

# Local Plan Review 2013 - 2033

Proposed Submission

February 2015

£20



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## 1.0 Introduction

## Preparation of the Local Plan

1.1 The purpose of planning is to help achieve sustainable development. This means ensuring that providing for the development needs of the current generation does not worsen the lives of future generations. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out how local councils should achieve this through the preparation of Local Plans and decisions on planning applications, having regard to the economic, social and environmental roles of sustainable development.

1.2 The Government requires that Local Plans are 'sound', meaning that they are:

- Positively prepared
- Justified
- Effective
- Consistent with national policy

1.3 The preparation of the Mid Devon Local Plan 2013-2033 has been guided by national planning policy and legislation in this respect. The plan sets out the strategic policies for development, identifies sites for housing, employment, infrastructure and environmental protection, and provides general policies on matters such as the design of development.

1.4 This Local Plan supersedes and replaces the following earlier plans:

- Core Strategy 2026 (adopted 2007)
- Allocations and Infrastructure Development Plan Document (adopted 2010)
- Local Plan Part 3: Development Management Policies (adopted 2013)

1.5 The Mid Devon Local Plan also forms part of the Development Plan for the district, alongside Devon County Council's Waste and Minerals Local Plans.

1.6 National planning policy sets the planning framework within which the Local Plan Review has been prepared. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was introduced in March 2012 and replaced multiple national policy statements and guidance with an overarching planning policy document. The NPPF requires local planning authorities to base local plans on adequate, up-to-date and relevant evidence about the economic, social and environmental characteristics and prospects of the area. Assessments of and strategies for housing, employment and other uses should be integrated, taking full account of relevant market and economic signals. In May 2014 the Government launched web-based planning practice guidance that brought together supporting planning guidance entirely on-line in an accessible and useable way.

1.7 Most importantly, the NPPF applies a 'presumption in favour of sustainable development'. For plan-making this means:

- Local planning authorities should positively seek opportunities to meet the development needs of their area;
- Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs, with sufficient flexibility to adapt to rapid change, unless:
  - any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in the NPPF taken as a whole; or
  - specific policies in the NPPF indicate development should be restricted (for example, restrictions on development affecting Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, designated heritage assets or areas at risk of flooding).

1.8 The NPPF goes on to provide national policy on all areas of planning for development, such as design, transport, employment growth and the conservation of environmental and heritage assets. Before it can be adopted, a Local Plan must be subject to Examination in Public. The Planning Inspector applies tests of 'soundness', one of which refers to the plan's consistency with national policy. In addition, a Local Plan must be positively prepared, justified and effective, and the NPPF defines the meaning of these terms.

1.9 There is no longer a regional tier of planning policy in the form of a Regional Spatial Strategy. However, the Heart of the South West Local Economic Partnership (HotSW) has prepared a Strategic Economic Plan which has a bearing on strategic planning in Mid Devon.

1.10 Whilst national planning policy provides the planning framework within which a plan is to be prepared, the document has also been prepared in accordance with a regulatory framework set down by the EU requiring that the environmental impact of a plan be assessed. UK regulations take this a step further, requiring local planning authorities to also consider the social and economic impact of a plan in an environmental report when a Local Plan is submitted to the Secretary of State for Examination in Public, and subsequently adopted. Considering these three key elements together is central to assessing the sustainability of a plan. A Sustainability Appraisal has been carried out during the preparation of this Local Plan in order to gain an understanding of the sustainability challenges the district faces.

1.11 Local Authorities are also required to undertake a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) of development plans. The HRA for the Mid Devon Local Plan Review considers the impact of the Plan on European sites either alone or in combination with other plans. European sites include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated for species and habitats and Special Protected Areas (SPAs) designed for birds. Consideration is also provided to potential SPAs, candidate SACs, Sites of Community Importance and Ramsar sites. The HRA concludes that the development proposed in the Local Plan alone will not result in adverse effects on the integrity of European Sites around Mid Devon. However uncertainties exist regarding the potential for North Devon and Torridge Local Plan to have significant effects on the integrity of the Culm Grasslands SAC as a result of increased air



pollution. Therefore it is not yet possible to conclude that there will be no likely significant effects as a result of implementing the new Mid Devon Local Plan in-combination with the North Devon and Torridge Local Plan. Further work has been commissioned to determine this impact; the HRA will be updated to reflect the latest evidence. The Sustainability Appraisal carried out during the preparation of the Local Plan has taken into account the findings of the HRA.

1.12 Furthermore, the Equalities Act 2010 requires Local Authorities to eliminate discrimination and promote equality when producing a Local Plan and Policies. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out to assess each policy and site allocation against five policy areas which have taken into account the 'protected characteristics' as set out in the Equalities Act. Policies have evolved and altered throughout the Local Plan Review process to reduce discrimination and promote equality.

1.13 The process of preparing the Local Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal has helped develop a picture of the district, its characteristics, constraints and sustainability issues. In particular Mid Devon is defined by:

- An inland district covering an area of 352 square miles, lying between Dartmoor, Exmoor and the Blackdown Hills
- One of the most sparsely populated local authorities in England and Wales with a high proportion of residents living outside the three market towns of Tiverton, Cullompton and Crediton
- Important transport routes cross cut the district, including the M5 motorway and A361, and the Great Western mainline railway
- A population of 78,600 (2013 Mid Year Estimate)
- High house prices compared with local wage levels, resulting in low levels of affordability (in line with a pattern which applies across the region and nationally)
- Low levels of inward commuting but high outcommuting, particularly to Exeter and Taunton
- High and increasing levels of car ownership
- 12 Sites of Special Scientific Interest, three Local Nature Reserves, two nature reserves managed by Devon Wildlife Trust and over 8 square kilometres of ancient woodland
- Rich historic environment including over 2000 listed buildings, 51 Conservation Areas, 49 Scheduled Monuments, 3 registered parks and gardens and 16 locally important parks and gardens
- Small areas of social deprivation within Tiverton, Cullompton and some of the remote rural areas

1.14 These characteristics and sustainability issues, and a range of other important issues which have informed the content of the plan, are discussed in greater detail in the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal (SA). The Local Plan has been prepared in response to these issues, seeking to deliver development in a sustainable manner, whilst respecting environmental limits. The SA charts this development process, reflecting how the plan has been put together following previous consultations and the production of evidence.

## Vision and Spatial Strategy

### Vision

1.15 The vision and spatial strategy describes how the sustainable development of Mid Devon will bring positive benefits to local communities through promoting community well-being, supporting economic success, conserving and enhancing the area and respecting environmental limits:

*Mid Devon will be a prosperous and sustainable rural district, where individuals, families and communities can flourish as a result of access to good quality local employment, housing and services and a clean, green, safe environment. Local communities and private, public and voluntary organisations will work in partnership to meet social and economic needs in ways that enhance the environment and reduce the area's carbon footprint. High quality development in the right places with appropriate infrastructure will bring regeneration, social and economic benefits and enhance towns, villages and countryside while promoting sustainable use of energy and other resources and tackling the causes and effects of climate change. The Council will use planning and related powers to:*

#### Promote community well-being

- Diverse, inclusive communities with a vibrant mix of accessible uses and local services
- Sufficient 'fit for purpose', decent homes which people can afford
- Safe, healthy and crime free neighbourhoods
- Active, involved, well-educated citizens
- A good range of opportunities to travel by active and sustainable modes
- Strong town and village communities
- Green Infrastructure for personal leisure amenity space

#### Support sustainable economic success

- A good range of jobs in urban and rural areas
- Growth that respects Mid Devon's relationship with Exeter and Taunton
- Profitable and expanding local businesses, attracting inward investment
- Attractive, lively and successful town centres
- Tourism and leisure enterprises that benefit the whole district
- Recognition of the role of heritage as a tourism attraction

## Conserve and enhance the area

- High quality design in new developments
- Clean air and water
- Countryside, environment and heritage assets conserved and enhanced
- Attractive countryside providing for biodiversity and employment
- Effective reuse of existing buildings
- Conservation and enhancement of protected landscapes

## Respect environmental limits

- Social and environmental benefits of development are optimised
- Developments use land, energy and resources effectively
- Waste is minimised and recycling rates are high
- Public transport, walking and cycling are encouraged
- Floodplains remain undeveloped
- Renewable energy projects within environmental limits

# Spatial Strategy

## Overall Strategy

In order to move towards achieving the vision, development will be managed to:

- Create a prosperous economy which increases inward investment into the district
- Meet objectively assessed needs for development, guided to locations which are or can be made sustainable, achieving a suitable balance of housing, employment, facilities and other uses within towns, villages, neighbourhoods and rural areas
- Reduce the need to travel by car, increasing the potential of public transport, cycling and walking
- Reduce carbon emissions in support of national targets
- Promote social inclusion and reduce inequalities by enhancing access for all to employment, services and housing

## Cullompton

In the medium to long term, the market town of Cullompton will become the strategic focus of new development, reflecting its accessibility, economic potential and environmental capacity.

Development will be targeted to:

- Provide sustainable urban extensions containing a mix of fit for purpose homes, businesses, local shopping and other services and sustainable transport links
- Provide enhancements to the town centre through additional investment, traffic and transport improvements and environmental enhancements to provide a significant boost to its vitality and viability, provide for a better range of retail and other uses and a significantly improved visitor environment
- Develop any remaining underused brownfield sites within the town
- Protect and enhance the key environmental assets including heritage, biodiversity and air quality

## Other Market Towns

The market towns of Tiverton and Crediton will be the secondary focuses of new development, in scale with their individual infrastructures, economies, characters and constraints.

Development will be targeted to:

- Provide a sustainable mix of fit for purpose homes, businesses, shops, leisure, health, education and many other uses, to resolve existing problems where feasible and to meet rural needs
- Protect and enhance their environmental assets including their character, biodiversity, heritage, setting and air quality
- Develop underused and brownfield sites within the towns in preference to greenfield land or public open spaces
- Enhance town centres as accessible, vital and viable locations for a vibrant mix of uses, and as public transport hubs

## Villages

A network of villages with sufficient services and public transport provision will be locations for limited development, targeted to:

- Provide for housing, shops, local services, community facilities and low impact businesses, at a scale commensurate with that of the existing village
- Avoid significantly increased travel by car
- Protect and enhance their environmental assets, including their character, biodiversity, heritage and setting

## Countryside

Development in countryside areas outside defined towns and villages, including hamlets and other small settlements, will be targeted to:

- Meet agricultural and other rural business needs
- Promote environmental enhancement including landscape and biodiversity
- Encourage appropriate economic diversification to support the rural economy
- Provide infrastructure to meet the needs of the community

1.16 The Council has considered what strategic approaches are available to meet the vision for sustainable development which has been carried forward from the previous Core Strategy and which continues to reflect the national policy provisions for sustainable development. In particular, the NPPF requires that councils make significant efforts to meet the objectively assessed development needs for their area in their Local Plans. Environmental constraints at Tiverton and Crediton mean that a new approach to the strategic distribution of development is required in this Local Plan Review. Some provision in the more sustainable villages is now proposed, but a wider distribution of housing in these smaller settlements risks significant increases in unsustainable travel. The possibility of a new settlement in the vicinity of Willand was examined but found to be both inappropriate and likely to be unachievable. Cullompton has more limited environmental constraints than the other market towns and long term growth potential to the east of the town. Cullompton Town Council is supportive of increased growth rates, reflecting the importance they attach to the economic renaissance of the town and in particular the town centre. Given these constraints, and the lack of feasibility of a new settlement led approach to strategic growth, Cullompton is the appropriate long term focus of the district's growth. The Council understands significant potential infrastructure constraints to this growth will need to be overcome, but by providing certainty to the long term planning policy of the area, the Council will be in a position to work towards overcoming these constraints. Further details are set out in strategic policy S11 Cullompton and in the Cullompton section of Chapter 3.0, Site Allocations.

## Neighbourhood planning

1.17 The Localism Act 2011 devolved planning powers to local communities. A town or parish council designated as a neighbourhood forum can produce a neighbourhood plan, neighbourhood development order or community right to build order.

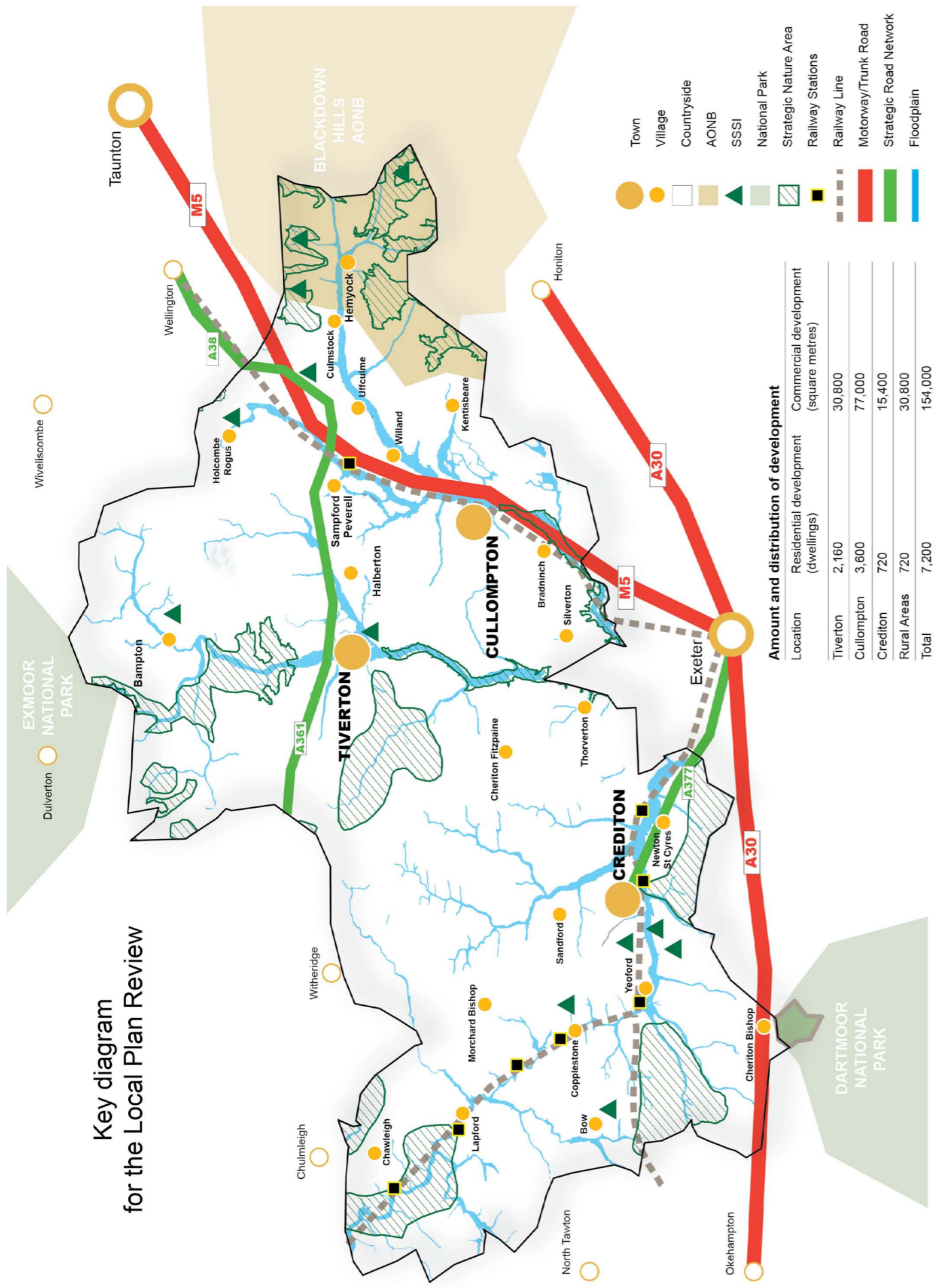
1.18 A neighbourhood plan must be consistent with the strategic planning policies of the district council, national planning policy and human rights legislation. A Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment may also be required. The plan is then subject to independent examination and a referendum. If it succeeds at referendum, a neighbourhood plan becomes part of the Mid Devon Development Plan and a statutory consideration in planning decisions.

1.19 Depending on its scope, the preparation of a neighbourhood plan can be a complex and time-consuming process, requiring a certain amount of technical expertise. The Council will support local communities wishing to pursue neighbourhood planning. Cullompton, Crediton and Silverton were the first to initiate neighbourhood planning in Mid Devon.

1.20 More information on neighbourhood planning and other community rights can be found on the website <http://mycommunityrights.org.uk>



Key diagram  
for the Local Plan Review



## Superseded policies

1.21 The Local Plan Review replaces and supersedes the policies of the previous Local Plan that was adopted in three parts: The Core Strategy 2026 (Local Plan Part 1) adopted in 2007, the Allocations and Infrastructure Development Plan Document (AIDPD) (Local Plan Part 2) adopted in 2010 and the Local Plan Part 3: Development Management Policies, adopted in 2013.

2007 Core Strategy Policy	Subject	Notes
COR1	Sustainable Communities	Replaced by: S1 Sustainable development priorities
COR2	Local Distinctiveness	Replaced by: S9 Environment
COR3	Meeting Housing Needs	Replaced by: S3 Meeting housing needs
COR4	Meeting Employment Needs	Replaced by: S6 Employment
COR5	Climate Change	Replaced by: S9 Environment
COR6	Town Centres	Replaced by: S7 Town centres
COR7	Previously Developed Land	Replaced by: S9 Environment
COR8	Infrastructure Provision	Replaced by: S8 Infrastructure
COR9	Access	Replaced by: S8 Infrastructure
COR10	Strategic Transport Networks	Deleted: Unnecessary
COR11	Flooding	Replaced by: S9 Environment
COR12	Development Focus	Replaced by: S2 Amount and distribution of development
COR13	Tiverton	Replaced by: S10 Tiverton
COR14	Cullompton	Replaced by: S11 Cullompton
COR15	Crediton	Replaced by: S12 Crediton
COR16	Bampton	Deleted: Bampton has been re-classified as a village
COR17	Villages	Replaced by: S13: Villages
COR18	Countryside	Replaced by: S14 Countryside

Table 1: Schedule of 2007 Core Strategy 2026 policies



2010 AIDPD	Subject	Notes
AL/DE/1	Housing Plan, Monitor and Manage	Replaced by: S4 Ensuring housing delivery
AL/DE/2	Overall Affordable Housing Provision	Replaced by: S3 Meeting housing needs
AL/DE/3	Affordable Housing Site Target	Replaced by: S3 Meeting housing needs
AL/DE/4	Occupation of Affordable Housing	Replaced by: S3 Meeting housing needs
AL/DE/5	Inclusive Design and Layout	Replaced by: S1 Sustainable development priorities
AL/DE/6	Exceptions Policy	Replaced by: DM6 Rural exceptions sites
AL/DE/7	Gypsy and Traveller Provision	Replaced by: DM7 Gypsy and traveller accommodation
AL/DE/8	Public Gypsy and Travellers Provision	Deleted: No equivalent policy
AL/IN/1	Community Infrastructure Levy	Deleted: Now set out in Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule and supporting documentation prepared alongside the Local Plan Review
AL/IN/2	Development Without Community Infrastructure Levy	Deleted: Now set out in Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule and supporting documentation prepared alongside the Local Plan Review
AL/IN/3	Public Open Space	Replaced by: S5 Public open space
AL/IN/4	Green Infrastructure	Replaced by: S9 Environment; DM26 Green infrastructure in major development
AL/IN/5	Education Provision	Replaced by: S8 Infrastructure
AL/IN/6	Carbon Footprint Reduction	Deleted: National policy moving away from delivery of on-site renewables to energy efficiency improvements delivered through the Building Regulations
AL/MO/1	Monitoring	Deleted: Section 5.0 of the Local Plan Review focuses on Monitoring
AL/TIV/1	Eastern Urban Extension	Replaced by: TIV1 Eastern Urban Extension
AL/TIV/2	Eastern Urban Extension Transport Provision	Replaced by: TIV2 Eastern Urban Extension Transport Provision
AL/TIV/3	Eastern Urban Extension Environmental Protection & Green Infrastructure	Replaced by: TIV3 Eastern Urban Extension Environmental Protection and Green Infrastructure

AL/TIV/4	Eastern Urban Extension Community Facilities	Replaced by: TIV4 Eastern Urban Extension Community Facilities
AL/TIV/5	Eastern Urban Extension Carbon Reduction & Air Quality	Deleted: Covered by Development Management policies on renewable energy, air quality and transport and pollution
AL/TIV/6	Eastern Urban Extension Phasing	Replaced by: TIV5 Eastern Urban Extension Phasing
AL/TIV/7	Eastern Urban Extension Masterplanning	Replaced by: TIV1 Eastern Urban Extension
AL/TIV/8	Farleigh Meadows	Replaced by: TIV6 Farleigh Meadows
AL/TIV/9	Blundells School	Deleted: The site is not considered deliverable.
AL/TIV/10	Howden Court	Replaced by: TIV9 Howden Court
AL/TIV/11	Belmont Hospital, Belmont Road	Deleted: Site permitted and under construction.
AL/TIV/12	St Andrew Street	Replaced by: TIV7 Town Hall/St Andrew Street
AL/TIV/13	William Street	Deleted: Part of site is complete. Remainder is not considered deliverable.
AL/TIV/14	Palmerston Park	Replaced by: TIV11 Palmerston Park
AL/TIV/15	Blundells Garage, Station Road	Deleted: Site permitted and built out.
AL/TIV/16	Roundhill	Replaced by: TIV10 Roundhill
AL/TIV/17	Hay Park, Canal Hill	Deleted: Concerns over deliverability. Within settlement limit therefore not necessary to remain allocated to come forward.
AL/TIV/18	The Avenue	Deleted: Concerns over deliverability. Part of site now has planning permission for one dwelling.
AL/TIV/19	Phoenix Lane	Replaced by: TIV12 Phoenix Lane
AL/TIV/20	Bampton Street	Deleted: Site has not come forward since allocation. Economic advice suggests unlikely that more than one town centre regeneration scheme to be likely to happen during plan period.
AL/TIV/21	Tidcombe Hall	Replaced by: TIV13 Tidcombe Hall
AL/CU/1	North West Cullompton	Replaced by: CU1 North West Cullompton
AL/CU/2	North West Cullompton Transport Provision	Replaced by: CU2 North West Cullompton Transport Provision
AL/CU/3	North West Cullompton Environmental Protection & Green Infrastructure	Replaced by: CU3 North West Cullompton Environmental Protection and Green Infrastructure
AL/CU/4	North West Cullompton Community Facilities	Replaced by: CU4 North West Cullompton Community Facilities
AL/CU/5	North West Cullompton Carbon Reduction & Air Quality	Replaced by: CU5 North West Cullompton Carbon Reduction and Air Quality
AL/CU/6	North West Cullompton Phasing	Replaced by: CU6 North West Cullompton Phasing

AL/CU/7	Masterplanning	Replaced in part by: CU1 North West Cullompton
AL/CU/8	Knowle Lane	Replaced by: CU13 Knowle Lane
AL/CU/9	Court Farm	Deleted: Majority of site permitted and built out. Remainder within settlement limit and does not need to be allocated to come forward.
AL/CU/10	Padbrook Farm	Deleted: Site permitted and built out.
AL/CU/11	Exeter Road	Replaced by: CU15 Land at Exeter Road
AL/CU/12	Lower Bull Ring	Deleted: Site permitted and built out.
AL/CU/13	Week Farm	Replaced by: CU17 Week Farm
AL/CU/14	Eastern Relief Road	Replaced by: CU19 Town Centre Relief Road
AL/CU/15	Cullompton Air Quality	Replaced in part by: S11 Cullompton Also, each site allocation within Cullompton is requires in their policy to have a transport assessment and implement a travel plan to minimise the carbon footprint and air quality impacts
AL/CU/16	M5 Junction 28	Replaced in part by: CU20 Cullompton Infrastructure
AL/CU/17	Town Centre Enhancement	Replaced in part by: CU20 Cullompton Infrastructure
AL/CU/18	Enhanced Walking and Cycling Route	Replaced by: CU8 East Cullompton Transport Provision
AL/CU/19	Railway Station Car Park	Replaced in part by: CU20 Cullompton Infrastructure
AL/CU/20	Colebrook	Replaced by: CU21 Land at Colebrook
AL/CRE/1	Wellparks	Replaced by: CRE1 Wellparks
AL/CRE/2	Red Hill Cross, Exhibition Road	Replaced by: CRE2 Red Hill Cross, Exhibition Road
AL/CRE/3	Cromwells Avenue	Replaced by: CRE3 Cromwells Meadow
AL/CRE/4	George Hill	Deleted: Site permitted and built out.
AL/CRE/5	The Bike Shed, High Street	Deleted: Site no longer available.
AL/CRE/6	The Woods Group, Exeter Road	Replaced by: CRE4 Woods Group, Exeter Road
AL/CRE/7	Wellparks A377	Replaced by: CRE1 Wellparks
AL/CRE/8	Crediton Air Quality	Replaced in part by: S12 Crediton CRE11 Crediton Infrastructure
AL/CRE/9	Crediton Link Road	Deleted: Crediton Link Road has been completed.
AL/CRE/10	Exhibition Road	Deleted: School no longer proposes to move to single site.
AL/CRE/11	Cemeteries	Replaced by: CRE2 Red Hill Cross, Exhibition Road
AL/CRE/12	Pedlerspool, Exhibition Road	Replaced by: CRE5 Pedlerspool, Exhibition Road
AL/BA/1	Bampton, School Close	Deleted: Site permitted and under construction.

AL/BA/2	Bampton, Bouchier Close	Deleted: Site has not come forward since allocation. Site no longer required.
AL/BA/3	Bampton, Ashleigh Park	Replaced by: BA3 Ashleigh Park, Bampton
AL/BA/4	Bampton, Newton Square	Replaced by: BA1 Newton Square, Bampton
AL/BO/1	Bow, West of Godfrey Gardens	Replaced by: BO2 West of Godfrey Gardens, Bow
AL/BO/2	Bow, South of Iter Cross	Deleted: No evidence of demand for employment allocation. Long-term protection of the allocation would be contrary to paragraph 22 of the National Planning Policy Framework.
AL/BO/3	Bow, South West of Junction Road	Deleted: No evidence of demand for employment allocation. Long-term protection of the allocation would be contrary to paragraph 22 of the National Planning Policy Framework.
AL/CO/1	Copplestone, Land off Bassett's Close	Deleted: Site not considered deliverable.
AL/CL/1	Culmstock, Linhay Close	Replaced by: CL1 Linhay Close, Culmstock
AL/CL/2	Culmstock, Hunters Hill	Replaced by: CL2 Hunter's Hill, Culmstock
AL/KE/1	Kentisbeare, South East of Village Hall	Deleted: No evidence of demand for employment in this location. Site has not come forward since allocated.
AL/MB/1	Morchart Bishop, Greenaway	Replaced by: MO1 Greenaway, Morchart Bishop
AL/SA/1	Sandford, South of Village Hall	Replaced by: SA1 Fanny's Lane, Sandford
AL/WI/1	Willand, Willand Moor	Deleted: Site has not come forward since allocation. Alternative allocation within the village included in Local Plan Review.
AL/WI/2	Willand, West of B3181	Replaced by: WI1 Land East of M5, Willand

Table 2: Schedule of 2010 Allocations and Infrastructure Development Plan Document policies

2013 Local Plan Part 3	Subject	Notes
DM1	Presumption in favour of sustainable development	Deleted: Inclusion of 'model' policy no longer required by the Planning Inspectorate
DM2	High quality design	Replaced by: DM1 High quality design
DM3	Sustainable design	Deleted: Government guidance states energy efficiency improvements in buildings to be delivered through Building Regulations. Superseded need for policy.
DM4	Waste Management	Deleted: Policy now included within Devon County Waste Plan 2014.
DM5	Renewable and low carbon energy	Replaced by: DM2 Renewable and low carbon energy
DM6	Transport and air quality	Replaced by: DM3 Transport and air quality
DM7	Pollution	Replaced by: DM4: Pollution
DM8	Parking	Replaced by: DM5 Parking

## 2.0 Development Strategy and Strategic Policies

DM9	Cross subsidy of affordable housing on exception sites	Replaced by: DM6 Rural exception sites
DM10	Rural workers dwellings	Replaced by: DM8 Rural workers' dwellings
DM11	Conversion of rural buildings	Replaced by: DM9 Conversion of rural buildings
DM12	Replacement dwellings in rural areas	Replaced by: DM10 Replacement dwellings in rural areas
DM13	Residential extensions and ancillary development	Replaced by: DM11 Residential extensions and ancillary development
DM14	Design of housing	Replaced by: DM12 Design of housing
DM15	Dwelling sizes	Replaced by: DM13 Dwelling sizes
DM16	Town centre development	Replaced by: DM14 Town centre development
DM17	Development outside town centres	Replaced by: DM15 Development outside town centres
DM18	Front of shops and business premises	Replaced by: DM16 Front of shops and business premises
DM19	Rural shopping	Replaced by: DM17 Rural shopping
DM20	Rural employment development	Replaced by: DM18 Rural employment development
DM21	Protection of employment land	Replaced by: DM19 Protection of employment land
DM22	Agricultural development	Replaced by: DM20 Agricultural development
DM23	Equestrian development	Replaced by: DM21 Equestrian development
DM24	Tourism and leisure development	Replaced by: DM22 Tourism and leisure development
DM25	Community facilities	Replaced by: DM23 Community facilities
DM26	Protection of recreational land and buildings	Replaced by: DM24 Protection of Local Green Space and recreational land/buildings
DM27	Development affecting heritage assets	Replaced by: DM25 Development affecting heritage assets
DM28	Green infrastructure in major development	Replaced by: DM26 Green infrastructure in major development
DM29	Protected landscapes	Replaced by: DM27 Protected landscapes
DM30	Other protected sites	Replaced by: DM28 Other protected sites
DM31	Planning enforcement	Replaced by: DM39 Planning enforcement
BA1	Bampton Stone Crushing Works	Replaced by: BA2 Stone Crushing Works (Scott's Quarry), Bampton
WI1	Willand Industrial Estate	Replaced by: WI2 Willand Industrial Estate, Willand

Table 3: 2013 Local Plan Part 3: Development Management Policies

## Sustainable development principles

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is clear that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.

