

NORTH DORSET LOCAL PLAN 2011 – 2026 PART 1

INFRASTRUCTURE

BACKGROUND PAPER

November 2013

This Background Paper is intended to be read and used in conjunction with the other background papers that support the Local Plan Part 1.

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 This document is one of a number of background papers produced to support Part 1 of the North Dorset Local Plan that sets out the strategic policies for the District for the period 2011 to 2026. It provides a general overview of infrastructure¹ in North Dorset, summarising the relevant evidence base which informs the policies in the Local Plan Part 1. It sets out the background - at national, regional and local levels - against which the Local Plan Part 1 is set.
- 1.2 This revision takes into account changes to the national planning framework, notably through the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 and most importantly the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2012.
- 1.3 The Local Plan Part 1 has been developed from the draft Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (DPD) (that was also known as the New Plan for North Dorset), which was published in March 2010. The Local Plan Part 1 has been drafted to reflect the major reforms of the planning system and to have regard to the recent global economic downturn.
- 1.4 This background paper is a working document which will be updated as evidence is acquired and the consultation process proceeds. It is based on a previous topic paper on the same issue that was published in 2012.
- 1.5 This background paper has been prepared to support the pre-submission publication of the North Dorset Local Plan Part 1.

¹ Excluding transportation-related infrastructure which is dealt with in a separate Background Paper

2. Introduction

- 2.1 Most Planning Policy Guidance (PPG), Planning Policy Statements (PPS) and Minerals Planning Guidance (MPG) issued by the government over previous years up to 2012 have been replaced by the NPPF. At its core, the NPPF has a presumption in favour of sustainable development. As stated in the NPPF “all plans should be based upon and reflect the presumption in favour of sustainable development, with clear policies that will guide how the presumption should be applied locally.”²
- 2.2 The simplified national policy framework provided by the NPPF gives local planning authorities a central role in setting strategic policies which have greater specific relevance to their local area. It states³ that the NPPF is “a framework within which local people and their accountable councils can produce their own distinctive local and neighbourhood plans, which reflect the needs and priorities of their communities.” The NPPF sees the provision of infrastructure as an integral part of planning fulfilling its economic, social and environmental roles. The provision of infrastructure is a key element of many of national policy’s core planning principles and local planning authorities are encouraged to identify and address any lack of infrastructure in developing their planning policies.
- 2.3 The initial definition of infrastructure is in the 2008 Planning Act⁴ which states that infrastructure includes:
- roads and other transport facilities;
 - flood defences;
 - schools and other educational facilities;
 - medical facilities;
 - sporting and recreational facilities;
 - open spaces; and
 - affordable housing.
- 2.4 The NPPF states that a local plan should “plan positively for the development and infrastructure required in the area to meet the objectives, principles and policies of this Framework”.⁵ It also states that local plans “should include strategic policies to deliver:

² Paragraph 15, National Planning Policy Framework, DCLG (March 2012)

³ Paragraph 1, National Planning Policy Framework, DCLG (March 2012)

⁴ Section 216 Para (2) of the Planning Act 2008

⁵ Paragraph 157, National Planning Policy Framework, DCLG (March 2012).

- ... the provision of infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management ...;
- the provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities; ...⁶

2.5 A wide ranging definition of infrastructure is thus presented, especially as the NPPF also says that “local planning authorities should set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure.”⁷

2.6 Through this role, it places responsibility for coordinating the provision of infrastructure to support growth and local communities needs on the authorities. The Government therefore regards local planning authorities as co-ordinators, bringing together the community, service providers and private enterprise.

2.7 In North Dorset, the provision of infrastructure and its timely delivery will support housing and economic development, make settlements more self-contained and help to achieve Objective 6 - Improving the Quality of Life. It will also ensure the continued vitality of the District’s market towns and help to maintain sustainable communities in rural areas.

⁶ Paragraph 156, National Planning Policy Framework, DCLG (March 2012)

⁷ Paragraph 114, National Planning Policy Framework, DCLG (March 2012)

3. Infrastructure for North Dorset

Infrastructure Delivery and Funding

- 3.1 The Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) provides more detail on how infrastructure projects will be delivered. It aims to set out:
- what infrastructure is required;
 - when the necessary infrastructure will be put in place;
 - what likely costs are involved;
 - how those costs will be met; and
 - who will deliver that infrastructure.
- 3.2 Many agencies, authorities, bodies, organisations and others concerned with the provision of infrastructure have been involved in preparatory work for the IDP and will continue to have an involvement as it evolves. However, as well as the coordination of providers, the delivery of infrastructure will require the coordination of funding from a variety of sources. This may come from EU funding streams, central government, County Council building programmes or developers who may be required to provide or fund on-site provision or contribute to the costs of provision off-site or the enhancement of existing facilities by way of site-based planning obligations. Larger projects will draw on funding from a number of sources but the IDP draws all the different facets of infrastructure delivery together into a single framework which accompanies the policies in the Local Plan.
- 3.3 One source of infrastructure funding is the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), which councils have had the ability to implement since April 2010. The CIL is a charge that local authorities are empowered, but not required, to place on most types of development in their area to support local and sub-regional infrastructure associated with growth. North Dorset District Council intends to implement a CIL following adoption of the Local Plan Part 1.
- 3.4 Any Council wishing to use the CIL must produce a 'charging schedule' setting out the amount to be raised from each type of development (charged at £ per square metre of residential or other floorspace). The charging schedule, the contents of which must be examined at a public inquiry, can only be brought into force once a local plan is adopted. As well as supporting the Local Plan, the IDP will provide the fundamental evidence base to determine the local need for the levy and the setting of the appropriate level of charge. Proceeds from the CIL will then help to fund items of infrastructure identified in the IDP.

Infrastructure and Neighbourhood Plans

- 3.5 While much work has already been undertaken in developing the IDP, there are still some uncertainties in relation to the impact of the CIL. In order to help town and parish councils fund infrastructure or, indeed, anything else that will help address

the demands that development places on the area, the Council is required to pass on a 'meaningful proportion'⁸ of Levy receipts to town or parish councils⁹ with adopted Neighbourhood Plans (NPs). Communities are able to use these monies to fund projects which the community determines.

- 3.6 Uncertainties arise in that the projects chosen by the respective communities may not mesh tightly with the Council's infrastructure objectives. Additionally, there is the issue of the geographic distribution of NPs and thus the spatial dispersal of funding. The overall distribution of NPs may not relate very closely with the main areas of development identified in the Local Plan. In addition, it is not known how many NPs there will be eventually in North Dorset and which areas they will cover.¹⁰
- 3.7 The Council will seek to work closely with communities to help determine the most appropriate and effective use of CIL contributions in achieving the infrastructure required to support development in the District's settlements.

