

Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group Terms of Reference

The Neighbourhood Plan (NP) has been approved at Referendum and is now part of the statutory development plan for the Thurlestone Parish. Neighbourhood plans derive from the Localism Act 2011 which allows parish councils and neighbourhood forums to formulate planning policies that can guide and shape development in a particular area.

The NP sets out planning policies for the Parish over the Plan period (up to 2034) which must be taken into account when any planning application is decided. The NP has the same legal status as SHDC's Local Plan and must be monitored, reviewed and updated, as and when appropriate.

It is therefore recommended that a NP Advisory Group be set up for Thurlestone Parish that will carry out the following tasks:

- On behalf of the Parish Council, monitor the NP annually and review the implementation of the NP every 5 years over the Plan period (up to 2034), with the assistance of the local ward District Councillor(s);
- Recommend to the Parish Council and on behalf of the Parish Council update and/or modify the NP as appropriate over the Plan period (up to 2034) in accordance with the relevant legislation and procedure;
- Guide and help facilitate schemes associated with the implementation of the NP, including but not limited to: Affordable Housing/Community Led Housing Initiative; and future use of the Thurlestone Garage site.
- Provide advice and assistance to the Parish Council in respect of all planning applications affecting the Parish to ensure the relevant policies in the NP are brought to the attention of the local planning authority, SHDC.

The Group will consist of no more than 6 people, including one member of the Parish Council. The Chair for the first year will be the NP Project Director and thereafter will be chosen by the Parish Council. The Group will be volunteers chosen by the Chair who represent Bantham, Buckland and Thurlestone and will have a good working knowledge of the NP and the evidence upon which it is based.

The Group will hold quarterly meetings in the Thurlestone Parish Hall to discuss the implementation, monitoring, review and updating of the NP and members of the public will be encouraged to attend. Minutes of these meetings will be taken by the Parish Clerk and published via the Parish Council agendas. Any additional meetings of the Group will be at the discretion of the Chair of the Group.

In terms of planning applications, the Group will be notified of forthcoming planning applications by the Clerk and shall report back to the Clerk in writing with a list of the planning policies and any relevant material considerations that Councillors would be advised to take into account. Councillors shall remain solely responsible for all planning decisions.