NPPF, Paragraph 7 states that: "There are three distinct dimensions to sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. These dimensions give rise to the need for the planning system to perform a number of roles:

- **an economic role** – contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure;
- **a social role** – supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being; and
- **an environmental role** – contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy."

NPPF, Paragraphs 8 and 9 clarify that "These roles should not be undertaken in isolation because they are mutually dependent" and:

Pursuing sustainable development involves seeking positive improvements in the quality of the built, natural and historic environment, as well as in people's quality of life, including (but not limited to):

- Making it easier for jobs to be created in cities, towns and villages;
- Moving from a net loss of biodiversity to achieving net gains for nature;
- Replacing poor design with better design;
- Improving the conditions in which people live, work, travel and take leisure; and
- Widening the choice of high quality homes.

Therefore to achieve sustainable development, economic, social and environmental gains should be sought jointly and simultaneously through the planning system. This Local Plan takes into account local circumstances to achieve sustainable development in Mid Devon.

## Overall provision of housing and employment

2.1 The Local Plan Review sets out the levels of development required over the period 2013-2033. This takes account of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2015), the Employment Land Review (2013) and the Retail Study (2012), all of which provide technical advice on the levels of need and demand for development in Mid Devon. The documents can be viewed on the Council's website at [www.middevon.gov.uk/evidence](http://www.middevon.gov.uk/evidence).

### Housing

2.2 7,200 dwellings are required over the plan period, equating to 360 dwellings per year. The following table sets out the situation at 31st March 2014, indicating a remaining need for about 5,511 dwellings to be allocated.

Local Plan requirement	7,200
Completions since 2013	320
Commitments (dwellings under construction or with planning permission)	1,369
Uncommitted requirement	5,511

Table 4: Housing requirement

2.3 Across the district, this breaks down as follows:

Location	Requirement	Completions (from 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014)	Commitments (at 1 April 2014)	Remainder
Tiverton	2,160 (30%)	93	522	1,545
Cullompton	3,600 (50%)	87	199	3,314
Crediton	720 (10%)	58	216	446
Rural	720 (10%)	82	432	206
Total	7,200 (100%)	320	1,369	5,511

Table 5: Housing requirement by area



2.4 The Local Plan allocates 10% more housing than is required, to provide flexibility and account for unforeseen circumstances that might prevent some sites from coming forward as expected. The availability of land for housing, taking account of existing commitments and allocations is set out in the following trajectory. The development of existing commitments is forecast to take three years, spread evenly across that period. The development of allocated sites in Tiverton and Crediton will diminish in the latter part of the plan period, while Cullompton's role in meeting the district's long-term housing need is reflected in the town's forecast housing delivery up to 2033. Allocations in Crediton and rural areas will help to bolster housing supply in the first five years of the plan, allowing a sufficient lead-in period for the larger town sites, which have more complex infrastructure and Masterplanning requirements. These trajectories assume that housing will come forward at the earliest opportunity but it is largely the housing market that determines housing delivery and it is possible that sites will be delivered at different times and rates from those forecast. Also, windfall developments will continue to come forward throughout the plan period and these are not included in the trajectories.

**Overall Housing Trajectory 2013 - 2033**

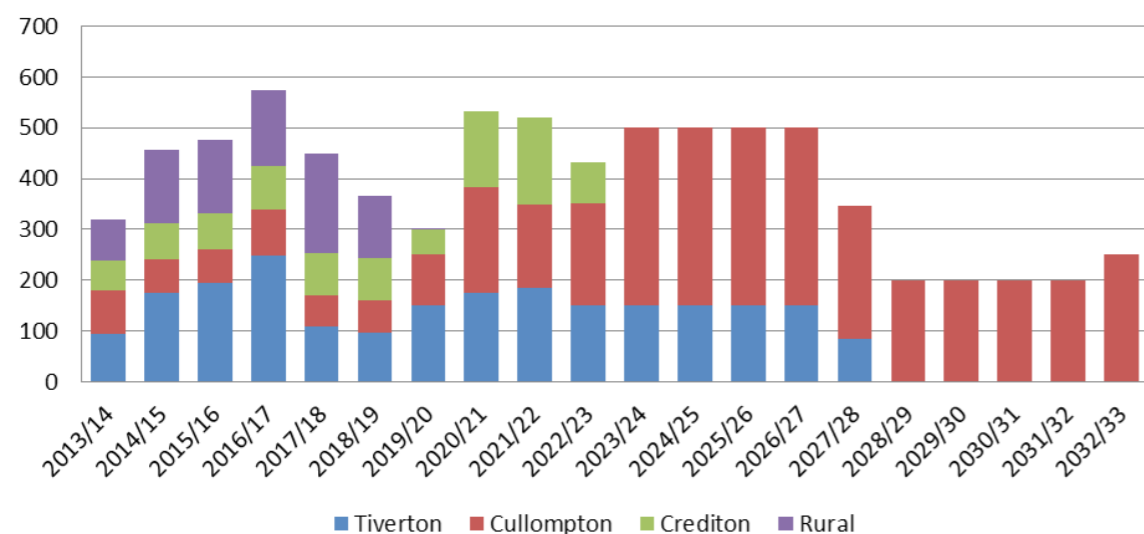


Chart 1: Overall housing trajectory

Location	Policy	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	Total
<b>Tiverton</b>																						
Eastern Urban Extension	TIV1-TIV5			12	75	75	75	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	83						1520
Moorhayes Park	TIV8			8																		8
Howden Court	TIV9					10																10
Roundhill	TIV10					12	8															20
Palmerston Park	TIV11					12	13															25
Phoenix Lane	TIV12								25	35												60
Tidcombe Hall (contingency)	TIV13																					0
Wynnards Mead (contingency)	TIV14																					0
Commitments		93	174	174	174																	615
<b>Total</b>		<b>93</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>83</b>						<b>2258</b>
<b>Cullompton</b>																						
NW Cullompton Urban Extension	CU1-CU6						12	75	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	63						1200
East Cullompton Urban Extension	CU7-CU12										50	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	250	2100
Knowle Lane	CU13								25	5												30
Ware Park and Footlands	CU14								25	13												38
Exeter Road	CU15					12	25	8														45
Cummings Nursery	CU16				12	25	25	25	33													120
Colebrook (contingency)	CU21																					0
Commitments		87	66	66	67																	286
<b>Total</b>		<b>87</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>3819</b>
<b>Crediton</b>																						
Wellparks	CRE1				12	25	25	25	50	48												185
Cromwells Meadow	CRE3					12	23															35
Woods Group	CRE4					8																8
Pedlerspool	CRE5					12	25	25	50	50	38											200
Sports Fields	CRE6								25	50	45											120
Stonewall Lane	CRE7								25	25												50
Land at Barn Park	CRE8					12	8															20
Alexandra Close	CRE9					12	3															15
Commitments		58	72	72	72																	274
<b>Total</b>		<b>58</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>83</b>											<b>907</b>

Table 6: Housing forecast 2013 - 2033  
(continued on page 26)

Location	Policy	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	Total
Rural sites																						
Newton Square	BA1					5																5
Hollywell	BO1					12	8															20
Godfrey Gardens	BO2				6																	6
Hele Road	BR1					7																7
Barton	CH1					12	8															20
Land off Church Lane	CB1					12	18															30
Barnhill Close	CF1					7																7
Land adj school	CF2					12	10															22
Old Abbatoir	CO1					12	18															30
Linhay Close	CL1					6																6
Hunters Hill	CL2					10																10
Land adj Fishers Way	HA1					10																10
Depot	HE1					10																10
Greenaway	MO1					12	8															20
Court Orchard	NE1					12	13															25
Former Tiverton Parkway Hotel	SP1					10																10
Fannys Lane	SA1					12	15															27
Old Butterleigh Road	SI1					8																8
The Garage	SI2					5																5
South of Broadlands	TH1					12																12
Land east of M5	WI1					12	25	3														40
Commitments		82	144	144	144																	514
<b>Total</b>		<b>82</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>3</b>														<b>844</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>320</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>7828</b>

Table 6: Housing forecast 2013 - 2033

2.5 The availability, suitability and achievability of the sites have been assessed during the Local Plan's preparation, through the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) in accordance with national policy and guidance. The Council is therefore confident that they can and will deliver sufficient housing to meet Mid Devon's requirements. Delivery of housing will be monitored annually with information published in the Authority's Monitoring Report each December. Where performance falls significantly below the development targets and the Council is no longer able to demonstrate a five year supply of housing in accordance with national policy, the Council will take action as set out in Policy S4. The Local Plan will be reviewed and new sites identified if strategic sites in this plan fail to come forward.

2.6 The following table illustrates the requirement for five years' supply of housing. This is adjusted annually to take account of how many houses have been built since the beginning of the plan period (2013), with any shortfall included in the requirement for the next five years.

A	Local Plan requirement 2013-2033	7,200
B	Implied annual rate 2013-2033 (A ÷ 20)	360
C	Local Plan requirement to date, 2013-2014 (B * 1)	360
D	Completions April 2013-March 2014	320
E	Shortfall to date, 2013-2014 (C - D)	40
F	Local Plan requirement 2015-2020 (B * 5)	1,800
G	5 year supply requirement (E + F)	1,840

Table 7: Five year housing requirement

2.7 Over the entire plan period (2013-2033) there is provision for 10% more housing than required, as explained in paragraph 2.4. Within certain year brackets, such as 2015-2020 and 2020-2025, this is substantially higher, as shown in the table below. This maximises flexibility of housing delivery in the short to medium term, ensuring that sufficient housing will come forward for the Council to demonstrate a five year supply in accordance with national policy.

	2015-2020	2020-2025	2025-2030
Requirement	1,840	1,800	1,800
Trajectory	2,169	2,487	1,746
Surplus	15%	38%	0%

Table 8: Housing supply in five year tranches

2.8 All the sites in the Local Plan have been subject to the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment and have been deemed to be deliverable. However, the plan has to be able to deal with uncertainty, reflecting that changes in the housing market or other circumstances may prevent allocated sites from being delivered at the rate the Council has forecast. The Local Plan deals with this uncertainty in three ways.

### Extra provision

2.9 The Local Plan makes provision for 628 dwellings over and above the identified requirement.

Windfalls

2.10 Windfalls are dwellings that come forward on sites that are not allocated. Other than windfalls included in the figures for existing committed sites (those under construction or with planning permission), the Local Plan makes no allowance for windfalls likely to occur in the plan period. However, it is highly likely that trends in windfall development will continue, and the Council’s annual update of the district’s housing supply will take account of windfall developments if and when appropriate. When including windfalls, the Council will assume a minimum of 104 dwellings per year, which was accepted by the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Panel (SHLAA Panel) in the Mid Devon SHLAA Report (2013).

Contingency sites

2.11 The Local Plan allocates three ‘contingency sites’ for housing. These developments will only be permitted if housing delivery across the district falls below defined ‘action levels’ or the Council is unable to demonstrate a five year housing supply in accordance with national policy. The release of contingency sites will be the Council’s preference if the supply of housing is insufficient, but proposals on other sites will also be considered on their merits according to the presumption in favour of sustainable development set out in national policy.

**Commercial development**

2.12 The Local Plan sets targets for commercial development, which can include traditional employment uses (B1-B8 use classes) such as offices, industrial development and storage and distribution, and also a range of other commercial uses such as retail, leisure and hospitality. Site allocation policies set out the uses considered acceptable in a certain location, but the Council maintains a flexible approach to employment development and will consider jobs creation as a supporting factor in any proposal. Nevertheless, retail and some other proposals in the wrong location can have serious adverse impacts on town centres and surrounding uses, so there will be careful consideration of these proposals on sites not allocated for such a use.

2.13 Allocations for commercial development are consistent with the Local Plan strategy being broadly in accordance with the housing locations for significant long-term growth in Cullompton, short-medium term growth in Tiverton, and growth in Crediton and rural areas that is proportionate to their circumstances and environmental constraints. The following table shows completions since 2013, existing commitments, (sites under construction and existing planning consents) and the amount of development allocated across Mid Devon. Figures are in square metres floorspace.

Location	Completions	Commitments	Local Plan provision (sqm)
Tiverton	1,550	805	38,000
Cullompton	3,598	19,669	65,000
Crediton	520	2052	9,820
Rural	4,119	20,733	8,800
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9,787</b>	<b>43,259</b>	<b>121,620</b>

Table 9: Commercial land completions, commitments and allocations

2.14 The Employment Land Review (2013) recommends the Council plan for 30-40 hectares employment land, which is considered equivalent to approximately 140,000 square metres floorspace. The Retail Study (2012) identifies a limited need for non-food retail at around 14,000 square metres. Taking this evidence into account, the Local Plan sets a commercial development requirement of 154,000 square metres, with allocations distributed as shown in Table 9.

2.15 To provide flexibility of provision and allow for growth, the Local Plan makes provision for about 20% more commercial floorspace than is required. There is an excess of commercial land supply in the most sustainable locations – Tiverton and Cullompton – while Crediton is more constrained due to the limited availability of suitable land. Rural areas are often not suitable for large-scale employment growth, though windfall development in rural areas and on existing employment sites is likely to continue, given past performance and supportive Local Plan policies. The allocated sites have been subject to Strategic Commercial Land Availability Assessment (SCLAA) and are considered available, suitable and achievable. In the event that circumstances change and a site is no longer viable for its designated use, the Council will consider alternative uses as set out in paragraph 2.13 and Policy DM19 (protection of employment land).

2.16 The following trajectory illustrates the expected annual provision of commercial development across the district, taking account of existing commitments and allocations. The development of existing commitments is forecast to take seven years, spread evenly across that period. This takes account of slow historic rates of commercial development in Mid Devon. Cullompton’s role in meeting the district’s long-term development needs is shown in the town’s forecast delivery up to 2033, while Tiverton’s commercial growth from allocated sites tails off with the completion of the Eastern Urban Extension. The development of allocated sites in Crediton and rural areas may have been completed by the latter part of the plan period, but it is highly likely that windfall developments will continue to come forward.

**Overall trajectory of commercial development**

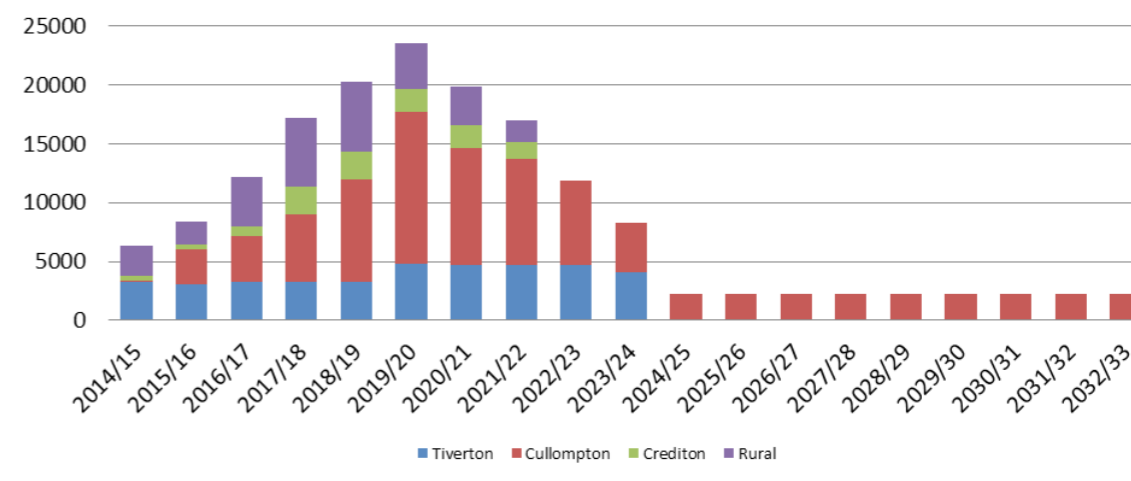


Chart 2: Overall commercial development trajectory

## Policy S1

### Sustainable development priorities

The following strategic priorities outline what will need to be achieved to deliver the Vision and address the key issues that have been identified in Mid Devon. All development will be expected to support the creation of sustainable communities by:

- a) A development focus at Tiverton, Cullompton and Crediton as Mid Devon's most sustainable settlements, with long-term growth to the east of Cullompton and a limited level of development in identified villages;
- b) Building a strong, competitive economy through access to education, training and jobs, infrastructure, the creation of new enterprise, economic regeneration and flexibility of uses to respond to changing circumstances;
- c) Ensuring the vitality of town centres and communities through a hierarchy of centres, defined town centre shopping areas, a diverse retail offer at Tiverton, Crediton and Cullompton, and support for the vitality and viability of defined villages;
- d) Supporting a prosperous rural economy through the conversion of suitable existing buildings and well-designed new buildings in suitable locations, diversification of agricultural and other land-based businesses, support for equestrian activities, retention and development of local services and community facilities in villages, and the promotion of sustainable rural tourism and leisure development;
- e) Promoting sustainable transport by delivering appropriate infrastructure, reducing the need to travel by car, integrating public transport and other forms of sustainable travel such as walking and cycling, and providing safe environments while recognising Mid Devon's rural locality;
- f) Supporting high quality communications infrastructure by supporting the expansion of telecommunications and high speed broadband throughout Mid Devon;
- g) Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes through a diverse housing mix and by meeting the housing needs of all sectors of the community including the provision of housing for the elderly and disabled, those wishing to build their own home, affordable housing and gypsy and traveller pitches;
- h) Requiring good sustainable design that respects local character, heritage, surroundings and materials, creates safe and accessible environments, designs out crime and establishes a strong sense of place;

- i) Promoting healthy communities through the delivery of social, educational, recreational and cultural facilities and services, access to high quality open space, public rights of way and accessible land, and opportunities for sport and recreation and the designation of Local Green Space;
- j) Meeting the challenge of climate change by supporting a low carbon future, energy efficiency, increasing the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy, managing flood risk and conserving natural resources. Encourage the effective use of land, taking into account the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land;
- k) Conserving and enhancing the natural environment by protecting and enhancing valued landscapes including the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Exmoor and Dartmoor National Parks, providing accessible green infrastructure, and preventing significant harm to soil, air, water, noise and visual quality, in particular air quality as a local issue at Crediton and Cullompton;
- l) Minimising impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity by recognising the wider benefits of ecosystems, delivering natural environment objectives, providing a net gain in biodiversity and by the protection of International, European, National and local designated wildlife sites; and
- m) Conserving and enhancing the historic environment through the identification and protection of designated and non-designated heritage assets and assessing the impact of new development on the historic character of Mid Devon's landscapes and townscapes.

2.17 It is a legal requirement that Local Plans contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. The Council will work in partnership with town and parish councils and other public bodies to ensure that all new development reinforces and delivers sustainable communities in line with guiding principles set out in Policy S1, which correspond to the vision and strategy for the district.

2.18 The sustainable development priorities aim to deliver varied and vibrant places by concentrating activities and facilities in accessible locations. The strategy aims to build a strong, competitive economy through inward investment and deliver a wide choice of high quality homes. Development will provide or utilise accessible green infrastructure networks including public open spaces, public rights of way, cycleways and other green linkages. Sustainable modes of transport include walking, cycling and public transport, though it is recognised that the private car will continue to play a significant role given the rural nature of Mid Devon. The strategy requires good



design which conserves and enhances the historic and natural environment, promotes healthy life styles and reduces pollution. The supply of renewable energy should not be supported where it harms the special qualities of protected landscapes or their setting.

2.19 The Council will monitor development to ensure that the Local Plan delivers sustainable development.

## Policy S2

### Amount and distribution of development

**The diverse development needs of the community will be met through the provision of approximately 7,200 dwellings and 154,000 square metres of commercial floorspace between 1st April 2013 and 31st March 2033.**

**Development will be concentrated at Tiverton, Cullompton and Crediton, to a scale and mix appropriate to their individual infrastructures, economies, characters and constraints. Other settlements will have more limited development which meets local needs and promotes vibrant rural communities.**

**Development targets are approximately as follows:**

Location	Total Residential (commitments and allocations; dwellings)	Total Commercial (commitments and allocations; square metres)
Tiverton	2,160	30,800
Cullompton	3,600	77,000
Crediton	720	15,400
Rural areas	720	30,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,200</b>	<b>154,000</b>

2.20 The Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA, 2015) identifies the amount and type of housing that should be provided in Mid Devon. The target for commercial development is based on the Employment Land Review (2013) and the Retail Study (2012). Paragraphs 2.1-2.16 explain how the allocations in the Local Plan will meet the development targets set out in Policy S2 above, while Policies S3 and S6 provide more detail on the types of housing and employment to be delivered.

2.21 Central to Policy S2 is the role of Cullompton in meeting the district's long-term development needs. This is a departure from historic planning strategy which focused the majority of development in Tiverton, commensurate with the size and sub-regional role of the town. Available and suitable land for development in Tiverton has become increasingly scarce as the town has grown, whereas the expansion of Cullompton is both achievable and supported by the local community.

2.22 National policy advises that planning should actively manage patterns of growth to make the fullest possible use of public transport, walking and cycling, and focus significant development in locations which are or can be made sustainable. The largest allocation in the Local Plan is East Cullompton (Policies CU7-CU12), which will have access onto the M5 motorway and deliver significant improvements to highways infrastructure for the whole town. The Council supports the reopening of a railway station at Cullompton and the Local Plan allocates a possible site for this. Pedestrian and cycle links to the town centre will be improved, and residents will be in close proximity to job opportunities within Cullompton and also at Willand, Tiverton and Exeter. The concurrent development of the North West Cullompton Urban Extension will see a new road linking Tiverton Road to Willand Road, which will relieve traffic congestion in the town centre, improving local air quality and the living conditions of residents. In addition, a new relief road to the east of the town centre will further improve local air quality by diverting north- and south-bound traffic away from Fore Street. Significant growth in Cullompton can be made sustainable through this investment in infrastructure, addressing long-standing issues of air quality and motorway junction capacity. New and expanded education facilities will also be provided within the town, to accommodate the impacts of new development.

2.23 Tiverton will continue to expand through the development of the Tiverton Eastern Urban Extension (EUE) and a number of smaller sites. The adopted EUE Masterplan proposes up to 1,520 dwellings and 30,000 square metres commercial floorspace, with a new junction onto the A361, a new primary school and community facilities.

2.24 Crediton is the smallest of Mid Devon's market towns but serves a wide area in terms of employment, education and shopping. The physical constraints of Crediton limit the options for developable sites, and there are existing problems of traffic congestion through the town centre. Air quality should improve when the Crediton Link Road opens and a proportion of HGV and other traffic is drawn away from Exeter Road to the Lords Meadow Industrial Estate, but the housing target for Crediton only amounts to 10% of the district total due to the traffic and topographical constraints that exist.

2.25 Rural areas are expected to accommodate around 10% of the housing requirement for Mid Devon. The Local Plan generally allocates small sites, the development of which will help to support the vitality of rural areas without harming their character or putting undue pressure on local infrastructure. Commercial development in rural areas will come forward on non-allocated sites according to demand, enabled by supportive general policies, but the Local Plan also retains small employment allocations in Bampton and Willand as these sites are already permitted or well-connected to existing commercial uses and infrastructure.

# Housing

## Policy S3

### Meeting housing needs

- a) **The diverse housing needs of Mid Devon will be met through the provision of approximately 7,200 dwellings between 1st April 2013 and 31st March 2033. In line with the predicted continuing need for new housing the expected annual rate of new housing development will be 360 dwellings per annum;**
- b) **Unless otherwise stated in a site allocation policy, on open market housing sites (i.e. excluding exception sites provided under Rural Exception Sites under policy DM6) of 11 dwellings or more in Tiverton, Cullompton and Crediton a target of 28% affordable dwellings, and on sites elsewhere of 6 dwellings or more a target of 30% affordable dwellings will be applied to the total number of dwellings, depending on viability and providing a mix of dwelling sizes and types appropriate to the evolving needs of Mid Devon's population. Sites of between 6 – 10 dwellings outside Tiverton, Cullompton and Crediton will be permitted to make a financial contribution sufficient to provide the affordable dwellings in another location;**
- c) **To support self-build dwellings meeting the needs of local communities affordable self-build dwellings will be permitted in locations outside settlement limits in accordance with Policy DM6;**
- d) **To support self-build housing on sites of 20 dwellings or more developers will supply at least 5% of serviced dwelling plots for sale to self-builders for a period of 12 months per plot and any plots subsequently developed for self-build must be completed within 3 years of purchase by a self-builder; and**
- e) **A five year supply of gypsy and traveller pitches will be allocated on deliverable sites within Mid Devon to ensure that the predicted need for traveller sites will be met. A further supply of developable sites or broad locations for growth will be identified equivalent to a further ten years of predicted growth. The Housing Authority will seek to provide a public site for gypsy and traveller pitches within Mid Devon, subject to the availability of funding.**

2.26 As recognised in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) "every effort should be made objectively to identify and then meet the housing needs...of an area". To do this the Council has commissioned a Strategic Housing Market Assessment in conjunction with other Councils to establish the level and types of housing need in Mid Devon. This has established the level and types of housing required with a total of 7,200 and an annual building rate of 360, taking into account the latest population projections and the Government's intention to increase the level of housing supply.

2.27 The Council's Corporate Plan has 'Better Homes' as one of its five main objectives and the long term vision is "To ensure that the housing needs of our residents are met through the provision of affordable homes and good quality housing in both the public and private sector". The design policies in this plan will be utilised to achieve good quality housing for Mid Devon residents. The need for affordable housing has been established by the Strategic Market Housing Assessment (SHMA). The SHMA concluded that 96 units of affordable housing are needed per year to meet existing "backlog" need and future needs arising in the district. This is equivalent to about 27% of the total housing need for Mid Devon. This is reflected in the affordable housing policy which requires development to meet this need by providing a proportion of dwellings as affordable on sites above the threshold.

2.28 The application of the affordable housing policy is anticipated to deliver just over 2,000 affordable dwellings across the plan period, equating to approximately 27% of total housing supply. However it is recognised that the level of supply is unlikely to meet the anticipated need as not all allocations will come forward or others may be developed with a lower housing number than specified in the policy. Furthermore, the Council has to consider the implications of meeting the need on the viability of new housing development. Viability assessment work undertaken for the Council in relation to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) has established that for the targets of 30% in rural areas and a target in the towns of 28% CIL charges of £60 and £40 respectively are viable. However, as affordable housing is secured through planning obligations rather than CIL, the proportion to be provided onsite is negotiable and the Council may accept financial contributions in lieu of onsite provision, which can result in a lower level of affordable housing delivery than anticipated. Setting the affordable housing targets at the level proposed is therefore considered an appropriate balance between meeting the majority of the need within the district, whilst ensuring the delivery of other important elements such as infrastructure, essential to achieve sustainable development over the plan period to 2033.

2.29 The SHMA forecasts a significant increase in Mid Devon's older population. Given the resource demands associated with very elderly people, such as specially adapted bathrooms and the need for lifts, this is a significant figure. Care homes or retirement complexes will be provided through the development of strategic site allocations and Policy DM12 (design of housing) requires all new housing development to be designed in a way that allows adaptation according to the changing needs of occupiers. The Building Regulations will also ensure that new housing meets certain requirements for adaptability and an ageing population. As a result, there is no need for a specific policy target related to housing for older people.

2.30 The Government is supporting the delivery of larger numbers of self-build homes through such measures as exempting such housing from the payment of CIL. For the purposes of CIL exemption, 'self-build' is defined as all homes built or commissioned by individuals or groups of individuals for their own use. Local evidence suggests that there is a demand for such housing in Mid Devon in that approximately 2,000 people search online for self-build plots every year in Mid Devon and the Council's Citizen's Panel Survey (2013) shows that 12% of respondents were considering building their own home. Policy S3 therefore includes a requirement for 5% of plots on sites of 20 houses or more to be made available for purchase by self-builders. The self-build element will form part of the market dwellings available on the site, with the percentage applied to the total number of properties on a site. For example, a site of 100 dwellings, where a policy of 25% affordable housing applies, will provide 25 affordable dwellings and 75 dwellings for sale on the open market, of which 5 of the latter would need to be provided as plots for self-build. Such plots will be marketed for a period of 12 months before being returned to the builder's control. The self-build property needs to be lived in as the owner's principal residence for 3 years, as this is a condition of the exemption from CIL liability.

