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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		Miss
First Name		Lynne
Last Name		Evans
Job Title(<i>where relevant</i>)		
Organisation (<i>where relevant</i>)	Hall & Woodhouse Ltd	Southern Planning Practice
Address	c/o Southern Planning Practice	Youngs Yard, Churchfields, Twyford, Winchester, Hants,
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Email Address		lynne@southernplanning.co.uk

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 20	Policies map:
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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.

Objection is raised to this policy given the fundamental objection which has already been raised to Policy 2 and the Development Strategy as well as Policy 6 on Housing Distribution.

A strong objection is raised to the approach set out for the rest of the district and in particular the villages and smaller settlements. The National Planning Policy Framework (Framework) at Section 3 sets out the government's objectives to secure a strong local rural economy. The approach in this Plan as set out under Policy 2 and taken forward to Policy 20 will not meet this objective for securing a strong local rural economy; the effect will be to stall appropriate further growth and diversity within a wide variety of sustainable and thriving settlements and communities, through the application of restraint policies to all parts of the district outside of the four main towns. One of the Core Principles of the Framework is to support thriving rural communities; this application of a blanket policy of restraint across all the settlements and villages outside of the four main settlements is completely at odds with this fundamental objective of the Framework.

This approach also fails to meet the objectives of paragraph 50 of the Framework to plan to deliver a wide choice of family homes.

Earlier draft versions of the Plan recognised that many of the villages have significant potential for infilling and redevelopment. This position has not changed and there is no sound basis for the approach now being taken. Furthermore the Household Survey Data in the SHMA report shows that almost 50% of households live in the rural areas and it is therefore woefully inadequate and unsound not to make more positive provision for growth in these settlements.

Furthermore this approach together with the proposal to remove all settlement boundaries around settlements other than the four main towns is likely to have the result of imposing a moratorium on development in a very large part of the district for some considerable period of time; this is contrary to the spirit and objectives of the Framework for positive planning. At the very minimum, the existing settlement boundaries should be retained around those settlements with an existing settlement boundary and development and redevelopment continue to be encouraged within these settlement boundaries in line with other policies in the Plan and the Framework, until there is the opportunity for a formal review through the next stage of the Plan/neighbourhood plans which would be transparent and would be open to detailed scrutiny.

This policy should therefore only relate to the genuine countryside and not to any existing settlement which currently has a settlement boundary in the existing Local Plan 2003. The proposed word changing would not preclude subsequent changes to settlement boundaries in the next stage of the Local Plan or in a Neighbourhood Plan but would allow a more positive approach to the development and redevelopment within existing villages in the interim period. This would make the policy more positive and effective and in line with government 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.

Change:

Development in the countryside (including Stalbridge and the villages) outside the defined settlement boundaries of Blandford, Gillingham, Shaftesbury and Sturminster Newton will only be permitted if.....

To:

*Development in the countryside **outside the defined settlement boundaries will only be permitted if.....***

This amendment relates to the objections to policies 2 and 6 and the proposed deletion of settlement boundaries

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.

We consider it necessary to take part at the oral part of the examination because the representations raise complex and important policy issues. We consider that these issues require to be debated at the examination in order that the Inspector can be properly informed in reaching a conclusion on the soundness of the Core Strategy.

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.

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: Lynne Evans (Southern Planning Practice)

Date: 24 January 2014

If submitting the form electronically, no signature is required.