⁸ Councils are currently required to pass on 25% of Levy receipts (uncapped) in an area with a town or parish council and an adopted neighbourhood plan. In the absence of a neighbourhood plan, the Council is currently required to pass on 15% of Levy receipts in an area with a town or parish council, capped at £100 per dwelling.

⁹ The Council has equivalent wider powers to spend this 'meaningful proportion' of CIL funds on the priorities identified in areas without parish councils, through consultation with local communities.

¹⁰ At present, six communities are at various stages of preparing NPs while others are at the very first stage of consideration. The market towns are committed (Gillingham being the first in August 2012), some in conjunction with adjoining parishes, as well as the individual parishes such as Bourton and Shillingstone.

4. Issues Arising from Stakeholder and Community Consultations

Consultation 2007 - Issues and Options

- 4.1 In June/July 2007, the Council undertook consultation on the issues and options¹¹ for a core strategy. However, this did not include specific infrastructure questions other than for transport, referred to in the separate Transportation Background Paper.

Consultation 2010 - The Draft Core Strategy

- 4.2 While the North Dorset District-Wide Local Plan 2003 did not include any specific infrastructure policies, the Draft Core Strategy did contain a Section devoted to grey, social and green infrastructure provision and supporting policies, reflecting the Council's intention to ensure the provision of adequate and appropriate infrastructure to underpin new development.
- 4.3 Consultation was undertaken from March 2010 on the draft Core Strategy ('The New Plan for North Dorset'), embracing the draft strategic and development management policies for the District. A large number of responses covered a wide variety of issues, of which infrastructure issues, especially transportation, figured large. Many concerns echoed those of the 2007 consultation exercise.
- 4.4 Apart from transportation issues, responses to grey infrastructure matters embraced: improved flood risk management; provision of high speed broadband access and better mobile phone coverage; and provision of mains sewerage.
- 4.5 Social infrastructure attracted almost as high a level of response as grey infrastructure; education in respect of schools' capacity to absorb growth in numbers being a topic of notable interest, although other issues were raised, such as the lack of further education facilities. The capacity of doctors' and dentists' surgeries raised a significant amount of comment, while recreational and leisure facilities also attracted a strong response.
- 4.6 Although slightly less than for social infrastructure, a high a level of response was made to green infrastructure matters. Preparation of a Green Infrastructure Strategy was well supported. The need for the provision of more allotments was a recurring theme, as were recognition of the importance of hedgerows, as green corridors and for visual benefit, and support for the extension of the North Dorset Trailway.

¹¹ Core Strategy: Issues and Alternative Options, North Dorset District Council (June 2007)

Consultation 2012 - Key Issues

4.7 The North Dorset Infrastructure Delivery Plan Background Paper Consultation Draft was published for consultation in November 2012, as part of the wider consultation on 'key issues' for the revision of the draft Core Strategy. The IDP is a supporting document for the Local Plan Part 1. In essence, it discusses and puts forward what is considered to be the extra infrastructure necessary to support the proposals in the Local Plan Part 1.

4.8 In the November 2012 'key issues' consultation, 3 of the 28 questions specifically sought comment on the IDP Background Paper Consultation Draft. The questions asked were:

Question 17 - Do you agree with the level of significance assigned to different types of infrastructure, as set out in Appendix A of the draft IDP Background Paper?

Question 18 - Is the information relating to the specific projects identified in Appendix B of the draft IDP Background Paper correct? In particular do you agree with the significance assigned to individual projects (i.e. critical, essential, necessary or desirable) and do you have any comments on the information relating to funding, phasing and the lead delivery agencies identified?

Question 19 - Are there any new or additional projects (that are needed to support growth) that should be included in Appendix B of the draft IDP Background Paper?

4.9 The key responses (to all aspects of infrastructure) were as follows:

- the provision of additional medical facilities was seen as particularly important to many people, perhaps more so than improvements in roads and education;
- walking and cycling facilities are significant infrastructure elements;
- there are different views as to the relative importance of infrastructure elements in the towns and the rural areas; and
- the draft IDP provides a fairly comprehensive list of infrastructure project requirements over the plan period.

4.10 The 2012 Consultation Draft of the IDP recognised as 'critical'¹² most grey infrastructure categories, essentially, transportation (not rail or air), utilities, waste

¹² The 2012 Consultation Draft of the IDP used four infrastructure categories of significance - Critical (to deliver the development without adverse impact), Essential (to deliver the Core Strategy Vision and objectives), Necessary (to meet the needs of the community) and Desirable (to respond to community aspirations). Following comments on these categories, the last two have now been combined into a single category in the IDP - Required (to meet the needs and aspirations of the community).

and drainage issues. This position was generally agreed by respondents to the 2012 consultation.

- 4.11 The outcome of the 2012 consultation was that local residents who responded agreed that pre-school and primary education, health and emergency services were the 'critical' aspects of social infrastructure.
- 4.12 No aspect of green infrastructure was considered 'critical' by respondents to the draft IDP Background Paper. Active recreation (sports pitches, non-pitch sports areas, children's play areas), and community space (amenity open space and informal open space) were often regarded as 'essential' while allotments, village greens, parks and gardens and nature reserves were all regarded as 'necessary'.
- 4.13 Developing alongside the consultative process has been the community planning process. Each Local Community Partnership has its own community strategy which establishes community needs for the District's four largest towns and their rural hinterlands. Local communities are active both in formulating concepts and in looking in more detail at specific proposals.
- 4.14 Service providers were consulted and have also provided information concerning such matters as the future need for, and provision of, doctors' and dentists' surgeries.
- 4.15 Consultation with stakeholders and the wider public has also taken place in various ways with regard to other elements of the evidence base, the outcomes of which have informed various studies and strategies. For example, the Residential Car Parking Study involved developers and other stakeholders providing input, the Local Transport Plan has been prepared in active consultation with parish and town councils and the wider community, the report on growth in Gillingham drew on community aspirations and development of the Dorset Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS)¹³ involved many community groups and organisations.

¹³ Shaping Our Future: The Community Strategy for Dorset 2010 - 2020, Dorset Strategic Partnership (November 2010)

5. Issues Arising from the Evidence Base

Identifying Infrastructure Needs

5.1 The Local Plan Part 1 objectives relate to:

- meeting the challenge of climate change;
- conserving and enhancing the historic and natural environment;
- ensuring vitality of the market towns;
- supporting sustainable rural communities;
- meeting the District's housing needs; and
- improving the quality of life.

