



## **Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan: Regulation 19 Decision Statement, May 2019**

### **Summary**

1. Following a positive referendum result, Dorset Council is publishing its decision to 'make' (adopt) the Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan as part of the Council's Development Plan, in accordance with regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The plan can be viewed online at <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/purbeck/neighbourhood-planning-purbeck/bere-regis-neighbourhood-plan.aspx> and in hard copy at Dorset Council, Westport House, Worgret Road, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 4PP.

### **Background**

2. Bere Regis Parish Council, as the qualifying body, successfully applied for Bere Regis parish to be designated a Neighbourhood Area under Part 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The Neighbourhood Area was designated in January 2013.
3. Following the submission of the Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan to the former Purbeck District Council (now part of Dorset Council), it was publicised and comments invited from the public and stakeholders. In order to check that neighbourhood plans meet the 'basic conditions' and comply with all relevant legislation and procedures, they are required to be independently examined by a suitably qualified examiner. In association with the Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan Group, the Council appointed an independent examiner, John Slater BA (Hons), DMS, MRTPI, to review the whether the Neighbourhood Plan met the basic conditions required by legislation and whether it should proceed to referendum.

4. The examiner's report concluded that, subject to certain modifications proposed in his report dated 4 March 2019, the plan did meet the basic conditions and could therefore proceed to a local referendum. The former Purbeck District Council (now part of Dorset Council) considered the report and resolved to allow the plan to proceed to referendum, subject to some minor alterations.
5. The Neighbourhood Plan (amended in line with the proposed modifications) was the subject of a referendum held on Thursday, 2 May 2019 at Bere Regis. The referendum question was:

‘Do you want Purbeck District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Bere Regis to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?’

6. 539 ballot papers were issued and the result was as follows:

| <b>Yes</b> | <b>No</b> | <b>Spoiled papers</b> |
|------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| 447 (83%)  | 92 (17%)  | 0 (0.%)               |

7. Legislation requires that the District Council must ‘make’ the Neighbourhood Plan if more than half of those who voted did so in favour of the plan, unless this would breach or would otherwise be incompatible with an EU obligation or any of the Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).

### **Decision and reasons**

8. Dorset Council met on 25 June 2019 and resolved to make the Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan. This is on the basis of the Council's belief that making it would not breach, and is compatible with, EU and human rights obligations.
9. Therefore, in accordance with the relevant regulations, the Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan is ‘made’ and shall form part of the Development Plan for Dorset.