

Cabinet

17 December 2024

Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan Minor (Non-Material) Modifications Review

For Decision

Cabinet Member and Portfolio:

Cllr. S Bartlett, Planning and Emergency Planning

Local Councillor(s):

Cllr. N Lacey-Clarke, Cllr B Quayle, Cllr S Jespersen and Cllr B Cooper

Executive Director:

Jan Britton, Executive Lead for Place

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Report Status: Public (the exemption paragraph is N/A)

Brief Summary: The neighbourhood plan has been subject to a minor (non-material) modifications review. The purpose of this report is to formally agree that the minor (non-material) modifications, set out in Appendix A, are made to the Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan.

Recommendation: The following recommendation is made:

- a) That the Council agrees that the minor (non-material) modifications, set out in Appendix A, are made to the Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan.

Reason for Recommendation: To correct errors that have been identified in the 'made' (adopted) Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan.

1. Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan Review

- 1.1 The neighbourhood plan area for Blandford + was designated by North Dorset District Council in February 2014. Following significant amounts of consultation, research and the withdrawal of an earlier version of the plan Blandford Forum Town Council (the Qualifying Body) submitted the Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan 2011 - 2033, and associated documents, to North Dorset District Council in January 2019. The submitted plan was subject to consultation, independent examination and then a referendum. The referendum was held on 6 May 2021 and a majority of those who

- voted in the referendum voted in favour of the plan. Consequently, the neighbourhood plan was formally made by Dorset Council¹ on 22 June 2021.
- 1.2 In March 2022, the Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan Group decided to review the made plan. A consultation exercise determined that local residents felt that there was no obvious need to amend the plan significantly. The headline findings were that residents favoured the approach of the modifications in terms of health provision, with suggestions being submitted to aid the assessment of locally listed building candidates and the preparation of the design code.
 - 1.3 The modified plan, and its associated documents, were subject to formal consultation from 14 April 2023 to 26 May 2023. Dorset Council subsequently made arrangements for an independent examination of the plan review as required by The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).
 - 1.4 The examination was conducted by David Hogger BA MSc MRTPI MCIHT and his report on the plan was published on 1 August 2023. The Examiner's Report concludes that subject to three modifications, and other minor non-material updates or clarifications, the modified plan should proceed to be made (adopted) by Dorset Council. The modified plan was made in October 2023 and replaced the original Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan 2011 – 2033, which was made in June 2021, as part of the development plan for the Blandford + Neighbourhood Area.
 - 1.5 Following the making of the modified plan it has been noted that there are a number of minor errors in the Blandford + Design Guidance and Codes document which forms an appendix to the modified plan. These are detailed in Appendix A to this report. Under the relevant legislation² it is possible for a local planning authority, subject to the agreement of the relevant Qualifying Body (in this instance Blandford Forum Town Council), to make minor (non-material) modifications to a 'made' plan without the need to go to consultation, examination or referendum. That is what is proposed in this instance.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 There are no financial implications relating to this decision although officer time has been provided to assist the neighbourhood plan group with this minor (non-material) modifications review.

3. Natural Environment, Climate & Ecology Implications

- 3.1 The neighbourhood plan has been prepared in accordance with national planning policy and guidance which seeks to deliver sustainable

¹ On 1 April 2019 the county's nine councils were replaced by two new organisations. Dorset Council became the local authority for the area previously covered by North Dorset District Council.

² Which includes Section 61M(4) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as applied to neighbourhood plans by section 38C(2)(c) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

development through planning decisions including by improving biodiversity and mitigating and adapting to climate change.

- 3.2 As this report is pertaining to the Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan, there is no specific requirement for including a climate decision-wheel in this instance.

4. Well-being and Health Implications

- 4.1 The plan has been prepared in accordance with national planning policy and guidance which seeks to deliver healthy, inclusive and safe places.

5. Other Implications

- 5.1 The neighbourhood plan forms part of the development plan for the Blandford + Neighbourhood Area alongside other current adopted plans including the North Dorset Local Plan Part 1 (2016). Planning applications, which will be considered by Dorset Council, will be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

6. Risk Assessment

- 6.1 HAVING CONSIDERED: the risks associated with this decision; the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: LOW

Residual Risk: LOW

7. Equalities Impact Assessment

- 7.1 Part of the independent examiner's role in 2023 was to consider whether the neighbourhood plan would breach, or otherwise be incompatible with any of the Convention rights within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998. No issues were raised by the examiner in this regard.

8. Appendices

Appendix A: List of Minor (non-material) Modifications made to the Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan 2011 - 2033

Appendix B: Updated Blandford + Design Guidance and Codes Document

9. Background Papers

Documents relating to the Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan can be accessed via the following webpage:

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/blandford-neighbourhood-plan>

10. Report Sign Off

- 10.1 This report has been through the internal report clearance process and has been signed off by the Director for Legal and Democratic (Monitoring Officer), the Executive Director for Corporate Development (Section 151 Officer) and the appropriate Portfolio Holder.