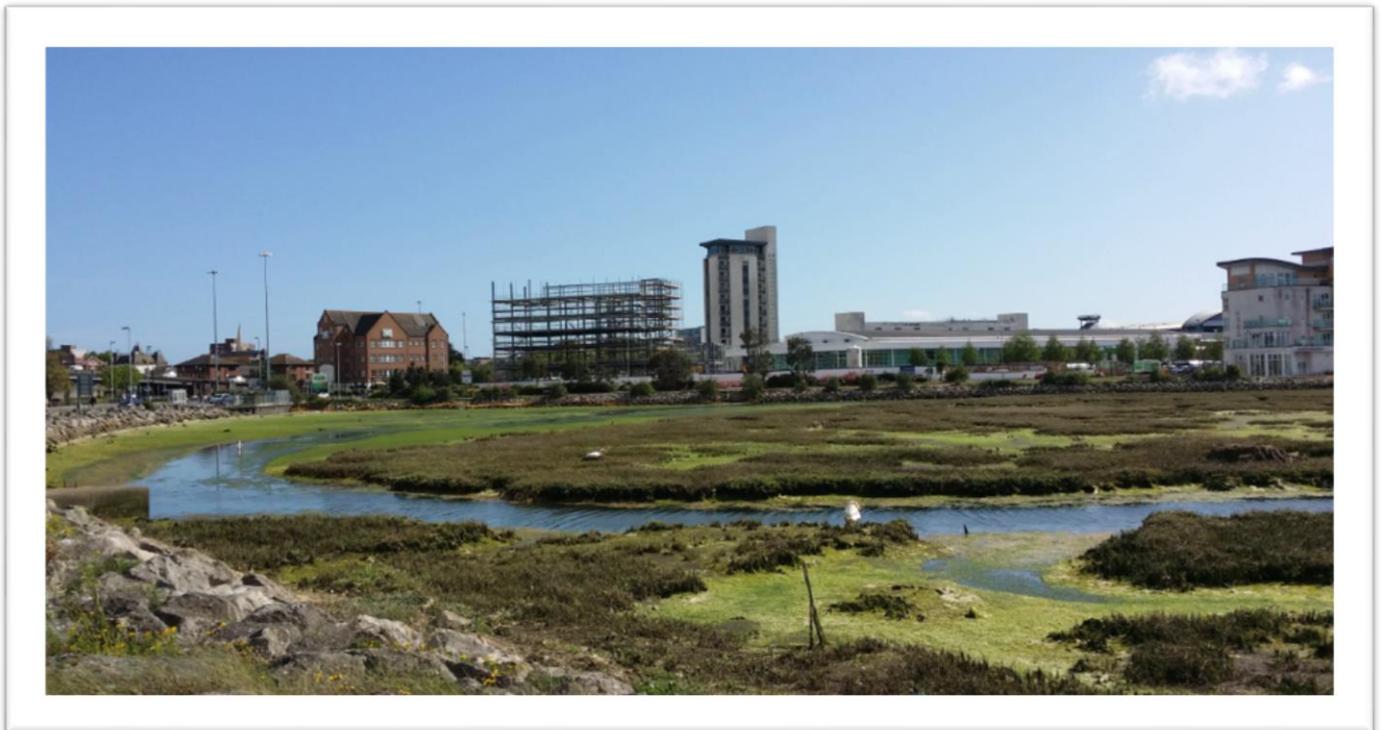




THE NITROGEN REDUCTION IN POOLE HARBOUR SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT



CONSULTATION STATEMENT

April 2017

1.0 Purpose

1.1 This Consultation Statement has been prepared in accordance with Regulation 12(a) and (b) of the Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 which states:

“Before a local planning authority adopt a supplementary planning document it must –

(a) Prepare a statement setting out –

- (i) the persons the local authority consulted when preparing the supplementary planning document;*
- (ii) a summary of the main issues raised by those persons; and*
- (iii) how those issues have been addressed in the supplementary planning document; and*

(b) for the purpose of seeking representations under regulation 13, make copies of that statement and the supplementary planning document available in accordance with regulation 35 together with details of –

- (i) the date by which representations must be made (being not less than 4 weeks from the date the local planning authority complies with this paragraph), and*
- (ii) the address to which they must be sent.”*

1.2 This statement will set out details of the consultation that has taken place to date which has informed and refined the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). It sets out the details of how, when and with whom the initial consultation with interested parties and organisations took place and how this had informed the draft SPD which then went out to formal public consultation for six weeks.