5.2 These overall objectives very often suggest their own infrastructure requirements, which may be grouped into the provision of:

- 'grey infrastructure' (e.g. transport, utilities and drainage);
- 'social infrastructure' (e.g. community, leisure, cultural, education and health facilities);
- 'green infrastructure' (e.g. linked networks of open space including informal recreational areas and wildlife corridors); and
- town based infrastructure projects (e.g. town centre enhancement schemes).

5.3 As well as taking cues from national planning policy, infrastructure needs have been established from a number of other sources, including:

- the 2003 Local Plan, which established infrastructure requirements to 2011;
- the Council's Planning Guidance Note¹⁴, which set out the needs and levels for developer contributions towards the provision of education, community facilities and leisure, neighbourhood halls, outdoor sports facilities and transport improvements in different parts of the District;
- Interim Planning Guidance on the development of amenity open space and play areas¹⁵;
- standards of provision proposed by bodies such as Fields in Trust¹⁶ and the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners; and
- Dorset County Council programmes.

5.4 Direction has also been taken from a number of the evidence base studies which have been undertaken. Studies such as the Audit of Open Space have examined the

¹⁴ Planning Guidance Note: Planning Obligations for the Provision of Community Infrastructure – Edition 7, North Dorset District Council (December 2011 – Revised Costs June 2011)

¹⁵ Interim Planning Guidance: The Development of Areas of Amenity Open Space, Play Areas and Commuted Sums, North Dorset District Council (October 2005)

¹⁶ Formerly the National Playing Fields Association

adequacy of existing provision, whilst others (for instance, the Gillingham study¹⁷) have looked at the infrastructure needed to support the growth proposed in the period up to 2026.

- 5.5 The community planning model for North Dorset operates on the basis of the towns of Blandford, Gillingham, Shaftesbury and Sturminster Newton being the main service centres for their surrounding rural hinterlands. Each area has its own Local Community Partnership (LCP) and, following an evaluation in 2007, the Community Partnerships Executive for North Dorset (CPEND) was set up to better enable local priorities to be taken forward at the strategic level.
- 5.6 CPEND and the LCPs are now concentrating their work on themes, which are themselves anchored in on-going projects rather than being led by issues. Currently, areas of work included:
- broadband provision;
 - travel surveys;
 - neighbourhood planning;
 - North Dorset Business Park;
 - high street regeneration;
 - North Dorset Trailway;
 - various access to services projects;
 - various health, sport and culture projects;
 - open spaces; and
 - renewable energy.
- 5.7 These themes involve significant provision of infrastructure and, in addition to these common issues, each LCP has identified a range of more specific issues for their area.

Grey Infrastructure

Introduction

- 5.8 For the purposes of the Local Plan, grey infrastructure includes:
- transportation - including roads, cycleways, footpaths and measures to facilitate public transport use;
 - utilities - including telecommunications, electricity, gas and water supply, sewerage and wastewater treatment;
 - drainage - including Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and flood prevention measures; and
 - waste - including its collection, transfer and disposal; and

¹⁷ Assessing the Growth Potential of Gillingham, Dorset, Atkins (December 2009)

- public realm - including street art and urban enhancement works¹⁸.

- 5.9 Each of these elements is essential for the proper functioning of settlements and is crucial to the delivery of growth. Transportation is a major element and is discussed in its own background paper. Discussion here focusses on the provision of other necessary grey infrastructure.
- 5.10 In determining what grey infrastructure is needed, as well as where and when it is required, the Council has worked with other authorities and public bodies together with providers and operators to establish parameters as accurately as possible.
- 5.11 Some elements are dealt with elsewhere, most notably local renewables. Renewable energy and the generation of heat or electricity from renewable or low carbon sources gives rise to a need for appropriate infrastructure. Policy 3 relates to climate change and Policy 22 deals with renewables and low carbon energy.

Grey Infrastructure - Utilities

- 5.12 Various companies are responsible for the provision of gas, electricity, water and telecommunications, together with their means of transmission. These companies have their own delivery plans¹⁹ and programmes for the coming years, which need to ensure that planned growth can be accommodated. The works that they undertake in order to provide, repair or maintain their transmission networks are on the whole not controlled by the Local Planning Authority.

Gas

- 5.13 The National Transmission System (NTS)²⁰ is a high pressure, large diameter gas pipeline network running from shoreline terminals via compressor stations to pipeline systems and off-takes which serve consumers. There is a distribution station at Mappowder on the high pressure gas main which runs across the District, in the Local Distribution Zone owned and managed by Welsh and West Utilities. There are numerous gas suppliers who use this system and applications for new connections must be made to them. Depending on the level and location of new development, Transco has indicated that the existing network of medium and low pressure distribution mains may need to be extended to support new neighbourhoods.

¹⁸ Depending on its nature, public realm infrastructure can also be seen as social and green infrastructure, containing elements of all three types, just as the Trailway does, for instance.

¹⁹ For example, Gas Transportation Ten Year Statement - National Grid, (December 2009); Operating the Electricity Networks in 2020 - Initial Consultation Document - National Grid Electricity Transmission, (June 2009); 2009 GB Seven Year Statement 2009/10 to 2015/16 inclusive - National Grid Electricity Transmission, (May 2009); Water Resource Management Plan - Wessex Water, 2009; Securing Water Supplies - Wessex Water, (June 2008)

²⁰ Operated and maintained by National Grid Transco.

Electricity

- 5.14 Electricity supplies are provided by the high-voltage electricity transmission system in England and Wales, which National Grid owns and maintains together with the operation of the system across Great Britain. The District is traversed by a high voltage transmission line and has various sub-stations and underground lines serving settlements. Scottish and Southern Electric has stated that these may need to be upgraded and extended to serve new developments in the future.

Water

- 5.15 Water supply in the District is the responsibility of Wessex Water. Some 80% of the water supplied comes from groundwater sources in Wiltshire and Dorset. Policy 3 – Climate Change - seeks greater water efficiency in new buildings and encourages the prudent use of water resources. In addition to these measures, Wessex Water has pointed to a potential need to upgrade supply networks during the Plan period to serve new developments, notably west of Blandford St Mary.

Telecommunications

- 5.16 Modern telecommunications play a significant role in the life of local communities, especially in rural areas. They also have a particular role to play in promoting sustainable communities by reducing the need to travel for work, education / learning, shopping and leisure. The NPPF states unequivocally that “advanced, high quality communications infrastructure is essential for sustainable economic growth”²¹ and “in preparing Local Plans, local planning authorities should support the expansion of electronic communications networks, including telecommunications and high speed broadband”.²²
- 5.17 Broadband availability across North Dorset is not as widespread or effective as it should be; indeed, a few areas have no access to broadband at all while others have slow or very slow connection speeds. The Council is working with DCC and others²³ in efforts to remedy the situation but there will still be 'blackspots' to be addressed. Broadband access is seen by the Council and by local communities as essential in order to attract businesses to the area and to increase employment and prosperity. This is reflected in the emphasis put upon IT and e-communications in the Dorset Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS).

