

27<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2026

BANP Basic Conditions Statement amendment

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

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## **1.0 Purpose of Report**

1.1 To provide an update on the Neighbourhood Plan review and to approve changes to the basic conditions statement.

## **2.0 Background**

2.1 The plan was submitted for review at the end of February. In March the Dorset Council Planning policy team were made aware of a government change to the Neighbourhood Planning Basic Conditions (and Legal Compliance) which would affect the submitted Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan Review. There was no warning of this change however they believe it can be fixed through an updated Basic Conditions Statement

2.2 In summary the plan must be designed to secure that the development and use of land in the neighbourhood area contribute to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change; and be designed to take account of any local nature recovery strategy under section 104 of the Environment Act 2021 that relates to all or part of the neighbourhood plan

2.3 In addition, there is a new Basic Condition requirement that the making of the draft plan would not result in the development plan for the area of the authority proposing that less housing is provided by means of development taking place in that area than if the draft plan were not to be made

2.4 With the assistance of David Dixon we have updated the Basic Conditions Statement to include this:

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As of March 2026, the government commenced sections 98 and 99 of the Levelling up and Regeneration Act 2023 which brings into force new Basic Condition requirements for neighbourhood plans, namely:

- That the making of the neighbourhood plan will not result in the development plan for the Dorset area proposing that less housing is provided by means of development taking place in that area than if the draft plan were not to be made. The revised BANP 2025 meets this new requirement and positively seeks to promote provision of affordable housing.

- That a neighbourhood plan should contribute to the mitigation of and the adaptation to climate change and take into account any local nature recovery strategy that relates to their neighbourhood area. The revised BANP includes policies to support adaptation to climate change and positively supports the implementation of the local nature recovery strategy.

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## **1. Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 - Commencement of Sections 98 and 99 (March 2026)**

The revised Regulation 14 Neighbourhood Plan 2025 meets the new requirement set by the commencement of Sections 98 and 99 (March 2026) of the Levelling up and Regeneration Act 2023.

- The plan will not result in the development plan for the Dorset area proposing that less housing is provided than if the plan were not to be made. The plan positively seeks to promote provision of affordable housing.
- The plan contributes to the mitigation of and the adaptation to climate change and takes into account the local nature recovery strategy as it relates to the designated neighbourhood area. The plan includes specific policies to support adaptation to climate change and positively supports the implementation of the local nature recovery strategy.

### **3.0 Recommendation**

- 3.1 It is recommended members to agree the additional text.
- 3.2 To ensure the examination process remains timely, members are requested to delegate any further decisions around minor changes to officers.

**20<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

**Sally Freemantle**

**Town Clerk**