

MSDC response to Action Point AP-008

Action Point AP-008

Council to propose alternative to 'DPSC' references for the proposed Sustainable Communities site allocations in Chapter 15 of the Plan.

In response to the Inspector's action point AP008, the Council has reviewed the 'DPSC' policy references in Chapter 15 of the Plan.

All policies in the District Plan, start with 'DP' to identify that they relate to the District Plan. This is followed by the first letter(s) in the title of the chapter in which the policy sits to aid with navigability for all readers. For example, the prefix DPS for policies in the Sustainability chapter, DPC for the Countryside chapter, DPT for the Transport chapter. The Action Point relates to policies DPSC1-DPSC7, named as such because they are within the Sustainable Communities chapter.

The Council believes that this is a logical, and effective way to number the policies in the Plan and is not a soundness matter.

Justification

The Council has four adopted development plan documents which include policies that will continue to form part of the development plan when this District Plan is adopted.

The adopted District Plan has a policy prefix starting DP (DP1, DP2 etc). Therefore, a different policy numbering approach is needed for the emerging District Plan so as to avoid any conflicts with saved policies from that document.

In addition, there are 20 adopted Neighbourhood Plans each with their own numbering systems and largely related to their Town/Parish area.

Given that the emerging District Plan will be the 25th development plan document, the options for a unique policy reference is limited.

All of the development plan documents have policy numbers specific to the Plan in which they sit. In order to distinguish between the plans, particularly to aid readability and navigability of planning reports and for marking on Policies Maps, it is important that policy numbering is clear and logical and can direct the reader to the right document.

Participants in the plan making process have become familiar with the way in which policies in the Plan have been referenced and to change now may cause confusion, particularly where they relate to site allocations.

It is the view of the Council that the policy numbering is clear and logical and should remain as set out in the Submission Plan.