Drainage and Flood Prevention Measures

- 5.18 It is made clear in the NPPF that development should be directed away from areas

²¹ Paragraph 42, National Planning Policy Framework, DCLG (March 2012)

²² Paragraph 43, National Planning Policy Framework, DCLG (March 2012)

²³ 'Superfast Dorset' is supported by the Council and the County Council and 'Trailway Broadband' is a scheme prepared by CPEND to utilise the Trailway as the primary route for a fibre optic cable linking parts of North Dorset.

at highest risk of flooding²⁴. Policy 3 also establishes that new development in North Dorset should not be at risk from flooding. If development is necessary then it should be made safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere. In order to help manage flood risk, there is also a need to use sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)²⁵.

- 5.19 The NPPF urges local authorities to work with other authorities and providers and to frame strategic policies to deliver the provision of infrastructure for dealing with flood risk²⁶. Flood management is the responsibility of the Environment Agency, which deals with flood defences at Blandford Forum, Gillingham and elsewhere. The Agency intends to continue with its current flood risk management policy, which includes assessing the potential for improving current flood defences and seeking to ensure that there is no increase in run-off from new developments while also seeking opportunities to reduce run-off wherever possible.

Wastewater management

- 5.20 The District's urban wastewater²⁷, which flows through the system of public and private sewers²⁸, is the responsibility of Wessex Water, utilising a number of treatment works in the District. These networks may need to be upgraded during the Plan period to serve new developments. Wessex Water has identified the anaerobic digestion plant at Gillingham Sewage Treatment Works as requiring significant investment. Development proposed west of Blandford St Mary would require further engineering appraisal to determine the nature and scope of capacity improvements to sewerage networks.

Waste

- 5.21 The Dorset Waste Partnership²⁹ (DWP) is responsible for running waste services on behalf of a consortium of five Dorset authorities, including North Dorset District

²⁴ Paragraph 100, National Planning Policy Framework, DCLG (March 2012)

²⁵ The Flood and Water Management Act 2012 encourages the uptake of sustainable drainage systems by removing the automatic right to connect to sewers and providing for unitary and county councils to adopt SuDs for new developments and redevelopments. The Act does this by including the requirement that developers include sustainable drainage, where practicable, in new developments, built to standards which reduce flood damage and improve water quality. Also, it makes the right to connect surface water run-off to public sewers conditional on meeting the new standards.

²⁶ Paragraph 156, National Planning Policy Framework, DCLG (March 2012)

²⁷ Wastewater is the 'used water' that is discharged by homes, communities, farms and businesses. Wastewater notably includes domestic sewage and industrial waste from manufacturing sources. Urban wastewater is any domestic wastewater, mixture of domestic and industrial wastewater and / or rainwater.

²⁸ In 2008 the Government announced the transfer of ownership of private sewers and lateral drains from private individuals to water and sewerage companies.

²⁹ The Partnership was formed in 2009. Following the adoption of the by all seven Dorset councils which will guide the way in which waste is dealt with over the next 25 years.

Council. Since April 2011, residents in North Dorset have had their refuse and recycling collections dealt with by the DWP. Household recycling centres, the treatment and disposal of waste and waste reduction promotions across Dorset are also managed by the DWP. The provision of waste infrastructure will stem from the Dorset Waste Management Strategy.³⁰

Public Realm

- 5.22 Infrastructure in the public realm might be seen as a cultural element of social infrastructure. Similarly, town centre enhancement schemes frequently focus on hard landscaping and surfacing but often also include soft landscaping more usually seen as green infrastructure. However, because of its frequent and usually predominant constructional or 'hard' character, infrastructure in the public realm is dealt with here as grey infrastructure.
- 5.23 Public realm infrastructure, often involving public art³¹, is not widespread in the District. Public art is significant in achieving high quality design: encouraging public art enhances the appearance of buildings and public spaces, can provide local landmarks and promotes a strong sense of place. As the main objective of public art is to enhance the quality of a place, it should be an integral part of the design process for the overall development.
- 5.24 DCC operates a scheme whereby sponsors can support public art on roundabouts³² as well as, or instead of, hard or soft landscaping.
- 5.25 As a consequence, the Council will seek to have incorporated in new developments such art elements as may be appropriate and support their introduction into existing developments.

Social Infrastructure

Introduction

- 5.26 One of the NPPF's core principles is for planning "to take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs".³³
- 5.27 The Local Plan Part 1 acknowledges these principles and seeks to ensure that the social infrastructure that our communities need is planned for positively. In

³⁰ Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Dorset, Joint Dorset Councils, 2009

³¹ The term 'public art' often refers to works of art in any medium that have been planned and executed with the specific intention of being sited or staged in the public domain. Such works are usually outside and accessible to all and have often been produced with community involvement and collaboration.

³² One recent example is the installation in June 2013 of three badgers on the A350/A354 roundabout at Blandford, surrounded by wildflower planting, sponsored by the Hall and Woodhouse Brewery.

³³ Paragraph 17, National Planning Policy Framework, DCLG (March 2012)

particular, it aims to deliver:

- education facilities (including pre-school childcare, primary and secondary, further and community learning and special needs education);
- health services (hospitals, general surgeries and health centres);
- emergency services (police, fire and rescue and ambulance);
- cultural facilities (libraries, art galleries, arts centres and museums);
- recreation and sport facilities (indoor sports facilities and youth centres); and
- community facilities (non-commercial facilities such as community halls, places of worship and cemeteries).

Education

- 5.28 The Government attaches great importance to ensuring that there is a sufficient choice of school places available to meet the needs of existing and new communities. They require local planning authorities to take a proactive, positive and collaborative approach to meeting this requirement, and to development that will widen choice in education. The Government also give great weight to the need to create, expand or alter schools or education providers.³⁴

Pre-school Childcare

- 5.29 In 2011 the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment³⁵, carried out by DCC Children's Services, assessed the supply and demand of pre-school childcare across the County and whether it met the demands of local families. It identified a key role for Children's Centres in delivering an integrated approach to family support.
- 5.30 The assessment did not identify any geographical gaps in childcare provision in North Dorset but it did acknowledge the challenges for childcare providers in a rural area where populations are sparse and demand fluctuates and recognised that childminders could play an important role in meeting needs in these areas.

