

**NORTH DORSET LOCAL PLAN PART 1  
EXAMINATION**

**RESPONSE TO  
INSPECTOR'S QUESTION 8 TO THE COUNCIL**

**September 2015**

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# 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This statement is in response to a question asked by the Inspector on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2015.

The inspector's question was:

*On 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015 the High Court issued judgement on a joint application by West Berkshire District Council and Reading Borough Council primarily regarding the Secretary of State's Written Ministerial Statement of 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014. The judgement confirms that the Statement must not be treated as a material consideration in development plan procedures and decisions.*

*It would be helpful if the Council could confirm whether or not there are any implications of this judgement for the North Dorset Local Plan of which I should be aware and if there are, how they should be addressed.*

*A response by Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September would be welcome.*

## 2. Council's Response to Question 8

- 2.1 The Council has considered the implications of the High Court judgement upon its Local Plan Part 1 and in particular Policy 8: Affordable Housing. Given the Council's priority is to adopt its Local Plan Part 1 as soon as possible it wishes to progress the plan on the basis of the iteration of Policy 8 set out in the latest tracked changes version of the plan (Document Ref: MHD054) rather than reverting back to the version of Policy 8 outlined in the submission plan (Document Ref: SUD017). The issue of affordable housing thresholds can be considered in the early review of the plan which the Council will carry out.
- 2.2 With regards to Vacant Building Credit the Council considers that as a result of the High Court judgement there is no longer any need for change 5/8/16 detailed in the Schedule of Additional Changes (Document Reference MHD053). Consequently, the Council is of the opinion that this change should not be incorporated into the final version of the plan.