

Dear Cllr Flower,

We have seen your article published in Dorset Council News today entitled “A Local Plan that is Right for Dorset”.

We congratulate you and your team on the work you have been doing behind the scenes and the changes that you are proposing for Dorset’s Local Plan. This is exactly the sort of bold and courageous move that we were seeking and we hope that it will lead to a forward looking, ambitious and fully sustainable Local Plan for Dorset that builds on its strengths, supports the people's aspirations and is fully compatible with the Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy (CEES).

So, on behalf of Dorset Climate Action Network and the Dorset Local Plan Campaign Alliance, we thank you.

We wish you success in your discussions with the Government, because many of the changes that you seek depend on their agreement. Of course, more detail is needed before we can fully endorse your new proposals but, on first inspection, it is a huge step in the right direction.

Meanwhile, we offer the following comments:

1. We endorse your aim to pilot a new way of creating local plans to develop a plan which is “based on sustainability and local needs” and also “fully recognises the ambitions of our Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy”. To further this, we continue to offer our help in public engagement and in developing the basis for your new Local Plan.
2. We endorse your proposal to delay the Plan by 2 years. In addition to giving time to develop a radically new plan, this will also give you time to provide a full set of evidence on which the assumptions are based and to re-initiate a public consultation process on the new Plan. However, in the meantime, we would like confirmation that the existing Local Plans (developed by former councils) or the new Purbeck Local Plan if it is approved, will remain the operating basis for the purposes of development control while Dorset’s new Local Plan is being developed.

We repeat our request to meet you and your senior colleagues soon, in order to build trust and to discuss how we can work together to build a really high quality Local Plan for Dorset.

Yours Sincerely,

Michael Dower and Giles Watts

On behalf of the Dorset Local Plan Campaign Alliance

Now containing 42 organisations which represent over 21,000 citizens in Dorset.