Primary and Secondary Education

- 5.31 DCC is the Education Authority for Dorset and, as such, has responsibility for all aspects of education, including research into need, and the consequent construction and maintenance of educational facilities. The Council has worked with DCC to assess the likely future schooling needs of the District over the Plan period. This assessment, undertaken in July 2013, took into account the likely increase in the school-age population associated with proposed growth. Evidence now shows that there is a need for additional accommodation, both at primary and secondary school levels, in all four of the Districts main towns, the timing of delivery of which will be determined by the County Council.

³⁴ Paragraph 72, National Planning Policy Framework, DCLG (March 2012)

³⁵ Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, Dorset County Council (2011)

Further Education and Adult Learning

- 5.32 There are no higher education establishments in the District, but further education is offered by a number of providers. In Shaftesbury there is the North Dorset Skills Centre at Wincombe Lane, which is part of Yeovil College. In Sturminster Newton there is the EQ Skills Training Base at Butts Pond that helps young people wishing to engage in academic education to gain employment skills and self-confidence.
- 5.33 The District also has strong links with Kingston Maurward College, an agricultural college based in Dorchester which provides subsidised transport for a significant number of students in the area.
- 5.34 Community learning is also available in the form of adult courses at a variety of venues and through work-based learning.

Independent Schools

- 5.35 North Dorset contains a higher than average proportion of private schools. These schools are often in extensive grounds and organise and manage their own development seeking planning permission as necessary. Countryside policies allow for the essential expansion of such facilities. Schools of this kind also add modestly to the economic strength of the District and, perhaps more importantly, often open up their sports and recreation facilities to nearby communities, thereby improving the general quality of life in rural areas.

Special Education Needs

- 5.36 There are two schools catering for special needs within the District: these are the Yewstock School in Sturminster Newton, a day community school taking pupils from age 2 until 19 years who have profound, multiple or complex learning difficulties; and the Forum in Shillingstone, a special boarding school catering for pupils with autism aged 5-12 years. Both schools are located within existing residential areas and the implications of expansion will need to be assessed in line with other policies within the Local Plan.

Health³⁶

Hospitals

- 5.37 There is no hospital dealing with accident or emergency cases (A and E) in North Dorset. Such cases are referred to the appropriate service in Dorchester, Yeovil, Salisbury, or in some cases, Poole. There are no plans to locate this type of service within the District in the future.

³⁶ As part of the changes to the NHS brought about by the Health and Social Care Act 2012, Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) and Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs) ceased to exist on 31 March 2013. Their responsibilities were taken over by a range of new organisations - Dorset Health Care University NHS Foundation Trust and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs).

- 5.38 Under the auspices of Dorset Health Care University NHS Foundation Trust there are two community hospitals in North Dorset. The Trust has a commitment to engaging patients, service users, carers and the wider community in the development and delivery of the services it provides. They believe it is essential that the services they offer are informed and influenced by local peoples' views and participation.
- 5.39 The Council supports the Trust in joining forces with DCC, other councils and NHS bodies in looking at ways of delivering health and social care services in Dorset as a whole under the new initiative, 'Better Together' that seeks to make the best use of available resources.

General Practitioner Surgeries, Health Centres and Pharmacies

- 5.40 At a local level, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are made up of local GPs, nurses and other professionals who are now responsible for commissioning services for local communities. The Dorset CCG supports people in Dorset to lead healthier lives and it is divided into localities. With the exception of the surgery in Silton, which due to its close proximity to the County boundary is in the Wiltshire CCG, the remaining twelve surgeries in North Dorset are within either the North or Mid Dorset Locality.
- 5.41 Responding to direct consultation with all surgeries in 2012, a majority confirmed that they had spare capacity or were able to meet the additional need for General Practitioners through expansion of existing facilities. However, in Blandford the Whitecliff Surgery acknowledged that the health provision was already under pressure and that a new or improved / extended surgery is required.
- 5.42 There are twelve dental practices distributed across North Dorset in the main towns and Stalbridge. Most practices have spaces on their lists and some have room in their existing premises to allow the engagement of additional dentists.
- 5.43 Although pharmaceutical service provision in the District is good at present and there are no current gaps, with adequate numbers and spatial distribution, the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA)³⁷ is clear that the capacity and capability of existing pharmacies must be kept under review as development take place and as the population becomes more elderly. The PNA also expresses the view that increased provision of pharmacy enhanced services in Sturminster Newton would result in improvements and better access to services.
- 5.44 New health facilities including a doctors' surgery, a dental surgery and a pharmacy will be required to meet the needs of the new Southern Extension in Gillingham.

Emergency Services

- 5.45 Community safety and emergency services (Police, Fire and Rescue and Ambulance)

³⁷ Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment, NHS Dorset (2011)

are important elements of social infrastructure. The authorities responsible for providing these services have no immediate plans for expansion within the District but this is likely to be reviewed as the Southern Extension to Gillingham is delivered.

Culture

- 5.46 The provision of cultural facilities is important for the health and well-being of the community. Over the plan period, the need for well located, easily accessible libraries, art galleries, art centres and museums will increase as the population of the District grows. Buildings that are well designed and allow for a range of uses that complement existing facilities are encouraged in the main towns. Outside the towns, cultural facilities and their provision will be a matter for local communities to consider through the neighbourhood planning process.

Libraries

- 5.47 Library services in the District are currently provided by DCC. The strategy for libraries for Dorset sees the number of community-based libraries increasing. It also sets out a new approach to the library service structured around:
- a smaller network of County Council supported library buildings;
 - the provision of mobile library services;
 - continued investment in access to services via the website; and
 - continued working with partners to provide services including working with local communities to take ownership of their local library.
- 5.48 There are four 'core' libraries in North Dorset, in each of the main towns. There is also a community library in Stalbridge that is run by local volunteers but supported by the County Council. This library also acts as a hub for community activity in the locality.
- 5.49 The main infrastructure focus is therefore on the main town's libraries.

Art Galleries and Arts Centres

- 5.50 Currently there are no public art galleries in North Dorset and there are only limited permanent facilities for music and performing arts. The two main facilities are the Exchange at Sturminster Newton and the Arts Centre in Shaftesbury. Both function as arts centres as well as a focus for community and leisure activities involving music, theatre and film. They also display works by local artists. On a smaller scale, there is also the Slade Centre in Gillingham that offers art classes, workshops and exhibitions.
- 5.51 Outside the main towns, the larger village halls such as Durweston and Fontmell Magna are used for Arts Reach Theatre events and the Moviola travels around a number of villages showing films to local audiences.

- 5.52 At the time of preparing this Plan, The Fording Point project, an arts centre incorporating theatre, cinema and other facilities, is proposed in Blandford Town Centre. Refurbishment of the Corn Exchange in Blandford will also provide additional facilities.

