

Guidance Note for responses to the submission consultation for a Neighbourhood Development Plan

A Neighbourhood Development Plan which has been submitted to the Council must be subject to a minimum of six weeks consultation before progressing to independent examination.

All comments submitted during the consultation period will be passed onto an appointed Independent Examiner along with a copy of the Neighbourhood Development Plan and its associated statutory documents.

The role of an independent examiner is to consider whether the submitted Plan meets the statutory requirements set out in legislation and consider the area the referendum should apply to. It may therefore be helpful to tailor your comments to these matters.

The basic conditions are set out in [paragraph 8\(2\) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990](#) as applied to neighbourhood plans by section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The basic conditions are:

- a) *having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State it is appropriate to make the order (or neighbourhood plan).* [Read more details.](#)
- b) *having special regard to the desirability of preserving any listed building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest that it possesses, it is appropriate to make the order. This applies only to Orders.* [Read more details.](#)
- c) *having special regard to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of any conservation area, it is appropriate to make the order. This applies only to Orders.* [Read more details.](#)
- d) *the making of the order (or neighbourhood plan) contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.* [Read more details.](#)
- e) *the making of the order (or neighbourhood plan) is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area).* [Read more details.](#)
- f) *the making of the order (or neighbourhood plan) does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations.* [Read more details.](#)

g) prescribed conditions are met in relation to the Order (or plan) and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the order (or neighbourhood plan). [Read more details.](#)

Please note your representation should cover succinctly all the information, evidence and supporting information necessary to support/justify the representation and any suggested change, as there will not normally be a subsequent opportunity to make further representations based on the original representation at publication stage.

After this stage, further submissions will be only at the request of the Independent Examiner, based on the matters and issues he/she identifies through the examination process.

The majority of examinations are conducted through written representations. On rare occasions an oral hearing may be required. Only the Examiner can determine whether a hearing is necessary. If you do not wish to appear at a hearing please state so on your representation.

If there are any questions about the Neighbourhood Development Plan or Neighbourhood Planning process, please contact the planning policy team either:

By email: strategy@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk

Further information on Neighbourhood Planning can be found at: [Neighbourhood planning GOV.UK](#)

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