

STURMINSTER MARSHALL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2023 to 2033

At the meeting of Cabinet on 15 October 2024, Dorset Council took the decision to make the Sturminster Marshall Neighbourhood Plan 2023 to 2033 part of the development plan for the Sturminster Marshall neighbourhood area.

In December 2023, Sturminster Marshall Parish Council submitted the Sturminster Marshall Neighbourhood Plan 2023 to 2033 and supporting material to Dorset Council. An independent examiner was appointed, and his report was received in May 2024. In summary, the examiner's report concluded that the Sturminster Marshall Neighbourhood Plan 2023 to 2033 would meet the basic conditions and other legal requirements, subject to modifications.

The Council held a referendum in the neighbourhood area on 29 August 2024. In the referendum a majority (91.6%) voted in favour of the plan. No other issues have become known that would suggest that the Council should decline to make the plan.

The area covered by the Sturminster Marshall Neighbourhood Plan 2023 to 2033

The neighbourhood plan area covers the civil parish of Sturminster Marshall.

What this means for the Sturminster Marshall Neighbourhood Plan area

In England, development plans are used to set out the planning policies for the development and use of land. Planning applications are determined by local planning authorities such as Dorset Council. Planning decisions are made in accordance with the adopted development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

The neighbourhood plan forms part of the development plan for the civil parish of Sturminster Marshall, which also includes the Christchurch and East Dorset Local Plan Part 1 (adopted April 2014).

The policies in the neighbourhood plan are in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan. Therefore, when decisions are being made on development proposals, the policies contained in the Sturminster Marshall Neighbourhood Plan 2023 to 2033 will take precedence over the non-strategic policies in the Christchurch and East Dorset Local Plan Part 1.

Where to find more information

This decision statement and the made (adopted) Sturminster Marshall Neighbourhood Plan 2023 to 2033 can be viewed online at: www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/sturminster-marshall-neighbourhood-plan