Museums

- 5.53 There are many small local museums around the District telling stories of rural life in bygone days, battlefield communications through the ages, and displaying items from geological history from when the area was under the sea. All are valuable educational resources and also contribute to the local tourism industry, especially in the main towns, which have good transport links.

Sport and Recreation

- 5.54 National policy³⁸ requires local planning authorities to work with the health sector to understand and take account of the health status and needs of the local population, such as for sports, recreation and places of worship.
- 5.55 The Dorset Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)³⁹ recognises the need for a joint physical activity strategy in which existing sport and leisure centres, together with community halls and the natural environment play a key role in ensuring that those who want to be active can find physical activities they enjoy.
- 5.56 Additional provision of sport and recreation facilities will be needed as development takes place, building on the assets identified in the Council's open space audit.⁴⁰

Formal and Informal Indoor Facilities

- 5.57 There are three indoor sport and leisure centres in Blandford, Gillingham and Sturminster Newton. The former is managed by a Trust while the latter two are managed by the local community. They all provide local residents with an opportunity to participate in formal and informal indoor exercise ranging from recreational swimming to exercise classes. These facilities are also shared with the secondary schools in the towns. In addition to these three centres, many of the District's independent schools also share their indoor facilities with local communities.
- 5.58 There are also Youth and Community Centres in Blandford, Gillingham, Shaftesbury and Sturminster Newton and outreach youth clubs based in village halls and other community halls in Stalbridge and Okeford Fitzpaine.
- 5.59 The assessment of future needs and the opportunities for new provision should

³⁸ Para 171, National Planning Policy Framework, DCLG (March 2012)

³⁹ Dorset Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, Dorset County Council (2011)

⁴⁰ Open Space Audit and Assessment of Local Need, Strategic Leisure Ltd (February 2006)

ideally be identified by local communities through the neighbourhood planning process.

Formal and Informal Outdoor Facilities

- 5.60 Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for outdoor sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Whilst formal and informal outdoor recreation and sport facilities perform a social function, they are primarily covered by Policy 15 - Green Infrastructure.
- 5.61 As a predominantly rural area, North Dorset is able to draw on widespread potential for sport and recreation.

Community

Community Halls and Places of Worship

- 5.62 The provision of community halls and places of worship adds vibrancy to the District's towns and villages and can provide a focus for activities. For example, a community hall can host a range of activities catering for all ages from young children with mother and toddler meetings to gardening clubs and the Women's Institute. Places of worship and their associated halls are also a focal meeting point for many, especially in more rural areas.
- 5.63 In Sturminster Newton, the Exchange is a multipurpose community centre, arts and learning centre that offers accommodation for community, leisure and entertainment activities. Its continued success is important not only to the town but also as a live entertainment venue for the District as a whole.
- 5.64 Outside the four main towns, many rural communities already have a village hall, but some are in need of replacement, extension or refurbishment to bring them up to modern standards. It is important that rural and often isolated communities maintain a communal meeting facility as this not only enhances community vitality but also minimises the need to travel.

Cemeteries, Churchyards and Burial Grounds

- 5.65 Cemeteries and burial grounds are often associated with places of worship but in recent years natural burial sites have become a popular alternative.
- 5.66 There are a number of cemeteries throughout the District both in the main towns and the countryside where they are primarily associated with churches. The Council wishes to see the retention of all cemeteries as they form an integral part of the historic character and often contain mature vegetation which is of ecological value.
- 5.67 However, some cemeteries are nearing capacity and during the plan period new cemetery provision will be required. At present, there is an identified need for extra capacity in the towns of Gillingham and Shaftesbury.

- 5.68 There are no crematoria within North Dorset. Residents are served by cremation facilities in Salisbury, Yeovil, Poole and Bournemouth.

Village Shops, Post Offices and Pubs

- 5.69 These elements are commercial in most cases but are often seen as hubs of the community in rural settlements. As they are commercial in nature it is more difficult for the Council to support them. Policy 27 in the Local Plan Part 1 does, however, give guidance in respect of the retention of commercial community facilities.
- 5.70 Where these kinds of use are truly organised and operated for the benefit of local residents, perhaps as a co-operative or registered charity, support may be able to be offered to development proposals on the basis of individual merits and benefits of each case.

Green Infrastructure

Introduction

- 5.71 Green Infrastructure encompasses both the traditional ‘open space’ sites and other environmental features in an area, which should be designed and managed to create an interconnected network that offers a range of benefits to people and the environment. For the purposes of the Local Plan Part 1, green infrastructure is defined as the strategic network of accessible multifunctional sites and features (such as trees, parks, gardens, woodlands, formal and informal open spaces and nature reserves) and the linkages between them (such as hedgerows, rivers and their floodplains, footpaths, cycle ways and other transport routes and wildlife corridors) that improve quality of life and enhance the environment.
- 5.72 The NPPF requires local planning authorities to set out a strategic approach to green infrastructure. This approach should positively plan to create, protect, enhance and manage the green infrastructure network⁴¹. Development should help deliver green infrastructure and biodiversity enhancement as part of a strategy to address climate change mitigation and adaptation⁴². In addition, green infrastructure plays an important role in creating sustainable communities by reducing the negative consequences of urban growth and change, creating places where people want to live and enriching the urban environment.

Green Infrastructure Elements

- 5.73 Green infrastructure incorporates elements at all spatial scales from the town centre to the open countryside. It not only includes a range of different sites but also the links between them and other green elements of the urban and natural

⁴¹ Paragraph 114, National Planning Policy Framework, DCLG (March 2012)

⁴² Paragraph 99, National Planning Policy Framework, DCLG (March 2012)

environment such as roadside trees and verges. Each element of green infrastructure normally has a primary function but it can also function in other ways to improve the quality of life of residents or secure environmental benefits. This 'multi-functionality' can be enhanced through the appropriate design and management of individual sites and the overall green infrastructure network, such as simply planting trees around sports pitches and play areas.

- 5.74 Green infrastructure elements should ideally be accessible to the whole community and it is important that these community assets are not restricted in their use to their primary owners or users, unless part of private amenity space such as a private garden. A prime example is the use of a school playing pitch by a local club in addition to its use for school sports activities.

Green Infrastructure Strategy

- 5.75 An assessment of current resources was prepared in the Council's Open Space Audit and Assessment of Local Need⁴³. This Audit assessed a range of sites including recreational grounds, amenity spaces and formal gardens, allotments, cemeteries and sports pitches. Although the Audit assessed a wide range of sites, not just those with sport and amenity uses, their value was assessed primarily from an open space⁴⁴ access and quality perspective, rather than in terms of the wider green infrastructure benefits they could offer.
- 5.76 Across the District there are opportunities to enhance green infrastructure provision both quantitatively but also qualitatively, both through the Green Infrastructure Strategy and other mechanisms. Enhancement of existing and the provision of new green infrastructure will help to support the needs of the growing population and help to deliver wider benefits.
- 5.77 Protection and enhancement of existing open space, character areas, outdoor sport and recreational facilities will be important, as well as providing new facilities to support growth. This will be particularly relevant in relation to play space for children and young people but also to allotments, cemeteries, nature reserves and the multiple benefits that green infrastructure elements can deliver.

