5.1 The North Dorset Local Plan Part 1 was adopted in January 2016. The

following section is split by the objectives in the Local Plan Part 1:-

Objective 1 - Meeting the Challenge of Climate Change

Objective 2 - Conserving and Enhancing the Historic and Natural Environment

Objective 3 - Ensuring the Vitality of the Market Towns

Objective 4 - Supporting Sustainable Rural Communities

Objective 5 - Meeting the District’s Housing Needs

Objective 6 - Improving the Quality of Life

**Objective 3 - Ensuring the Vitality of the Market Towns**

5.15 The objective is to support the role and function of the market towns of

Blandford Forum (and Blandford St. Mary), Gillingham, Shaftesbury and Sturminster

Newton as the main service centres for the district by:

making them the main focus in the district for housing development, including

affordable housing;

enhancing their employment and training opportunities, particularly through the

provision of sufficient employment land, to meet the growing needs of the towns and

their hinterlands;

focusing an improved range of retail, cultural and leisure uses within the town

centres;

improving health, education and community services to meet the needs of the

towns and their rural hinterlands;

improving sustainable transport links and accessibility within the towns; between

the towns and the villages in their rural hinterlands; and, through improved linkages

with strategic transport networks;

securing the delivery of mixed use regeneration on previously developed land in

accessible locations;

ensuring that housing development is delivered in step with employment

opportunities, community facilities and infrastructure; and

taking account of the effects of any interaction between the towns themselves and

with the large towns and cities in neighbouring districts.

**Employment**

5.20 The other three towns have lower amounts of available employment land.

Shaftesbury has 6.97 hectares (24%), Sturminster has 4.49 hectares (15%) and

Blandford Forum has 3.46 hectares (12%).

**Hectares**

Blandford Forum 3.46

Gillingham 14.64

Shaftesbury 6.97

Sturminster Newton 4.49

**Total 29.56**

**Amount of housing development in Blandford, Gillingham, Shaftesbury and**

**Sturminster**

5.21 As the table below shows there were 85 net dwelling completions in the four

towns. Shaftesbury had the largest amount with 42%, followed by Blandford with

39%, Sturminster Newton with 12%, and Gillingham had the smallest amount with

70. Of the total completions in the towns 20% were for affordable homes. There were

17 affordable completions in Blandford.**dwelling**

**n**

**Affordable**

**Houing**

**Completions**

**Net dwelling**

**as a** **t 1 April**

**2017**

**Affordable**

**Commitments**

**as at 1 April**