

# Poundstock Parish Council's Response to the Examiner's Letter dated 17<sup>th</sup> August 2026

## Introduction

1. The Parish Council welcomes the opportunity to submit comments on the impact of the changes to the legal requirements and basic conditions, introduced in March 2026. These changes came into force after the Poundstock Neighbourhood Plan had been submitted. It is happy for this response to be placed on Cornwall Council's website and for it to be forwarded to the Examiner. It will be published on the Parish Council's website under the section covering the Neighbourhood Plan.

## Context

2. Before addressing the Examiner's specific questions individually, it may be helpful to set out the context, namely that the Poundstock Neighbourhood Plan is intended to be a deliberately focussed neighbourhood plan. It seeks to specifically respond to the key issues raised by residents during the consultation phase at the start of the neighbourhood plan process.
3. The plan is only proposing nine planning policies, and the Parish Council was very conscious that its neighbourhood plan will sit alongside other neighbourhood plan documents, not just the adopted Cornwall Local Plan but also the Cornwall Climate Emergency DPD, which was prepared in parallel to the neighbourhood plan. That document specifically addresses a wide range of issues around the climate emergency and the Poundstock Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to duplicate matters that are fully set out in that recently adopted document.
4. It is also worth stressing that the new legal compliance requirements are caveated by the statement, "so far as the qualifying body considers appropriate and having regard to the subject matter of the plan" - which places the onus on the Parish Council as to what issues it seeks to address.

## Legal Requirement – Climate Change and Nature Recovery Strategy

5. Development within the plan area is already required to comply with Cornwall-wide policies addressing climate change, green infrastructure and the local nature recovery strategy network (as well as biodiversity, which stands alongside the statutory net biodiversity gain requirements). Policy G1 already establishes broad and comprehensive Climate Change Principles. Policy G4 requires that development taking place within or adjacent to the local nature recovery network

has to demonstrate how the proposals will maintain and enhance the integrity and connectivity of the local nature recovery strategy.

6. The Parish Council does not consider that it is necessary to introduce a new policy addressing the nature recovery strategy, as that would effectively duplicate existing policy, but it does acknowledge that a number of the network features fall within the parish and perhaps these could usefully be highlighted to users of the plan. It would therefore be happy to include an extract from the Cornwall Nature Recovery Strategy Map, covering Poundstock parish and could cross reference the requirements of the DPD Policy G4 in the supporting text, perhaps in the section of the plan covering the Natural Environment.

## Basic Condition – Housing

7. The consideration of this basic condition requires an assessment as to whether the submitted plan will provide more or less housing than is required by the development plan. That baseline plan is the Cornwall Local Plan. This question is explicitly addressed in paragraphs 10.3 and 10.16 of the Poundstock Neighbourhood Plan, which notes that the plan has responded to Cornwall Council's increased housing needs requirement for the parish, beyond that set out in the adopted local plan. Indeed, the Neighbourhood Plan goes further and now includes a new housing allocation as well as meeting the figure derived from the changes to the national standard methodology. No further changes are required to the submitted Neighbourhood Plan as a result of the introduction of this new basic condition.

## Basic Condition – Environmental Assessment Framework

8. As the examiner herself acknowledges, this new basic condition cannot be assessed until the new environmental assessment framework is published and the Parish Council offers no further comments on this issue.

## Conclusion

9. To conclude in terms of the two new legal requirements, “so far as the qualifying body considers appropriate and having regard to the subject matter of the plan” no policy changes are required to the Poundstock Neighbourhood Plan under examination. Equally the new basic conditions do not require any changes to the plan.

October 14, 2026

Stephen Blake – Chair of Poundstock Parish Council