2.31 As set out in the Government statement 'Planning policy for traveller sites' the government's aim is to ensure fair and equal treatment for gypsies and travellers in a way that facilitates the traditional and nomadic way of life of travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community. To achieve this aim the statement indicates that working collaboratively local planning authorities should make their own assessment of need for traveller sites and identify a five year supply of deliverable sites with a further ten year supply of developable sites or broad locations for growth on top of this. As a result a group of councils in Devon has commissioned a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment to ascertain the need for gypsy and traveller pitches and the predicted need will be accommodated by pitches within larger housing sites. For example, the allocated strategic sites at Tiverton Eastern Urban Extension, North West Cullompton and East Cullompton each have provisions for pitches for gypsies and travellers as does the allocation at Pedlerspool in Crediton. Policy DM7 (gypsy and traveller accommodation) manages the development of specific sites.

## Policy S4

### Ensuring housing delivery

**The local planning authority will monitor the delivery of housing against the annual target set out in Policy S3 and against the total completions which should have taken place since the start of the Local Plan period. Cumulative dwelling completions since 1st April 2013 will be compared with the following defined action levels:**

Year (1st April-31st March)	Action Levels	Cumulative Target
2013/14	0	360
2014/15	0	720
2015/16	360	1080
2016/17	720	1440
2017/18	1080	1800
2018/19	1440	2160
2019/20	1800	2520
2020/21	2160	2880
2021/22	2520	3240
2022/23	2880	3600
2023/24	3240	3960
2024/25	3600	4320
2025/26	3960	4680
2026/27	4320	5040
2027/28	4680	5400
2028/29	5040	5760
2029/30	5400	6120
2030/31	5760	6480
2031/32	6120	6840
2032/33	6480	7200

**If cumulative completions since 2013 fall below the expected completions total by over two years' worth of the annual target (as expressed in the defined action level for that year), or a five year supply of deliverable sites cannot be demonstrated, the Council will work proactively to bring forward allocations or outstanding planning consents. If this is insufficient to deliver the necessary level of housing, identified contingency sites will be permitted to boost housing supply.**

2.32 To ensure that Mid Devon can deliver the level of housing development required to meet identified housing need there needs to be a mechanism that will allow further sites to come forward if for any reason the expected level of delivery falls significantly below the annual target set out under Policy S3. If housing delivery falls below the action level this will be addressed through proactive development management to bring forward allocated and permitted sites, and then through the release of deliverable contingency sites. However, there will be variation of delivery across the years so it is important that the action level when the designated contingency sites will come forward will not trigger their release in response to normal variations in completions. The trigger level will therefore be when delivery has fallen two years' worth of expected annual completions behind the expected overall total for that year (ie equivalent to 10% of overall plan housing need).

2.33 The National Planning Policy Framework requires local planning authorities ensure that there is a supply of specific deliverable housing sites with a capacity equivalent to 105% or five years' worth of the annual housing target. The Local Plan proposals are designed to ensure that a five year supply of housing land is and remains available through the plan period, from existing permissions and allocations. However, should the Council at any time be unable to demonstrate a five year housing supply, it will prioritise actions to overcome constraints to the development of permitted or allocated sites. If that is insufficient or will not deal with the issue quickly enough, the Council will permit the development of one or more of the contingency sites in order to boost short term housing supply. The Council will monitor the level of housing supply through its Authority's Monitoring Report and instigate an early review of the Local Plan to identify further sites if necessary.

## Policy S5

### Public open space

**In the parishes of Tiverton, Cullompton and Crediton, and the villages defined in Policy S13, the following standards for the provision of high quality open space will be applied:**

Type of open space	Quantity standard (hectare per 1000 population)	Access standard
Allotments	0.25	300 metres or 6-7 minutes' walk time
Amenity green space	1.0	300 metres or 6-7 minutes' walk time
Parks, sport and recreation grounds	1.50 include both public and private grounds (excluding education sites)	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
Play space (children)	0.06	300 metres or 6-7 minutes' walk time
Youth space (teenagers)	0.02	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time

**In all other parishes, the following standards for the provision of open space will be applied:**

Type of open space	Quantity standard (hectare per 1000 population)	Access standard
Allotments	0.25 (for new provision)	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
Recreation space	1.20 to include both public and private grounds (excluding education sites)	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
Play space (children and youth)	0.05	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time

**New housing developments will provide open space onsite or through offsite financial contributions, as follows:**

Type of provision	1-49 dwellings	50-199 dwellings	200+ dwellings
Play space	Offsite	Onsite	Onsite
Amenity/natural green space	Offsite	Onsite	Onsite
Allotments	Offsite	Onsite	Onsite
Park, sport and recreation ground	Offsite	Offsite	Onsite
Teenage facilities	Offsite	Offsite	Onsite

2.34 Access to public open space including sports facilities is an essential element of healthy communities and national policy promotes such provision. To this end the Council has undertaken an Open Space and Play Area Study (2014) to identify the level of supply across Mid Devon and the gaps in open space provision. This results in the above standards, which aim to maintain the current level of provision per person as Mid Devon's population increases, and to increase the provision for teenage facilities which has been identified as a particular area of open space deficiency. Teenage facilities might include skateboard parks, basketball courts and 'free access' Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs). In practice, there will always be some flexibility of use where younger children use equipment designed for youths and vice versa.

2.35 The types of applicable public open space are set out in the policy. For the purposes of this policy, other spaces such as grass verges, tree-lined avenues and sustainable urban drainage schemes are not classed as public open space. The standards will be applied to development proposals according to the average size of households in Mid Devon (2.35 people). For example, a



development of 200 dwellings will be assumed to give rise to 470 people. Applying the standards in Policy S5, this development will be required to provide for 0.118 hectares allotment land, 0.47 hectares amenity green space and so on.

2.36 Onsite open space will be provided by the developer and designed in such a way as to maximise the attractiveness, safety and overall quality of the development. The provision of larger multi-functional open space 'hubs' is considered preferable to smaller fragmented open spaces across a development. The balance of onsite and offsite provision according to site size is set out in the policy, but the Council will consider on a case-by-case basis any proposals that seek to justify a different solution. A planning obligation will be used to control the long-term maintenance of onsite open space through a management company.

2.37 Smaller developments will not be required to provide the full range of open space onsite, but nonetheless the residents of those developments will increase the demand for open space in the area. The Open Space and Play Area Strategy sets out which types of housing (such as open market, affordable or accommodation for the elderly) will be eligible for offsite provision of public open space. The Council will identify locations across the district that require open space improvement or new provision, and for eligible developments will require a financial contribution through a planning obligation which secures funding for a specific project. The amount required is related to the cost of providing and maintaining open space, expressed as a cost per person as set out in the Open Space and Play Area Strategy. The Council will monitor the use of funds collected in this way to ensure that planning obligations are directly related to the open space needs associated with each development. To comply with legislation, no more than five such planning obligations will be required for a single project.

2.38 Viability testing undertaken by the Council has demonstrated that not all sites may be able to fund the full cost of the off-site contribution. Therefore, the Council will consider a reduced contribution where it can be demonstrated that payment of the full cost would make the development unviable. Further details on the policy's application, including information on the consideration and submission of viability evidence will be set out in a review of the existing Open Space Supplementary Planning Document, to be undertaken in 2015.

2.39 The Council will not use the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to fund open space provision, to avoid illegal double-charging of developers who are required to provide onsite open space as part of well-designed development while also paying CIL. However, at least 15% of CIL receipts will be transferred to the parish council in the area a development takes place, and parish councils may spend this money on any infrastructure in their area which may include the creation, development, repair or maintenance of existing areas of open space.

2.40 Policy DM24 protects existing public open spaces from development, including some identified areas of 'Local Green Space'. Communities may also seek to protect such areas through designation in a neighbourhood plan or by registering sites as Assets of Community Value (as defined in the glossary).

# Employment

## Policy S6

### Employment

**The employment needs of the community will be met through the development of 154,000 square metres of commercial floorspace comprising a range of employment-generating uses, including:**

- a) Offices, industry, storage and distribution (B1-B8);**
- b) Retail, tourism and leisure (A1-A5, C1, D2 and relevant sui generis uses);**
- c) Development for healthcare, education and public facilities (C2-C2a, D1);**  
**and**
- d) Other forms of sustainable employment-generating uses.**

2.41 The Council's employment strategy is inclusive, seeking to provide the jobs the market can deliver by promoting a range of employment-generating uses. While the majority of commercial land allocations comprise B1, B2 and B8 uses, the plan has a positive approach to other uses that provide jobs in a sustainable manner.

2.42 Employment floorspace is measured according to 'gross internal floorspace', meaning the area of floor inside the walls. This applies to use classes B1 (business), B2 (general industry) and B8 (storage and distribution) and will generally be applied to all commercial development, except for retail within use class A1 (shops). A1 retail floorspace is 'net floorspace', meaning the area of a store used for sales. Within this class, 'convenience' means food sales, while 'comparison' means anything else.

2.43 The Employment Land Review (2013) presents forecasts for employment land in Mid Devon, taking account of economic projections and past take-up of employment land. The Employment Land Review recommends that the Council plan for 30-40 hectares of employment land over a twenty year period, equating to approximately 140,000 square metres floorspace.

2.44 Very large employment sites can be more difficult to deliver due to high infrastructure costs, and there is an identified shortage of small-scale employment sites. Development Management policies allow for small-scale employment and other commercial development in suitable locations. These sites can come forward according to market demand and a land allocation will not always be necessary. However, the towns are usually the most sustainable locations for planned employment growth, where there is an existing local population and access to services. Commercial development is expected to be delivered through a combination of site allocations and windfall developments elsewhere.

2.45 The Local Plan's employment strategy seeks to guide a deliverable level of development to the most sustainable locations while recognising that larger employment centres such as Exeter and Taunton will continue to draw some of Mid Devon's working population, and suitable employment in rural areas will benefit the rural economy.

2.46 The Retail Study (2012) identifies a quantitative need of 14,580 square metres of comparison retail floorspace up to 2026. Long-term forecasting of retail demand is not very reliable, so the anticipated need has been applied across the plan period to 2033 on the understanding that allocated and non-allocated sites will come forward according to market demand and the plan will be reviewed before the need to 2026 is likely to have been exhausted. Retail development will generally be directed towards town centres and the Council will apply a sequential approach in assessing edge-of-centre or out-of-centre proposals, in accordance with Policies S7, DM14 and DM15.

2.47 The following table sets out the Local Plan allocations which include employment-generating uses, and states where their policies can be found within this document:

Location	Site	Policy	Gross site area (ha)	Net site area (ha)	Floorspace (sq.m)	Local Plan page
Tiverton	Eastern Urban Extension	TIV1-5	153	6	30,000	65-74
Tiverton	Phoenix Lane	TIV12	1.4	1	8,000	78-79
Cullompton	North West Urban Extension	CU1-6	95	3	21,000	85-93
Cullompton	East Cullompton	CU7-13	160	5	20,000	94-103
Cullompton	Week Farm	CU18	10.7	8.7	15,000	107-108
Cullompton	Venn Farm	CU19	4.4	2.5	9,000	108-109
Crediton	Wellparks	CRE1	22.9	1.2	2,220	113
Crediton	Land south of A377	CRE10	1.9	1.9	7,600	119-120
Bampton	Stone crushing works (Scott's Quarry), Bampton	BA2	0.45	0.36	355	123-124
Willand	Willand Industrial Estate	WI2	2.2	2.2	8,800	138
	<b>Total</b>				<b>121,975</b>	

## Town centres

### Policy S7

#### Town centres

**The vitality and viability of the town centres of Tiverton, Cullompton and Crediton will be protected and enhanced by positive management so that economic regeneration and heritage conservation reinforce each other as follows:**

- a) **Positive measures of enhancement and regeneration;**
- b) **Promoting new homes, shops, leisure, offices and other key town centre uses which are well designed and contribute to vitality and viability;**
- c) **Outside the town centres of Tiverton, Cullompton and Crediton, only permit new retail, leisure, office and other key town centre uses where they meet the sequential and impact tests set out in Policy DM15; and**
- d) **Traffic management measures including improving sustainable travel opportunities and interchange facilities to improve town centre environment and accessibility.**

2.48 Policy S7 seeks to secure the sustainability of Mid Devon's market towns, focusing development within town centres. The Council will work in partnership to deliver the objectives of Policy S7 and will integrate other local plans and strategies, including neighbourhood plans where these are being prepared. Investment will be directed to enhance and regenerate areas of environmental, social and economic deprivation. Networks and interchange facilities, which provide opportunities for better integration of public transport and sustainable ways of travelling, will be improved. Town centre health checks will be undertaken to monitor the condition of each of the market towns in respect of the objectives set out above.

2.49 Mid Devon’s town centres face a challenging future due to changing national retailer requirements, online shopping and reduced consumer spending. The Retail Study suggests that a changing role or focus for town centres may be required, involving conversion and redevelopment to other uses. To this end, the Local Plan incorporates tourism and leisure uses within the retail part of the commercial development target in Policy S2 and has a positive strategy for the enhancement and regeneration of town centres. Town centre redevelopment is expected to include some residential accommodation, to improve the viability of development and the vitality of the town centre.

2.50 Research by English Heritage, the Heritage Lottery Fund and others clearly demonstrate the significant contribution of heritage to the economy. Policy S7 emphasises the importance of heritage conservation in making the town centres attractive places to visit.

2.51 The following table contains details of the Local Plan’s only town centre allocation, and states where the policy can be found within this document:

Location	Site	Policy	Site area (ha)	Use	Local Plan page
Tiverton	Phoenix Lane	TIV12	1.4	60 dwellings and 8,000sqm. of mixed commercial floorspace	78-79

## Infrastructure

### Policy S8

#### Infrastructure

**The location, scale and form of development will be guided by the need for community facilities and any existing infrastructure deficiencies. The Council will work with providers and developers to ensure that new development is served by necessary infrastructure in a predictable, timely and effective fashion. Development and transport planning will be coordinated to improve accessibility for the whole community and promote the use of sustainable modes of transport. The Council will set out key infrastructure and facility requirements for new development in an Infrastructure Plan, taking account of existing provision and cumulative impact of new development. Developers will be expected to contribute fairly towards, or bear the full cost of, new or improved infrastructure and facilities where it is appropriate for them to do so, subject to viability assessment where appropriate.**

2.52 Ensuring that new development is served by appropriate infrastructure is an important role of the planning system. This is achieved by the provision of infrastructure in step with development and by guiding development to places where there is existing capacity. There is also the possibility that new development can be guided to locations where its infrastructure will help to achieve wider planning objectives such as air quality improvements. Developments likely to generate significant levels of traffic must be supported by a robust transport evidence base.

2.53 This policy underpins site allocation policies such as the North West Cullompton and East Cullompton urban extensions, which will provide traffic solutions to improve motorway junction capacity and reduce traffic through the town centre. Facilities such as schools, green infrastructure and community halls will be provided or enhanced as appropriate, to account for the increased demand arising from new development. The strategic sites will also include care homes or other provision for older people in recognition of the aging population and its associated needs. The Council will guide development to locations where there is sufficient sewerage capacity, or require that increased capacity be provided in step with development which will help to deliver Water Framework Directive objectives. The need for investment will be reviewed and addressed by South West Water through 5 yearly cycle plans. Sewerage network improvements will be negotiated in line with the provisions of the Water Act in conjunction with developers as and when the need arises.

2.54 For most sites funds for infrastructure delivery will be secured through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL); a charge per square metre of eligible new development. The rate of payment for CIL has been subject to viability assessment which takes account of the other policy requirements affecting viability, such as affordable housing targets. Legal agreements under Section 106 of The Town and Country Planning Act (1990) may be used instead of CIL if the proceeds would exceed the amount of CIL that would be generated from the development. Section 106 Agreements, a type of planning obligation, will also be used to secure funding for specific public open space projects in the district, as discussed under Policy S5. The strategic sites (Tiverton Eastern Urban Extension, North West Cullompton and East Cullompton) will be zero-rated for CIL and these developments will be required to pay for necessary infrastructure through Section 106 agreements, undergoing viability assessment at planning application stage if necessary.

2.55 There is currently a significant infrastructure funding gap and the Council will also seek external sources of funding to deliver key infrastructure. More information about the means of funding infrastructure can be found in the Infrastructure Plan (2014) and the 'Regulation 123' list for CIL, available on the website at [www.middevon.gov.uk/cil](http://www.middevon.gov.uk/cil). CIL is also accompanied by a policy setting out the circumstances in which Section 106 agreements are to be used. It is anticipated that CIL will be adopted at the same time as the Local Plan.

## Environment

### Policy S9

#### Environment

**Development will sustain the distinctive quality, character and diversity of Mid Devon's environmental assets and minimise the impact of development on climate change through:**

- a) **High quality sustainable design which reinforces the character and distinctiveness of Mid Devon's historic built environment, mitigates and adapts to climate change and creates attractive places;**
- b) **The efficient use and conservation of natural resources of land, water and energy, minimising pollution and preserving the quality and productivity of the best and most versatile agricultural land wherever possible;**
- c) **The provision of measures to reduce the risk of flooding to life and property, requiring sustainable drainage systems including provisions for future maintenance, guiding development to locations of lowest flood risk by applying a sequential test where appropriate, and avoiding an increase in flood risk elsewhere;**
- d) **Renewable energy development in locations where there is an acceptable local impact, including visual, on nearby residents, landscape character and wildlife, balanced with the wider sustainability benefits of renewable energy;**
- e) **The preservation and enhancement of the distinctive qualities of Mid Devon's natural landscape, supporting opportunities identified within landscape character areas. Within or adjoining the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and Exmoor and Dartmoor National Parks, the primary objective will be to protect the special environmental qualities of that landscape and its setting;**
- f) **The protection and enhancement of designated sites of international, national and local biodiversity and geodiversity importance. On both designated and undesignated sites, development will support opportunities for protecting and enhancing species populations and linking habitats, providing mitigation and compensation measures where appropriate; and**
- g) **The preservation and enhancement of Mid Devon's cultural and historic environment, and the protection of sites, buildings, areas and features of recognised national and local importance such as listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments and local heritage assets.**



2.56 The environmental qualities of the district are highly valued by the community and the preservation and enhancement of Mid Devon's distinctive environmental assets are important to the achievement of sustainable development. Changes in land use, agricultural practices and new development are all threats to the quality of Mid Devon's environment unless properly managed, while the effects of climate change will provide both challenges and opportunities. New development will be located, designed and constructed in ways that reinforce local distinctiveness, respond to climate change and provide positive solutions for protecting and enhancing environmental assets. Mitigation measures will be sought where appropriate, to achieve neutral or positive effects on the environment, including ecological measures which would help to deliver Water Framework Directive objectives.

2.57 The Government's approach in tackling climate change has evolved over time. Ambitious carbon reduction targets have led to Government incentives for renewable energy schemes, resulting in a marked increase in planning applications for wind turbines and field-scale solar energy development. The Mid Devon Landscape Sensitivity Assessment considers the susceptibility of different parts of the landscape to change as a result of wind and solar energy development of different sizes, scales and groupings. This assessment is a material consideration in decision-making, alongside evidence of biodiversity, noise, glare and other impacts.

2.58 Development Management policies on design, green infrastructure, protected landscapes/habitats and heritage assets provide detailed criteria for development.

## Tiverton

### Policy S10

#### Tiverton

**Tiverton will continue to develop in a balanced way as a medium sized market town serving a rural hinterland in the central part of Mid Devon. The strategy will maintain its status as the largest urban area in Mid Devon and increase the self-sufficiency of the town and its area by improving access to housing, employment and services for its population and that of the surrounding rural areas. Proposals will provide for approximately 2,160 dwellings, of which 540 will be affordable, and 30,800 gross square metres of commercial floor space over the plan period.**

**The Council will guide high quality development and other investment to:**

- a) Manage the town centre so that economic success and heritage reinforce each other, promoting new homes, shops, leisure, offices and key town centre uses which contribute to vitality and viability, including an additional 8,000 square metres of gross commercial floorspace in accordance with the sequential approach in Policy DM15;**
- b) Enhance walking and cycling opportunities and bus services around the town, particularly improving access via these more sustainable modes to the town centre, Tiverton Parkway Station, Exeter and Taunton;**
- c) Retain the green setting provided by the steep open hillsides, particularly to the west and south of the town and the historic parkland of Knightshayes to the north of the A361;**
- d) Protect the importance of Tidcombe Fen, other areas of biodiversity value and green infrastructure, supporting opportunities for enhancement;**
- e) Enhance the tourism and visitor role of the town and surrounding area; and**
- f) Support measures to reduce flood risk within Tiverton.**

2.59 Tiverton is the largest settlement in Mid Devon, with the largest economic concentration and level of social and commercial services. It is the focus of a reasonable level of public transport provision. However, the long-term options for Tiverton's growth are constrained by the town's topography, flood plains and the position of the A361.

2.60 As the largest town in the district, there is an expectation that Tiverton will deliver approximately 2,160 dwellings over the plan period. Recent completions and current commitments total over 600 dwellings. It is therefore expected that a significant proportion of the town's outstanding housing needs will be delivered as part of the Eastern Urban Extension allocation (TIV1-5), with the remainder provided by smaller allocations. Sites have been allocated in excess of the anticipated development levels to allow for flexibility in the supply of housing and employment, as discussed in paragraphs 2.1-2.16. Two contingency sites have been allocated within the town, forming part of the strategy for providing flexibility within the plan.

2.61 Retail forecasts identify a need for additional non-food retail floorspace in Tiverton. The Retail Study (2012) recommends that site allocations for retail development include the redevelopment and improvement of the bus station and existing open-air car parks. The area around Phoenix Lane in Tiverton is available, suitable and achievable for a mixed use redevelopment scheme.

2.62 Historically, the take-up of employment allocations in Tiverton has been slow, while the larger urban centres of Exeter and Taunton are established employment destinations and will continue to draw a large number of Mid Devon's working residents. The Employment Land Review (2013) advises on the locations and amounts of development appropriate in the towns. In accordance with this, the Tiverton Eastern Urban Extension is expected to provide 30,000 square metres of employment floorspace, phased to come forward in step with housing development. Employment development in this location, close to the A361, may serve to claw back some of the jobs that are currently being lost to other settlements outside Mid Devon.

2.63 The following table sets out the allocations in Tiverton, their policy reference, site area and use, and states where the relevant policies can be found within this document:

Site	Policy	Site area (ha)	Use	Local Plan page(s)
Eastern Urban Extension	TIV1-TIV5	153	1520 dwellings and 30,000 sqm of commercial floorspace	65-74
Farleigh Meadows	TIV6	8.2	300 dwellings	74
Town Hall	TIV7	0.5	59 dwellings	75
Moorhayes Park	TIV8	0.4	8 dwellings	76
Howden Court	TIV9	0.47	10 dwellings	76
Roundhill	TIV10	0.4	20 dwellings	77
Palmerston Park	TIV11	0.9	25 dwellings	77
Phoenix Lane	TIV12	1.4	60 dwellings and 8,000sqm. of mixed commercial floorspace	78
Tidcombe Hall (contingency)	TIV13	5	100 dwellings	79
Wynnards Mead (contingency)	TIV14	6.3	70 dwellings	80

## Cullompton

### Policy S11

#### Cullompton

**Cullompton will develop as a fast growing market town with a strategic role in the hierarchy of settlements in Mid Devon. The town will become the strategic focus of new development reflecting its accessibility, economic potential and environmental capacity. This strategy will improve access to housing through urban extensions and expanded employment opportunities. There will be significant improvements to the town's infrastructure and connectivity, including the reopening of the railway station, and improved services for its population and nearby rural areas. Proposals will provide for approximately 3,600 dwellings, of which 900 will be affordable, and 77,000 gross square metres of commercial floor space over the plan period.**

**The Council will guide high quality development and other investment to:**

- a) **Make any necessary improvements to the M5 motorway including junction 28 to maintain highway capacity and safety;**
- b) **Promote further public transport improvements within Cullompton and to other urban centres (particularly Tiverton and Exeter) and improved access to the rail network by the reopening of Cullompton Railway Station;**
- c) **Continue measures to support the implementation of the Cullompton Air Quality Action Plan including the construction of new highway links to relieve the town centre and enhanced walking and cycling opportunities around the town;**
- d) **Manage the town centre so that economic regeneration and heritage reinforce each other by promoting new homes, shops, leisure, offices and other key town centre uses which are well designed and contribute to vitality and viability;**
- e) **Provide community infrastructure such as education and enhanced open space to support new development proposals;**
- f) **Enhance the tourism and visitor role of the town and surrounding area; and**
- g) **Support measures to reduce flood risk within Cullompton.**

2.64 Cullompton is situated 11 miles north of Exeter and about 20 miles south west of Taunton. The M5 motorway runs close to the east side of the town. The B3181 runs through the centre of the town and links Exeter and Willand. The town lies in the Culm Valley with the river passing the east side of the town. Cullompton's location on the strategic road network, its close proximity to Exeter and the availability of land for development make it a suitable destination for long-term growth. A Critical Drainage Area (CDA) has been identified by the Environment Agency at Cullompton. The aim of this CDA is to ensure there is no increase in flood risk downstream as a result of development pressure. A Flood Risk Assessment will be required at the planning application stage for development proposed in the CDA to determine specific recommendations for mitigation. All new development will require additional water storage areas to be created within the site compared to the normal SUDs design thereby contributing to a reduction in flooding downstream. The Environment Agency (EA) is a statutory consultee for all development within a CDA.

2.65 The largest single site allocation in the Local Plan is East Cullompton (Policies CU7-CU12), which will have access onto the M5 motorway and deliver significant improvements to highways infrastructure for the whole town. There has also been a long-standing public desire to see the reopening of Cullompton Railway Station. The proposal is gaining momentum and is included within Network Rail's Western Route Study (draft for consultation) 2014 which sets out the strategic vision for the western part of the rail network over the next 30 years. The Council supports the reopening of the station and the Local Plan allocates a possible site for this. The combination of highways improvements and a new railway station provides an opportunity to significantly raise the profile of Cullompton and the wider area, attracting inward investment.

2.66 Pedestrian and cycle links to the town centre will be improved, and residents will be in close proximity to job opportunities within Cullompton and also at Willand, Tiverton and Exeter. The concurrent development of the North West Cullompton Urban Extension will see a new road linking Tiverton Road to Willand Road, which will relieve traffic congestion in the town centre, improving local air quality and the living conditions of residents. A new relief road, to the east of the town centre, will further improve local air quality by diverting north- and south-bound traffic away from Fore Street. Note that the name of the road, originally called the Eastern Relief Road when allocated in the Allocations and Infrastructure DPD, has been amended to Town Centre Relief Road to more accurately reflect its role. Significant growth in Cullompton can be made sustainable through this investment in infrastructure, addressing long-standing issues of air quality and motorway junction capacity.

2.67 The major growth of the town will provide the opportunity to revitalise the town centre through additional investment, traffic and transport improvements. The growth of the town and proposed improvements will provide a significant boost to its vitality and viability, providing a more attractive retail environment through organic change in the town centre by which the use of existing underused and struggling premises is improved, rather than through the delivery of new retail floorspace. The need for additional retail floorspace will be reviewed as part of the process of preparing the next Local Plan.

2.68 Future employment provision is expected to be centred around the Kingsmill industrial estate and within the adjoining urban extension at East Cullompton. Access to the motorway will need to be improved before significant levels of development come forward. Masterplanning of the East Cullompton urban extension will include a phasing strategy which ensures that infrastructure is provided in step with development. One contingency site is allocated in the town, providing a level of flexibility to address any potential shortfall in completions as set out in Policy S4.

2.69 The following table sets out the allocations in Cullompton, their policy reference, site area and use, and states where the relevant policies can be found within this document:

Site	Policy	Site area (ha)	Use	Local Plan page(s)
North West Cullompton	CU1-6	103	1200 dwellings and 21,000 sqm. commercial floorspace	85-93
East Cullompton	CU7-12	160	2,100 dwellings (within the plan period) and 20,000 sqm. commercial floorspace	94-103
Knowle Lane	CU13	9.8	315 dwellings	103
Ware Park & Footlands	CU14	2.1	38 dwellings	104
Land at Exeter Road	CU15	1.4	45 dwellings	105
Cummings Nursery	CU16	5.3	120 dwellings	106
Week Farm	CU17	10.7	15,000 sqm. commercial floorspace	107
Venn Farm	CU18	4.4	9,000 sqm. commercial floorspace	108
Colebrook (contingency)	CU21	4.8	100 dwellings	111

# Crediton

## Policy S12

### Crediton

**Crediton will continue to develop in its role as a small and vibrant market town, serving a rural hinterland in the western part of the district. The strategy aims to improve access to housing within the town, expand employment opportunities and improve the quantity and quality of the existing retail provision. Proposals will provide for approximately 720 dwellings, of which 180 will be affordable, and 15,400 gross square metres of commercial floorspace over the plan period.**

**The following development will be supported over the plan period:**

- a) **Proposals which support the economic regeneration of the town centre, including the provision of new homes, commercial development, cultural facilities and other key town centre uses which support the town centre’s viability and vitality. Particular support will be given for proposals which improve the quantity and quality of existing retail provision within the town centre. All proposals within the town centre will need to play a positive role in sustaining and enhancing the significance of the area’s heritage;**
- b) **Proposals which respect the setting provided by the open areas of hillside and the adjoining historic parklands of Creedy Park, Shobrooke Park and Downes;**
- c) **Continuation of measures to support the implementation of the Crediton Air Quality Action Plan, including enhanced walking and cycling opportunities around the town; and**
- d) **Enhance the tourism facilities and visitor role of the town and surrounding area.**

2.70 Crediton is a small and vibrant market town, located in the west of the district. The town is situated near to the Rivers Creedy and Yeo, and is set within a landscape of farmland extending across gently rolling hills and broad valleys. It lies within what is known as the ‘Crediton Trough’, a low lying flattish basin feature. The town’s past is reflected in the historic core, principally focused around the High Street. The town is a focal point for the surrounding area, providing a level of employment and services. Opportunities for the expansion of Crediton are limited, given the steep topography around the town, adjoining historic parklands and traffic congestion through the town centre.

