Cabinet

10 November 2026

Shillingstone Parish Neighbourhood Plan Review

For Decision

Cabinet Member:
Cllr S Bartlett, Planning & Planning Enforcement

Local Councillor: Cllr S Murcer

Senior Leadership Team:
J Britton - Executive Director, Economy & Environment

Report author and job title: Ed Gerry, Community Planning Manager
Email: Ed.Gerry@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Statutory Authority: Localism Act 2011
Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023
Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended)

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

1. Executive summary

1.1 The neighbourhood plan review has been subject to independent examination and the examiner has recommended that the Council should make (adopt) the plan with the modifications specified in his report (Appendix B). (The examiner has concluded that there is no statutory requirement for a referendum in this instance given the limited nature of the changes proposed to the plan). The purpose of this report is to formally make the modified plan part of the development plan for use in planning decisions in the Shillingstone Neighbourhood Area.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The following recommendations are made:

a) That the Council 'makes' the Modified Shillingstone Parish Neighbourhood Plan (as set out in Appendix A) part of the statutory development plan for the Shillingstone Neighbourhood Area.

b) That the Council offers its congratulations to Shillingstone Parish Council and members of the Neighbourhood Plan Group for producing a successful neighbourhood plan review.

3. Reason for the recommendations

3.1 To formally make the modified neighbourhood plan part of the statutory development plan for the Shillingstone Neighbourhood Area. In addition, to recognise the significant amount of work undertaken by the Parish Council and members of the Neighbourhood Plan Group in preparing the plan review and to congratulate the Council and the Group on their success.

4. Shillingstone Parish Neighbourhood Plan Review

4.1 The neighbourhood plan area for Shillingstone was designated by North Dorset District Council in September 2013. Following significant amounts of consultation and research Shillingstone Parish Council (the Qualifying Body) submitted the Shillingstone Neighbourhood Plan 2016 to 2031, and associated documents, to North Dorset District Council in April 2016. The submitted plan was subject to consultation, independent examination and then a referendum. The referendum was held on 9 February 2017 and a majority of those who voted in the referendum voted in favour of the plan. Consequently, the neighbourhood plan was formally made by North Dorset District Council on 21 February 2017.

4.2 In 2025, Shillingstone Parish Council decided to review the made plan. It is set out in the review that the plan has been refreshed to reflect changes that have occurred, reflecting current planning needs, including updates to the forecast and actual stock of houses built so far, and land available for development, and to make certain policies clearer. Full details regarding the changes proposed are outlined in the Modifications Statement which is available via the link set out at the end of this report.

4.3 The modified plan, and its associated documents, were subject to formal consultation from 12 June 2026 to 24 July 2026. Dorset Council[1] subsequently made arrangements for an independent examination of the plan review as required by The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

[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.

4.4 The examination was conducted by Andrew Mead BSc (Hons) MRTPI MIQ. The Examiner's Report on the plan review was published on 7 September 2026. The report concludes that subject to one modification, and other minor non-material amendments, the modified plan should proceed to be made (adopted) by Dorset Council. (The examiner has concluded that there is no statutory requirement for a referendum in this instance given the limited nature of the changes proposed to the plan). The modified plan, once made, will replace the existing Shillingstone Neighbourhood Plan 2016 to 2031, which was made in February 2017, as part of the development plan for the Shillingstone Neighbourhood Area.

5. Alternative options considered

5.1 In this instance there are no reasonable alternative options available to the Council following the outcome of the examination. The Council is legally required to 'make' (adopt) the modified neighbourhood plan.

6. Legal considerations

6.1 A legal challenge could be made against the decision to **'**make' the modified Shillingstone Parish Neighbourhood Plan. Such a challenge could be made on the basis that the neighbourhood plan does not meet the basic conditions, is not compatible with the Convention rights or because it does not comply with the definition of a neighbourhood development plan. However, the independent examiner who examined the plan has considered these matters in light of the consultation responses made to the plan. The Council has also considered these matters and is of the view that there is no basis for reaching a different view to the examiner.

7. Financial implications

7.1 Under previous rules, Dorset Council has been eligible to claim a grant of £10,000 after the revised plan comes into force following examination. This grant is intended to cover the costs associated with the Council's input into the production of the modified neighbourhood plan including the costs associated with the examination. The government has not yet announced grant support arrangements for the 2026/27 financial year. However, it is anticipated that the previous grant support arrangements will continue.

8. Natural environment, climate & ecology implications

8.1 The neighbourhood plan review has been prepared in accordance with national planning policy and guidance which seeks to deliver sustainable development through planning decisions including by improving biodiversity and mitigating and adapting to climate change. The independent examiner

who conducted the examination of the plan considers that the modified plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.

8.2 As this report is pertaining to the Shillingstone Parish Neighbourhood Plan Review, there is no specific requirement for including a climate decision-wheel in this instance.

9. Well-being and health implications

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

10. Other implications

10.1 The neighbourhood plan review will form part of the development plan for the Shillingstone 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.

11. Risk implications

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

Current Risk: LOW

Residual Risk: LOW

12. Equalities

12.1 Part of the independent examiner's role was to consider whether the neighbourhood plan review 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.

13. Appendices

Appendix A: Shillingstone Parish Neighbourhood Plan – 2025 Review
Appendix B: Examiner's Report

14. Background papers

14.1 Documents relating to the Shillingstone Parish Neighbourhood Plan Review can be accessed via the following webpage:

Shillingstone Neighbourhood Plan - Dorset Council

15. Report sign-off

15.1 This report has been through the internal report clearance process and has been signed off by the Director for Assurance & Governance (Monitoring Officer), the Director for Resources (Section 151 Officer) and the appropriate Cabinet Member.