

Theme:	Climate Change:
Vision 2030 objectives:	To alleviate the impact of climate change, and minimise our own contribution to climate change, by developing renewable energy and encouraging efficient energy and resource use.
What the Local Plan says	<p>1.4.1 The National Planning Policy Framework recognises the international imperative to tackle climate change and finding ways to enhance and improve the places in which we live our lives... the planning system should play an active role in guiding development to sustainable solutions.</p> <p>2.1.3 The impacts of climate change present increasing challenges, and the local plan policies seek to strengthen our resilience to key hazards affecting the area such as flooding and coastal erosion. We can achieve a lot through good design, in terms of promoting better places for people to live, reducing our vulnerability to extreme weather events and other potential hazards.</p> <p>2.4.1 The consequences of climate change, including extreme weather events, are some of the biggest challenges facing the country. Although reducing greenhouse gas emissions is expected to help prevent the worst scenarios, we will still need to adapt to some degree of change, including: • greater flooding (inland and coastal) • coastal erosion • crop failures / agricultural decline • species and habitats decline • human health risks from extreme temperatures • more limited drinking water resources • heavy rainfall and more frequent and severe storms • increased average sea levels • warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers</p> <p>2.6.11 New development will be expected to contribute toward the cutting of carbon emissions through sustainable design and construction methods.</p> <p>Relevant to climate change, the local plan contains policies that ENV5/7: Deal with flood risk and coastal erosion ENV8 : Encourage community schemes for local energy crop production ENV11 : Encourage provision of space for recycling, composting, & cycle storage ENV 12: Commit to a high quality of sustainable and inclusive design, including making provision for bin stores, recycling facilities, drying areas, cycle parking, mobility scooter storage and private amenity/garden space (and associated storage and composting facilities) appropriate to the uses proposed and character of the area ENV13. Expect new buildings and alterations / extensions to existing buildings to achieve high standards of environmental performance COM7: Maximise use of sustainable transport modes including public transport, walking and cycling COM11: Support generation of heat and electricity from renewable energy sources (other than wind) provided any adverse impacts are mitigated.</p> <p>And finally... 13.2.1 By 2031 Bridport will...“be a low impact sustainable town, building on its reputation for local food and produce, developing sustainable tourism, and encouraging alternatives to the private car.”</p>
Working group members:	Meeting regularly: Raja Jarrah, John West, Sam Wilberforce, Richard Toft, Margaret Toft. By email: Chit Chong, Ignacio Gomez Aguilera

Evidence gathering and research – what we found:

Issue:	The need to progressively cut carbon emissions
Research	<p>Considered latest developments in climate change science and impacts</p> <p>Consulted international and national policy commitments</p> <p>Media reports on climate change awareness</p>
Findings:	<p>At the time 2014 was the warmest year ever. 2015 beat it, and already several months of 2016 have beat those records too. That climate change is happening and accelerating is now incontrovertible, despite the vocal minority that continue to doubt it.</p> <p>The Climate Change Act 2008 sets a long-term target to cut emissions by 80% emissions by 2050 and 5-year carbon budgets on track to that target. Due partly to economic recession and partly the phasing out of older coal-fired power plants, the UK is currently meeting its carbon budgets, but is not on track to meet the fourth, which covers the period 2023-27. To meet that will require reducing domestic emissions by at least 3% a year, with more measures in future than are currently in place (especially bearing in mind the recent policy reversals on energy efficiency and renewable energy).</p> <p>West Dorset emissions are above the national average, due to its predominantly rural nature, with people having to travel further to go to work, schools, shops and other services. In addition West Dorset has high numbers of detached, older dwellings, which require more energy to heat.</p> <p>Research shows that people’s concern about climate change is on the rise, and peaks particularly in the aftermath of storms and floods. As these become more frequent, more and more people will want to embrace greener lifestyles that might contribute to slowing down climate change.</p>
Evidence sources:	<p>West Dorset Partnership Climate Change Strategy, https://www.dorsetforyou.com/climatechange/west which in turn draws evidence from</p> <p>Climate Change Act 2008, South West Regional Strategy, Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole Climate Change Strategy and its associated plans</p> <p>Renewable Energy Strategy</p> <p>Local Transport Plan</p> <p>On recent climate change surge</p> <p>http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/climate-change-global-warming-nasa-february-hottest-month-on-record-a6930981.html</p> <p>On cross-party support for more action</p> <p>http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/mar/06/ed-miliband-calls-for-law-co2-emissions-target-legally-binding-paris-climate-talks</p> <p>On UK progress in cutting emissions and the need for more robust measures</p> <p>https://www.theccc.org.uk/tackling-climate-change/reducing-carbon-emissions/how-the-uk-is-progressing/</p> <p>On public support for greener lifestyles</p> <p>http://www.green-alliance.org.uk/resources/What%20people%20really%20think.pdf</p>
Potential policies / options to take forward:	<p>1) In the overall vision:</p> <p><i>“Looking to the future, we know the world in 2030 will be very different to the one we are in today. The Bridport region will be a leader and pioneer in the move to a low carbon economy and society, one that is both responding innovatively and resilient to the changes ahead. We will make our contribution to meeting the UK’s legally binding target of cutting emissions by 80% by 2050, by promoting housing, transport and employment that consume low levels of energy.”</i></p>

