



**Dorset Council**

**Planning for climate change: consultation statement**

**December 2023**

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## Introduction

1. This statement summarises the consultation procedure undertaken by Dorset Council on the production of the following documents:
  - Planning for climate change: Interim Guidance and Position Statement
  - Sustainability Statement and Checklist for planning applications
  - Listed buildings and energy efficiency – what you can do for climate change
2. The three documents have been prepared as non-statutory guidance for planning applications. They are intended to be interim documents that will be in place until the adoption of the new Dorset Local Plan.
3. The consultation also included a proposed amendment to the Dorset Council Local List.

## Democratic process

4. Draft versions of the documents were presented to the following committees:
  - Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 9 February 2023
  - Dorset Council Cabinet: 28 March 2023
5. Dorset Council Cabinet approved the draft versions of the documents for public consultation. Following consultation, a number of amendments were made to each of the documents. The final documents were agreed by the Portfolio Holder for Planning.

## Consultation

6. Public consultation took place for a seven-week period from 20 April to 8 June 2023.
7. An Equalities Impact Assessment was undertaken prior to the consultation to ensure that key risks in terms of impacts on protected characteristic groups were identified with the consultation tailored accordingly.
8. The consultation documents were made available in a fully accessible format on the Council's website via its consultation portal, as well as being available to view and download in pdf format.
9. Consultees could respond online, via email or in writing.

## Consultees

10. The following groups held on the Council's planning consultation database were directly notified and invited to comment, totalling 3,327 consultees:
  - Planning agents/developers/housing associations
  - Parish and Town Councils
  - Environmental and community groups
  - Members of the public who had asked to be notified about planning policy matters
11. Additionally, those planning agents who are regularly notified about development management matters were contacted.

## Engagement sessions

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12. Three forums were held with Parish and Town Councils to present the documents and the consultation. At each forum, the attendees were asked to discuss a series of questions around their tables in relation to the content and objectives of the draft documents (see Appendix 1).
13. The three forums took place on the following dates:
  - 18 April 2023, Dorchester (Corn Exchange) – Forum for Western area parish and town councils
  - 19 April 2023, Dorchester (Corn Exchange) – Forum for Northern area parish and town councils
  - 27 April 2023, Wimborne (Allendale Centre) – Forum for Eastern area parish and town councils
14. A list of those parish and town councils that attended is attached at Appendix 2.
15. An agents and developers forum was held on 26 May 2023. This was held virtually. Presentations were given on the documents and the attendees were invited to ask questions.
16. A Members' forum was also held on 25 May 2023 to present the documents to wider members of Dorset Council and to give an opportunity to ask questions.

## Newsletters

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17. Information about the consultation was included in the following:
  - Town and Parish Council e-newsletter (28 April 2023)
  - Councillors' e-newsletter (28 April 2023)
  - Residents (12 May 2023)
  - Yammer - Dorset Council staff (26 April 2023)
18. A reminder was also sent out via the following:
  - Town and Parish Council e-newsletter (2 June 2023)
  - Councillors' e-newsletter (2 June 2023)

## Press and social media

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19. A press release was sent out to local media and made available on the Dorset Council newsroom on 9 May 2023.
20. Two posts were made during the consultation on Twitter and LinkedIn resulting in 32 clicks and 2.8k impressions.

## Response

21. A total of 103 people responded to the planning for climate change consultation, with around 813 responses to the individual questions. A breakdown of the responses is provided below.

## Interim Guidance and Position Statement

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22. Comments received from 80 responders in the online survey, with a number of additional responses received by email. In the online survey around 322 responses to the individual questions were received.

- 23.** The consultation drew comments from statutory and national bodies such as Historic England, Sport England, and National Highways, and the Environment Agency. Responses were also received from a range of local organisations mainly from the climate and energy sector. A broad geographical range of Town and Parish Councils responded, as did a number of developers and planning agents, and a number of members of the public.

## Sustainability Statement and Checklist

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- 24.** Comments received from 59 responders in the online survey, with a number of additional responses received by email. In the online survey around 160 responses to the individual questions were received.
- 25.** The consultation drew comments from statutory and national bodies such as Historic England, Sport England, National Highways, the Environment Agency, Wessex Water, and the Woodland Trust. Responses were also received from a range of local organisations mainly from the climate and energy sector. A broad geographical range of Town and Parish Councils responded, as did a number of developers and planning agents, and a number of members of the public.

