

North Dorset Local Plan Review

Issues and Options

Consultation

North Dorset District Council has a statutory duty to plan for new homes, jobs and infrastructure needed to support North Dorset's communities. The Local Plan has to be kept up to date to ensure quality of life and protect the environment.

The council is reviewing the North Dorset Local Plan Part 1 adopted in January 2016. The plan sets out policies for the future development of the district, and is used in the determination of planning applications. The review of the Local Plan will extend the period to which the plan relates, and will plan for revised amounts of housing and employment land needed over that time.

This is your opportunity to comment on and inform how the review of the local plan takes place.

Comments on the consultation should be returned by **5pm on 22 January 2018.**

What is the Local Plan?

The Local Plan sets out a vision and framework for the development of the area, typically for a 15–20 year period. It identifies land to meet future needs and guides decisions about development. The most recent local plan, known as the North Dorset Local Plan Part 1, was adopted by the Council in January 2016. Some policies from the 2003 local plan are also still in use.

Why do we need to review the plan?

Although it's only a short time since the Local Plan Part 1 came into effect, the Inspector who examined the plan said that we should prepare an early review. One of the main issues behind this review is the need to identify additional land capable of meeting housing needs.

What would happen if we didn't review the Local Plan?

If we don't review the Local Plan it will become out of date and we would have less control in determining where development goes.

Sustainability appraisal

A sustainability appraisal is prepared alongside the Local Plan. It helps us assess how the Local Plan will achieve sustainable development and ensure proposals in the plan are the most appropriate given any reasonable alternatives. It lets us consider ways the plan can contribute to environmental, social and economic improvements, as well as identifying potential adverse effects that the plan might have. As part of this consultation you can also respond to the Sustainability Appraisal Report.

What topics does the consultation cover?

The Local Plan Review Issues & Options Document covers the following topics:

- The number of dwellings needed over the plan period
- The amount of land needed for employment uses
- The spatial strategy for the district
- Assessing possible development potential around the five towns:
 - Blandford (Forum and St Mary)
 - Gillingham
 - Shaftesbury
 - Sturminster Newton
 - Stalbridge
- The Villages
- Affordable housing
- Self-build and custom-build housing
- Town centres
- Protecting important open and wooded areas
- Land reserved for bypasses along the A350 route

Each of these topics is set out in a chapter. Although you can comment on any part of the document, we have set out questions that we are seeking answers to at the end of each chapter.

Where can I find out more?

Copies of the consultation documents can be viewed during normal opening hours at the council's offices at Salisbury Road, Blandford Forum and South Walks Road, Dorchester, and at all libraries in the North Dorset district.

In addition, all the documents and supporting evidence are available online via: **dorsetforyou.gov.uk/planning/north-dorset/planning-policy**

How can I comment?

Complete the response form and email it to **planningpolicy@north-dorset.gov.uk** or post it to:
Planning Policy (North Dorset), South Walks House,
South Walks Road, Dorchester, DT1 1UZ

The deadline for responses is **5pm on Monday 22 January 2018.**

Can I put forward an alternative idea or site?

Alternative ideas, including sites for housing and employment can be submitted as part of the consultation process.

How will you use what I've told you?

We will analyse your comments and put them on our website. Your feedback will be used alongside other evidence to prepare a Preferred Options Document which will be consulted on in due course. The Preferred Options Document will identify potential sites for development.