2.71 In 2006 Crediton was designated as an Air Quality Management Area as a result of unacceptably high levels of airborne pollutants in the centre of the settlement. However, one of the key actions set out within the Air Quality Action Plan, the Crediton Link Road, has been provided. This is likely to have a significant impact on local air quality, directing a proportion of HGV and other traffic to Lords Meadow Industrial Estate, away from the town centre. Air quality monitoring will determine whether the pollutants have reduced sufficiently for the Air Quality Action Plan to be withdrawn.

2.72 The Employment Land Review (2013) points to a limited demand for employment growth in Crediton. The Retail Study (2012) identifies no requirement for additional retail floorspace within the town, but development management and town centre initiatives should seek to improve and upgrade the quality of the existing provision.

2.73 The total housing target for Crediton (720 dwellings) represents 10% of the district’s total requirement. This is lower than might be expected for a town of this size, but environmental constraints limit Crediton’s expansion and the development can be more sustainably located elsewhere. The sites allocated in the Local Plan have been subject to Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) and are considered available, suitable and achievable.

2.74 The following table sets out the allocations in Crediton, their policy reference, site area and use, and states where the relevant policies can be found within this document:

Site	Policy	Site area (ha)	Use	Local Plan page(s)
Wellparks	CRE1	7.9	185 dwellings and 2,220sqm. commercial floorspace	113
Red Hill Cross	CRE2	3.1	135 dwellings	114
Cromwells Meadow	CRE3	2.4	35 dwellings	114
The Woods Group	CRE4	0.17	8 dwellings	115
Pedlerspool	CRE5	23.5	200 dwellings	115
Sports Fields	CRE6	5.5	120 dwellings	117
Stonewall Lane	CRE7	3.2	50 dwellings	118
Land at Barn Park	CRE8	1.64	20 dwellings	119
Land off Alexandra Close	CRE9	0.63	15 dwellings	119
Land south of A377	CRE10	1.9	7,600sqm. commercial floorspace	119



## Rural areas

### Policy S13

#### Villages

**The following rural settlements will be designated as villages suitable for limited development: Bampton, Bow, Bradninch, Chawleigh, Cheriton Bishop, Cheriton Fitzpaine, Coplestone, Culmstock, Halberton, Hemyock, Holcombe Rogus, Kentisbeare, Lapford, Morchard Bishop, Newton St Cyres, Sampford Peverell, Sandford, Silverton, Thorverton, Uffculme, Willand and Yeoford. Development will be limited to proposals within their defined settlement limits and to allocations for:**

- a) **Small scale housing, employment, tourism and leisure;**
- b) **Services and facilities serving the locality; and**
- c) **Other limited development which enhances community vitality or meets a local social or economic need.**

2.75 There are a number of settlements which do not function as market towns, but which provide a limited level of services which support vibrant rural communities. These are locations which are suitable for a limited level of development meeting local needs appropriate to their individual opportunities. Sites for affordable housing may also come forward in locations that are not designated villages in Policy S13 above, subject to local need as demonstrated through a local housing needs survey or other suitable evidence. Policy DM6 (rural exceptions sites) explains the Council's approach to considering 'exception sites' for affordable housing.

2.76 The 22 settlements set out in the policy are considered to be appropriate for a limited level of development, based on their physical characteristics, and the availability of the following three essential services identified:

- Educational facility
- Convenience store
- Transport service

2.77 Yeoford does not have a shop but is considered appropriate for inclusion in Policy S13 due to its accessibility to other settlements and the availability of public transport including an hourly train service. The settlement limits of the villages defined in Policy S13 are shown on the Policies Map and site allocations are set out in the relevant section of the Local Plan.

2.78 Rural areas are expected to accommodate approximately 10% of the housing requirement for Mid Devon up to 2033. 330 dwellings have been allocated and are considered available, suitable and achievable, capable of coming forward within the first 10 years of the plan. It is also likely that a small number of windfall developments will be built within settlement limits or through the rural exceptions policy (Policy DM6). Given that more than half of Mid Devon's population currently resides outside the main towns, this is considered a sustainable approach which will maintain the vitality and viability of rural settlements.

2.79 Proposals for more than 5 dwellings in villages will be required to provide 30% affordable housing, which will be in the form of off-site contributions for sites of 6-10 dwellings. Exception sites may also come forward outside settlement limits, but these will need to demonstrate a need for affordable housing, and any element of market housing must be limited to the lowest amount possible to facilitate the provision of affordable housing. In appropriate circumstances, self-build housing will be permitted through the exceptions policy (Policy DM6). Other development management policies will also be applied, along with the Council's Supplementary Planning Document on Meeting Housing Needs.

2.80 Historically, employment sites in rural areas across Mid Devon have been delivered primarily through windfall sites with limited provision on allocated land. The 2012-2013 Mid Devon Employment Land Survey noted that since 2006 only two small parts of allocated land at Willand and approximately 50% of allocated land at Bampton had been completed. The Council recognises the importance of retaining and providing rural employment opportunities, but the combination of permitted development rights and supportive general policies is considered sufficient to deliver employment according to demand in rural areas. A small allocation at Willand Industrial Estate is retained to allow for the completion of a development which already has access and infrastructure in place, and also Scott's Quarry at Bampton is retained because the development has planning permission and is deliverable. In general, site allocations within the towns meet the overall target for commercial development across the district, providing flexibility and choice in the market.

# Countryside

## Policy S14

### Countryside

**Development outside the settlements defined by Policies S10-S13 will preserve and where possible enhance the character, appearance and biodiversity of the countryside while promoting sustainable diversification of the rural economy. Detailed development management policies will permit agricultural and other appropriate rural uses, subject to the following criteria:**

- a) **Affordable and low cost housing to meet local needs, gypsy and traveller accommodation, residential conversion of appropriate existing buildings, replacement dwellings, housing essential to accommodate a rural worker and accommodation ancillary to a dwelling;**
- b) **Appropriately scaled retail, employment, farm diversification, tourism and leisure related development (including appropriate conversion of existing buildings);**
- c) **Appropriately scaled and designed extensions and other physical alterations to existing buildings;**
- d) **Agricultural and equestrian development;**
- e) **Community facilities, such as educational facilities, buildings associated with public open space, transportation and infrastructure proposals (including green infrastructure); and**
- f) **Renewable energy and telecommunications.**

2.81 National policy supports thriving rural communities and encourages multiple benefits from the use of land in rural areas. Development in the countryside in the context of this policy is defined by land outside of the settlement limits of the main towns (S10-S12) and villages (S13). A strong rural economy is promoted by national policy through sustainable growth of business and enterprise in rural areas. Development in the countryside will be managed to meet local need, promote vibrant rural communities and help provide appropriate forms of agricultural and rural diversification to support the rural economy and sustain environmental qualities of the countryside. Development management policies allow for small-scale employment development in suitable locations whilst retaining the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. These sites can come forward according to market demand.

2.82 To promote sustainable development in rural areas, housing has been allocated where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities. New isolated homes will be avoided in the countryside unless there are special circumstances as set out in national policy and supplemented in relevant Local Plan policies such as Policy DM6 (rural exception sites), DM8 (rural workers dwellings) and DM9 (conversion of rural buildings). In the context of the Mid Devon Local Plan, 'isolated' refers to any location outside of defined settlement limits. Such land is defined as the countryside which can include small settlements and hamlets.

2.83 National policy advocates the provision of market housing in rural areas where it would facilitate the provision of significant affordable housing required to meet housing need. To facilitate the provision of affordable and low cost (discounted) housing in rural areas across Mid Devon, rural exception sites will be considered in line with Policy DM6 and the Council's Supplementary Planning Document on Meeting Housing Needs.





## 3.0 Site Allocations



## Site Allocations

3.1 The overall amount of development is discussed earlier in this plan, with Policy S2 setting out targets for development across the district. After existing commitments (sites under construction or with planning permission) have been deducted, there is a net requirement for dwellings and commercial floorspace to 2033.

3.2 Site allocations have been subject to Strategic Housing and Commercial Land Availability Assessments. This is a technical assessment of the broad suitability, availability and achievability of potential development sites. It does not indicate whether or not sites should be allocated; the selection of sites to be allocated has taken place through the preparation of the Local Plan, taking account of other information and consultation. The net requirement for development is shown in the table below, based on the targets contained in Policy S2.

Use	Completions 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014	Commitments at 31 March 2014	Net requirement	Allocations to 2033
Housing (dwellings)	320	1,369	5,511	6,139
Commercial (employment, retail and leisure) square metres floorspace	9,787	43,259	100,954	121,620

Table 10: Overall development need and land supply

## Tiverton

3.3 The development strategy for Tiverton is set out under Policy S10. The following table summarises Tiverton's supply of housing and commercial development.

Use	Commitments at 31 March 2014	Completions since 2013	Allocations	Total
Housing (dwellings)	522	93	1,643	2,258
Commercial (employment, retail and leisure) square metres floorspace	805	1,550	38,000	40,355

Table 11: Development supply in Tiverton

3.4 Six sites are allocated for housing in Tiverton, excluding two contingency sites at Tidcombe Hall and Wynnard's Mead that will be permitted to come forward if the Council's housing supply proves insufficient, as set out in Policy S4. All housing sites are considered achievable in principle, corresponding to a Tiverton map that accompanies this document. Net site areas shown in Table 12 reflect the land area considered developable after land has been provided for access, strategic landscaping and other uses. For very small sites, the whole site area is often considered developable. The majority of Tiverton's housing is to be provided through the strategic site Eastern Urban Extension (TIV1-5). Although the housing growth of the town is therefore dependent on this site coming forward, there is limited risk associated with this because there is a good track record of joint working between the Council and the site promoters, with half of the site covered by an adopted masterplan, and applications for in excess of 1,000 dwellings pending determination.

Site	Policy	Gross site area (ha)	Net site area (ha)	No. dwellings allocated
Eastern Urban Extension	TIV1-TIV5	153	64.86	1520
Moorhayes Park	TIV8	0.4	0.4	8
Howden Court	TIV9	0.47	0.38	10
Roundhill	TIV10	0.4	0.4	20
Palmerston Park	TIV11	0.9	0.72	25
Phoenix Lane	TIV12	1.4	1	60
Total				1643

Table 12: Allocations in Tiverton, excluding sites/dwellings with planning permission



3.5 A number of housing sites were allocated in the previous Local Plan and already have planning approval, but are not yet under construction. These sites are retained as Local Plan allocations to ensure that policy criteria still apply in the event that revised schemes are submitted or planning permission lapses.

Site with planning permission	Policy	Site area	Dwellings with planning permission
Farleigh Meadows	TIV6	8.2	300
Town Hall	TIV7	0.5	59
Total		8.7	359

Table 13: Housing allocations with planning permission (position at 31 March 2014)

3.6 Two sites in Tiverton are allocated to deliver employment up to 2033, through a range of uses. The amount of floorspace to be provided by commercial development depends on the use. For instance, office development on multiple floors provides a greater amount of floorspace per hectare than a single-storey warehouse, and some commercial uses require more land for parking than others. Floorspace assumptions for different uses are set out in the methodology for Strategic Commercial Land Availability Assessment (SCLAA), but the Council recognises that this is only a starting point and a higher or lower density of development may be justified depending on the nature of the proposal that comes forward.

Site	Policy	Gross site area (ha)	Net site area (ha)	Floorspace (sq.m)
Eastern Urban Extension	TIV1-5	153	6	30,000
Phoenix Lane	TIV12	1.4	1	8,000
Total				38,000

Table 14: Allocated sites for commercial development

## Policy TIV1

### Eastern Urban Extension

**A site of 153 hectares east of Tiverton is allocated for mixed use development as follows:**

- a) 1520 dwellings;**
- b) A proportion of affordable dwellings subject to further assessment of viability to include at least five pitches for gypsies and travellers;**
- c) At least 30,000 square metres commercial floorspace;**
- d) 47 hectares strategic green infrastructure;**
- e) Highway mitigation measures and transport provision to ensure appropriate accessibility for all modes;**
- f) Environmental protection and enhancement;**
- g) Community facilities to meet local needs arising, including a new primary school and neighbourhood centre;**
- h) An agreed strategy to bring forward development and infrastructure in step and retain the overall viability of development; and**
- i) Compliance with the adopted masterplan and completion of a public Masterplanning exercise in respect of the southeast of the site (Area B in the adopted masterplan).**

3.8 The masterplan for the Tiverton Eastern Urban Extension was adopted in April 2014. It includes provision for 1520 dwellings, 30,000 square metres mixed commercial floorspace and a target of 35% affordable housing (subject to viability as each phase comes forward). At least five gypsy and traveller pitches will be provided, some of which will be in the first phase of development, helping to meet the needs identified in the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2015). The masterplan includes a phasing strategy which ensures that a new junction onto the A361 be provided early in the development, along with traffic calming and environmental enhancement on Blundell's Road. The development will also provide a new primary school, a neighbourhood centre for shopping and community use, and various forms of open space to meet the needs of residents.

3.9 The site was originally intended to accommodate up to 2,000 houses and this would have necessitated a new access road to link the development to Heathcoat Way, thereby allowing Blundell's Road to be closed to general traffic and used mainly for access by sustainable travel modes. The allocated site is no longer expected to deliver this amount of housing and the access road cannot be justified for the amount of development proposed. However, any proposal for significant further development to the east of the allocated urban extension would be likely to trigger the requirement for this additional road, subject to detailed design and the advice of the Highway Authority (Devon County Council).

3.10 The Tiverton Eastern Urban Extension meets most of Tiverton's development needs and is expected to take 10-15 years to be completed. As the largest of Mid Devon's towns, Tiverton is a sustainable location for development to meet the housing and employment needs of a growing population. Environmental constraints such as topography, flood plains and the position of the A361 limit the opportunities for expansion, making the Post Hill area the only suitable site for a development of this size. This necessitates the loss of some Grade 2 agricultural land. However, longer term strategic housing needs for Mid Devon will be met through housing allocations at Cullompton which is less constrained.

3.11 The provision of affordable housing is an important local priority and the adopted masterplan includes a target of 35% affordable housing. However, developments must continue to be viable and affordable housing targets can make a considerable difference to viability. In the case of the Tiverton Eastern Urban Extension, there are considerable infrastructure costs and these bear heavily on the viability of this strategically important development. The Council therefore proposes that the proportion and timescale for provision of affordable housing be subject to further assessment of viability. It is expected that sites will contain a mix of housing types, including where appropriate provision for the elderly. The affordable housing requirement will need to be reassessed as applications come forward to ensure that affordable housing need continues to be met whilst ensuring the development remains viable. External funding sources, such as the Local Transport Fund are being used to contribute towards the cost of the road junction on to the A361. Furthermore, to reflect the high cost of infrastructure the site will be zero-rated for Community Infrastructure Levy. Instead, infrastructure will be funded through Section 106 agreements, of which delivery of the site will be limited to no more than five per infrastructure type or project.

3.12 The policies for this allocation are based on the evidence available to the Council when preparing them. It is important that the policies are not seen as rigid and unalterable in the light of new evidence. Therefore, where new information or evidence arises which indicates an alternative approach to a particular subject and this retains the overall strategic thrust of the proposals, then the Council will consider such proposals. Nevertheless, the policies and requirements of this plan should not be overturned lightly or without clear justification.

## Policy TIV2

### Eastern Urban Extension Transport Provision

**To support the Eastern Urban Extension, the following transport infrastructure will be provided:**

- a) Provision of a new junction to the A361 and road links into the site;**
- b) Traffic calming and environmental enhancement between Heathcoat Way and Putson Lane, including Blundell's Road and Tidcombe Lane;**
- c) Provision of bus, pedestrian and cycle routes at appropriate locations throughout the development, creating an attractive, permeable network for non-car modes travelling within, into and out of the area;**
- d) Cycle and pedestrian links to the Railway Walk, Grand Western Canal and nearby public rights of way;**
- e) Implementation of Travel Plans and other non-traditional transport measures to minimise carbon footprint and air quality impacts;**
- f) Bus service enhancements between the main residential areas of Tiverton and the employment areas within the Eastern Urban Extension;**
- g) Bus service enhancements between Exeter, Tiverton Bus Station, the Eastern Urban Extension and Tiverton Parkway Station; and**
- h) New and improved offsite pedestrian and cycle links including improvements to a wider green infrastructure network.**

3.13 The provision of appropriate transport infrastructure is a key requirement of the urban extension, minimising impact on adjoining uses and promoting sustainable development. The key items of transport infrastructure are set out in the masterplan which was adopted in April 2014.

3.14 A direct access to the A361 will ensure that the site is both attractive for employment growth, and minimises the impact of traffic on other surrounding routes. The new junction is to be provided early in the development, along with improvements to Blundells Road and traffic calming measures to ensure a safe environment for all users of the highway and adjacent land.

3.15 It is expected that the junction onto the A361 will be achieved through a combination of developer and public funding. The Tiverton Eastern Urban Extension is excluded from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which applies elsewhere in the district, so the provision of infrastructure including financial contributions for bus service enhancements will be secured through planning obligations (Section 106 Agreements).

3.16 This development is not expected to exceed approximately 1,500 homes. However, additional development of this site or further expansion to the east would likely trigger a requirement for a second access onto Heathcoat Way. Devon County Council has considered options for the route of this road, should it be required in the future.

3.17 Appropriate traffic calming and environmental enhancement along Blundell's Road together with cycle and pedestrian facilities have the opportunity to create an attractive sustainable transport corridor that respects the setting and operation of Blundell's School and the residential environment of the area. Devon County Council as Highway Authority will prepare a detailed design, subject to consultation.

3.18 It is essential that the development is served by an attractive, convenient and safe network of sustainable transport routes, including bus, cycle and pedestrian. Streets appropriate for bus use should be provided so that as far as possible, all buildings are within 400 metres of a bus route. The existing Blundell's Road and the A361 link will need to be included in these routes, together with appropriate streets within the urban extension. It is equally important that cyclists have access to safe, attractive and direct cycle routes within the urban extension, linking together the dwellings, businesses and services in a network. These should link to the existing cycling and walking provision in the surrounding area, particularly the Railway Walk and Grand Western Canal (both part of the National Cycle Network) and public rights of way. The provision of Green Infrastructure will provide opportunities for off-road cycling and walking routes. The aim will be to integrate these sustainable transport provisions into the wide Tiverton and surrounding provision as far as possible.

3.19 There will be the need for developers to prepare and implement Travel Plans for the development as a whole and for the constituent parts, to promote softer and other less traditional measures relating to transport.

3.20 A major development must be served by high quality public transport in order to maximise its potential for sustainability and encourage alternatives to use of the car where possible. The urban extension will provide new commercial space serving Tiverton and therefore it is important that the existing residential areas of the town have improved public transport access to it. As a major new residential area, it is also important that residents of the extension can access key locations by public transport. A service linking Exeter, the Bus Station and Tiverton Parkway Rail Station via the Eastern Urban Extension would make a significant contribution in this regard and reduce the carbon footprint of the development. Ongoing support of appropriate bus services will be required from the development until the point at which such services are self-supporting.

## Policy TIV3

### Eastern Urban Extension Environmental Protection and Green Infrastructure

**As part of the Eastern Urban Extension, the following environmental protection and enhancement measures will be implemented at the expense of all new development in the Eastern Urban Extension:**

- a) Measures to protect and enhance trees, hedgerows and other environmental features which contribute to the character and biodiversity, maintaining a wildlife network within the site and linking to the surrounding countryside;**
- b) Provision and management of 47 hectares of land for strategic green infrastructure on the western and southern edges of the urban extension, including management and funding arrangements for the protection and enhancement of Tidcombe Fen Site of Special Scientific Interest, its catchment and land west of Pool Anthony Bridge;**
- c) Areas of equipped and laid out public open space, totalling 2 hectares of children's play, 8 hectares of sports pitches and 2 hectares of allotments;**
- d) A strategic landscaping and tree planting scheme to mitigate landscape impact, enhance biodiversity and the character of development;**
- e) Appropriate provision of a sewerage system to serve the development and a Sustainable Urban Drainage Scheme to deal with all surface water from the development and arrangements for future maintenance;**
- f) Detailed archaeological investigation and measures to record, and where necessary protect the archaeological interest of the site through appropriate design layout and mitigation; and**
- g) Design solutions which respect the character and setting of heritage assets within and adjoining the site.**

3.21 A number of key environmental requirements arise from the Eastern Urban Extension, to protect existing features of national and local importance, and to ensure that the development contributes to enhancements in the local environment.

3.22 Tidcombe Fen, which lies between Tiverton and the main part of the Tiverton Eastern Urban Extension, is a 10.7 hectare Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and as such must be protected. The site was notified in 1988 and is a type of wetland habitat rare in Devon. There is a wide variety of plant species unusual in its diversity, and fauna includes rare snail species. Active management of this habitat is currently undertaken by a local trust. One of the key issues is the impact of development on the quality and flows of water entering the SSSI, and its water levels. Avoidance of harm to its catchment area is therefore vital. A contribution to continued management of the SSSI and its catchment will be required.

3.23 There are a number of other areas of biodiversity interest within and adjoining the area of the urban extension and measures will need to be incorporated which protect and enhance their value. The Grand Western Canal is a designated County Wildlife Site and a substantial buffer zone will be retained between the canal and the development to preserve its special environmental quality. The layout of the development should promote the continued use of species-rich hedgerows as wildlife corridors, acting to prevent their fragmentation and providing appropriate treatment where such corridors cross roads and other linear features.

3.24 The provision of public open space for local benefits and for the wider benefit of Tiverton will be important in defining the character of the urban extension. The adopted masterplan provides for at least two hectares each of children's play space and allotments, while eight hectares for sports pitches will be provided through a combination of onsite pitches and new or improved sports provision elsewhere in Tiverton.

3.25 The development will need to take a strategic approach to Sustainable Urban Drainage to ensure that there is no additional run-off from the site arising from the development. This is in order to avoid an increase in flood risk on site and downstream. Particular care will be required in relation to runoff into the Tidcombe Fen SSSI to ensure that the quantity and quality of water entering the Fen and its catchment are carefully controlled.

3.26 There are various heritage assets in and around the site, including listed buildings, scheduled ancient monuments, the Grand Western Canal and Blundell's Conservation Area. The site is also within the defined 'setting area' for Knightshayes Court, which is on the national register of historic parks and gardens. The development must have appropriate regard to the character and setting of all heritage assets affected. The urban extension also occupies an area of known archaeological potential, in particular with regard to prehistoric activity. There are two archaeological funerary sites of national importance just outside the development site that are Scheduled Ancient Monuments. Further archaeological assessment will be required across the Eastern Urban Extension site.

## Policy TIV4

### Eastern Urban Extension Community Facilities

**As part of the Eastern Urban Extension, the following community infrastructure will be provided at the expense of all new development in the urban extension area:**

- a) One serviced site of 1.93 hectares for a primary school at no cost to the Local Education Authority;**
- b) Construction cost for one primary school of 420 places and early years provision;**
- c) A site of 2.0 hectares for a shopping and community centre, of which 1.0 hectare will be for community buildings at no cost to the provider;**
- d) Contribution to new and improved facilities at the secondary school; and**
- e) Construction cost of appropriate community facilities and buildings including youth and children's provision and a community hall.**

3.27 The creation of a genuine urban extension requires that the residents and workers have access to a range of community facilities within easy walking or cycling distance, thereby discouraging car trips for essential local purposes. It is also important that, as far as possible, the development of this site will not lead to unacceptable pressures on existing services and facilities within Tiverton and the wider area. Accordingly, this policy sets out the requirements for provision of community facilities within the development and elsewhere.

3.28 The adopted masterplan includes a phasing plan which ensures a new primary school is provided at no cost to the Local Education Authority at an appropriate point in the development. The development will also need to provide new and enhanced secondary provision to accommodate the demand it will generate. The Education Authority has undertaken a feasibility study in respect of expansion and enhancement of Tiverton High School. Enhancements may include an expansion of the school site. A neighbourhood centre will also be provided within the urban extension site to act as a community focal point and located in conjunction with the primary school. The neighbourhood centre will include shops to meet local, convenience needs and community facilities including a community meeting space and youth provision. It may also form the location for local medical facilities, child care and small-scale offices. An element of residential accommodation may also be appropriate as part of a mixed use approach.



## Policy TIV5

### Eastern Urban Extension Phasing

The development of the Eastern Urban Extension must be carried out in accordance with an approved phasing strategy, to ensure that the development and infrastructure come forward in step, minimising the impact of the development and taking account of the need for development to remain viable. Detailed justification must be provided if there is any proposed deviation from the following requirements:

- a) The provision of on and off slip roads on the south side of the A361 to a standard suitable to form construction access prior to any development;
- b) The provision of the completed on and off slip roads on the south side of the A361 (forming the southern element of the A361 junction) and the highway link between this junction and Blundell's Road prior to the occupation of any development;
- c) The occupation of no more than 200 dwellings or 4,000 square metres employment floorspace before the provision of a 'Phase 1' traffic calming scheme at Blundell's School and improvements to the roundabouts at Heathcoat Way and Lowman Way, as set out in the adopted masterplan;
- d) Prior to the commencement of construction south of Blundell's Road the transfer of land for the primary school and its access to the Local Education Authority;
- e) Prior to the first occupation of development south of Blundell's Road the servicing of the site for the primary school;
- f) The occupation of no more than 400 dwellings before the construction of the first phase of the primary school;
- g) The occupation of no more than 400 dwellings before the provision of temporary open space on the future school and neighbourhood centre site;
- h) The occupation of no more than 600 dwellings or 10,000 square metres commercial floorspace before the completion of the full movement grade separated junction to the A361 and completion of the traffic calming and environmental enhancement of Blundell's Road between Putson Lane and Heathcoat Way;
- i) The occupation on no more than 600 dwellings before the implementation of arrangements for the management and funding for the Green Infrastructure west of Pool Anthony Bridge;
- j) The occupation of no more than 600 dwellings before the implementation of bus service enhancements;

- k) The occupation of no more than 600 dwellings before the provision of a 2.0 ha serviced neighbourhood centre site;
- l) The occupation of no more than 1000 dwellings before the provision of Green Infrastructure between Pool Anthony Bridge and Manley Railway Bridge within Area A as defined in the adopted masterplan, with necessary management and funding arrangements;
- m) The occupation of no more than 1250 dwellings before the provision of Green Infrastructure between Pool Anthony Railway Bridge and Manley Railway Bridge within the Area B as defined in the adopted masterplan, with necessary management and funding arrangements; and
- n) Phased delivery of cycle and pedestrian links to the railway walk, Grand Western Canal and nearby public rights of way.

3.29 The phasing of development will have a key influence on the impact on surrounding areas, but also on the viability of development. The above policy sets out the approach to phasing which has been negotiated and agreed through the adoption of the masterplan as a Supplementary Planning Document. Legal obligations and conditions on planning consents will be used to control these phasing requirements. Other features such as sustainable urban drainage and linking pipework should be integrated and phased appropriately in step with development.

3.30 The provision of a new junction onto the A361 is critical to the success of the scheme, to prevent unacceptable increases in traffic along Blundell's Road and allow commercial development in the northwest corner of the site to be delivered. Given the expense of building new roads, construction of the new junction will take place in phases but is required early in the development.

3.31 Public open space and pedestrian and cycle links will be expected to come forward in pace with the development rather than a specific trigger point being identified for provision. The provision of affordable housing will be subject to viability assessment as each phase of the development is proposed in more detail through a planning application.

3.32 The adopted masterplan sets out areas of the site (A and B), with more detailed survey and design work having been included for Area A. The phasing and delivery of green infrastructure should be further informed by an additional Masterplanning exercise for Area B to the southeast of the site, which is expected to be delivered after Area A.

3.33 It is expected that a serviced site for the neighbourhood centre will be provided no later than the occupation of 600 dwellings, but may be as early as the commencement of construction to the south of Blundell's Road. The Masterplan SPD identifies that the construction of community facilities within the neighbourhood centre will commence within phase 1b and will be built out by the end of phase 1c (up to 1000 dwellings). The funding and timing of the provision of community facilities will be secured via a planning obligation (Section 106 Agreement) at planning application stage.

3.34 The provision of land for the new primary school and the construction of its first phase are timed to allow the Education Authority to secure the site at an early stage in order to plan for and meet the need arising from the new development. No specific trigger is set out for enhanced secondary education. This will be expected to be provided in pace with development in order to meet its needs.

## Policy TIV6

### Farleigh Meadows

**A site of 11.2 hectares at Farleigh Meadows is allocated for residential development, subject to the following:**

- a) **300 dwellings on land in Flood Zone 1, with 35% affordable housing;**
- b) **3 hectares of informal amenity open space within the floodplain with appropriate security measures to prevent access to and pollution of the Mill Leat;**
- c) **Two vehicular access points;**
- d) **Cycle and pedestrian routes providing links between Rackenford Road, Higher Loughborough and Washfield Lane, incorporating and enhancing the Exe Valley Way;**
- e) **Protection of oak trees subject to Tree Preservation Orders within the site, incorporated within public open space where appropriate;**
- f) **Careful design and landscaping treatment of the boundary between housing and amenity open space, taking account of impact on views from the north and east; and**
- g) **Measures to mitigate impact on air quality at Leat Street.**

3.35 This is a previously allocated site that has planning permission but has not yet commenced development. Of the 11.2 hectare site, the eastern most 3 hectares are in Flood Zone 3 and therefore not suitable for housing development; this is proposed as informal space. The remaining 8.2 hectares has the capacity for about 300 dwellings, taking account of the need to protect attractive mature trees within the site, which are subject to a Tree Preservation Order. The Mill Leat which runs along the eastern edge of the proposed informal amenity open space, will need to be provided with fencing and planting to ensure safety as well as avoidance of pollution to a vital water source for Heathcoat's factory. This will have to retain access for maintenance. Discussion with Heathcoat Fabrics Ltd should take place around the necessary details.