Local Green Space

- 5.78 National policy makes provision for local communities to identify green areas of particular importance to them for special protection. These Local Green Spaces⁴⁵, where new development can be ruled out other than in very special circumstances, can only be designated through local or neighbourhood plans and should be small

⁴³ Open Space Audit and Assessment of Local Need, Strategic Leisure Ltd (February 2006)

⁴⁴ Open Space is defined in this policy as all open space of public value, including not just land but also areas of water which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can also act as a visual amenity

⁴⁵ Paragraph 76, National Planning Policy Framework, DCLG (March 2011)

in scale and in close proximity to the communities they serve.

- 5.79 Local Green Space can be designated due to its local significance or the fact that it is demonstrably special to the local community. Designated areas can include areas of historic significance, playing fields, wildlife sites or areas which contribute to the character and appreciation of an area.

Providing and Enhancing Green Infrastructure

- 5.80 All new development will be required to contribute towards the provision, enhancement or management of the multifunctional green infrastructure network in addition to any landscape planting required on a development site.
- 5.81 Provision of outdoor sports and play space will be required in line with the Fields in Trust standards⁴⁶. Developments will be expected to deliver to these standards on-site, where practical to do so.
- 5.82 Allotments have become an increasingly important element of green (and social in some respects) infrastructure over recent years. The standard of an allotment plot for every 60 people in a settlement will underpin provision where development is proposed and the delivery of allotments on-site will be required, where practical, at or above this level in clusters of 15 plots.

⁴⁶ Current standards are those contained in Planning and Design for Outdoor Sports and Play, Fields in Trust (2008)

6. North Dorset Local Plan Part 1

- 6.1 The policies which relate to the considerations set out above, and which directly bear on the provision of infrastructure, are set out below. There are other strategic policies, however, which have direct or indirect implications for infrastructure and consideration of these may be found in accompanying Background Papers.

Policy 13 - Grey Infrastructure

- 6.2 This policy deals with key issues which have been outlined in this Background Paper. Since transportation is the subject of its own Background Paper, that part of Policy 13 which relates to transportation has been set out in the Transportation Background Paper.
- 6.3 By working alongside developers, agencies, and other partners, the Council will ensure that the necessary grey infrastructure is put into place to support growth, development and North Dorset's economy.

The adequacy, availability and provision of grey infrastructure will be key considerations when planning applications are considered. Development will be expected to maintain, enhance and provide grey infrastructure, as appropriate to the particular development, by way of direct (on/off site) or indirect (by way of financial contribution) provision.

Utilities

The Council will work with statutory undertakers, utility companies and other agencies and providers to upgrade and maintain existing utilities, including broadband provision, and provide new utilities to support development.

Drainage and Flood Prevention

The Council will work with the Environment Agency and other relevant bodies to make provision for dealing with flood risk, the transfer and treatment of wastewater and the introduction of sustainable drainage systems.

Sustainable drainage solutions appropriate to the development and underlying ground conditions should be incorporated into all new development of two dwellings or more and connect with the overall surface water management approach for the area.

Waste

The Council will work with the Dorset Waste Partnership to manage and ensure the effective collection and disposal of household waste in North Dorset.

Public Realm

For all major developments proposals, and proposals on prominent sites, the Council will seek the incorporation of public art and will encourage liaison with

local artists. Developers should consider the visual impact of infrastructure such as street and other lighting at the development design stage and take full account of the needs of people with disabilities.

Policy 14 - Social Infrastructure

- 6.4 One of national policy's core principles is for planning "to take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs."⁴⁷ Policy 14 aims to deliver these principles and to ensure that the social infrastructure that our communities need is planned for positively.

The Council will work with partners and developers to ensure that the level of social infrastructure across the District is maintained and enhanced through the retention and improvement of existing facilities and new provision, where required. Development should support the maintenance and enhancement of existing social infrastructure and the provision of new social infrastructure, through provision on-site and / or contributions to provision off-site, as appropriate.

Through these measures the Council will ensure that:

Education Facilities

- a the needs of existing pre-school facilities and providers in the towns and villages are met; and
- b provision is made to accommodate the additional forms of entry required at primary and secondary school levels across the District including, if necessary, new primary schools in Gillingham, Shaftesbury and Sturminster Newton; and
- c further education and community learning opportunities are retained and improved to provide the District's workforce with the skills necessary to meet the changing needs of local employers; and
- d schools catering for children and young adults with special needs are supported.

Health Services

- e community hospitals are retained and enhanced; and
- f sufficient general surgeries and health centres are in place with new or expanded surgeries provided in Blandford and Gillingham.

Cultural Facilities

- g existing libraries are retained and developed as valuable community hubs; and

⁴⁷ Paragraph 17, National Planning Policy Framework, DCLG (March 2012)

- h multi-functional art galleries and arts centres are encouraged in the main towns; and
- i existing museums are protected and enhanced as valuable educational resources for the community as a whole.

Recreation and Sport

- j existing formal and informal indoor facilities are protected and enhanced. Applications for new facilities in the main towns depending on their scale and the area they serve will be supported.

Community Facilities

- a existing community halls, places of worship and other non-commercial community facilities are protected and new facilities provided where there is an identified need. In the countryside, such facilities may be permitted on the edge of the built-up area of Stalbridge or the District's villages to support a rural community, where no suitable sites exist within the relevant settlement; and
- b sufficient land is provided for cemeteries and burial grounds.

Policy 15 - Green Infrastructure

6.5 National policy requires local planning authorities to set out a strategic approach to green infrastructure. This approach should positively plan to create, protect, enhance and manage the green infrastructure network⁴⁸. Development should help deliver green infrastructure and biodiversity enhancement as part of a strategy to address climate change mitigation and adaptation⁴⁹. Policy 15 therefore provides that:

The Council will produce a Green Infrastructure Strategy for North Dorset which will set out a strategic approach to the provision, design and management of an integrated network of green spaces, green links and other green elements. It will examine the potential for the multifunctional use of individual sites and the green infrastructure network as a whole with a view to securing multiple benefits.

