

FMPC Consultation on Dorset Local Plan



September 2026



INTRODUCTION

This scoping consultation is an initial stage for preparing the Dorset Council Local Plan under the new planning system.

1. The purpose of the consultation is to consider what the Local Plan should include, how people should be engaged, and any other matters the council considers to be relevant.
2. The consultation runs from: 21 September to 26 October 2026 and considers:
 - the scope of the Local Plan
 - themes for the Local Plan's vision and objectives (building on previous Local Plan consultations and the Council Plan)
 - approaches to developing a spatial strategy
 - key planning issues for the Dorset Council area
 - what further evidence is needed, missing or needs updating to inform the Local Plan
 - a draft proposed engagement approach
3. After completing this scoping consultation responses will be processed, reviewed and published. The substantive issues that are raised in the responses will be taken into consideration as part of work on the content of the emerging Local Plan. The feedback that relates to public and stakeholder consultation for plan making will be considered and used to shape the engagement strategy that will be used throughout the plan making process.

There are certain strategic things that the NPPF says the local plan must do. These include, amongst other things:

1. seek to meet housing and other development needs as a minimum, as well as unmet needs of neighbouring areas, unless protected areas or severe adverse impacts justify a restriction
2. provide a strategy for a sustainable pattern of growth
3. provide a strategy for environmental improvement
4. seek to mitigate climate change and adapt to its effects
5. cover a period of at least 10 years once adopted

There are 29 questions. Each question follows a sectioned narrative. The summary of questions is contained in Appendix A.

The previous attempt to produce a Local Plan has stalled and now is reset against a new scope and timetable.

The PC and parishioners were consulted on the content of the last attempt.

Those comments have been retained and will, if relevant, be considered when this version gets to the appropriate stage.

ACTION

- Consider PC response to each of 29 questions
- How does PC canvass (if at all) parishioners?
- Are there any groups who should be canvassed?
- What else should we ask?

APPENDIX A

The overall scope of the local plan	1	What period do you think the plan should cover?
Spatial vision and objectives	2	Are there any other priorities that should be considered when developing the vision?
	3	Which of the key priorities do you think should be a focus for the local plan?
	4	Do you think the draft vision reflects what Dorset should be like at the end of the local plan period?
Developing a strategy for growth	5	What measurable outcomes should the council use to assess how well the local plan is performing?
	6	What factors do you think should be considered when developing the settlement hierarchy for future development?
	7	What links to services and facilities are most important when looking at the sustainability of potential future development locations?
Key planning issues for Dorset	8	Are there any locally specific climate change issues that are not addressed by national policy and should be considered in the Local Plan?
	9	Are there locally specific housing issues that are not addressed by national policy and should be considered in the Local Plan?
	10	Are there locally specific economic issues that are not addressed by national policy and should be considered in the Local Plan?
	11	Are there locally specific town centre issues that are not addressed by national policy and should be considered in the Local Plan?
	12	Are there locally specific water and energy issues that are not addressed by national policy and should be considered in the Local Plan?
	13	Are there locally specific issues to do with making effective use of land that are not addressed by national policy and should be considered in the Local Plan?
	14	Are there locally specific Green Belt issues that are not addressed by national policy and should be considered in the Local Plan?
	15	Are there locally specific design issues that are not addressed by national policy and should be considered in the Local Plan?
	16	Are there locally specific transport issues that are not addressed by national policy and should be considered in the Local Plan?
	17	Are there locally specific health and wellbeing issues that are not addressed by national policy and should be considered in the Local Plan?
	18	Are there locally specific pollution, public protection and security issues that are not addressed by national policy and should be considered in the Local Plan?
	19	Are there locally specific flood risk and coastal issues that are not addressed by national policy and should be considered in the Local Plan?
	20	Are there locally specific natural environment issues that are not addressed by national policy and should be considered in the Local Plan?
	21	Are there locally specific historic environment issues that are not addressed by national policy and should be considered in the Local Plan?
	22	Should the local plan identify land for local waste facilities, including household recycling centres and depots?
	23	Are there any other topic areas that the Dorset Council Local Plan should cover?
Evidence base for the plan	24	Do you think any additional evidence should be gathered to inform the preparation of the local plan?
	25	Is there any existing evidence that you think should be updated?
Proposed engagement approach	26	How would you prefer to receive information about the local plan? (Rank in order of preference)
	27	How would you prefer to take part in the local plan process? (Rank order of preference)
	28	How could the council best engage with under represented groups in the local plan process? For example, people with different protected characteristics such as age, disability, race, religion or belief, sex, or gender reassignment.
	29	Is there anything else the council should consider when developing its approach to engagement for the new Local Plan?

