitted the Shaftesbury Neighbourhood Plan 2019 to 2031 – First Review and supporting material to Dorset Council. An independent examiner was appointed, and his report was received in May 2026. In summary, the examiner's report concluded that the Shaftesbury Neighbourhood Plan 2019 to 2031 – First Review would meet the basic conditions and other legal requirements, subject to modifications.

The examiner concluded that there was no statutory requirement for a referendum in this instance taking into account the nature of the changes proposed to the plan.

The area covered by the Shaftesbury Neighbourhood Plan 2019 to 2031 – First Review

The neighbourhood plan area covers the civil parish of Shaftesbury.

What this means for the Shaftesbury 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 Shaftesbury Neighbourhood Plan 2019 to 2031 – First Review forms part of the development plan for the civil parish of Shaftesbury, which also includes the North Dorset Local Plan Part 1 (adopted 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take precedence over existing non-strategic policies in the local plan, where they are in conflict, unless they are superseded by other policies that are adopted subsequently.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) Shaftesbury Neighbourhood Plan 2019 to 2031 – First Review can be viewed online at:
www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/shaftesbury-neighbourhood-plan-2019-2031