	<p>2) “All plans for development will include an assessment of the lifetime carbon impact of the proposed development, which will allow progress towards cutting emissions overall to be monitored.”</p> <p>3) Under each thematic area there should be commitments that encourage development that responds to the reality of climate change. See additional evidence tables for each area.</p> <p>4) If not included under “local economy”, a specific section on renewable energy with the proposed policy: “Support will be given for community-led initiatives for renewable and low carbon energy, such as Community Generation Companies, including working with the relevant organisations to address environmental sensitivities arising”.</p>
Maps / locations	n/a

Issue:	Efficiency of Homes
Research	<p>Research into existing neighbourhood plans, for instance Frome and Bournemouth, and suggestions put forward by the Centre for Sustainable Energy in it Guidebook on Low Carbon Neighbourhood Planning.</p> <p>Two of our members attended a conference in East Devon, organised by Regen SW, on Energy in Neighbourhood Planning, where a number of speakers shared experiences and ideas.</p>
Findings:	<p>While recent legislation prevents planning authorities from imposing sustainable housing codes on new housing beyond that specified in Building regulations, Bridport should aspire to become a leader and pioneer in the move to a low carbon economy. Domestic tenure accounts for 37% of Dorset’s carbon emissions (B,D&P energy efficiency strategy 2009). Cheap construction in the name “affordability” is a false economy, condemning future occupants, those most needing their housing to be truly affordable, to high running and maintenance costs. Even affordable housing where costs have to be kept low can have high sustainability standards, as shown by the Symene community buildings next to the Bridport medical centre.</p> <p>There is an increasing demand for homes which are cheap to run, and there is a role for planners to encourage new homes to be more sustainably built. The Home Quality Mark, an independent voluntary code for house builders developed by the Buildings Research Establishment, may assist this process</p>
Evidence sources:	<p>Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Energy Efficiency Strategy 2009, accessed via https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/green-dorset/dorset-energy-partnership http://www.homequalitymark.com/</p>
Potential policies / options to take forward:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) Energy efficiency – “Developers will be encouraged to site and construct housing in ways that minimise energy consumption and costs for inhabitants. To avoid creating another generation of “hard to treat” housing, development should strive for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very high insulation values • South-facing roof orientation for solar energy capture • Reducing water consumption • Facilitating the interface between electric vehicles/energy storage/domestic energy generation” ii) Future proofing – “Developers will be supported to demonstrate that housing has the potential for up-grading features (e.g. triple glazing, heat pumps, solar storage) as technology and aspirations of occupants evolve. Including demonstration show houses in large developments could help catalyse the demand for these features.” iii) “Developments should ensure that there is adequate provision for storage of items for recycling and re-use, either at individual

	<p>household level or in communal facilities, in accordance with the advice of the Dorset Waste Partnership or successor institution. The current recycling regime, which bulks up everything apart from glass, is unlikely to continue unchanged until 2030, and in future we may see the need for more separation at source”.</p> <p>iv) “Where opportunities arise through extensions and alterations to existing buildings, house owners will be encouraged and supported to improve energy efficiency, recognising that the large part of the 2030 housing stock already exists today, much of it considered hard-to-treat”.</p>
Maps / locations	n/a