3.36 Two vehicular access points are required and gaps in the cycle and pedestrian routes in the vicinity will need to be addressed. In particular, the existing Exe Valley Way which runs through

the site should be enhanced to provide pedestrian and cycle links to the south and north. Leat Street, which is about 500m to the south east of this site, has poor air quality, and this site has the potential to worsen this through traffic generation. Where significant change is proposed to the existing consented scheme, updated studies of the potential impact will be required and should fund relevant measures to mitigate any impact. The site has the potential to impact on views from Knightshayes, a Historic Park and Garden, and this should be considered in the layout, design and landscaping.

3.37 An outline application for development at Farleigh Meadows was granted permission for the erection of up to 300 dwellings in 2013. The proposal met the requirements of the policy including agreement to maintain a 35% affordable housing target. The affordable housing percentage of 35% is retained in the policy to reflect the planning permission that was granted, as that percentage was clearly considered viable for this development. Any revised scheme will be considered against this target and evidence would be required to justify any proposed reduction.

## Policy TIV7

### Town Hall / St Andrew Street

**A site of 0.5 hectares at St Andrew Street is allocated for residential development as follows:**

- a) **59 dwellings, incorporating conversion of buildings adjoining St Andrew Street, including 28% affordable housing;**
- b) **Design which protects the character and setting of heritage assets both onsite and adjoining the site, and enhances the setting of the River Exe;**
- c) **Archaeological investigation and appropriate mitigation; and**
- d) **Ground floors to be raised and provision of flood evacuation/access routes.**

3.38 An application for development at St Andrew Street was granted permission in 2013 for the erection 45 apartments for older persons, excluding the 14 dwellings to be provided through the conversion of buildings adjoining St Andrew Street. The proposal met the requirements of the site allocation policy with the exception of affordable housing provision, which was considered financially justified. As this development has not been built out, it is considered appropriate to include a policy target of 28% affordable housing to reflect the Council's viability evidence. Any revised scheme submitted in the future would need to be assessed against the criteria of the policy above and market conditions prevalent at that time.

3.39 The design of this site is important as it is a highly visible site from the direction of the river. A scheme should enhance the views of the Conservation Area from this direction, while respecting

the character and setting of the associated listed buildings. As a central site, there is the potential for archaeological remains, and this should be investigated. The site is within the 100 year floodplain, although behind a flood wall. Due to its regeneration importance to the town centre, the site passes the relevant sequential test set out in national guidance. Where appropriate the provision of raised floor levels and access/egress to dry land in the event of flooding should be provided.

## Policy TIV8

### Moorhayes Park

**A site of 0.4 hectares at Moorhayes Park is allocated for residential development, subject to the following:**

- a) 8 dwellings;
- b) Access to be provided from Hayne Court; and
- c) Archaeological investigation and appropriate mitigation.

3.40 This site is located within Moorhayes Park and is bounded by the A361 to the north, modern housing to the east and is adjacent to a transformer station to the west. It is currently an overgrown area and not in use. The site falls within the built up area of Tiverton and as a result it is likely that there will be no landscape impact. An existing access from Hayne Court is suitable. It is in an area of known prehistoric activity and appropriate archaeological investigation would be required. A preliminary ecological appraisal has been undertaken which concludes that the site is of limited ecological value. The town leat runs to the east of the site. A flood risk assessment will need to consider the potential for flooding.

3.41 Planning permission has been granted for the development of this site, including one affordable dwelling. Any revised scheme will be expected to meet the latest policy criteria for affordable housing.

## Policy TIV9

### Howden Court

**A site of 0.53 hectares at Howden Court is allocated for residential development, subject to the following:**

- a) 10 dwellings;
- b) Submission of a Junction Capacity Assessment to determine the need for a right turning lane from the A396 into Howden Court; and
- c) Provision of a pedestrian and cycle route from Howden Court to Palmerston Park.

3.42 This site is located on the western edge of Tiverton bounded by residential development to the east. This site is the remaining part of a previous allocation for 65 dwellings, of which 50 have been built or are committed. On the advice of the Highway Authority, this development may need to be served by a right turning lane from the A396, as cumulatively the housing will exceed 50 dwellings. Any planning application should be accompanied by a Junction Capacity Assessment which should assess the need for the right turning lane as a result of the additional development being proposed on the site.

## Policy TIV10

### Roundhill

**A site of 0.4 hectares at Roundhill is allocated for residential development, subject to the following:**

- a) 20 affordable dwellings; and
- b) Investigation of ground stability and implementation of appropriate remediation works.

3.43 The site comprises underused garages in the Council's ownership with existing housing to the north, south and east. It is a brownfield site and can be made available for 100% affordable housing. A number of dwellings adjoining the site have rights of access over part of it and these will need to be maintained as part of the development. Approximately 35 car parking spaces and garages will be retained/provided on the site as part of the redevelopment. Potential mineshafts may be found in the area; appropriate investigations will need to be undertaken and should accompany any application.

## Policy TIV11

### Palmerston Park

**A site of 0.9 hectares at Palmerston Park is allocated for residential development subject to the following:**

- a) 25 affordable dwellings;
- b) Habitat and protected species reports including a programme of appropriate mitigation and compensation for loss of a protected habitat if appropriate; and
- c) Investigation of ground stability and implementation of appropriate remediation works.

3.44 This site lies to the west of Tiverton adjacent to Palmerston Park and close to Howden Industrial Estate. It was previously used as allotments but is now unused and overgrown. The land is steeply sloping upwards to the west. It is well screened from the east by sycamore trees and high banks. The northern half of the site is deciduous woodland, classed as a priority habitat in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. A habitat survey of the site will be required to establish in more detail the characteristics of the woodland, the importance of the habitat, and identify mitigation or compensation that may be required.

3.45 The site is in the Council's ownership and can be made available for 100% affordable housing which is a considerable benefit arising from development of this site. There is a potential impact on the landscape character due to the loss of trees on the elevated part of the site. The site is visible from the east side of the River Exe. The impact on the landscape will require careful treatment. Potential mineshafts may be found in the area; appropriate investigations will need to be undertaken and should accompany any application. The site is expected to accommodate 25 dwellings, avoiding development of the higher, steeply sloping part of the site.

## Policy TIV12

### Phoenix Lane

**A site of 1.4 hectares at Phoenix Lane is allocated for redevelopment as a high quality shopping, leisure and residential area with accessible public space.**

**Redevelopment is subject to the following:**

- a) **60 dwellings with 28% affordable housing;**
- b) **8,000 square metres of mixed commercial floorspace including retail, office and leisure uses;**
- c) **Redesign and enhancement of the bus station to include an improved, safe and attractive passenger waiting area with adequate provision for buses and taxi ranks;**
- d) **Improved pedestrian access between Phoenix Lane and the Pannier market, and between Phoenix Lane and the multi-storey car park;**
- e) **Retention or relocation of the war memorial within the Town Centre;**
- f) **Outstanding design that announces the southern entrance to Tiverton's primary shopping area while respecting and enhancing the character, appearance and setting of heritage assets and steep open hillsides;**
- g) **Retention of the listed building, Gotham House, and measures to protect its character, appearance and setting including the protection of the Town Leat;**
- h) **Adequate parking and service areas to serve the needs of existing and proposed uses;**
- i) **Archaeological investigation and appropriate mitigation;**

- j) **Provision of a Sustainable Urban Drainage Scheme to deal with all surface water from the development and arrangements for future maintenance; and**
- k) **Comprehensive Masterplanning of the development including at least two stages of public consultation and adoption of the Masterplan as a Supplementary Planning Document, before any planning application is determined.**

3.46 The Mid Devon Retail Study (2012) identifies Phoenix Lane as an area suitable for retail development. At present it is a wide pedestrianised road providing a link between the multi-storey car park and bus station to the core shopping area of Tiverton. However, the street is wider than necessary and redevelopment could provide an attractive shopping frontage with residential accommodation above. There are also opportunities to improve the bus station and links to the Pannier Market and the multi-storey car park. Masterplanning of Tiverton town centre is in progress to identify the best ways of enhancing the town centre's attractiveness as a destination for tourism, shopping and leisure.

3.47 High quality design will be crucial to the success of redevelopment of this area. It is essential that the historic character of the town centre is respected, the setting of important listed buildings preserved, and views in and out of the conservation area sensitively treated. Gotham House, a Grade II\* listed building, must be retained and its character respected, though the redevelopment may include the conversion of this building to residential accommodation, subject to detailed plans. The bus station and car park are the main point of entrance to the town centre for visitors, so the development must improve and enhance the visual quality of this area and the perception of Tiverton town centre as a whole.

## Policy TIV13

### Tidcombe Hall CONTINGENCY SITE

**A site of 5.0 hectares at Tidcombe Hall is identified as a contingency site for residential development to be released in accordance with Policy S4, subject to the following:**

- a) **100 dwellings with 28% affordable housing;**
- b) **Vehicular access point on to Canal Hill and improvements to Tidcombe Lane northwards from the site;**
- c) **Walking and cycling enhancements and connection to surrounding public rights of way and green infrastructure networks;**
- d) **Design and landscaping which protects the setting of the Grand Western Canal, Tidcombe Hall and Conservation Areas; and Archaeological investigations and appropriate mitigation measures.**



3.48 This site is primarily greenfield and is identified as a contingency site to be released in accordance with Policy S4. Whilst acceptable in some respects there are a number of constraints which make it less suitable than the sites allocated in the Local Plan, including landscape and highway constraints that need to be mitigated.

3.49 The site adjoins the south eastern limits of Tiverton. It extends from the grounds of Tidcombe Hall southwards including agricultural land as far as Newts Hill. Rising generally from north to south, it is more prominent at its south west corner. Although the site could accommodate more than 100 dwellings, a lower density would help protect the setting of the canal and Tidcombe Hall. The site is adjacent to residential development to the west, and low density reflecting this existing development would be appropriate.

3.50 The northern part of the site at Tidcombe Hall lies within the Grand Western Canal Conservation Area and faces the canal itself, which is also a Country Park. Tidcombe Hall is an unlisted building but is considered a heritage asset and the setting should be respected. Development to the south and east of the hall may be significant. Design and landscaping should protect Tidcombe Hall and the Grand Western Canal Conservation Area from the impact of the development including their settings. There is potential for archaeological remains that should be surveyed with appropriate mitigation provided if necessary.

3.51 A key factor is access. Tidcombe Lane has limited width without footways and Tidcombe Bridge is very narrow. Improvements to Tidcombe Lane will be necessary northwards from the site to ensure the safety of pedestrians, although not necessarily to increase its traffic capacity. A single vehicular access point on to Canal Hill will need to be supplemented with a secondary emergency access designed to be located at the end of the main cul-de-sac within the site.

3.52 A watercourse runs through the site and this should be preserved as part of the open space provision. A flood risk assessment will need to consider the potential for this watercourse to cause flooding.

## Policy TIV14

### Wynnards Mead CONTINGENCY SITE

**A site of 6.3 hectares at Wynnards Mead, Baker's Hill is allocated as a contingency site for residential development, subject to the following:**

- a) **70 dwellings with 28% affordable housing;**
- b) **Design and landscaping which minimises impact to landscape character and protects the character and setting of the adjoining listed building and the unlisted house within the site 'Wynnards Mead';**

- c) **Upgrading of the lane to 'Wynnards Mead Cottages' to provide the vehicular access point with widening of the frontage. The existing access to the house Wynnards Mead to form a secondary access for pedestrians and cyclists; and**
- d) **Site contamination assessment and remediation to mitigate risks associated with the historic quarry to the north of the site.**

3.53 This site is identified as a contingency site, to be released in accordance with Policy S4 if housing completions across the district fall below the required level. The development of the site, while acceptable in principle, is considered less suitable than other sites in the Local Plan due to the potential impact on heritage assets. Both the provision of housing and the necessary highways works to provide safe access could harm the character and setting of an adjoining listed building and Wynnards Mead itself, which is considered a local heritage asset.

3.54 The site lies to the west of Tiverton and comprises a large house with associated grounds and agricultural land. The site is set on the north side of Cottey Brook, sloping down north to south. The unlisted house 'Wynnards Mead' and its gardens are in the middle of the site. There is a listed building immediately to the west of the site, which is elevated and visible from a number of viewpoints in the area. The site itself is elevated, and therefore is visible from a number of viewpoints, including Seven Crosses Road to the south. Accordingly, there could be some landscape impact from development in this location. The impact on the landscape will require careful treatment.

3.55 The policy requires design and landscaping which minimises the impact to landscape character, the adjoining listed building and the unlisted house within the site. This should include a buffer and planting to the west of the allocation to protect the setting of the listed building and south to protect setting of 'Wynnards Mead' house. A lower than usual density is also assumed to reflect the topography and to protect the settings of heritage assets in the area.

3.56 Vehicular access to the site is to be sought via the existing lane off Baker's Hill at the western side of the northern boundary. The frontage on to Baker's Hill will need to be widened to accommodate the passing of two vehicles as well as the provision of visibility splays. This will impact on the low wall and bank which will require retaining walls. The existing access to the house Wynnards Mead is proposed as a route for pedestrians and cyclists, as well as forming the secondary emergency access point.

3.57 A small area of the site (0.6ha in the north) may be contaminated land as a result of a historic quarry. Development of this area has the potential to remediate this contamination and mitigate risks associated with the historic use.

## Policy TIV15

### Tiverton Infrastructure

**The Council will work with partners to deliver the following infrastructure for Tiverton:**

- a) **Provision of a new junction onto the A361 to serve the Tiverton Eastern Urban Extension;**
- b) **Public realm improvements and traffic calming to Blundell's Road in association with the Tiverton Eastern Urban Extension;**
- c) **Provision of increased capacity at roundabouts on Heathcoat Way;**
- d) **Bus service enhancements;**
- e) **Expansion and improvement of primary and secondary education facilities;**
- f) **Public open space and green infrastructure;**
- g) **Expansion of emergency fire and rescue services;**
- h) **Provision of healthcare facilities;**
- i) **Community facilities including provision for children/youth, a GP surgery and community hall; and**
- j) **Provision of works to reduce flood risk.**

3.58 Strategic Local Plan sites will be required to pay for specific items of infrastructure that are necessary to make the development acceptable. Other development (if eligible) will be charged the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) at a rate per square metre. CIL funds will be spent according to a prescribed list of infrastructure projects or types of infrastructure.

3.59 The Council's strategic infrastructure policy is set out earlier in the Local Plan under Policy S8, but there are infrastructure requirements specific to Tiverton that are listed under Policy TIV15. The Council will use CIL, planning obligations for strategic sites and other sources of funding to deliver the infrastructure listed wherever possible. The Council's Regulation 123 list and accompanying policy on the use of Section 106 agreements, sets out the mechanism will be used to fund infrastructure. Where another organisation is responsible for delivering the infrastructure required as a result of new development, the Council will work in partnership with the relevant bodies to ensure that infrastructure needs associated with development are addressed appropriately.

3.60 Devon County Council's Waste Plan, which had hearings as part of its examination in July 2014, allocates a site in Tiverton for the delivery of an Energy from Waste plant. A site within the Tiverton Eastern Urban Extension has been identified, being located in relatively close proximity to other development, allowing energy and heat recovered from the disposal of waste to be exported to nearby properties and businesses. The facility is included in Mid Devon's Infrastructure Plan as an important piece of local infrastructure, though it is expected it would be fully funded by a private sector waste company, with no funds being required from developer contributions or CIL.

## Cullompton

3.61 Cullompton will develop as a fast growing market town and will become the principal focus of development for the district in the medium to long term in accordance with the development strategy set out in Policy S11.

3.62 Cullompton Town Council is preparing a neighbourhood plan which may contain policies and site allocations additional to those in the Local Plan. The neighbourhood plan is subject to a separate process of consultation and examination. Local Plan allocations to the north-west and east of Cullompton have strategic implications for Mid Devon and neighbouring districts, particularly with regard to impacts on the strategic road network. The Local Plan takes precedence over any neighbourhood plan where strategic policies are concerned.

3.63 The following table summarises the development supply for Cullompton.

Use	Commitments at 31 March 2014	Completions from 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014	Allocations (within the plan period)	Total
Housing (dwellings)	199	87	3,533	3,819
Commercial (employment, retail and leisure) square metres floorspace	19,669	3,598	66,000	89,267

Table 15: Development supply in Cullompton

3.64 Six sites are allocated for housing in Cullompton, excluding one contingency site at Colebrook that will be permitted to come forward if the Council's housing supply proves insufficient, as set out in Policy S4. All housing sites are considered achievable in principle, corresponding to a Cullompton map that accompanies this document.

Site	Policy	Gross Site Area (ha)	Net site area (ha)	Allocated dwellings
North West Cullompton	CU1-6	95	60	1200
East Cullompton	CU7-12	160	96	2100
Knowle Lane	CU13	9.8	5.9	30
Ware Park & Footlands	CU14	2.1	1.3	38
Exeter Road	CU15	1.4	1.1	45
Cummings Nursery	CU16	5.3	3.2	120
Total				3533

Table 16: Housing allocations, excluding sites/dwellings with planning permission

3.65 Knowle Lane (Policy CU13) has planning permission for 285 dwellings. Part of the site remains undeveloped and this is represented in Table 16.

3.66 Land for commercial development is allocated within the north-west and east Cullompton urban extensions, and also at Week Farm and Venn Farm in the Kingsmill area.

3.67 The amount of floorspace to be provided by commercial development depends on the use. For instance, office development on multiple floors provides a greater amount of floorspace per hectare than a single-storey warehouse, and some commercial uses require more land for parking than others. Floorspace assumptions for different uses are set out in the methodology for Strategic Commercial Land Availability Assessment (SCLAA), but the Council recognises that this is only a starting point and a higher or lower density of development may be justified depending on the nature of the proposal that comes forward.

Site	Policy	Gross site area (ha)	Net site area (ha)	Floorspace (sq.m)
North West Urban Extension	CU1-6	95	3	21,000
East Cullompton	CU7-12	160	5	20,000
Week Farm	CU17	10.7	8.7	15,000
Venn Farm	CU18	4.4	2.5	9,000
Total				65,000

Table 17: Allocations for commercial development

## Policy CU1

### North West Cullompton

**A site of 95 hectares to the North West of Cullompton is allocated for mixed use development subject to the following:**

- a) 1200 dwellings with 28% affordable housing to include at least five pitches for gypsies and travellers and provision of extra care housing;**
- b) 5% of housing to be provided as serviced plots for sale to self-builders;**
- c) 21,000 square metres commercial floorspace to include a care home or retirement complex, and other suitable uses such as a hotel or leisure development;**
- d) Provision of at least 28 hectares strategic green infrastructure;**
- e) Provision of a road linking Tiverton Road to Willand Road, and transport provision to ensure appropriate accessibility for all modes;**
- f) Environmental protection and enhancement;**
- g) Community facilities and primary school to meet local needs arising;**
- h) Carbon reduction and air quality improvements;**
- i) An agreed phasing strategy to bring forward development and infrastructure in step and retain the overall viability of development; and**
- j) Comprehensive Masterplanning of the development including at least two stages of public consultation and adoption of the Masterplan as a Supplementary Planning Document, before any planning application is determined.**

3.68 Land to the north-west of Cullompton is currently in agricultural use. The western boundaries are formed by hedgerows, the eastern by Willand Road and the adjoining development. The southern end of the site wraps around the steeper northern and western slopes of St Andrews Hill, its southern edge again formed by hedgerows and development. A stream with a narrow flood plain runs west to east through the site, and another stream forms the boundary at the northern end of the site.

3.69 Development of this site must be carefully planned to ensure that impact on the landscape is minimised through measures such as avoiding the development of higher ground, appropriate landscaping and ensuring that areas at risk of flooding remain undeveloped.

3.70 There are severe traffic congestion problems on Cullompton High Street and at its junction with Tiverton Road, having an adverse effect on air quality, living conditions and the attractiveness of the town centre. This development will be required to provide a road linking Tiverton Road to Willand Road, not only diverting traffic from the new development away from the town centre but also providing an alternative route for other vehicles.

3.71 This development will also provide affordable housing including at least five gypsy and traveller pitches, contributing to the need identified in the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2015). Part of the affordable housing provision should comprise extra care housing, which enables older people to live independently in homes that are purpose-built in clusters of 50 units, with 24 hour care and support services available onsite.

3.72 In addition, provision of around 60 serviced plots for self-builders will diversify the choice of housing for potential residents, providing a low cost and reasonably straightforward option for those who wish to build their own home.

3.73 The Council will consider a range of commercial uses on this site, subject to masterplanning. Industrial, warehouse and office development is primarily located on the east side of Cullompton, and not necessarily compatible with housing development, but this is a sustainable location for a number of other employment-generating uses. The site should include a residential care or nursing home to account for the aging population, or another form of development for the elderly which generates sufficient jobs. Self-contained retirement apartments where there is little or no onsite care will not be considered to constitute commercial development because they do not generate any significant number of jobs, but an extra care scheme or retirement 'village' or complex may be classed as commercial development if there will be a range of facilities and care services onsite. The site may also include other leisure or hospitality uses in addition to community facilities, a new primary school and various forms of open space.

3.74 The Local Plan sets out a framework for the development of North West Cullompton Urban Extension, but leaves many details for later consideration. The preparation of a masterplan in consultation with stakeholders, including the local community, is an important step in achieving a comprehensive development with wider community benefits. The Council will resist ad-hoc development of phases with no reference to the overall vision and development strategy for the urban extension. The developers will be expected to produce a number of further studies and surveys to support the masterplan and work in partnership with the Council to achieve its adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document.

## Policy CU2

### North West Cullompton Transport Provision

**As part of the development of North West Cullompton, the following transport infrastructure will be provided at the expense of all new development within the site:**

- a) Provision of a network of streets linking to the existing highway network, including a through route suitable for buses linking Tiverton Road to Willand Road and wider agricultural vehicles;**
- b) Provision of bus, pedestrian and cycle routes at appropriate locations throughout the development, creating an attractive, permeable network for non-car modes travelling within, into and out of the area;**
- c) Cycle and pedestrian links to and from the town centre and within the mixed-use urban extension;**
- d) Implementation of travel plans and other non-traditional transport measures to minimise carbon footprint and air quality impacts;**
- e) Bus service enhancements within, into and out of, the mixed-use urban extension; and**
- f) Bus service enhancements between Cullompton, Exeter, Tiverton Parkway and Tiverton.**

3.75 The provision of appropriate transport infrastructure is a key requirement of the development. This can ensure that it is an attractive location for new development, that it minimises the impact on adjoining uses and accords with the need to promote sustainable development. The provision of a road through the site linking Tiverton Road to Willand Road will alleviate traffic congestion at the junction of Tiverton Road and High Street, and in the town centre generally. Combined with bus service enhancements and design which encourages non-car modes of travelling, this should reduce air pollutants in the town centre.

3.76 The development should be served by an attractive, convenient and safe network of sustainable transport routes, including bus, cycle and pedestrian. Streets appropriate for frequent bus routes should be provided so that as far as possible, all buildings are within 400 metres of bus stops. These will need to be designed as part of the masterplanning process. It is equally important that there is access to safe and direct cycle and pedestrian routes within the urban extension, linking together the dwellings, commercial uses and services. This can be achieved through the creation of off-road routes and also by ensuring that streets are designed appropriately for safe walking and cycling.

3.77 The provision of green infrastructure as set out in Policy CU3 will provide opportunities for off-road cycling and walking routes. These should be integrated into existing and proposed networks as far as possible. The creation of additional public rights of way should be examined.



3.78 Developers will be expected to prepare and implement travel plans for the development as a whole and for its constituent parts, to promote non-traditional measures relating to transport that can help minimise the development's carbon footprint and its impacts on air quality.

3.79 As part of the masterplanning exercise the development should be designed to be served by a permeable network of streets providing access to/from the development. This should include a through-route linking Tiverton Road to Willand Road which is suitable for use as a bus route and other traffic bypassing the town centre.

## Policy CU3

### North West Cullompton Environmental Protection and Green Infrastructure

**As part of the development of North West Cullompton, the following environmental protection and enhancement measures will be implemented at the expense of all new development within the site:**

- a) **Measures including a strategic landscaping and tree planting scheme to protect and enhance trees, hedgerows and other environmental features which contribute to the character and biodiversity, maintaining a wildlife network within the site and linking to the surrounding countryside;**
- b) **An area of 28 hectares for strategic green infrastructure, laid out and managed with an appropriate mix of public parkland, open space, landscaping and potential local nature reserve and including an extension to the cemetery;**
- c) **Areas of equipped and laid out public open space, totalling 0.16 hectares of equipped children's play, 0.05 hectares teenage facilities, 2.6 hectares amenity open space, 4 hectares for parks, sports and recreation grounds, 0.7 hectares of allotments and 0.1 hectares for a community garden adjoining the health centre;**
- d) **Protection and enhancement where possible of all existing Public Rights of Way;**
- e) **Appropriate provision for sewerage systems serving the development, and provision of a Sustainable Urban Drainage Scheme to deal with all surface water from the development and arrangements for future maintenance;**
- f) **Detailed archaeological investigation and measures to record, and where necessary, protect the archaeological interest of the site through appropriate design, layout and mitigation; and**
- g) **Design solutions which respect the settings of listed buildings within and adjoining the site.**

3.80 The area proposed as green infrastructure on this site will include land managed for public access and biodiversity, and will provide a new recreation facility for the town. There are a number of potentially species rich hedgerows within the development and further detailed study of these features will be necessary to confirm their potential. The layout of development should promote the continued use of wildlife corridors, including watercourses, acting to prevent their fragmentation and providing appropriate treatment where such corridors cross roads and other linear features. There is potential for off-road cycle and pedestrian routes to follow these features, helping maintain their integrity. The requirement to extend the town cemetery, which adjoins this site, will need to be recognised in the proposals.

3.81 There is an area of flood plain associated with a watercourse running across the site from west to east. There are also a number of small watercourses running through the site for which flood risk and flood zone data is unknown. A flood risk assessment will need to consider the potential of flooding along these watercourses. The layout of the development will need to take this into account. Areas of floodplain should be retained as part of the strategic green infrastructure. The urbanisation of the area has the potential to increase surface water run-off elsewhere, through the loss of permeable surfaces. The inclusion of a sustainable urban drainage scheme approach for the entire development will ensure that there is no additional run-off from the site as a result of development. Sustainable urban drainage schemes usually involve the provision of ponds, swales and other soft areas which can serve as a dual use for public open space and can be incorporated into wildlife networks. A strategy for dealing with surface water must be prepared as part of the masterplanning of the site to determine the number, size and location of the required SUDS features.

3.82 The development of this site will have an impact on the character of the area. The incorporation of appropriate landscaping and tree planting will act to mitigate this and should be designed to support high quality green infrastructure areas and wildlife corridors. Tree planting will also act to collect carbon dioxide, helping to reduce the overall carbon footprint of the scheme.

3.83 Archaeological investigations in the area have demonstrated the presence of extensive and significant prehistoric and Romano-British sites. The Historic Environment Record notes the presence of prehistoric enclosures and funerary monuments within the area, as well as a findspot of a Saxon metal object and prehistoric flint tools. Development must take account of the setting of the St Andrews Hill Scheduled Monument, a Roman Fort. An archaeological assessment must be undertaken, the results of which should be taken into account during the masterplanning exercise to ensure protection where necessary.

3.84 A number of listed buildings lie within or close to the area. The setting of these will need assessment and protection as part of the layout and design work associated with the masterplanning exercise, or subsequent planning applications.

## Policy CU4

### North West Cullompton Community Facilities

**As part of the development of North West Cullompton, the following community infrastructure will be provided at the expense of all new development within the site:**

- a) A serviced site of 2.1 hectares for a new primary school at no cost to the Local Education Authority;**
- b) Construction costs for a 290 place primary school with provision for early years;**
- c) A site of 1.0 hectare for community uses including provision of a multi-purpose community building; and**
- d) Contribution towards sporting and leisure facilities.**

3.85 The creation of an urban extension requires that residents and workers have access to a range of community facilities within easy walking or cycling distance. This will discourage trips by car for essential local purposes. It is also important that, as far as is possible, the development of the site does not result in unacceptable pressure on existing services and facilities within Cullompton and the surrounding area. This policy sets out the requirements for provision of community facilities within the development site and elsewhere in the town.

3.86 The provision of a new primary school in the urban extension will be required in order to provide local educational facilities for the resident school age children. The policy requires that the land for the school is serviced and provided free of charge to the education authority, within the timing of provision set out in the phasing policy.

3.87 Development of this site will lead to an increase in pressure on existing facilities and demand for new provision. The construction of a community centre and provision of equipped and laid out public open space will be required within the site. The location of community facilities will be considered as part of the masterplanning process, to ensure the highest level of access for residents and other users.

