

1) *Housing benefit, what are the number of claimants in NP area (can you please include trends) ?*

Those on the Housing Register with a connection the Neighbourhood Plan area are shown in the table below. Those classed as ineligible are qualified to bid for shared ownership and intermediate homes only.

Count of Band					
Row Labels	INELIG	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD	Grand Total
Single person requiring studios or 1 bedroom	3	45	33	10	91
Couple requiring studios or 1 bedroom	3	26	6	4	39
Family requiring 2 bedrooms	9	23	21	4	57
Family requiring 3 bedrooms	3	4	29	1	37
Family requiring 4 bedrooms		1	3	1	5
Family requiring 4-5 bedrooms			1		1
(blank)					
Grand Total	18	99	93	20	230

In September 2014 we commented on a planning application on a site in Bridport and those with a connection on the Housing Register was as below;

Emergency Case = 1
 Gold = 30
 Silver = 113
 Bronze = 549

There were also around 2800 households on the West Dorset Housing Register at September 2014, there are currently 1022. This means that over the last 12 months there has been a considerable reduction in eligible households. This is largely due to a Housing Register review that took place in December 2014. This also implemented a new policy which meant people who were classed were no longer eligible to join the list. As you can see from the numbers above this caused a particular reduction in the Bronze Band. There is also normally a reduction in numbers following any review as people don't complete forms or have moved on from the address we have registered for them. I have attached a link to the new allocations policy below;

<http://homechoice.dorsetforyou.com/DorsetHomeChoice/home.aspx>

We have a Housing Strategy and a link for this is below;

<https://www.dorsetforyou.com/397306>

Tenants living in affordable rented or social rented properties can claim housing benefit. Properties that are owned by Registered Providers are not subject to Local Housing Allowance restrictions on the amount of benefit that can be claimed, although in practice these rents are nearly always lower than LHA

2) Core Strategy. Does WDDC have an adopted Core Strategy? If so, can peruse it please ?.

The Council does not have an adopted Core Strategy. WDDC began drafting a Core Strategy following the adoption of the 2006 Local Plan under the planning system introduced in 2004. However, the changes to the planning system introduced by the coalition government in 2010 prompted the council to stop work on the Core Strategy and instead development a new-style Local Plan under the emerging planning system. One of the main changes in the planning system was that the new Local Plans would themselves set targets for the amount of development to take place in the local authority area, rather than having these targets set by regional or structure plans. The new-style Local Plans would also provide a framework for the future preparation of neighbourhood plans. The Local Plan for West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland has now been formally adopted and can be viewed at <https://www.dorsetforyou.com/jointlocalplan/west/weymouth>

3) Dwellings per Household? What does this mean and how is it used?

This isn't a term used. Household formation is established from population projections. The factors that translate population into households, known as Housing Representative Rates (HRRs, also known as headship rates or housing formation rates), are based on rolling forward past trends for different demographic groups. The resulting household numbers are used as a measure of future housing demand, or objectively assessed need (OAN). The council's Strategic Housing Market Assessment Update 2014 sets out how various household projections have been tested https://www.dorsetforyou.com/media/196395/West-Dorset-Weymouth-and-Portland-2014-Strategic-Housing-Market-Report-Part-A/pdf/PBA_SHMA_Report_July14.pdf

It may be that you are referring to the ratio of households to dwellings which is a proxy measure of the number of second/holiday homes in an area. There is a lot of information available on housing statistics at <https://www.dorsetforyou.com/statisticsincludingthe> number of second homes by parish.

4) Housing Waiting List. How many households on the waiting list? What are their requirements? What are past trends? Is there a discount factor for those on list as a contingency, (is that still applicable) ?

5) SEP. We need their Strategic Employment Plan for the NP area.do WDDC have one, please ?

There is a Strategic Economic Plan covering the whole of Dorset which has been prepared by the Dorset Local Economic Partnership (LEP). It identifies that plans for local growth and serves as a bid for investment from the Local Growth Fund. You can find more information about the SEP here: <http://dorsetlep.co.uk/local-delivery/strategic-economic-plan/>

6) SHLAA. We feel we need to know what land/ sites in NP area is considered to be suitable for housing ?

You can find details of the most up to date SHLAA [here](#). The section containing sites assessed as having development potential in Bridport begins on page 22 of [Appendix C - part 2](#). The methodology for the assessment is here.

7) Local Overcrowding. Have you figures for concealed and shared households and numbers in temporary accommodation ?

The only information we hold on this is in the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) but this is broken down by the District rather than town. This can be found on page 59. I think I sent you a link to this but if you want a copy I can email it to you.

8) Affordables. Has WDDC adopted an affordable housing plan? Can we see it if there is one, please ?

Our affordable housing plan would be the Housing Strategy.

9) Affordables. How can WDDC assist us in quantifying the need for affordables in NP area?

The information we have on local need would be the Housing Register information that you at the answer to question 1.

10) Can affordable rent tenants claim housing benefit ?

Yes. It is also worth noting that Housing Association rents with now be capped at Local Housing Allowance rates.

11) Regarding deaths of residents, are there figures denoting who are single occupants and who leave a spouse/ partner in the home, after their passing. How many houses in Bridport and West Dorset per year go on the market following the death of a lone survivor, please ?

Sorry, I don't know the answer to this or where I could find it.