Issue:	Energy efficiency of local economy
Research:	Review of materials on circular economy Review of existing strategies and plans
Findings:	With an overall CO2 reduction target for the county of 30% by 2020 and an assumption that all sectors make an equal contribution to emissions reduction, then the coverage of business advice needs to increase by a factor of 11.
Evidence sources:	Local Plan and associated Sustainability Appraisal. Bournemouth Dorset & Poole Energy Efficiency Strategy (p 27) Ellen MacArthur Foundation publications on the circular economy https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/circular-economy
Potential policies / options to take forward:	<p>i) “Energy efficient industrial units and renewable energy generation will be encouraged</p> <p>ii) “A favourable view will be taken of industries of the future based on low carbon technologies that can demonstrate they cater for the patterns of demand of a more sustainable society”</p> <p>Potential projects, as an addendum to the NP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advise and support existing businesses to increase energy efficiency. - Market the Bridport region to help potentially linked enterprises to co-locate, thereby minimising industrial waste and encouraging a circular economy - Plan industrial parks with inter-dependent units, with heating and power generation integrated - Develop local skills in those industries, such as renewable energy, insulation, retro-fitting, repair and salvage etc
Maps / locations	n/a

Issue:	Flood prevention and adaption
Research	Reviewed Environment Agency flood risk maps. Studied Centre for Sustainable Energy, low carbon neighbourhood planning guide.
Findings:	Reducing flood risk is one of the key areas where adaption will be necessary in response to climate change. In the Plan area the River Brit and the Rivers Asker and Simene that flow into it all currently give rise to flood risks recognised by the Environment Agency. There is also a risk of tidal flooding at West Bay. Such risks will increase in coming years unless mitigation measures are applied.

	<p>Several areas where development has previously been considered have flood risks attached to them, including part of the Vearse Farm site. Even where the flood risk of the site itself has been minimised, for example by excluding particularly flood prone zones, the risks of flooding downstream are nevertheless exacerbated by the increase run-off from built-up areas.</p> <p>Technical guidance exists on the climate-related parameters that must be considered to minimise flood risk, including rainfall intensity, peak river flow, offshore wind speed, extreme wave height and sea level. It is instructive that for the construction of the Broomhills waste management site, engineers factored in 20% increased rainfall in their modelling of flood risk. Significantly, this guidance also states that “Flood resistance and resilience measures should not be used to justify development in inappropriate locations.”</p>
Evidence sources:	<p>Environment Agency flood risk maps Weymouth and West Dorset Local Plan, including Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Policy Planning Guidance – Flood Risk and Coastal Change Reference ID: 7-001-20140306</p> <p>Building regulations https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/504207/BR_PDF_AD_G_2015_with_2016_amendments.pdf</p> <p>Technical Guidance to the National Planning Policy Framework https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6000/2115548.pdf</p>
Potential policies / options to take forward:	<p>Some of these policies may duplicate national or local policy, but there is no harm in restating them in the Neighbourhood Plan, which will be more accessible to local people.</p> <p>1/ Steer development to areas of lowest direct or indirect flood risk. The flood plains of the Rivers Brit, Asker and Simene and other flood prone areas within the plan area will be kept free of development.</p> <p>2/ All development will be required not to increase the overall flood risk compared to pre-development state, and where possible reduce it, and should not aggravate flooding through surface water runoff and/or exacerbate flooding elsewhere.</p> <p>4/ Appropriate surface water management and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) should be incorporated within development proposals.¹</p> <p>5/ Measures which reduce the risk and impact of coastal processes such as coastal erosion and flooding from tidal or storm surges will be supported.</p>
Maps / locations	

General comment:

Because of viability and the various heritage and landscape constraints it would be difficult if not impossible to demand some of the measures included in this section. However the neighbourhood plan can definitely play a role in setting the tenor of the plan's 'push' to be at the forefront of addressing climate change. This is likely to be through a combination of projects and policies which encourage and give 'added weight' to more sustainable measures.

¹ This is currently the case for all 10 or more homes but is not applied to smaller developments due to viability concerns.