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North Dorset Local Plan Part 1

Pre-submission Consultation 29 November 2013 to 24 January 2014

Regulation 19 of Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012)

Response Form

For each representation you wish to make a separate response form will need to be completed.

This is a formal consultation on the legal compliance and soundness of the Local Plan before it is submitted to the Secretary of State for examination by an Inspector. For advice on how to respond to the consultation and fill in this form please see the 'Guidance Notes for Making Representations' that can be found on the Council's website at www.dorsetforyou.com/planning/north-dorset/planning-policy

Please return completed forms to:

Email: planningpolicy@north-dorset.gov.uk

Post: Planning Policy, North Dorset District Council, Nordon, Salisbury Road, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 7LL

Alternatively you can submit your comments online at: www.surveymonkey.com/s/NorthDorsetLocalPlan

Deadline: 5pm on 24 January 2014. Representations received after this time may not be accepted.

Part A – Personal details

This part of the form must be completed by all people making representations as **anonymous comments cannot be accepted**. Representations cannot be treated in confidence as Regulation 22 of the Town and County Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 requires copies of all representations to be made publically available. By submitting this response form on the pre-submission North Dorset Local Plan Part 1 you consent to your information being disclosed to third parties for this purpose, but signatures, private telephone numbers and e-mail addresses or private addresses will not be visible on our web site, although they will be shown on paper copies that will be sent to the Inspector and available for inspection.

*If an agent is appointed, please complete only the Title, Name and Organisation boxes to the personal details but complete the full contact details of the agent. All correspondence will be sent to the agent.

| Personal Details (if applicable)* | | Agent's Details (if applicable)* | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--|--|
| Title | | Mr | |
| First Name | | David | |
| Last Name | | Ramsay | |
| Job Title (where relevant) | | Associate | |
| Organisation (where relevant) | Neal's Yard Remedies | Vail Williams LLP | |
| Address | | Meridians House, 7 Ocean Way, Ocean Village, Southampton | |
| Postcode | | SO14 3TJ | |
| Tel. No. | | 02380 820900 | |
| Email Address | | dramsay@vailwilliams.com | |

Part B – Representation

The North Dorset Local Plan 2011 to 2026 Part 1 and its supporting documents have been published in order for representations to be made prior to submission to the Secretary of State for examination. The purpose of the examination is to consider whether the Local Plan complies with the **legal requirements** and is **'sound'**.

If you are seeking to make a representation on the **way** in which documents have been prepared it is likely that your comments or objections will relate to a matter of **legal compliance**.

If you are seeking to make representations on the **content** of the documents it is likely that your comments or objections relate to the **soundness** of the plans and whether it is justified, effective or consistent with national policy.

Further information on the matter of legal compliance and the issue of soundness can be found in the 'Guidance Notes for Making Representations'.

If you need help completing the response form please see a member of the Planning Policy Team at one of the consultation exhibitions or call 01258 484201.

1. Please select which document you are commenting on:

- North Dorset Local Plan 2011 to 2026 Part 1 (please complete Questions 2 to 9)
- Final Sustainability Appraisal Report (please complete Questions 2 and 10)
- Habitats Regulations Assessment (please complete Questions 2 and 10)

2. Please state the part of that document you are commenting on:

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Paragraph number: | Policy/site: Policy 11 | Policies map: |
|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------|

3. Do you consider the Local Plan to be legally compliant and prepared in accordance with the Duty to Cooperate, legal and procedural requirements?

- Yes No

4. Do you consider the Local Plan to be 'sound'?

- Yes No

5. If you consider the Local Plan to be unsound please specify your reason(s) by ticking the box(es) that apply below

- It has not been positively prepared
- It is not justified
- It is not effective
- It is not consistent with national policy

6. Please give specific details of why you consider the Local Plan has not been prepared in accordance with the Duty to Co-operate, legal or procedural requirement or why you consider the plan to be unsound. Alternatively, if you wish to support any aspects of the plan please also use this box to set out your comments.

As set out in the accompanying report, Neal's Yard Remedies considers the Local Plan unsound.

Policy 11 is unsound as it does not allow for the full complement of alternative uses (including residential) to be considered for an employment site if there is no reasonable prospect of it being used for that purpose. This is in conflict with paragraph 22 of the NPPF in that it doesn't allow the full range of alternative uses to be considered for underused / vacant employment sites even with regard to market signals.

Given the significant oversupply of employment land it is unreasonable to restrict what already is an employment site (and will predominantly remain as such) to 'employment' uses in its entirety.

The Employment Land Review that accompanies these representations shows that there is both sufficient employment land available in the District and that there is no demand for additional employment floorspace.

Furthermore, speculative development of commercial floorspace is not viable on the site.

In effect, the identified site will remain vacant if restricted to employment uses which is not in conformity with the flexibility required in NPPF policy.

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary

7. What change(s) do you consider are necessary to ensure that the Local Plan is legally compliant and sound? It would be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text. Please be as precise as possible.

At the very least the policy should be amended to add in '...or other uses (including residential) where need / demand can be demonstrated' beneath bullet point 'r'.

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary

8. If your representation is seeking a change, do you consider it necessary to participate in the oral part of the examination?

- No, I do not wish to participate in the oral examination
- Yes, I would like to participate in the oral examination

9. If you wish to participate in the oral part of the examination please outline why you consider that to be necessary. Please note that the Inspector determines who is heard at the examination.

To discuss the merits of the policy and its conformity with the NPPF and the impact it may have on the local economy.

10. Please outline your comments on the Final Sustainability Appraisal Report or Habitats Regulations Assessment. Comments are not confined to 'soundness' issues, but respondents can express their opinions on the above documents and use it as a reference point on the 'soundness' of the Local Plan.

n/a

11. Do you wish to be notified of any of the following? Please tick all that apply. We will contact you using the details you have given above.

- That the Local Plan Part 1 has been submitted for independent examination
- The publication of the recommendations of any person appointed to carry out an independent examination of the Local Plan Part 1
- The adoption of the Local Plan Part 1.

Signature: _____
If submitting _____ is required.

Date: 24/1/14