## Listed buildings and energy efficiency – what you can do for climate change

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- 26.** Comments received from 53 responders in the online survey, with a number of additional responses received by email. In the online survey around 232 responses to the individual questions were received.
- 27.** The consultation drew comments from statutory and national bodies such as Historic England, Sport England, and the Woodland Trust. Responses were also received from a range of local organisations mainly from the climate and energy sector. A broad geographical range of Town and Parish Councils responded, as did a number of developers and planning agents, and a number of members of the public.

## Proposed amendment to the Local List

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- 28.** Comments received from 51 responders in the online survey, with a number of additional responses received by email. In the online survey around 99 responses to the individual questions were received.
- 29.** The consultation drew comments from a range of responder types. These included a range of local organisations mainly from the climate and energy sector and a broad geographical range of Town and Parish Councils. A number of developers and planning agents also responded, as well as a number of members of the public.

## Post consultation

- 30.** Following the consultation, all comments were reviewed and considered by the planning policy team. A summary of the issues raised for each document was prepared. Responses to each of the issues were given by the planning policy team. Where an amendment to a document was proposed as a result, this is signposted in the summary document. The summary documents are available to view on the Dorset Council website.
- 31.** A number of amendments were made as a result of the consultation, before the final documents were published in December 2023.

## Appendix 1 - Parish and Town Council Forums – Questions

### Interim Guidance and Position Statement

- Do you have any comments on Position Statement 1 – Sustainable Design and Construction?
- Do you have any comments on Position Statement 2 – Renewable Energy?

### Sustainability checklist

- Do you agree with the introduction of a sustainability checklist to support the requirement for applicants to provide a sustainability statement?
- Should the sustainability checklist cover anything else?
- Is there anything the checklist shouldn't cover?
- Do you have any comments on the checklist questions or sustainability standards for consideration?

### Listed Buildings - what you can do for climate change?

- Is the quick reference table at section 3.3 clear and easy to use?
- Are you aware of any other examples that can be added as case studies?
- Do you find the case studies helpful in demonstration examples of what measures can be used?
- Is there anything else you would like guidance on (relating to listed buildings and climate change) that you think is missing from this document?

## Appendix 2 – Parish and Town Council Forums Attendees

Southern/Western Area Town and Parish Councils booked for Engagement Session 18.04.2023	Northern Area Town and Parish Councils booked for Engagement Session 19.04.2023	Eastern Area Town and Parish Councils booked for Engagement Session 27.04.2023
Bradpole Parish Council	Blandford Forum Town Council	Affpuddle and Turnerspuddle Parish Council
Bridport Town Council	Cerne Valley Parish Council	Bloxworth Parish Meeting
Broadmayne Parish Council	Charlton Marshall Parish Council	Chaldon Herring Parish Council
Burton Bradstock Parish Council	Cheselbourne Parish Council	Colehill Parish Council
Char Valley Parish Council	Dorchester Town Council	Corfe Castle Parish Council
Chideock Parish Council	Fontmell Magna Parish Council	Corfe Mullen Parish Council
Crossways Parish Council	Hazelbury Bryan Parish Council	Holt Parish Council
Knightsford Parish Council	Melcombe Horsey Parish Council	Kimmeridge Parish Council
Litton Cheney Parish Council	Milton Abbas Parish Council	Knowlton Parish Council
Loders Parish Council	Motcombe Parish Council	Lytchett Minster and Upton Town Council
Lyme Regis Town Council	Piddle Valley Parish Council	St Leonards and St Ives Parish Council
Maiden Newton Parish Council	Pimperne Parish Council	Studland Parish Council
Portland Town Council	Puddletown Area Parish Council	Sturminster Marshall Parish Council
Thorncombe Parish Council	Shaftesbury Town Council	Swanage Town Council
Winterborne Farringdon Parish Council	Sherborne Town Council	Wareham Town Council
	Stinsford Parish Council	West Lulworth Parish Council
		West Moors Town Council
		Wimborne Minster Town Council
		Wool Parish Council