Through the Green Infrastructure Strategy and more generally, the Council will seek to:

- a integrate the new green infrastructure to be provided in association with strategic growth at the four main towns with existing green infrastructure networks; and

⁴⁸ Paragraph 114, National Planning Policy Framework, DCLG (March 2012)

⁴⁹ Paragraph 99, National Planning Policy Framework, DCLG (March 2012)

- b enhance the provision of green infrastructure in the countryside (including at Stalbridge and the District's villages), especially where it helps to improve recreational opportunities; and
- c protect and enhance existing open space, character areas, outdoor sport and recreational facilities and provide new facilities to support growth; and
- d take forward new and improved strategic facilities, such as the North Dorset Trailway; and
- e promote the public enjoyment of wildlife, where this is compatible with maintaining biodiversity; and
- f identify opportunities to work with partners at the local, district and sub-regional levels to deliver multiple key green infrastructure benefits.

Development will be required to enhance existing and provide new green infrastructure to improve the quality of life of residents and deliver environmental benefits. All elements of green infrastructure should be provided on-site in line with standards of provision set in the development plan or the Green Infrastructure Strategy unless:

- g it can be demonstrated that it would not be practical to do so; or
- h exceptionally, it could be demonstrated that greater benefits could be realised through off-site measures.

Where the full requirement for green infrastructure is not provided on-site, development would be expected to provide new green infrastructure off-site, and / or enhance (or make a contribution towards the enhancement of) existing green infrastructure off-site.

Developments will also be expected to deliver, or contribute towards the delivery of:

- i the conservation and management of existing assets; and
- j the creation of new sites and links including new or improved open space for children's play, outdoor sport and recreation; and
- k enhancement to the functionality, quality and connectivity of green infrastructure; and
- l area-specific packages which achieve multiple benefits; and
- m measures which support the delivery of the outputs of the Green Infrastructure Strategy.

Neighbourhood Development Plans should consider measures that assist in delivering key green infrastructure benefits and the objectives of the Green Infrastructure Strategy, including the designation of Local Green Space, where appropriate.

Policies 16 to 19 - Town Policies

6.6 For each of the four market towns (Blandford, Gillingham, Shaftsbury and Sturminster Newton) there is a separate policy that broadly identifies the location for future housing and other uses such as employment (Policies 16 to 19). There is also a Strategic Site Allocation (SSA) for the southern extension of Gillingham (Policy 21). These policies each contain segments focussed on the provision of infrastructure which embrace the most significant investment in local schemes.

Blandford

6.7 For Blandford, non-transportation infrastructure to be provided includes:

- the refurbishment of the Corn Exchange to form the main community venue for the town and the provision of neighbourhood halls to serve new development in the northern part of the town and Blandford St Mary;
- the retention of Blandford Leisure Centre in community use and the upgrading of its facilities;
- the extension of the Archbishop Wake and Milldown primary schools; and
- a new doctors' surgery or the expansion or relocation of existing doctors' surgeries;

6.8 A network of green infrastructure will be developed in and around Blandford, focussing on linking existing sites (such as the Milldown and Stour Meadows) and providing new sites and links to serve the residents of both the new and existing developments in the town. New or improved facilities will include:

- informal open space at Crown Meadows associated with housing development to the west of Blandford Forum; and
- new sports pitches and associated facilities on land within the built up area of Blandford.

Gillingham

6.9 Non-transportation infrastructure in Gillingham, including that relating to the SSA, embraces:

- upgrading of foul sewers and the town's sewage treatment works;
- further improvement or expansion of the existing facilities at RiversMeet and the provision of a new community hall on the site;
- a new local centre to be provided as part of the SSA to the south of the town, which will include a new community hall, a new 2 form entry primary school and a new doctor's surgery;
- the expansion of St Mary's The Virgin Primary School and the expansion of Gillingham High School;
- a network of green infrastructure in and around Gillingham focussing primarily on the corridors of the River Stour, River Lodden and the Shreen Water;

- the retention, enhancement and extension of the sports pitches at and around the secondary school; and
- the provision of a green corridor along the valley of the River Lodden extending from Brickfields Business Park through new and existing housing developments at Ham to the sports pitches north of the railway line.

Shaftesbury

6.10 Infrastructure to be provided in Shaftesbury, other than that which is transportation related, includes:

- the provision of a new community hall for the town;
- a new two form of entry primary school, an extension to the secondary school and expanded further and adult education provision in the town;
- a new doctor's surgery, or the expansion or relocation of the existing doctor's surgery;
- a network of green infrastructure in and around Shaftesbury, focussing on linking existing sites, such as the Slopes, and providing new sites and links to serve the residents of both the new and existing development in the town; and
- informal recreation space associated with the development of sites to the east of the town.

Sturminster Newton

6.11 To support development in Sturminster Newton, infrastructure which does not relate to transportation will embrace:

- the promotion of The Exchange building as a community and cultural hub;
- the retention and expansion of the leisure centre;
- an extension to the secondary school and expansion and possible relocation of the primary school;
- a network of green infrastructure in and around Sturminster town and Newton village based on existing sites, such as Butts Pond Local Nature Reserve, and strategic links such as the North Dorset Trailway;
- a green buffer between Butt's Pond Industrial Estate and new housing development on land north of the former livestock market; and
- additional allotments on land between Elm Close and the Trailway.

Development Management Policies

6.12 The development management policies in the Local Plan Part 1 form part of the strategic policy framework. They provide more detail for decision making in relation to particular issues and assessing the acceptability of certain types of development. A number have a direct or indirect bearing on the provision of infrastructure.

6.13 For example, Policy 22, dealing with renewables and low carbon energy, has a bearing on the infrastructure required for generating heat or electricity from

renewable or low carbon sources. Policy 24 concerns design requirements with implications for infrastructure and Policy 25, amongst other things, deals with the amenity impact of lighting installations. Policy 27, concerning the retention of community facilities, recognises the importance of local facilities such as shops and pubs and expresses the supportive role of the Council.

7. Implementation

7.1 Chapter 11 of the Local Plan Part 1 sets out how policies will be monitored. It outlines the Council's approach for regularly assessing and reviewing outcomes against the six District-wide objectives that relate to:

- meeting the challenge of climate change;
- conserving and enhancing the historic and natural environment;
- ensuring vitality of the market towns;
- supporting sustainable rural communities;
- meeting the District's housing needs; and
- improving the quality of life.

7.2 Assessing outcomes against objectives will enable the Council to monitor the effectiveness of the policies in the Local Plan Part 1. The monitoring framework sets out:

- the intended outcomes to achieve different aspects of each objective;
- the indicators that will be used to assess the achievement of performance against the intended outcomes;
- targets that establish the level of performance that is being sought in relation to each relevant indicator; and
- the policy (or policies) relevant to the delivery of intended outcomes.

7.3 The Council intends to set out this information in regularly produced monitoring reports.