

## 2. Vision and Strategic Priorities

### 2.1. The Local Plan Vision

- 2.1.1. We want our Local Plan to have a clear and positive vision for the future of Dorset. This vision will set the overarching ambition of what Dorset will be like in 15 years. It will also reflect on the special characteristics of Dorset and identify how these will change to bring benefits to the area.
- 2.1.2. National Policy recognises that the planning system should be plan led, with local plans providing a positive vision for the future of each area. This vision forms a framework for meeting housing needs, and addressing other economic, social and environmental priorities.

#### The Vision for Dorset:

Dorset will be a fairer, more prosperous and more sustainable place for current and future generations.

The environmental quality of the area – its rural landscapes, its biodiversity, its rich heritage, its coast and its picturesque towns and villages – is what makes Dorset a special place to live, work and visit. The settlements in Dorset all have their own distinct character – from rural market towns to coastal towns; from small hamlets to the larger villages; and those settlements on the edge of Bournemouth and Poole – all perform important functions that contribute to Dorset's prosperity, health and wellbeing.

By 2043 this will be enhanced with high quality, well-designed, accessible developments that bring the homes, jobs and supporting infrastructure that Dorset needs. We will reduce our carbon footprint and seek to enhance our natural environment.

The main centres for economic activity of the Dorchester to Weymouth corridor and south-east Dorset will be enhanced with improved prosperity for Dorset's residents. Excellent employment opportunities will exist at the towns

across the whole of Dorset with sustainable travel opportunities provided to them from surrounding villages.

The towns and larger villages across the area will act as hubs for their rural hinterlands providing many of the services that people need on a frequent basis.

The character of the rural areas will be maintained and enhanced where opportunities arise. The area's rich heritage, hedgerows, trees and the character of the landscape will be respected where development takes place. The large areas of significance for biodiversity will be protected and real enhancements to the natural environment will be realised, guided by the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Question 1: Do you have any comments on the proposed vision for Dorset?

## 2.2. Strategic priorities

- 2.2.1. Using this vision, we have defined strategic priorities to help form the basis for the policies that will eventually form the Local Plan. These strategic priorities draw inspiration from the Dorset Council Plan and set out the aims for the Local Plan strategies and policies which will guide decisions on planning applications. Delivery of the strategic priorities will involve working alongside partner organisations with interests in the environment, the delivery of homes (including social housing), infrastructure delivery and economic growth.

### Provide affordable and high-quality homes

We will work with the development industry, town and parish councils, registered housing providers, community land trusts and local housing partners to deliver high quality homes, including affordable homes, that meet Dorset's needs.

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## How the Local Plan will help meet this priority:

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- 2.2.2. The delivery of new homes is one of the key outputs of the Local Plan. Housing, including accessible and affordable housing, will be provided across the plan area to meet the needs of those who wish to live and work in Dorset. Over the lifetime of the Local Plan new homes will be provided with a range of types, sizes and tenures to meet Dorset's diverse needs. The focus for provision of housing will be on the most sustainable towns and villages where everyday needs can be met locally, reducing the need to travel.

### Grow our economy

We will work with businesses and the development industry, town and parish councils and local communities to support sustainable economic growth and improved infrastructure across the whole of Dorset, increasing wealth, creating more jobs and supporting regeneration of our town centres.

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## How the Local Plan will help meet this priority:

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- 2.2.3. The Local Plan can help to deliver economic growth by enabling sustainable economic development in the right locations and providing homes for those who work in the area. Infrastructure provision to meet the area's needs is important to facilitating this growth. Our Plan will help to create new jobs across the area and over the Plan period. The focus for provision of employment space will be on the most sustainable towns so they act as hubs, reducing the need to travel.
- 2.2.4. Sustainable renewable energy will be supported on the principle of the right energy, in the right location.

### Communities for all

We will work to build and maintain strong, healthy communities where everyone thrives, and essential services are accessible.

### How the Local Plan will help meet this priority:

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- 2.2.5. The Local Plan will enable communities to thrive by providing community facilities, infrastructure and green space, giving opportunities for people to meet and be active in their community, creating healthy and inclusive places and reducing health inequalities. Our plan will encourage sustainable development in towns and villages where there is good access to essential services and facilities, or by ensuring that new services and facilities are secured as part of the development.

#### Responding to the climate and nature emergency

Addressing the climate and nature emergencies will protect lives, livelihoods, and ecosystems. The Local Plan has a role to play in helping tackle climate change and by supporting nature recovery at a local level. In doing so, we can strengthen community resilience, protect and support health and wellbeing, and stimulate economic growth, by focussing on halting nature's decline and being prepared and resilient for climate change.

### How the Local Plan will help meet this priority:

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- 2.2.6. Through managing where and how development takes place, the Local Plan will minimise the distance people need to travel and encourage active travel and use of public transport. Measures will be required to mitigate impact from development on important ecological sites and improve biodiversity, guided by the Local Nature Recovery Strategy to ensure spaces for nature are bigger, better and more connected. Design and construction that mitigates the impacts of climate change will be integrated into new developments. The impacts of climate change will be reduced by avoiding areas at risk of flooding & coastal change and incorporating green infrastructure (including space for biodiversity) into developments.

Question 2: Do you have any comments on the proposed strategic priorities for the Local Plan?