## Policy CU5

### North West Cullompton Carbon Reduction and Air Quality

**The development of North West Cullompton will be required to implement a Carbon Reduction and Low Emissions Strategy at the expense of all new development in the site. This will propose measures to minimise the overall carbon footprint of the development, making provision for sources of decentralised onsite renewable or low-carbon energy and ensure that impact of the site on air quality is acceptable, such as:**

- a) Renewable and low carbon energy to provide a proportion of the site's energy use;**
- b) Measures to ensure that residents, employees and businesses are encouraged to travel in the most sustainable fashion, including travel plans, information, car clubs, lift-sharing and infrastructure for low emission vehicles;**
- c) Measures to encourage the sustainable treatment of waste;**
- d) Measures to manage the impacts of construction;**
- e) Offsite tree planting;**
- f) Energy improvements to existing buildings;**
- g) Other measures to capture or mitigate carbon emissions and air quality impacts from development.**

3.88 The construction and use of buildings has major implications for the use of non-renewable resources. Fifty percent of the UK's carbon emissions come from the construction and operation of the built environment. As the population increases and climate changes, there is a clear need to mitigate and adapt to climate change through effective carbon reduction and other methods.

3.89 The Government has made a commitment to achieving zero carbon housing by 2016, with all emissions from regulated sources such as heating, hot water and lighting to be reduced to zero by this time. While changes to construction are to be introduced through the Building Regulations, Policy CU5 ensures that other methods of carbon reduction are also considered and incorporated into the development where appropriate, such as carbon offsetting, travel plans and design which encourages sustainable ways of living. The combination of planning and building control should ensure a sustainable development that minimises carbon emissions from both housing and associated transport. Further detail will be required through the masterplanning exercise and subsequent planning applications.

3.90 Cullompton was declared an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in 2006 and an Air Quality Action Plan was published in 2010. An assessment of the air quality impact of the potential development proposed in the Local Plan was undertaken in 2014. Findings indicate that no significant cumulative air quality effects, including the impact of the North West Cullompton development is anticipated as a result of the development of sites set out in the Local Plan.

## Policy CU6

### North West Cullompton Phasing

**A phasing strategy will be required for the development of North West Cullompton to ensure that the development and infrastructure come forward in step, minimising the impact of development while ensuring that the development remains viable. The strategy should take account of the following requirements, variation of which will have to be carefully justified. Development shall be subject to the following:**

- a) Provision of affordable housing will be in broad step with the market housing;**
- b) Provision of all serviced self-build plots after the 'through route' linking Tiverton Road to Willand Road is operational;**
- c) Provision of commercial development in step with housing, at a rate of at least 1 hectare per 350 occupied dwellings;**
- d) Provision of strategic green infrastructure broadly in step with development, with equipped public open space provided at a rate of at least 1 hectare per 200 dwellings;**
- e) Occupation of no more than 400 dwellings before the implementation of bus service improvements;**
- f) Occupation of no more than 300 dwellings before the opening of a 'through route' linking Willand Road to Tiverton Road;**
- g) Transfer of serviced land for a primary school to the Local Education Authority prior to the occupation of any housing development on the site, and transfer of funding for education facilities in instalments; and**
- h) The necessary sustainable urban drainage features, and linking pipe work is integrated and phased appropriately in step with development.**

3.91 The phasing of development will have an important impact on the surrounding area, but it will also impact on the economic viability of the development. The policy sets out the general approach to phasing. However, this will need to be supplemented by a phasing strategy prepared as part of the masterplanning of the development. Legal obligations and planning conditions will be used to control these phasing requirements.

3.92 The provision of transport links and improvements is a key element of the development. In addition to the need to minimise traffic generation from new development, it will also be necessary to carry out improvements to existing infrastructure to ensure that there is sufficient capacity available in order to cope with increased usage.

3.93 The provision of public transport to connect the site to the rest of the town and the wider area is an important part of the strategy to improve the overall sustainability of the urban extension and the town generally. The North West and East Cullompton urban extensions together will generate a significant increase in potential users of public transport. Accordingly, enhancements to the bus service will need to be implemented at an appropriate point in the development, before the occupation of no more than 300 dwellings.

3.94 The creation of a through route linking Tiverton Road and Willand Road will serve an important function connecting the site to the wider highway network, providing a bus route and serving as a link from south west Cullompton to the north. A through route should be completed before the occupation of the 300th dwelling.

3.95 The development will generate the need for additional primary school provision. To ensure that reliance on car based trips is reduced, it is important to ensure that this is provided within close proximity of new dwellings within the urban extension. It will therefore be a requirement that land is transferred to the Local Education Authority before any houses are occupied.

3.96 Commercial development will be provided in step with housing to ensure that facilities for older people and new jobs are delivered alongside the rising population of the town. Affordable housing, including extra care housing and gypsy and traveller pitches, will be provided at a rate of approximately 25%, in step with the market housing. Serviced plots for self-build should not come forward until after the through route linking Tiverton Road to Willand Road has been provided, as the sale of serviced plots will not generate sufficient funds to pay for road infrastructure and it is important not to impede the ability of standard housing development to progress and deliver the road at an early stage.

## Policy CU7

### East Cullompton

**A site of 160 hectares to the East of Cullompton is allocated for mixed use development subject to the following:**

- a) 2100 dwellings within the plan period and further development of at least 500 dwellings post-2033;**
- b) 28% affordable housing to include extra care housing and at least ten pitches for gypsies and travellers, subject to viability;**
- c) 5% of housing to be provided as serviced plots for sale to self-builders;**
- d) 20,000 square metres commercial floorspace within the plan period and a further 12,000 post-2033, to include a care home or retirement complex, appropriately scaled retail development and other suitable uses such as offices and a hotel or leisure development;**
- e) Provision of at least 40 hectares strategic green infrastructure;**
- f) Transport provision to ensure appropriate accessibility for all modes, including a new or improved access and egress onto the M5 motorway and pedestrian and cycling links across the motorway to the existing town;**
- g) Environmental protection and enhancement and noise mitigation where necessary;**
- h) Assessment of land contamination and remediation if necessary;**
- i) Land and facilities for community use including a new primary school to meet local needs arising;**
- j) Contributions towards expansion of local secondary education facilities to meet needs arising;**
- k) Carbon reduction and air quality improvements;**
- l) Archaeological investigation and appropriate mitigation;**
- m) An agreed phasing strategy to bring forward development and infrastructure in step and retain the overall viability of development; and**
- n) Comprehensive Masterplanning of the development including at least two stages of public consultation and adoption of the Masterplan as a Supplementary Planning Document, before any planning application is determined.**

3.97 There is currently little development in Cullompton to the east of the motorway. This large area is predominantly agricultural land made up of multiple fields with hedgerows and some mature trees. While the loss of greenfield land is regrettable, Mid Devon is a rural district with insufficient brownfield land to meet the identified housing and employment needs of a growing population. The quality of the agricultural land in this area is mixed, falling predominantly within Grades 3a and 3b, and there are no alternative sites that could deliver this level of development. There are a number of streams on the site but no significant areas of flood plain. The Landscape Appraisal notes that

the site is part of an area of gently undulating land, which is difficult to perceive in the surrounding landscape. Although visible from limited locations within the Blackdown Hills AONB to the east and high ground to the north-west of Cullompton, given the low levels of visibility of the site, phased development beginning from the west is acceptable. Nevertheless, development of this site must be carefully planned to ensure that impact on the landscape is minimised through appropriate landscaping and ensuring that areas at risk of flooding remain undeveloped.

3.98 Development in Cullompton is severely constrained by the limited capacity at Junction 28 of the motorway, in addition to traffic congestion and poor air quality in the town centre. This development, in combination with the urban extension to the northwest of Cullompton, presents an opportunity to resolve town centre traffic problems and provide an alternative means of access onto the M5.

3.99 This development will also provide affordable housing including extra care housing and gypsy and traveller pitches, contributing to the needs identified in the Infrastructure Plan, Strategic Housing Market Assessment and the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment. In addition, provision of around 130 serviced plots for self-builders will diversify the choice of housing for potential residents, providing a low cost and reasonably straightforward option for those who wish to build their own home. However, the provision of highways infrastructure is fundamental to the delivery of this scheme, and the Council will negotiate on the proportion of affordable housing and self-build plots if necessary to ensure the viability of development.

3.100 The Council will consider a range of commercial uses on this site, subject to masterplanning. The Kingsmill area is a well-established employment centre and further industrial, warehousing and office development may be appropriate where the urban extension adjoins this development and the allocated site at Week Farm. In addition, a development of this size will require small-scale retail development to meet local needs. The site should also include a residential care or nursing home to provide accommodation for the aging population, or another form of development for the elderly which generates sufficient jobs. Self-contained retirement apartments that include little or no onsite care will not be considered to constitute commercial development because they do not provide a significant number of jobs, but a retirement 'village' or complex may be classed as commercial development if there will be a range of facilities and care services onsite. The site may also include other leisure or hospitality uses in addition to community facilities, a new primary school and various forms of open space.

3.101 A masterplanning exercise will be essential to consider all the requirements of the development in more detail, including the phasing of infrastructure. The Local Plan sets out a framework for the development, but leaves many details for later consideration. The preparation of a masterplan in consultation with stakeholders, including the local community, is an important step in achieving a comprehensive development with wider community benefits. The Council will resist ad-hoc development of phases with no reference to the overall vision and development strategy for the urban extension. The developers will be expected to produce a number of further studies and surveys to support the masterplan and work in partnership with the Council to achieve its adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document.



## Policy CU8

### East Cullompton Transport Provision

**As part of the development of East Cullompton, contributions towards or delivery of the following transport infrastructure will be provided by all new development within the site:**

- a) **Provision of mitigation measures to ensure only acceptable impacts occur to J28 of the M5 as a result of traffic generated from the site;**
- b) **Provision of appropriate highway improvements on roads around the development to ensure any unacceptable traffic impacts are mitigated;**
- c) **Reopening of Cullompton Railway Station;**
- d) **Provision of a network of streets linking to the existing highway network, and appropriate mitigation to reduce impacts on the existing road network such as Honiton Road;**
- e) **Provision of bus, pedestrian and cycle routes at appropriate locations throughout the development, creating an attractive, permeable network for non-car modes travelling within, into and out of the area;**
- f) **Safe and attractive cycle and pedestrian links to and from the town centre and within the mixed-use urban extension;**
- g) **Creation of safe and attractive pedestrian and cycle links between the development and the Kingsmill Industrial Estate;**
- h) **Implementation of travel plans and other non-traditional transport measures to minimise carbon footprint and air quality impacts;**
- i) **Bus service enhancements within, into and out of, the mixed-use urban extension, linking to Cullompton town centre;**
- j) **Bus service enhancements between Cullompton, Exeter, Tiverton Parkway and Tiverton.**

3.102 The provision of appropriate transport infrastructure is a key requirement of the development. This must ensure that there is sufficient long-term capacity for vehicles travelling onto, off and across the motorway. A well-functioning road network will also ensure that this is an attractive location for new development, minimising the impact on adjoining uses and providing sustainable development that benefits the wider community. The reopening of Cullompton Railway Station is also a key part of the development strategy for revitalisation of the town, attracting inward investment and increasing opportunities for the use of sustainable modes of transport. East Cullompton, as the largest strategic allocation within the plan, is required to make contributions towards the reopening of the station, thereby providing future residents of the site with access to alternative modes of transport. The Council recognises that the high infrastructure costs of this site will not solely be funded by the development. As has been the case on other strategic sized sites, the Council will work with its partners and the development industry to secure external funding to ensure the delivery of the necessary infrastructure.

3.103 The development should be served by an attractive, convenient and safe network of sustainable transport routes, including bus, cycle and pedestrian. Streets appropriate for frequent bus routes should be provided so that as far as possible, all buildings are within 400 metres of bus stops. These will need to be designed as part of the masterplanning process. It is equally important that there is access to safe and direct cycle and pedestrian routes within the urban extension, linking together the dwellings, commercial uses and services. This can be achieved through the creation of off-road routes and also by ensuring that streets are designed appropriately for safe walking and cycling.

3.104 The provision of green infrastructure as set out in Policy CU9 will provide opportunities for off-road cycling and walking routes. These should be integrated into existing and proposed networks as far as possible. The creation of additional public rights of way should be examined.

3.105 Developers will be expected to prepare and implement travel plans for the development as a whole and for its constituent parts, to promote non-traditional measures relating to transport that can help minimise the development's carbon footprint and its impacts on air quality.

## Policy CU9

### East Cullompton Environmental Protection and Green Infrastructure

**As part of the development of East Cullompton, the following environmental protection and enhancement measures will be implemented at the expense of all new development within the site:**

- a) **Measures to protect and enhance trees, hedgerows and other environmental features which contribute to the character and biodiversity, maintaining a wildlife network within the site and linking to the surrounding countryside;**
- b) **An area of 40 hectares for strategic green infrastructure, laid out and managed with an appropriate mix of public parkland, open space, landscaping and local nature reserve;**
- c) **Areas of equipped and laid out public open space, totalling 0.4 hectares of equipped children's play, 0.12 hectares for teenage facilities, 6 hectares amenity green space, 9 hectares of parks, sports and recreation grounds, and 1.5 hectares of allotments;**
- d) **Protection and enhancement where possible of existing Public Rights of Way;**
- e) **Appropriate screening and landscaping for properties adjacent to the M5;**
- f) **Appropriate provision of a sewerage system to serve the development and a Sustainable Urban Drainage Scheme to deal with all surface water from the development and arrangements for future maintenance; and**
- g) **A strategic landscaping and tree planting scheme to mitigate landscape impact, protect the setting of the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and enhance biodiversity and the character of development.**

3.106 The area proposed as green infrastructure on this site will include land managed for public access and biodiversity, and will provide a new recreation facility for the town. There are a number of potentially species rich hedgerows and mature trees within the site, and further detailed study of these features will be necessary to confirm their potential. The layout of development should promote the continued use of wildlife corridors, including watercourses, acting to prevent their fragmentation and providing appropriate treatment where such corridors cross roads and other linear features. There is potential for off-road cycle and pedestrian routes to follow these features, helping maintain their integrity.

3.107 There are various areas of narrow flood plains associated with watercourses running across the site. For some of the small watercourses, a flood risk assessment will need to consider the potential of flooding as the current extent is unknown. These watercourses do not take up a significant area but the layout of the development will need to take flood plains into account. Areas of floodplain should be retained as part of the strategic green infrastructure providing wildlife corridors to other areas. The urbanisation of the area has the potential to increase surface water run-off elsewhere, through the loss of permeable surfaces. The inclusion of a sustainable urban drainage scheme approach for the entire development will ensure that there is no additional run-off from the site as a result of development. Sustainable urban drainage schemes usually involve the provision of ponds, swales and other soft areas which can serve as a dual use for public open space and can be incorporated into wildlife networks. A strategy for dealing with surface water must be prepared as part of the masterplanning of the site to determine the number, size and location of the required SUDS features.

3.108 The development of this site will have an impact on the character of the area. The incorporation of appropriate landscaping and tree planting will act to mitigate this and should be designed to support high quality green infrastructure areas and wildlife corridors. Tree planting will also act to collect carbon dioxide, helping to reduce the overall carbon footprint of the scheme.

## Policy CU10

### East Cullompton Community Facilities

**As part of the development of East Cullompton, the following community infrastructure will be provided at the expense of all new development within the site:**

- a) A site of 2.5 hectares for a new primary school at no cost to the Local Education Authority;**
- b) A site of 2 hectares for a shopping and community centre, and the provision of a multi-purpose community building for youth, children and other community uses;**
- c) Construction costs for a 650 place primary school or two 325 place primary schools, including provision for early years education;**
- d) Contributions towards the expansion of secondary education facilities in the local area;**
- e) Contributions towards the expansion or improvement of local library services; and**
- f) Contribution towards sporting and leisure facilities.**

3.109 The creation of an urban extension requires that residents and workers have access to a range of community facilities within easy walking or cycling distance. This will discourage trips by car for essential local purposes. It is also important that, as far as is possible, the development of the site does not result in unacceptable pressure on existing services and facilities within Cullompton and the surrounding area. This policy sets out the requirements for provision of community facilities within the development site.

3.110 The provision of a new primary school in the urban extension will be required in order to provide local educational facilities for the resident school age children. The policy requires that the land and construction costs for the school are provided to the education authority, within the timing of provision set out in the phasing policy. The development of 2,600 dwellings is expected to give rise to 390 additional secondary school places and a contribution towards the expansion of Cullompton Community College will be required. The Masterplanning of the development will determine the phasing of secondary school contributions.

3.111 The level of community facilities in Cullompton has improved in recent years with the opening of the Hayridge Centre (incorporating the library), Cullompton Community Centre and The Walronds manor house and garden. 2,600 dwellings at East Cullompton will increase the use of these facilities and generate need for additional locally accessible community facilities east of the motorway. In addition to a neighbourhood centre which provides a range of shopping and community facilities, a contribution will be required towards the expansion or improvement of the town library.

## Policy CU11

### East Cullompton Carbon Reduction and Air Quality

**The development of East Cullompton will be required to implement a Carbon Reduction and Low Emissions Strategy at the expense of all new development in the site. This will propose measures to minimise the overall carbon footprint of the development, making provision for sources of decentralised onsite renewable or low-carbon energy and ensure that impact of the site on air quality is acceptable, such as:**

- a) **Renewable and low carbon energy to provide a proportion of the site's energy use;**
- b) **Measures to ensure that residents, employees and businesses are encouraged to travel in the most sustainable fashion, including travel plans, information, car clubs, lift-sharing and infrastructure for low emission vehicles;**
- c) **Measures to encourage the sustainable treatment of waste;**
- d) **Measures to manage the impacts of construction;**
- e) **Offsite tree planting;**
- f) **Energy improvements to existing buildings; and**
- g) **Other measures to capture or mitigate carbon emissions and air quality impacts from development.**

3.112 The construction and use of buildings has major implications for the use of non-renewable resources. Fifty percent of the UK's carbon emissions come from the construction and operation of the built environment. As the population increases and climate changes, there is a clear need to mitigate and adapt to climate change through effective carbon reduction and other methods.

3.113 The Government has made a commitment to achieving zero carbon housing by 2016, with all emissions from regulated sources such as heating, hot water and lighting to be reduced to zero by this time. While changes to construction are to be introduced through the Building Regulations, Policy CU11 ensures that other methods of carbon reduction are also considered and incorporated into the development where appropriate, such as carbon offsetting, travel plans and design which encourages sustainable ways of living. The combination of planning and building control should ensure a sustainable development that minimises carbon emissions from both housing and associated transport. Further detail will be required through the masterplanning exercise and subsequent planning applications.

3.114 Cullompton was declared an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in 2006 and an Air Quality Action Plan was published in 2010. In Cullompton, it is important to note that exceedances of pollutants are only along Fore Street, near the junction with the High Street and Tiverton Road. In the majority of other areas, pollutant concentrations have been monitored to be well below air quality objectives. An assessment of the air quality impact of the potential development proposed in the Local Plan was undertaken in 2014. Findings from this report indicate that the development of a new community at East Cullompton would not have a significant effect on the Cullompton AQMA. However during the masterplan design of the new community, the potential for air quality effects should be considered, in particular, the distance between the residential properties and the M5 should be selected to avoid adverse air quality impacts. Highway infrastructure improvements should also accompany the development to ensure capacity is increased to limit congestion on the local road network.

## Policy CU12

### East Cullompton Phasing

**A phasing strategy will be required for the development of East Cullompton to ensure that the development and infrastructure come forward in step, minimising the impact of development while ensuring that the development remains viable. The strategy should take account of the following requirements, variation of which will have to be carefully justified. Development shall be subject to the following:**

- a) **Provision of affordable housing will be in broad step with the market housing;**
- b) **Provision of all serviced self-build plots after strategic highways infrastructure has been completed;**
- c) **Provision of commercial development in step with housing, at a rate of at least 1 hectare per 500 occupied dwellings;**
- d) **Provision of strategic green infrastructure broadly in step with development, with public open space provided at a rate of at least 1 hectare per 150 dwellings or phased to deliver a larger area of multi-functional public open space at a suitable stage in the development;**
- e) **Implementation of bus service improvements in step with housing development, provided in appropriate instalments;**
- f) **Provision of the first phase of M5 access improvements before any dwellings are occupied, followed by strategic highways infrastructure broadly in step with development; and**
- g) **Transfer of serviced land for a primary school at no cost to the Local Education Authority prior to the first occupation of residential development, with necessary funding to construct the facilities being paid to the Local Education Authority in appropriate instalments.**

3.115 The phasing of development will have an important impact on the surrounding area, but it will also impact on the economic viability of the development. The policy sets out the general approach to phasing. However, this will need to be supplemented by a phasing strategy prepared as part of the masterplanning exercise, which may justify different phasing arrangements following more detailed analysis of infrastructure needs and the viability of development. Legal obligations and planning conditions will be used to control these phasing requirements.

3.116 The provision of transport links and improvements is a key element of the development. In addition to the need to minimise traffic generation from new development, it will also be necessary to carry out improvements to existing infrastructure to ensure that there is sufficient capacity available in order to cope with increased usage. Improved access onto the motorway will be required early in the development at substantial cost, which may cause some delay in the provision of other forms of infrastructure. Devon County Council's Strategic Highways Option Report (2014) sets out an initial assessment of the various elements phasing of transport infrastructure needed to service the site. A scheme, referred to in the report and scheduled to be delivered during 2014/15, only provides sufficient capacity for the allocations contained with the previous Local Plan. The first phase referred to in criterion (f) above therefore only relates to the subsequent highway works set out in the Devon County Council report.

3.117 While East Cullompton developers will be expected to pay for most of the infrastructure associated with this development through a Section 106 legal agreement, the Town Centre Relief Road was allocated in the previous Local Plan and was required in response to other developments in and around Cullompton. With the allocation of East Cullompton, it may now be possible to deliver the relief road on the eastern side of the motorway, possibly as part of the transport mitigation to serve East Cullompton. Dependent on the final route option, the relief road may either be funded by the development of East Cullompton or through the Community Infrastructure Levy. In addition, the Council will seek external sources of funding to help bear the cost of highways works that are needed early in the East Cullompton development, as these are critical to the delivery of this strategic site.

3.118 The provision of public transport to connect the site to the rest of the town and the wider area is an important part of the strategy to improve the overall sustainability of the urban extension and the town generally. The North West and East Cullompton urban extensions together will generate a significant increase in potential users of public transport, including rail should the provider decide to reopen a station for the town. Enhancements to the bus service will need to be implemented at appropriate points in the development, phased according to the delivery of housing.

3.119 The development will generate the need for additional primary school provision, which may be in the form of one large school or two smaller primary schools delivered at different stages in the development. To ensure that a suitable location for the school is safeguarded early in the development and its construction phased according to arising need, the serviced land should be transferred to the Local Education Authority before any dwellings are occupied and its construction costs paid in instalments.

3.120 Commercial development will be provided in step with housing to ensure that jobs and facilities for older people are delivered alongside the rising population of the town. Subject to viability, affordable housing will be provided at a rate of approximately 25%, in step with the market housing. Serviced plots for self-build should not come forward until after strategic highways infrastructure has been provided, as the sale of serviced plots will not generate sufficient funds to pay for new roads and it is important not to impede the ability of standard housing development to progress and deliver the roads at an early stage.

## Policy CU13

### Knowle Lane

**A site of 9.8 hectares at Knowle Lane is allocated for residential development subject to the following:**

- a) **315 dwellings with 35% affordable housing;**
- b) **Provision of 2.7 hectares of green infrastructure, to include the retention of land in the floodplain as informal amenity open space;**
- c) **Measures to protect and enhance trees, hedgerows and other environmental features which contribute to the character and biodiversity, maintaining a wildlife network within the site and linking to the surrounding countryside;**
- d) **Provision of access route up to and adjoining the existing development to the east of the site and the allocation to the south west (Policy CU14);**
- e) **Provision of at least two points of vehicular access to the site;**
- f) **Provision of cycle and pedestrian links within the development and linking to the wider transport network;**
- g) **Provision of a community building;**
- h) **Implementation of a Travel Plan and other measures to minimise carbon footprint and air quality impacts; and**
- i) **The necessary sustainable urban drainage features, and linking pipe work is integrated and phased appropriately in step with development.**

3.121 Knowle Lane is a greenfield site located on the west of Cullompton and directly to the west of a development at Knowle Lane known as Kingfisher Reach. The site lies between the southern side of Tiverton Road and Ponsford Lane and the northern side of Knowle Lane. A water course (Crow Green Stream) runs west to east through the central part of the site. The land rises northwards and southwards from the watercourse. The existing boundary is made up of trees and hedges.



3.122 Planning permission has been granted for 285 dwellings on a large part of the site, with 35% affordable housing. Any revised scheme will be subject to the same affordable housing criteria as previously applied. The remaining part of the site has been confirmed as available and is also likely to come forward in the plan period, a total site commitment of 315 dwellings. The consented site is considered the primary access route for the remaining part of the site and the adjoining allocation at Ware Park and Footlands (Policy CU14). Any planning applications will need to ensure suitable vehicular access arrangements are provided up to and adjoining the boundary with the adjacent sites in order to avoid the creation of any ransom strips.

3.123 The protection and enhancement of existing green infrastructure should be carried out where possible. This will entail the protection of existing watercourses, hedgerows and trees and the retention of the area of floodplain as an area of informal amenity open space.

## Policy CU14

### Ware Park and Footlands

**A site of 2.1 hectares at Ware Park and Footlands is allocated for residential development subject to the following:**

- a) **38 dwellings with 28% affordable housing;**
- b) **No development until the road through the North West Cullompton site (Policy CU1) linking Tiverton Road to Willand Road is fully in operation;**
- c) **No development until an improvement scheme or mitigation measures have been implemented at M5 Junction 28 to the satisfaction of the Highway Authority and the Highways Agency;**
- d) **Archaeological investigation and appropriate mitigation;**
- e) **Access from adjoining development at Knowle Lane (Policy CU13); and**
- f) **Transport assessment and implementation of a travel plan and other non-traditional transport measures to minimise carbon footprint and air quality impacts.**

3.124 This site is located to the west of Cullompton adjacent to the allocated site of Knowle Lane. The site is comprised of agricultural fields and Crow Green Stream runs along the northern boundary. The site is bounded by established hedge boundaries and is relatively flat. Access is only satisfactorily achievable through the Knowle Lane site (Policy CU13).

3.125 A geophysical survey undertaken in support of a planning application in this area identified anomalies within the proposed development site that may represent archaeological features, some of which may be indicative of industrial activity. In the light of the results of the geophysical survey and the presence of prehistoric as well as 18/19th century industrial activity recorded to the east in the adjacent development site, any groundworks associated with the development of this area have the potential to expose and destroy archaeological deposits associated with the known archaeological activity. Archaeological investigation and appropriate mitigation will be required.

3.126 Knowle Lane, by reason of its width and alignment, is unsuitable to accommodate additional traffic. Therefore, access to the site should instead be taken through the Knowle Lane allocation (Policy CU13) unless the road can be widened to the satisfaction of the Highway Authority. Development in this location will impact on Cullompton Air Quality Management Area and will require mitigation.

3.127 The site will also impact on the capacity of Junction 28 of the M5 motorway which at present cannot accommodate the additional trips generated by this development. An improvement scheme, being developed by Devon County Council is scheduled to be delivered during 2014/15 and should provide the additional capacity required. There are also issues with the capacity of Tiverton Road, and specifically the junction with the High Street to accommodate additional levels of traffic. The delivery of a new road through the North West Cullompton site (Policy CU1-CU6), linking Tiverton Road to Willand Road, will allow local traffic to be distributed more widely around the road network. To avoid an unacceptable impact on both the M5 and the local road network in the short term, this site should only come forward upon completion of both the M5 improvements and the North West Cullompton through road.

## Policy CU15

### Land at Exeter Road

**A site of 1.4 hectares at Exeter Road is allocated for residential development, subject to the following:**

- a) **45 dwellings with 28% affordable housing;**
- b) **Transport assessment and implementation of a travel plan and other non-traditional measures to minimise carbon footprint and air quality impacts; and**
- c) **Archaeological investigation and appropriate mitigation.**

3.128 The site consists of land to the south of the housing at the former Toad Hall, extending between the steep hillside to the west and Exeter road to the east. Two dwellings in large grounds make up a portion of the site, together with an area of underdeveloped open field between and behind them. A bowling club is located in the middle of and surrounded by the site. The site can accommodate 45 dwellings, of which 28% will be affordable.

3.129 The site lies in an area of known prehistoric activity. Any planning application for development here should be supported by an appropriate programme of archaeological work to allow the significance of any below-ground heritage assets with an archaeological interest to be understood along with the potential impact of any development upon them.

## Policy CU16

### Cummings Nursery

**A site of 2.78 hectares at Cummings Nursery is allocated for residential development, subject to the following:**

- a) 120 dwellings with 35% affordable housing;**
- b) Retention of land in the floodplain as green infrastructure and informal amenity open space;**
- c) Appropriate noise mitigation and sound proofing to minimise the impact of the adjacent motorway;**
- d) Archaeological investigation and appropriate mitigation; and**
- e) Transport assessment and implementation of a travel plan and other non-traditional measures to minimise carbon footprint and air quality impacts.**

3.130 This site comprises a former horticultural nursery located on the edge of Cullompton on the eastern side of the motorway. The site is covered by disused greenhouses. The site has outline permission for 120 dwellings including 35% affordable housing, but has not yet commenced construction. Any revised scheme for the site will be required to achieve the same level of affordable housing as previously agreed, unless viability evidence proves that this is no longer possible.

