

Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan Outline Decision Making Structure

Objective

There is a shared interest amongst local councils and their communities in the future of our area. A neighbourhood plan offers an opportunity for our communities to influence the future of the local area, both in terms of development and wider issues that affect the area. The local councils will work together on preparing a Plan that reflects the wishes of our communities, whilst ensuring that the parish councils and the Town Council retain responsibility for their parish areas.

Proposed Decision Making Structure

This summary outlines the proposed decision making structure for the preparation of a neighbourhood plan, ensuring that each local council retains responsibility for the decisions that will affect their area. In outline, the structure will be:

Parish and Town Councils

The key decisions to be taken relating to the Neighbourhood Plan will always be referred back to each council. These decisions will include:

- **Approval of the decision making structure and terms of reference of Local Council Joint Committee**
- **Proposed allocation of any funding and resources to the Project. It would be for each Council to decide how much support it could give to the process.**
- **Appointment of a representative (and reserve) for the Local Council Joint Committee**
- **Approval of the draft Plan for public consultation and submission to the District Council for examination and referendum**

Local Council Joint Committee

It is anticipated that it would meet quarterly. Each council would have a representative on the Committee. The Committee will:

- Monitor project implementation.
- Authorise all expenditure in relation to the Plan and be the accountable body.
- Provide a forum for discussion of issues affecting the draft plan, and propose a draft plan for consideration by each council

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Membership would be drawn from community and parish reps and the Group would meet regularly during the Plan programme. The Steering Group will:

- Draft the Project Plan
- Draft a consultation and engagement strategy
- Coordinate the drafting of the neighbourhood plan for consultation and co-ordinate the consultation process
- Establish such working groups (theme groups) as may be required, to develop themes identified for research or through the consultation.
- Report back to the Local Council Joint Committee on these matters.

A Project Manager will co-ordinate the work and support the Steering Group and Joint Committee.