

STURMINSTER NEWTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2016 – 2031

At the meeting of the Full Council on 8 March 2019, North Dorset District Council took the decision to make the Sturminster Newton Neighbourhood Plan 2016 – 2031 (as modified) (hereafter referred to as the Sturminster Newton Neighbourhood Plan) part of the development plan for the Sturminster Newton neighbourhood area.

In September 2017, Sturminster Newton Town Council submitted its draft neighbourhood plan and supporting material to North Dorset District Council. An independent examiner was appointed, and his report was received in November 2018. In summary, the examiner's report concluded that the Sturminster Newton Neighbourhood Plan would meet the basic conditions and other legal requirements, subject to modifications.

North Dorset District Council considered each of the recommendations and modifications contained in the examiner's report at its Cabinet meeting on 14 January 2019. The District Council agreed that the legal requirements and basic conditions had been met.

The District Council held a referendum on 21 February 2019. A majority (89.3%) of those voting in the referendum voted in favour of the plan. No other issues have become known that would suggest that the District Council should decline to make the plan.

The area covered by the Sturminster Newton Neighbourhood Plan

The neighbourhood plan area covers the area of Sturminster Newton Civil Parish only.

What this means for the Sturminster Newton Neighbourhood Plan area

In England, development plans are used to set out the planning policies for the development and use of land. Planning applications are determined by local planning authorities such as North Dorset District Council. Planning decisions are made in accordance with the adopted development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

The neighbourhood plan forms part of the development plan for the Sturminster Newton civil parish, which also includes the adopted North Dorset Local Plan Part 1 (adopted 2016) and 'saved' policies from the North Dorset District-wide Local Plan (2003) that remain extant.

The policies in the neighbourhood plan are in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan. Therefore, when decisions are being made on development proposals, the policies contained in the Sturminster Newton Neighbourhood Plan will take precedence over the non-strategic policies in the North Dorset Local Plan Part 1 (2016) and the 'saved' extant policies from the North Dorset District-wide Local Plan (2003).

Where to find more information

This decision statement and the adopted Sturminster Newton Neighbourhood Plan can be viewed online via www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/north-dorset-planning-policy/local-planning-policy-north-dorset.aspx and at South Walks House, South Walks Road, Dorchester DT1 1UZ (8.30am to 5.00pm Monday to Thursday and 8.30am to 4.30pm on Friday).