1.3 The formal consultation period did elicit written and verbal comments and each comment was carefully considered. A summary of the main issues was produced with officer comments and actions explaining what changes were made to the SPD as a result of the representations.

2.0 Background

2.1 The Nitrogen Reduction in Poole Harbour SPD does not create new policy but provides guidance to support delivery of the key outcomes in Poole’s Local Development Plan:

- Poole Core Strategy (2009)
- Site Specific Allocations & Development Management Policies (2012)
- Proposals Map (2012)
- Delivering Poole’s Infrastructure DPD (2012)

2.2 In particular it provides additional guidance in support of *Policy PCS29 Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar Site*. The SPD is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

2.3 The SPD has been prepared jointly by the Borough of Poole, North Dorset District Council, Purbeck District Council and West Dorset District Council.

3.0 Drafting the SPD – Consultation outcomes

3.1 The Council took advice from Natural England and the Environment Agency in drafting the SPD. The main issues that arose during the initial informal consultation process and how they were dealt with in drafting the SPD:

- Concern was raised over the significance of the impact of nitrogen from new development on the harbour compared to agriculture. Suggestions were raised about direct mitigation such as a Water Protection Zone or increasing water bills. Natural England advised that implementing legislation for direct mitigation would not be a priority for government. Natural England also prepared a legal paper summarising their advice as to why there would be harm from new development.
- Due to the changing nature of the Section 106 pooling regime and the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) there would be difficulty in adopting an SPD jointly between four authorities with different charging regimes. Over the course of drafting the SPD three of the Councils adopted CIL.
- Discussion was had over which uses should contribute. It was agreed that people who work within the catchment of the harbour can be offset against people who work outside of the catchment. Therefore it would be simpler to just mitigate the impact of residential and tourism.
- There was much discussion about how to provide the mitigation. Concern was raised about loss of land suitable for food production. It was agreed that if there is future food shortage the mitigation land could be reverted to agricultural land, and that would be for future legislation.

4.0 The Draft SPD Consultation

4.1 The partner authorities consulted upon a draft version of the SPD between 9 October and 20 November 2015. It set out the issue and identified 7 options for mitigation of adverse effects of development on the Poole Harbour.

4.2 Notification of the consultation on the draft SPD was sent directly to contacts on all the local authority databases, by email or hard copy where an email address was not available. The notification included dates of the public consultation, how to access a copy, including opening times of local libraries and town council offices and where to send responses to. As well as hard copies being available at the local authority offices, local libraries and town council offices the document was made available on the websites of the relevant local authorities.

4.3 A summary of consultation responses is set out below. The full schedule of responses is available on-line at:

<http://www.poole.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/planning/ldp/spds>

4.4 The Council received 26 responses. The consultation feedback resulted in a number of changes to the draft SPD as set out in the table below:

| Issue raised | Modification to SPD |
|--|--|
| Costings and date become outdated | Costings removed and reference instead made to mitigation in tonnes of nitrogen or hectares of land. Plan rewritten to be more flexible to changing technology / future mitigation options |
| Reference the Water Framework Directive, Dorset Landscape Character Assessment, DLNP Water Management Paper and Minerals and Waste plans. | Reference added |
| Concern about double dipping of CIL/S106 contributions, where developers would pay twice. | Text inserted about the importance of monitoring of CIL/S106 contributions and publishing how it has been spent securing mitigation. |
| Flexibility should be allowed for developers to provide bespoke mitigation | Reference added and extended to include the potential for innovative solutions, such as new technology, wetlands etc. |
| Reference should be made to role farmers are playing in reducing nitrogen and offsetting should be a partnership approach | Importance of partnership working with landowners added |
| A Water Protection Zone would only penalise farmers, not development | Reference to Water Protection Zone removed |
| Why is SPD only planning to 2025 | SPD rewritten to be more flexible and therefore not needing regular updating. |
| Inconsistency in household occupancy with Heathland SPD | Occupancy rates changed to same used for Dorset Heathlands SPD for consistency |
| Equal share of pupils moving into the catchment to attend boarding school as moving out of catchment for same reason, negating the impact. | Remove requirement for a residential institution to provide mitigation. |