3.131 The site lies between the flood plains of the River Culm (and the M5 corridor) and the Culm Lea/Riverside Drive housing estate with vehicular access direct from Honiton Road. The site is relatively level, falling away to the flood plain to the west. There is a mature native hedgerow along the western boundary that separates the site from an area of open space that drops down into the flood plain.

3.132 The dwellings are proposed to be erected following the demolition of the existing commercial greenhouse buildings on the site, clearance of other infrastructure and remediation of the site. The site has fallen into a state of dereliction as it has not been actively used for over 10 years. The new vehicular access is proposed from a position at the junction between Culm Lea and Riverside Drive.

3.133 The proposed development site lies in a landscape where prehistoric and Roman activity is recorded in the Historic Environment Record. The northern part of the site has probably been disturbed by the construction of the greenhouses, but the southern part still has potential for containing archaeological deposits. Archaeological investigation and mitigation will be required.

## Policy CU17

### Week Farm

**A site of 10.7 hectares is allocated for employment development, subject to the following:**

- a) 15,000 square metres of employment floorspace within use classes B2-B8;**
- b) Provision of a vehicular link from the Kingsmill employment area to Honiton Road;**
- c) Development shall not commence until the completion of improvements to M5 Junction 28 through signalisation of the slip roads east of the motorway;**
- d) Archaeological investigation and appropriate mitigation;**
- e) Protection and enhancement of the existing Public Right of Way;**
- f) Transport assessment and implementation of a travel plan and other non-traditional measures to minimise carbon footprint and air quality impacts; and**
- g) Provision of 2 hectares of green infrastructure to include the retention of land in the floodplain, providing a landscape buffer to the west of the site as an area of informal open space.**

3.134 The site is located east of the M5 motorway, adjacent to an existing area of significant employment development. The site could accommodate approximately 15,000 square metres of employment floor space. This is a lower density than would be expected for employment uses generally and is comparable to that anticipated on the consented adjacent site.

3.135 The site is allocated for B2-B8 use. However, the Council will consider proposals for alternative employment-generating uses on their merits. Development in this location will increase pressure on the motorway junction. Development should not commence until improvement works programmed at M5 Junction 28 are complete.

3.136 This site lies within a landscape that has evidence of prehistoric and Roman activity recorded in the Devon County Historic Environment Record. To the west, recent archaeological work has demonstrated the presence of prehistoric and Roman settlement in and around Cullompton. There is potential for the site to contain archaeological deposits associated with the known prehistoric and Roman activity in the vicinity, so archaeological investigation and appropriate mitigation will be required.

3.137 In order to improve accessibility the site will enable the creation of an additional point of access linking the site itself, along with the wider Kingsmill employment area, to Honiton Road. This is seen as an important advantage of the development of the site that will help to relieve pressure on the existing access to the area.

3.138 The site is bounded to the west by the River Ken and its associated floodplain. Development of the area of floodplain should be avoided and retained as green infrastructure, which may be designed into the development as an informal recreational area for those working at the site.

## Policy CU18

### Venn Farm

**A site of 4.4 hectares is allocated for employment development, subject to the following:**

- a) 9,000 sqm of employment floorspace within use classes B2-B8;**
- b) Suitable vehicular access which directs traffic to and from the site via Saunders Way;**
- c) Development shall not be commenced until the completion of improvements to M5 Junction 28 through signalisation of the slip roads east of the motorway;**
- d) Archaeological investigation and appropriate mitigation;**
- e) Transport assessment and implementation of a travel plan and other non-traditional measures to minimise carbon footprint and air quality impacts;**
- f) Measures to protect and enhance trees, hedgerows and other environmental features which contribute to the character and biodiversity, maintaining a wildlife network within the site and linking to the surrounding countryside; and**
- g) Retention of areas within the floodplain as green infrastructure.**

3.139 The site is located adjacent to the existing Kingsmill Industrial Estate on the east side of the M5 Motorway. The site is well contained by natural features comprising existing development to the south, the River Culm to the west and an existing track and road to the north and south east. The land to the north and east is low lying agricultural land and to the south is the remainder of the industrial estate. The western boundary is defined by the River Culm which is separated from the M5 motorway by low lying pasture which is predominantly within the river flood plain.

3.140 Planned improvement works to Junction 28 will accommodate development at Venn Farm and the Highways Agency has removed a holding direction that previously prevented the development from taking place. Access is achievable via Saunders Way, avoiding increased use of Kingsmill Road.

3.141 This site lies in an area of archaeological potential and within a floodplain of the River Culm. Ground disturbance in this area may expose archaeological and palaeoenvironmental deposits, so archaeological investigation and appropriate mitigation will be required. Development should provide a habitat buffer in the floodplain and avoid any development within the floodplain unless the sequential test required by national policy has been met.

## Policy CU19

### Town Centre Relief Road

**A relief road, providing traffic relief to the town centre, will be provided subject to the following:**

- a) Public consultation exercise before the route of the road is determined;**
- b) Provision of replacement open space and sporting facilities elsewhere in Cullompton if these are affected;**
- c) Provision of a shared use foot and cycleway; and**
- d) Measures to protect and enhance trees, hedgerows and other environmental features which contribute to the character and biodiversity, maintaining a wildlife network on the affected alignment and linking to the surrounding countryside. Provision of landscaping to mitigate the effects of noise from the relief road.**

3.142 The Town Centre Relief Road, previously known as the Eastern Relief Road, is an integral part of the development strategy for Cullompton, designed to relieve traffic through the town centre in conjunction with a road through the North West urban extension to link Tiverton Road to Willand Road. The evidence in 2010 concluded that a new road to the east of the town centre is essential if the objectives of traffic relief, air quality improvement and with it town centre enhancement, are to be achieved. Careful consideration will need to be taken in finalising the route, which could be located either side of the motorway. The aim will be to cause minimum impact on the CCA fields. Devon County Council is producing a Flood Risk Assessment and will consult on the options for the exact route of the road. At the planning application stage, safety measures such as the closure of the relief road via an automated system prior to its flooding may need to be considered.

3.143 Cullompton is facing the same traffic issues now as it was when the previous Local Plan was being prepared. Additional housing development has now taken place at Knowle Lane and Tiverton Road, contributing to Junction 28 improvements and funding for the Town Centre Relief Road, but work on the road has not yet commenced. The delivery of the road depends upon the delivery of the North West and East urban extensions and development elsewhere. The road is likely to be funded by either developer contributions or Community Infrastructure Levy as well as external sources of funding sought by the Council.

## Policy CU20

### Cullompton Infrastructure

**The Council will promote the reopening of the Cullompton Railway Station. A site for a new railway station north of Station Road is allocated for this purpose. The Council will use the Community Infrastructure Levy and planning obligations where appropriate, seek external sources of funding and work with partners to deliver the following infrastructure for Cullompton:**

- a) **Provision of a Town Centre Relief Road and implementation of other measures in the Cullompton Air Quality Action Plan;**
- b) **Mitigation to reduce traffic impacts on the Trunk and Local Road network in association with the East Cullompton Urban Extension;**
- c) **Town centre regeneration and enhancement;**
- d) **Extra care housing provision;**
- e) **Expansion of library facilities;**
- f) **Primary and secondary education facilities;**
- g) **Public open space and green infrastructure;**
- h) **Bus service enhancements;**
- i) **Provision of railway and bus interchange;**
- j) **Expansion of emergency fire and rescue services;**
- k) **Provision of healthcare facilities; and**
- l) **Community facilities including sports and leisure facilities.**

3.144 Strategic Local Plan sites will be required to pay for specific items of infrastructure that are necessary to make the development acceptable. Other development (if eligible) will be charged the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) at a rate per square metre. CIL funds will be spent according to a prescribed list of infrastructure projects or types of infrastructure.

3.145 The Council's strategic infrastructure policy is set out earlier in the Local Plan under Policy S8, but there are infrastructure requirements specific to Cullompton that are listed under Policy CU20. The Council will use CIL, planning obligations for strategic sites and other sources of funding to deliver the infrastructure listed wherever possible. Where another organisation is responsible for delivering the infrastructure required as a result of new development, the Council will work in partnership with the relevant bodies to ensure that infrastructure needs associated with development are addressed appropriately.

3.146 The Local Transport Plan includes a long-term aspiration to reopen Cullompton Railway Station. The Local Plan allocates land north of Station Road as a possible site for the new station, including land for a car park. There is also an aspiration to provide a bus interchange for the town which could be provided in the same location. The Council will work with Devon County Council and other partners to achieve this objective.

## Policy CU21

### Land at Colebrook CONTINGENCY SITE

**A site of 4.8 hectares at Colebrook is identified as a contingency site for residential development to be released in accordance with Policy S4, subject to the following:**

- a) **100 dwellings with 28% affordable housing;**
- b) **The development shall not commence until the Town Centre Relief Road has been provided;**
- c) **Provision of two points of access from Siskin Chase;**
- d) **Provision of 1.1 hectares of green infrastructure, to include the retention of land in the floodplain as informal amenity open space and for Sustainable Urban Drainage provision;**
- e) **Measures to protect and enhance trees, hedgerows and other environmental features which contribute to the character and biodiversity, maintaining a wildlife network within the site and linking to the surrounding countryside;**
- f) **Archaeological investigation and appropriate mitigation; and**
- g) **Transport assessment and implementation of travel plans and other measures to minimise carbon footprint and air quality impacts.**

3.147 The site is currently used for agricultural land and is adjacent to the Cullompton settlement limit. Colebrook Lane bisects the site, and the field boundaries and edging of the site are mainly comprised of hedgerows and trees. The site is fairly flat from Colebrook Lane to the south, but gently slopes towards the west, with land rising to the north.

3.148 This site is identified as a contingency site, to be released in accordance with Policy S4. Whilst the site is considered deliverable it is not allocated as one of the main sites for Cullompton as other allocations are strategically preferable, being of a size and location to deliver significant highways improvements which benefit the whole town.

3.149 If this site comes forward for development, it must contribute to the provision of offsite highways infrastructure. Development in this location would increase traffic through the town centre, so would not be permissible until the Town Centre Relief Road has been provided, offering an alternative route. The development would also be expected to provide two points of access from Siskin Chase.

3.150 There is an area of floodplain on the southern edge of the site and it is proposed that this is incorporated into the 1.1 hectares of Green Infrastructure. Measures will also be necessary to protect existing environmental features including trees, hedgerows and the stream.

3.151 Archaeological investigations in the vicinity have demonstrated the presence of extensive and significant prehistoric and Romano-British sites. The Historic Environmental Record suggests areas of a prehistoric funerary monument occupying the valley floor. An archaeological assessment will need to be undertaken, the results of which should be taken into account during the detailed planning of the site to ensure protection where necessary.



# Crediton

3.152 The development strategy for Crediton is set out in Policy S12. The following table summarises Crediton’s supply of housing and commercial development.

Use	Commitments at 31 March 2014	Completions from 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014	Allocations	Total
Housing (dwellings)	216	58	633	907
Commercial (employment, retail and leisure) square metres floorspace	551	3,598	9,820	13,969

Table 18: Development supply in Crediton

3.153 Nine housing sites are allocated in Crediton, including Wellparks and Red Hill Cross which have planning permission. All housing sites are considered achievable in principle, corresponding to a Crediton map that accompanies this document.

Site	Policy	Gross Site Area (ha)	Net site area (ha)	Local Plan allocations
Wellparks	CRE1	7.9	4.74	185
Red Hill Cross	CRE2	3.1	1.86	135
Cromwells Meadow	CRE3	2.4	1.44	35
The Woods Group	CRE4	0.17	0.17	8
Pedlerspool	CRE5	23.5	14.1	200
Sports Fields	CRE6	5.5	3.3	120
Stonewall Lane	CRE7	3.2	1.92	50
Land at Barn Park	CRE8	1.64	1.3	20
Land off Alexandra Close	CRE9	0.63	0.504	15
Total				768

Table 19: Housing land supply

3.154 Two sites in Crediton are expected to deliver commercial floorspace during the plan period. The amount of floorspace to be provided by commercial development depends on the use. For instance, office development on multiple floors provides a greater amount of floorspace per hectare than a single-storey warehouse, and some commercial uses require more land for parking than others. Floorspace assumptions for different uses are set out in the methodology for Strategic Commercial Land Availability Assessment (SCLAA), but the Council recognises that this is only a starting point and a higher or lower density of development may be justified depending on the nature of the proposal that comes forward.

Site	Policy	Gross site area (ha)	Net site area (ha)	Floorspace (sq.m)
Wellparks	CRE1	22.9	1.2	2,220
Land south of A377	CRE10	1.9	1.9	7,600
Total				9,820

Table 20: Allocated sites for commercial development

## Policy CRE1

### Wellparks

**A site of 22.9 hectares at Wellparks, A377 is allocated for residential and commercial development subject to the following:**

- a) 185 dwellings with 28% affordable housing on 7.9 hectares;**
- b) 2,220 square metres of commercial floorspace in the south east part of the site;**
- c) 15 hectares of Green Infrastructure on the upper slopes of the site; and**
- d) Layout, design and landscaping that reflects the sloping, visible nature of the site, locally distinctive design and the need to protect the setting of Downes Historic Park and Garden and respect the character and setting of the listed buildings at Wellparks and Downes House.**

3.155 This site is to the south east of Crediton and is adjacent to the new Crediton Link Road to the east and Crediton Conservation Area to the west. This prominent wooded hillside gives character and an attractive skyline to the eastern half of the town. The development of the site, even though it is on the lower southern edge of the hillside, would have an impact on the rural views to the south of the town, requiring careful design and mitigation.

3.156 Planning permission has been granted for 185 dwellings, including 27.5% affordable housing. The policy provides the criteria to be applied as a starting point, should any revised scheme be submitted.

3.157 Due to the constraints of the site in respect of the Local Historic Park and Garden, adjoining listed buildings and a number of large trees that are interspersed in the development, a lower than usual density is assumed. In respect of the impact on the landscape, this will require careful treatment.

3.158 A small watercourse runs along the boundary of the site. A flood risk assessment will need to consider the potential for flooding. An onsite Sustainable Urban Drainage Scheme will require implementation to negate any increase in flood risk and ensure that there is no additional run-off from the site as a result of development. Sustainable drainage is a standard requirement under Policy DM1.

## Policy CRE2

### Red Hill Cross, Exhibition Road

**A site of 3.1 hectares at Red Hill Cross is allocated for residential development subject to the following:**

- a) **135 dwellings with 28% affordable housing;**
- b) **Layout, design and landscaping that reflect the local distinctiveness, the visibility of the site and its sloping nature;**
- c) **Provision of a safe and convenient footpath from Old Tiverton Road to the footway on the southern boundary of the site on Exhibition Road; and**
- d) **Land for a 0.4 hectare extension to Crediton cemetery.**

3.159 This site has outline planning permission for 135 dwellings with 22% affordable housing, but has not yet commenced. The policy provides the criteria to be applied as a starting point, should any revised scheme be submitted.

3.160 The site is in a prominent location but detailed design and development respecting local distinctiveness will mitigate this.

3.161 For the safety and convenience of pedestrians, a footpath is required from the access to the site to link to the existing footway on the southern boundary of the site on Exhibition Road. In addition, there is an identified need for an extension to Crediton cemetery which can be secured through the development of this site.

## Policy CRE3

### Cromwells Meadow

**A site of 1.3 hectares at Cromwells Meadow is allocated for residential development subject to the following:**

- a) **35 dwellings with 28% affordable housing.**

3.162 The site lies to the east of Crediton with residential development to the west and agricultural land to the east of the site. Vehicular access into the site can be achieved from Willow Walk.

3.163 There is an area of floodplain on the eastern boundary of the site. The layout of the development will need to take this into account. The urbanisation of the area would have the potential to increase surface water run-off elsewhere, through the loss of permeable surfaces. Sustainable drainage is a standard requirement for new development under Policy DM1.

## Policy CRE4

### Woods Group, Exeter Road

**A site of 0.17 hectares at Woods Group is allocated for residential development subject to the following:**

- a) **8 dwellings;**
- b) **Mitigation for potential onsite air quality issues with specific design to prevent worsening of air quality on Exeter Road and to avoid potential air quality issues for occupants; and**
- c) **Design which respects the character and setting of adjoining listed buildings and the Conservation Area.**

3.164 This is a small brownfield site within the built up area of Crediton and is suitable for redevelopment. It is located towards the south of Crediton and is currently occupied by a number of structures and scrap.

3.165 The design of the site is important as the site lies in part within the Conservation Area and adjoins listed buildings.

## Policy CRE5

### Pedlerspool, Exhibition Road

**A site of 21 hectares at Pedlerspool, Crediton, is allocated for residential development subject to the following:**

- a) **200 dwellings with 28% affordable housing including at least five pitches for gypsies and travellers;**
- b) **Extra care housing comprising at least 25 units;**
- c) **A suitable site for the relocation of Crediton Rugby Club;**
- d) **A phasing strategy which ensures that extra care housing and a site for sports pitches are delivered broadly in step with the housing development;**
- e) **Layout, design and landscaping, including planting on the riverside that reflects the local distinctiveness and its sloping nature;**
- f) **The protection of the setting of Creedy Historic Park and Garden and the wider area, including the upper slopes to south and west for Green Infrastructure and landscaping;**

- g) Facilitation of access to local bus routes via sustainable travel modes including possible extension of service;**
- h) Provision of suitable access arrangements from the A3072 and appropriate highway improvements along Stonewall Lane and Old Tiverton Road;**
- i) Protection and enhancement of trees subject to Tree Preservation Orders within and adjoining the site; and**
- j) An archaeological investigation and mitigation scheme.**

3.166 This site falls within Sandford Parish, but will provide for the strategic growth of Crediton as it adjoins the settlement boundary. This site forms a large agricultural holding to the north east of Crediton and is bisected by a road running roughly through the middle. The site is bounded on three sides by country roads to the east, south and west.

3.167 A need has been identified in Crediton for 25 extra care housing units. These should be provided within the Pedlerspool site in lieu of an employment use which was included in a previous Local Plan policy. Commercial uses would still be considered on this site in addition to extra care housing, should a proposal demonstrate a suitable relationship between housing and commercial uses.

3.168 This site will provide an alternative location and improved facilities for the Crediton Rugby Club, allowing for housing development on the site of existing sports field to come forward (Policy CRE6).

3.169 The character of the local registered Historic Parkland at Creedy Park needs to be protected and the tree boundary protected and softened with native species. A buffer of trees should be provided around and within this site. Planting along the Park boundary should reflect the historic planting to extend and soften the transition into Green Infrastructure proposed on the floodplain area to the east.

3.170 Highway mitigation measures will need to be provided to offset the impact of developing the site. In particular there is the potential for cumulative highway impacts on the local road network arising from the development of this site and the nearby Stonewall Lane allocation. A Transport Assessment will need to be provided, which comprehensively assesses the transport issues related to development of the site, taking into account the potential cumulative impact of nearby allocations. A number of highway improvements are likely to be needed as a result. In particular there will need to be a realignment of the carriageways of Old Tiverton Road and the A3072 most likely requiring a roundabout design. Improvements will also be required at the junctions of Old Tiverton Road/ Stonewall Lane and Pounds Hill/Stonewall Lane. Both Stonewall Lane and Old Tiverton Road are tree-lined in part, and therefore cannot be widened where they adjoin the site boundary without significant loss in tree cover. Instead, improvements to passing places along both Stonewall Lane and Old Tiverton Road should be provided.

3.171 A small watercourse runs along the southern boundary of the site. A flood risk assessment will need to consider the potential for flooding. An onsite Sustainable Urban Drainage Scheme will require implementation to negate any increase in flood risk. Sustainable drainage is a standard requirement of Policy DM1.

3.172 The site lies within an area of archaeological potential. Investigation and potential mitigation may be needed.

## Policy CRE6

### Sports fields, Exhibition Road

**A site of 5.5 hectares at the sports fields, north and south of Exhibition Road, is allocated for residential development, subject to the following:**

- a) 120 dwellings with 28% affordable housing;**
- b) Relocation of the rugby club and associated pitches to a suitable alternative site before development is commenced;**
- c) Provision of a Transport Assessment to assess the need for a right turn lane into the northern part of the site; and**
- d) Archaeological investigation and appropriate mitigation.**

3.173 The site comprises the club house, main pitch and a number of training pitches currently used by Crediton Rugby Club. A site for the relocation of the club has been identified within the Pedlerspool site (Policy CRE5), freeing up this site for residential development. However, should the Pedlerspool site not come forward, another suitable alternative site for the rugby club and training pitches will need to be found before this allocation can be developed. The replacement sports facilities should result in no net loss in provision.

3.174 The part of the site to the south of Exhibition Road is flat with good access from the A3072, whilst the area to the north is steep adjoining the road, which has implications for design, layout and access. A right turn lane may be required in order to access the northern part of the site, the need for which should be identified by a Transport Assessment to be submitted by the applicant. The provision of secondary points of access will be necessary for both parts of the allocation, though it is acknowledged that achieving this may result in the loss of some of the trees which currently adjoin the north side of Exhibition Road.

3.175 The site lies within an area of archaeological potential. Investigation and potential mitigation may be needed.

## Policy CRE7

### Stonewall Lane

**A site of 3.2 hectares at Stonewall Lane is allocated for residential development subject to the following:**

- a) 50 dwellings with 28% affordable housing;**
- b) Relocation of playing fields to a suitable alternative site before development is commenced;**
- c) Layout, design and landscaping which reflects the elevated, visible nature of the site;**
- d) Diversion of Stonewall Lane through the site to Jockey Hill and widening of Stonewall Lane along its frontage and replacement of boundary landscape;**
- e) Provision of pedestrian crossing facility from the site to existing footpath network on Jockey Hill; and**
- f) Archaeological investigation and appropriate mitigation.**

3.176 The site is located on the north side of Credenon, within the settlement limit. It is currently used as playing fields owned by the Queen Elizabeth Academy Trust, which runs the school in Credenon. The site comprises two football pitches which the school considers too remote for effective daily use. The school has stated an intention to use the proceeds from the sale of the site to substantially reinvest in their Barnfield campus which will result in an increase in playing field capacity at that site. The redevelopment of playing fields needs to be closely controlled to ensure there is no net loss in playing provision. As a result the delivery of adequate alternative sports provision would need to be secured before development is commenced on the existing sports fields. Any new provision would need to match or exceed the sports land being lost, whether in terms of quantity, quality or both.

3.177 The site is elevated and visually prominent, offering wide views to the south. Any scheme for the redevelopment of the site would need to ensure adequate landscaping is provided to mitigate any landscape or visual impacts. Stonewall Lane, which runs along the northern boundary of the site is narrow, whilst the junction where it meets Jockey Hill is sub-standard and has limited visibility, being located close to the crest of the hill. Stonewall Lane would need to be diverted through the site enabling construction of a new junction with Jockey Hill, to the south of the existing junction and providing suitable visibility splays. Stonewall Lane will need to be widened to provide sufficient width for two vehicles along the site frontage. Any loss of Devon Bank arising from the highway realignment will need to be replaced. The site also lies within an area of archaeological potential and investigation and potential mitigation may be needed.

## Policy CRE8

### Land at Barn Park

**A site of 1.64 hectares at Barn Park is allocated for residential development subject to the following:**

- a) 20 dwellings with 28% affordable housing; and**
- b) Vehicular access from Barn Park.**

3.178 The site is located on the south of Credenon with residential development along the northern boundaries. The site is located relatively close to the town centre.

3.179 Access to the site will be through Barn Park as access is limited and the Highway Authority has advised that this is the maximum number of houses suitable for access through the existing housing estate.

## Policy CRE9

### Land at Alexandra Close

**A site of 0.63 hectares at Alexandra Close is allocated for residential development subject to the following:**

- a) 15 dwellings with 28% affordable housing.**

3.180 The site is a small field adjacent to modern housing on the north western side of Credenon.

## Policy CRE10

### Land south of A377

**A site of 1.9 hectares south of the A377 in Credenon is allocated for commercial development subject to the following:**

- a) 7,600 square metres of B1, B2 or B8 floorspace or other suitable commercial uses**



3.181 This site adjoins the existing Tesco store and a restaurant, with access from the A377 on the east side of the town. The site was part of a larger allocation in a previous Local Plan, which subsequently had outline planning permission for mixed use development. This remaining part of the site is still available for commercial use, which may include B1-B8 uses such as offices, light industry or storage and distribution, or alternatively a suitable 'sui generis' use if appropriate.

3.182 There is a small watercourse which passes through the centre of the site. A flood risk assessment will need to consider the potential for flooding.

## Policy CRE11

### Crediton Infrastructure

**The Council will use the Community Infrastructure Levy and planning obligations where appropriate, seek external sources of funding and work with partners to deliver the following infrastructure for Crediton:**

- a) **Enhanced pedestrian and cycle facilities to serve development;**
- b) **Bus service enhancements;**
- c) **Air quality improvements;**
- d) **Expansion and improvement of primary and secondary education facilities;**
- e) **Public open space and green infrastructure;**
- f) **Expansion of emergency fire and rescue services;**
- g) **Library reconfiguration to provide Devon Centre;**
- h) **Extra care housing;**
- i) **Community facilities including provision for children/youth; and**
- j) **Potential highway improvements.**

3.183 Strategic Local Plan sites will be required to pay for specific items of infrastructure that are necessary to make the development acceptable. Other development (if eligible) will be charged the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) at a rate per square metre. CIL funds will be spent according to a prescribed list of infrastructure projects or types of infrastructure.

3.184 The Council's strategic infrastructure policy is set out earlier in the Local Plan under Policy S8, but there are infrastructure requirements specific to Crediton that are listed under Policy CRE11. The Council will use CIL, planning obligations for strategic sites and other sources of funding to deliver the infrastructure listed wherever possible. Where another organisation is responsible for delivering the infrastructure required as a result of new development, the Council will work in partnership with the relevant bodies to ensure that infrastructure needs associated with development are addressed appropriately.

## Rural Areas

3.185 Strategy for rural areas is set out in Policy S13. The following table summarises the supply of housing and commercial development outside the three main towns.

Use	Commitments at 31 March 2014	Completions from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014	Allocations	Total
Housing (dwellings)	432	82	330	844
Commercial (employment, retail and leisure) square metres floorspace	20,733	4,119	8,800	33,652

Table 21: Development supply in rural areas

3.186 Twenty-one housing sites are allocated in rural areas and are considered achievable in principle, corresponding to rural settlement maps that accompany this document. Most housing allocations in rural areas are expected to deliver around 20 dwellings per hectare due to the low density character of existing village development, but in some cases a higher or lower density is justified.

Parish/location	Policy	Site	Gross Site Area (ha)	Net site area (ha)	Local Plan allocation
Bampton	BA1	Newton Square	0.25	0.25	5
Bow	BO1	Hollywell	1.2	0.96	20
Bow	BO2	West of Godfreys Gardens	0.23	0.23	6
Bradninch	BR1	Hele Road	0.3	0.3	7
Chawleigh	CH1	Barton	1.25	1	20
Cheriton Bishop	CB1	Land off Church Lane	1.9	1.52	30
Cheriton Fitzpaine	CF1	Barnhill Close	0.3	0.3	7
Cheriton Fitzpaine	CF2	Land adj school	1.1	0.88	22
Copplestone	CO1	Old Abbatoir	1.5	1.2	30
Culmstock	CL1	Linhay Close	0.23	0.23	6
Culmstock	CL2	Hunter's Hill	0.4	0.4	10
Halberton	HA1	Land adj Fishers Way	0.6	0.48	10
Hemyock	HE1	Depot	0.55	0.44	10
Morchard Bishop	MO1	Greenaway	1.2	0.96	20
Newton St Cyres	NE1	Court Orchard	2.7	1.62	25
Sampford Peverell	SP1	Former Tiverton Parkway Hotel	0.45	0.36	10
Sandford	SA1	Fanny's Lane	1.5	1.2	27
Silverton	SI1	Old Butterleigh Road	0.35	0.35	8
Silverton	SI2	The Garage	0.11	0.11	5
Thorverton	TH1	South of Broadlands	0.7	0.56	12
Willand	WI1	Land east of M5	2.9	1.74	40
Total					330

Table 22: Housing allocations in rural areas (excluding sites with planning permission)

3.187 Three allocated housing sites already have planning approval, and these are set out below. The figures for these sites are based on the position as at 31st March 2014.

Site	Policy	Site area	Dwellings with planning permission
Stone crushing works (Scotts Quarry), Bampton	BA2	3.41	18
Ashleigh Park, Bampton	BA3	0.3	7
Fanny's Lane, Sandford	SA1	1.12	19
Total			44

Table 23: Allocated housing sites with planning permission in rural areas

3.188 Evidence shows that employment in rural areas is more likely to come forward on unallocated sites, permissible under development management policies where planning permission is required at all. This is discussed further under Policy S6.

3.189 Only two rural sites are considered suitable for allocation for commercial development. Willand Industrial Estate has been allocated in previous Local Plans, Phase 1 having been commenced within recent years. The remaining land is available, suitable and achievable. Land at Scott's Quarry is the remaining undeveloped part of a previous Local Plan allocation and now has planning permission for mixed housing and commercial use.

Parish/location	Site	Gross site area (ha)	Net site area (ha)	Floorspace (sq.m)
Bampton	Stone crushing works (Scott's Quarry), Bampton	0.45	0.36	355
Willand	Willand Industrial Estate	2.2	2.2	8,800
Total				9,155

Table 24: Allocated commercial sites in rural areas

## Policy BA1

### Newton Square, Bampton

**A site of 0.25 hectares to the rear of Newton Square, Bampton is allocated for residential development, subject to the following:**

- 5 dwellings;**
- Provision is made on site for the parking of delivery vehicles serving the convenience store at 4-6 Newton Square;**
- Design which respects and enhances the character and appearance of the Conservation Area; and**
- Archaeological investigation and appropriate mitigation measures.**

3.190 The site comprises land to the rear of the existing convenience store. It is suitable being a brownfield site, lying partially within the existing settlement limit. The majority of the site lies within the Conservation Area where development should preserve or enhance the character and setting of the area. Access is likely to be obtainable only through the existing access off Newton Court which serves the convenience store and through which deliveries are made. Due to the width of the access, Newton Court is not suitable for the regular parking of delivery vehicles and provision should be made within the development site for this activity.

3.191 The site lies in an area of archaeological potential within the historic core of Bampton, so a programme of archaeological investigation will be required, with mitigation measures if necessary.

## Policy BA2

### Stone Crushing Works (Scott's Quarry), Bampton

**A site of 0.45 hectares at Scott's Quarry, Bampton is allocated for mixed-use development, subject to the following:**

- 18 dwellings with 30% affordable housing;**
- 355 square metres of commercial floor space;**
- Protection of mature trees within the site;**
- Removal of spoil heap;**
- Site contamination assessment and remediation where appropriate; and**
- Provision of a drainage strategy and sustainable urban drainage scheme to deal with all surface water from the development and arrangements for future maintenance.**

3.192 The site is the remaining part of a previous allocation. The site is bounded by mature trees on two sides (north and west) and currently contains a large spoil heap within the middle of the site. There is existing access which serves Woodland Close. An appeal decision has allowed mixed use development on the remaining employment part of the site, comprising 18 dwellings (including four affordable dwellings) and 6 B1 units (with a floorspace of 355 square metres). Should a revised scheme for the site be submitted, the current target of 30% affordable housing would apply as the starting point for negotiation.

3.193 The history of quarrying at the site highlights the possibility of the presence of contaminated land. Developing the site would require removal of the large spoil heap. Groundwater flooding maps show a 20-25% chance of groundwater emergence within the site boundary. Any planning application on the site will need to be accompanied by a drainage strategy which takes account of the potential for groundwater flooding in addition to considering surface water runoff. The subsequent design of the Sustainable Urban Drainage Scheme will need to be appropriate to the conditions identified. Suitable drainage is a standard requirement of Policies S9 and DM1 but the requirement is reiterated in Policy BA2 for clarity due to the specific potential of this site for groundwater flooding.

## Policy BA3

### Ashleigh Park, Bampton

**A site of 0.3 hectares at Ashleigh Park, Bampton is allocated for residential development, subject to the following:**

- a) **7 dwellings with 30% affordable housing which may be in the form of a financial contribution to provide the affordable dwellings in another location;**
- b) **Access is obtained off the existing estate road; and**
- c) **Provision is made to replace any loss of allocated parking for existing dwellings in Ashleigh Park.**

3.194 The site comprises agricultural land at the end of the existing cul-de-sac development of Ashleigh Park. The site slopes downwards from south to north, with the northern part of the site the flattest and the southern extent the steepest part of the site. Access is likely to involve the demolition of the garage serving 33 Ashleigh Park and this loss of allocated parking provision should be replaced to ensure adequate allocated parking provision is retained.

## Policy B01

### Land adjacent to Hollywell, Bow

**A site of 1.2 hectares at land adjacent Hollywell, Bow is allocated for residential development, subject to the following:**

- a) **20 dwellings with 30% affordable housing;**
- b) **Site access to come off Station Road via north west corner through the 'Hollywell' building; and**
- c) **Archaeological investigation and appropriate mitigation measures.**

3.195 The site is located within the village of Bow, along its southern border adjoining farmland and the open countryside. It is a flat agricultural field surrounded by hedging. The site is to the rear of a small number of detached bungalows, set in low density plots immediately to the west. Due to the large number of existing accesses further south along Station Road, a suitable access can only be achieved into the site via the north west corner where the boundary abuts Station Road. The existing house, 'Hollywell', will therefore need to be demolished to deliver the required access.

3.196 This site lies in an area of archaeological potential, with prehistoric settlement and funerary activity recorded in the vicinity. Therefore, investigation of archaeology on the site will be required, with mitigation if necessary.

## Policy B02

### West of Godfreys Gardens, Bow

**A site of 0.23 hectares West of Godfreys Gardens is allocated for affordable housing, subject to the following:**

- a) **6 dwellings with 100% affordable housing;**
- b) **Provision of a pedestrian route linking Godfreys Gardens with Bow Mill Lane;**
- c) **Archaeological investigations and appropriate mitigation measures; and**
- d) **Access from Godfrey Gardens.**

3.197 This greenfield site lies to the west of a residential area within Bow. It slopes generally from east to west with borders of hedgerow and trees and the retention of those features would ensure that landscape impact is minimal. An application for 6 affordable units and associated access road, parking and drainage was granted permission by the Council in April 2014 subject to conditions. Provision of a pedestrian through route linking Bow Mill Lane to the west ensures pedestrian and cycling access for existing and new residents to the village shop.

3.198 This site lies in an area of archaeological potential, with prehistoric settlement and funerary activity recorded in the vicinity. Therefore, archaeological investigation of the site will be required, and mitigation if necessary.

## Policy BR1

### Hele Road, Bradninch

**A site of 0.3 hectares at Hele Road is allocated for residential development, subject to the following:**

- a) **7 dwellings with 30% affordable housing which may be in the form of a financial contribution to provide affordable dwellings in another location;**
- b) **Access point to be located on the northern part of the site frontage on to Hele Road; and**
- c) **Archaeological investigations and appropriate mitigation measures.**

3.199 This site is located on the edge of the settlement of Bradninch; it is immediately adjacent to the settlement boundary and also has a boundary with the highway. There is housing to the western side of the site on the opposite side of the road. Services and shops are located in the village centre which is in close proximity. A bus stop is positioned adjacent to the site, and there are large trees surrounding the site. The site is located on a fairly busy road, and the bus stop may need to be moved from its current position if the site is developed. An adequate access is achievable to the north of the site.

3.200 The site lies in an area of archaeological potential demonstrated by the presence of prehistoric sites identified through aerial photography. Therefore, archaeological investigation of the site will be required, and mitigation if necessary.

## Policy CH1

### Barton, Chawleigh

**A site of 1.25 hectares at the Barton is allocated for residential development, subject to the following:**

- a) **20 dwellings with 30% affordable housing;**
- b) **Access to be achieved off School Close; and**
- c) **Archaeological investigation and appropriate mitigation measures.**

3.201 The site comprises part of an agricultural field to the north of the village of Chawleigh. The south western corner of the field contains a completed rural exception site named School Close. Access can be achieved off the exception site but road capacity should limit development to a maximum of 20 dwellings. The site is located in an area of archaeological potential and records indicate the presence of a prehistoric burial site. Therefore, archaeological investigation of the site will be required, and mitigation if necessary.

## Policy CB1

### Land off Church Lane, Cheriton Bishop

**A site of 1.9 hectares at Land off Church Lane, Cheriton Bishop is allocated for residential development, subject to the following:**

- a) **30 dwellings with 30% affordable housing, subject to Transport Assessment;**
- b) **Assessment of the capacity of the junction of Church Lane and the main road (C50); and**
- c) **Widening of Church Lane and provision of a footpath along site frontage.**

3.202 This site comprises part of a field located on the east side of Church Lane and to the north of Hescane Park. The site is located between the older part of the village to the north, and the more modern development to the south known as Cheriton Cross. There is the opportunity to integrate more closely the two elements of the village by developing this site. The land gently undulates, dropping away further to the east. Landscape impacts are likely to be low as there is existing housing along the southern and western boundaries, which will mitigate some of the impact.

3.203 The junction of Church Lane with the main road to the south of the site may place a limitation on the number of dwellings that can be achieved. Any planning application should be accompanied by a Transport Assessment which should assess the capacity of the junction to accommodate additional vehicles. Improvements may be required to the junction as a result. The widening of Church Lane along the site frontage will be necessary and a footpath will also be needed along the site frontage linking up with the existing provision to the south.

3.204 A small watercourse runs along the southern boundary of the site. A flood risk assessment will need to consider the potential for flooding. An onsite Sustainable Urban Drainage Scheme will require implementation to negate any increase in flood risk. Suitable drainage is a standard requirement of Policies S9 and DM1.



## Policy CF1

### Barnhill Close, Cheriton Fitzpaine

**A site of 0.3 hectares at Barnhill Close, Cheriton Fitzpaine is allocated for residential development, subject to the following:**

- a) **7 dwellings with 30% affordable housing which may be in the form of a financial contribution to provide the affordable dwellings in another location.**

3.205 This site forms a rectangular block of land lying between the new school to the east and Barnhill Close to the west. It is a natural infill site which already has an existing access point to the south. The site is on higher ground than the road to the south, though any visual impact is likely to be minimal given the neighbouring uses.

## Policy CF2

### Land adjacent school, Cheriton Fitzpaine

**A site of 1.1 hectares adjacent to the school, Cheriton Fitzpaine is allocated for residential development, subject to the following:**

- a) **22 dwellings with 30% affordable housing.**

3.206 This site forms an elongated and roughly triangular-shaped block of land lying on the eastern side of the village. It sits adjacent to the new primary school to the west. Developing the site will connect the White Cross area to the east with the remainder of the village. The local landscape is undulating, however the site is relatively flat. The adjacent school, and housing at White Cross will mitigate some of the visual impact.

## Policy CO1

### The Old Abattoir, Coplestone

**A site of 1.5 hectares at The Old Abattoir, Coplestone is allocated for residential development and a car park subject to the following:**

- a) **30 dwellings with 30% affordable housing, subject to viability;**
- b) **100 space railway station car park in the eastern part of the site;**
- c) **The existing access point off Shambles Drive to serve both the housing and the car park; and**
- d) **Assessment of land contamination and appropriate remediation.**

3.207 This site is located on the northern boundary of the village of Coplestone. It comprises a field with a number of dilapidated outbuildings. A small slaughterhouse once stood in the north east corner, though little trace of this now remains. It is not anticipated that there will be any harmful visual impact associated with developing this site.

3.208 Devon County Council has highlighted the need for a railway station car park at Coplestone. The eastern portion of the site, equating to approximately 0.25 hectares is allocated for provision of a 100 space car park. There is an existing access point off Shambles Drive which can service both the housing and the car park. It is anticipated that the car parking provision can also be used by residents. Should the cost of providing the car park make the development financially unviable, the Council will consider a reduced affordable housing provision subject to submission of robust viability evidence from the developer which justifies such a reduction.

3.209 There is the potential for land contamination associated with the slaughterhouse. Any planning application must be accompanied by a contaminated land report, and appropriate remediation will be required if necessary.

## Policy CL1

### Linhay Close, Culmstock

**A site of 0.23 hectares at Linhay Close, Culmstock is allocated for residential development subject to the following:**

- a) **6 dwellings with 30% affordable housing which may be in the form of a financial contribution to provide the affordable dwellings in another location; and**
- b) **Design and layout to respect the character of the Conservation Area.**

3.210 This greenfield site forms part of a rectangular shaped field adjoining the village. Previously, there was an allocated site in this location with a requirement for 10 affordable dwellings. Part of the site was subsequently developed for six houses. The remaining site area has been combined with an adjacent piece of land to provide a small allocation for another six dwellings.

## Policy CL2

### Hunter's Hill, Culmstock

**A site of 0.4 hectares at Hunter's Hill, Culmstock is allocated for residential development subject to the following:**

- a) 10 dwellings with 30% affordable housing which may be in the form of a financial contribution to provide the affordable dwellings in another location;**
- b) Landscaping and design which protect the setting of the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; and**
- c) Archaeological investigation and mitigation.**

3.211 This is a greenfield site consisting of the south west corner of a field at the northern end of the village. The site was allocated for 100% affordable housing in 2010 but has not come forward. It is now allocated for a mixture of market and affordable housing, which is considered more likely to deliver the site whilst providing some housing for local needs. Given the sloping nature of the field and the location on the edge of Culmstock, the development should be sensitively designed with landscaping which protects the setting of the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

## Policy HA1

### Land Adjacent Fishers Way, Halberton

**A site of 0.6 hectares at land adjacent Fishers Way, Halberton is allocated for residential development, subject to the following:**

- a) 10 dwellings with 30% affordable housing which may be in the form of a financial contribution to provide the affordable dwellings in another location;**
- b) Provision of a Drainage Strategy and a Sustainable Urban Drainage Scheme to deal with all surface water from the development and arrangements for future maintenance; and**
- c) Archaeological investigations and appropriate mitigation measures.**

3.212 The site comprises part of a field to the south western edge of Halberton and sits adjacent to modern housing. The south eastern corner of the field was granted planning permission in 2006 and has been built out as a rural exception site. Groundwater flooding maps show a 20-25% chance of groundwater emergence within the site boundary. Any planning application on the site will need to be accompanied by a Drainage Strategy which takes account of the potential for groundwater

flooding in addition to considering surface water runoff. The subsequent design of the Sustainable Urban Drainage Scheme will need to be appropriate to the conditions identified. Suitable drainage is a standard requirement of Policies S9 and DM1 but this is reiterated in Policy HA1 for clarity due to the specific potential for groundwater flooding on this site.

3.213 This site lies in an area of archaeological potential with the Historic Environment Record recording prehistoric activity. Any application will need to be accompanied by archaeological investigation and appropriate mitigation.

## Policy HE1

### Depot, Hemyock

**A site of 0.55 hectares at the Depot, Hemyock is allocated for residential development, subject to the following:**

- a) 10 dwellings with 30% affordable housing which may be in the form of a financial contribution to provide the affordable dwellings in another location; subject to Transport Statement;**
- b) Archaeological investigation and appropriate mitigation measures; and**
- c) Mitigation of any wildlife impact including protection of hedgerows and trees.**

3.214 This site lies within the village of Hemyock, in the Blackdown Hills AONB. It is an infill site surrounded by residential development on all sides. The site consists of a bungalow, garage/depot building, waste land and part greenfield land. As the site is bounded by development it is considered that the impact on the special qualities of the AONB and other landscape impacts are likely to be low.

3.215 High Street, from which the site is accessed, is narrow in places and has very little capacity to accommodate additional traffic. A substitution of the existing traffic generation for an equivalent as a result of redeveloping the site for residential use has been confirmed as acceptable. Any planning application should be therefore be accompanied by a Transport Statement to justify that the housing numbers proposed will not result in any net increase in traffic.

3.216 The site lies in an area of high archaeological potential so any application will need to be accompanied by appropriate investigations. There may be some wildlife interest from trees, hedgerows and trees across the site. The buildings on the site may also be habitat for protected species such as owls. Investigation should therefore be carried out and appropriate mitigation measures taken.

## Policy MO1

### Greenaway, Morchard Bishop

**A site of 1.2 hectares at Greenaway, Morchard Bishop is allocated for residential development, subject to the following:**

- a) 20 dwellings with 30% affordable housing;**
- b) Mitigation of any wildlife impact including protection of hedgerows;**
- c) Archaeological investigation and appropriate mitigation measures;**
- d) Road widening across the site frontage, provision of appropriate visibility splays and replacement provision of any lost Devon Bank; and**
- e) Provision of a footpath link into the estate to the east.**

3.217 The site comprises agricultural land to the west of Morchard Bishop. It is bounded by allotment to the west of the site, residential development to the east and by a highway and farmstead to the south. The south east corner of the site was previously allocated for 10 affordable dwellings but is now proposed for a mixture of market and affordable housing.

3.218 There may be some wildlife interest from hedgerows which bound the site, so this should be investigated and mitigation measures proposed where appropriate. The site lies to the west of a possible prehistoric funerary monument. Any development here has the potential to expose archaeological and artefactual deposits associated with this, so any application will need to be accompanied by appropriate investigations.

3.219 To enable appropriate access to the site the policy requires road widening across the site frontage and a secondary pedestrian link to the estate to the east. Replacement of the Devon Bank should be incorporated into the design of the access point to mitigate for any loss.

## Policy NE1

### Court Orchard, Newton St Cyres

**A site of 2.7 hectares at Court Orchard, Newton St Cyres is allocated for residential development and a new primary school, subject to the following:**

- a) 25 dwellings with 30% affordable housing, subject to viability;**
- b) A site of 1.1 hectares for a new primary school at no cost to the Local Education Authority;**
- c) Archaeological investigations and appropriate mitigation measures;**
- d) School sports provision only within flood zones 2 and 3 to the east of the site; and**
- e) Widening of Station Road to reduce congestion.**

3.220 The site lies on the northern edge of the village of Newton St Cyres adjacent to an existing housing estate. It is currently an apple orchard bounded by hedgerows on all sides which are occasionally interspersed by trees.

3.221 The site has been identified by Devon County Council as an appropriate site for the relocation of the existing primary school. The policy therefore requires the provision of a site for the new primary school as part of this development. Areas in flood zones 2 and 3 of the site should be used for school sports provision only. Should the cost of providing the school site make the development financially unviable, the Council will consider a reduced affordable housing provision subject to submission of robust viability evidence from the developer which justifies such a reduction.

3.222 The widening of Station Road to reduce congestion is also required by the policy. There may be some wildlife interest from hedgerows which bound the site and trees within the site, so the impact on protected species should be assessed and mitigation measures included where appropriate. The site lies in an area of archaeological potential and therefore any application will need to be accompanied by appropriate investigations.

## Policy SP1

### Former Tiverton Parkway Hotel, Sampford Peverell

**A site of 0.45 hectares at the former Tiverton Parkway Hotel, Sampford Peverell is allocated for residential development and a doctors' surgery, subject to the following:**

- a) 10 dwellings with 30% affordable housing which may be in the form of a financial contribution to provide the affordable dwellings in another location, subject to viability;**
- b) Provision of a doctors' surgery;**
- c) Provision of a drainage strategy and Sustainable Urban Drainage Scheme to deal with all surface water from the development and arrangements for future maintenance; and**
- d) Mitigation of any wildlife impact including protection of hedgerows.**

3.223 This site is located on the eastern edge of Sampford Peverell. It was the location of the Tiverton Parkway Hotel, which has since been demolished. The site received planning permission in 2008 for a care home. An updated application in 2012 was consented for a 58 bed scheme and adjoining GP surgery. The applicants have since stated that they will no longer be pursuing this development and the site is available for housing. Any housing development should include the provision for a GP surgery. Should the cost of providing the GP surgery make the development unviable, the Council will consider a reduced affordable housing provision subject to submission of robust viability evidence from the developer which justifies such a reduction.

3.224 Groundwater flooding maps show a 20-25% chance of groundwater emergence within the site boundary. Any planning application on the site will need to be accompanied by a Drainage Strategy which takes account of the potential for groundwater flooding in addition to considering surface water runoff. The subsequent design of the Sustainable Urban Drainage Scheme will need to be appropriate to the conditions identified. Suitable drainage is a standard requirement of Policies S9 and DM1 but the requirement is reiterated in Policy SP1 for clarity due to the specific potential for groundwater emergence on this site. There may also be some wildlife interest from hedgerows which bound the site, so the potential impact on protected species should be assessed and mitigation measures included if appropriate.

## Policy SA1

### Fanny's Lane, Sandford

**A site of 1.5 hectares at Fanny's Lane, Sandford is allocated for residential development, subject to the following:**

- a) 27 dwellings with 30% affordable housing;**
- b) Buffer strip of planting or open space to protect the setting of the listed Park House and Sandford Conservation area; and**
- c) Careful design and landscaping to protect views towards Sandford and the historic core around St Swithun's Church.**

3.225 The site comprises mainly greenfield land which is located within the village of Sandford. Part of the site was previously allocated and planning permission was granted for 19 dwellings on the northern part of the site in 2013. The site size has been enlarged from that which has planning permission to accommodate a limited number of additional dwellings. As such the number of houses required by the policy of 27 includes the 19 which are currently consented, resulting in a net gain of 8 dwellings.

3.226 The site lies adjacent to the conservation area and the western boundary of the site abuts the curtilage of a listed building. A buffer strip of planting or open space should be provided to protect the setting of this listed building. Careful design and landscaping is also required to avoid the development dominating views towards Sandford from the south east and to retain the emphasis on the historic core of St Swithun's Church and to protect the setting of the conservation area.

## Policy SI1

### Land at Old Butterleigh Road, Silverton

**A site of 0.35 hectares at Old Butterleigh Road is allocated for residential development subject to the following:**

- a) 8 dwellings with 30% affordable housing which may be in the form of a financial contribution to provide the affordable dwellings in another location;**
- b) No development on the floodplain to the east of the site;**
- c) Widening of carriageway over site frontage and provision of grass verge; and**
- d) Design and layout to respect the character of the Conservation Area.**



3.227 The site falls on the northern boundary of the village of Silverton and is on the eastern side of Old Butterleigh Road. The site is shielded to the north and west by high hedges which limit inward views.

3.228 A small watercourse runs along the eastern boundary of the site and the small area of floodplain associated with this should not be developed.

3.229 The carriageway will need to be widened across the site frontage to accommodate two passing vehicles. The footpath network terminates some distance to the south of the site. Rather than provide a new footway which does not connect with existing provision, a grass verge along the site frontage should be provided as defensible space for pedestrians.

## Policy SI2

### The Garage, Silverton

**A site of 0.11 hectares at The Garage, Silverton is allocated for residential development subject to the following:**

- a) 5 dwellings;
- b) Design and layout which respects the character of the Conservation Area;
- c) Suitable design and layout of access arrangements; and
- d) Site contamination and remediation where appropriate.

3.230 This is a small brownfield site which is located adjacent to a complex of residential dwellings, which is separated from and to the south of the main body of the village of Silverton. The site currently comprises an industrial unit which is used for storage and maintenance of vehicles.

3.231 The design of the site is important as it lies at the edge of the village's Conservation Area, being the first complex of buildings encountered when approaching Silverton along Newcourt Road. Design of the access to serve the five dwellings will need to be provided having specific regard to the neighbouring access serving the adjacent barn conversions and detailing appropriate visibility splays.

3.232 There is also the potential for land contamination as a result of the history of vehicle repair and fuel storage on the site. Assessment will therefore be required and remediation to take place where appropriate.

## Policy TH1

### South of Broadlands, Thorverton

**A site of 0.7 hectares at South of Broadlands in Thorverton is allocated for residential development subject to the following:**

- a) 12 dwellings with 30% affordable housing;
- b) Archaeological investigation and appropriate mitigation; and
- c) Road widening and provision of footpath along site frontage extending northwards to connect with the existing network at the entrance to the Broadlands estate.

3.233 The site to the south of the village on the edge of the settlement. There is limited highway frontage to the C23. Road widening and a footpath north into the village, connecting to the existing provision at the entrance to the Broadlands estate will be required. The land required for the footpath is in the ownership of Devon County Council who currently maintain it as a grass verge.

3.234 The site is to the north of a large prehistoric enclosure and development will need to be supported by an appropriate level of archaeological works to allow the significance of the heritage asset to be understood.

3.235 As the site is partially located within a groundwater Source Protection Zone appropriate forms of sustainable urban drainage should be used.

## Policy WI1

### Land east of M5, Willand

**A site of 2.9 hectares at land east of M5, Willand, is allocated for residential development subject to the following:**

- a) 42 dwellings with 30% affordable housing;
- b) Provision of buffer zone and appropriate planting to mitigate noise from the adjacent motorway;
- c) Mitigation of any wildlife impact including protection of trees ;
- d) Transport assessment of capacity at the junction of Silver Street and Meadow Park; and
- e) Retention and enhancement of the public right of way.

3.236 The site is located to the south of Willand, adjacent to modern housing to the north and the M5 to the west. Noise from the M5 should be mitigated by a buffer zone and planting along the boundary to ensure residential amenity is not adversely affected. The site has a number of mature trees on the eastern boundary and established woodland along the north east boundary. Mitigation measures should be taken to ensure there are no adverse impacts on any of the surrounding biodiversity.

3.237 A Transport Assessment of the capacity of the junction of Silver Street and Meadow Park may result in a different number of dwellings from the number allocated. The current public footpath across the northern boundary of the site should be retained and enhanced.

## Policy WI2

### Willand Industrial Estate, Willand

**A site of 2.2 hectares is allocated for commercial uses subject to the following:**

- a) 8,800 square metres of commercial floorspace within use classes B1, B2 and B8; and**
- b) Archaeological investigation and appropriate mitigation.**

3.238 This site comprises level land within and adjoining the existing Willand Industrial Estate. It is part of a larger site that was previously allocated, but only part of Phase 1 of the development has proved deliverable. This smaller allocation will complete the development of industrial land close to the existing access into the industrial estate, commensurate with rural employment needs, while larger commercial allocations are located in more strategically accessible locations at Cullompton and Tiverton.

## 4.0 Managing Development

# Sustainable development principles

## Policy DM1

### High quality design

**Designs of new development must be of high quality, based upon and demonstrating the following principles:**

- a) **Clear understanding of the characteristics of the site, its wider context and the surrounding area;**
- b) **Efficient and effective use of the site, having regard to criterion (a);**
- c) **Positive contribution to local character including any heritage or biodiversity assets and the setting of heritage assets;**
- d) **Creation of safe and accessible places that also encourage sustainable modes of travel such as walking and cycling;**
- e) **Visually attractive places that are well integrated with surrounding buildings, streets and landscapes, and do not have an unacceptably adverse effect on the privacy and amenity of the proposed or neighbouring properties and uses, taking account of:**
  - i) **Architecture**
  - ii) **Siting, layout, scale and massing**
  - iii) **Orientation and fenestration**
  - iv) **Materials, landscaping and green infrastructure**
- f) **Appropriate drainage including sustainable drainage systems (SUDS), including arrangements for future maintenance, and connection of foul drainage to a mains sewer where available.**

4.1 National policy recognises that good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, is indivisible from good planning, and ensures that new development contributes positively to making places better for people. Policies S1 and S9 set out the Council's strategic objectives for locally distinctive, high quality development, including design which reinforces the character and legibility of the built environment and creates attractive places. Policy DM1 builds on this by setting out detailed criteria to guide high quality design on individual development sites.

4.2 The Mid Devon Town and Village Character Assessment identifies and evaluates the settlement character of the district, including patterns and similarities, distribution of land use, materials and key features of interest. The Devon and Mid Devon Landscape Character Assessments provide the equivalent information pertaining to landscape in the district. While the level of information expected to accompany a planning application will vary depending on the development being proposed, applications for new buildings within or adjacent to towns and villages should demonstrate an understanding of the surrounding built environment. Where available, Conservation

Area Appraisals will also provide an essential source of information for proposals within conservation areas. In addition to an understanding of local character and heritage, development proposals must respect the needs of neighbouring residents and the community, through the design of safe, accessible and attractive places that preserve general quality of life.

4.3 In creating visually attractive places that incorporate landscaping and green infrastructure, applicants are advised to consult Biodiversity by Design, published by the Town and Country Planning Association ([www.tcpa.org.uk](http://www.tcpa.org.uk)) for examples of how green infrastructure has been used to enhance the quality of development.

4.4 Designs should maximise opportunities for the use of sustainable transport modes for the movement of goods or people. National policy states that developments should be located and designed where practical to accommodate the efficient delivery of goods and supplies; prioritise pedestrian and cycle movements; have access to public transport; deliver safe and secure layouts that minimise conflicts between cars and pedestrians/cyclists; incorporate facilities for plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles; and consider the needs of people with disabilities by all modes of transport. Walking and cycling routes should be high quality, attractive and direct.

4.5 Development proposals must also accord with sustainable waste management principles, the requirements for which are set out in Policy W4 'Waste Prevention' within the Devon Waste Plan. Development proposals should demonstrate compliance with this policy as part of the Design and Access Statement, where applicable. This is an essential step in the district's transition to more sustainable resource management, with the long-term aim of zero-waste or resource-neutral construction.

## Policy DM2

### Renewable and low carbon energy

**The benefits of renewable and low carbon energy development will be weighed against its impact. Proposals will be permitted where they do not have significant adverse impacts on the character, amenity and visual quality of the area, including cumulative impacts of such developments within the parish or adjoining parishes. Proposals must demonstrate that impacts are or can be made acceptable, and that the development will preserve:**

- a) **Landscape character and the character and setting of heritage assets;**
- b) **Environmental amenity of nearby properties and the wider locality;**
- c) **Quality and productivity of the best and most versatile agricultural land (grades 1, 2 and 3a); and**
- d) **Biodiversity (avoiding habitat fragmentation).**

4.6 Policy DM2 seeks to maximise renewable and low carbon energy while ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily, including cumulative impacts. Examples of development considered under this policy include wind turbines, hydropower or solar installations, and energy systems associated with other development such as combined heat and power (CHP) or district heating.

4.7 These developments, especially when they are of a commercial scale, have the potential to cause significant harm through degradation of landscape character or heritage, impact to local residents and loss of productive agricultural land and biodiversity. Development proposals will be required to demonstrate that impacts are or can be made acceptable, through supporting studies and surveys as appropriate. As a starting point, development proposals should have reference to the Mid Devon Landscape Character Assessment (2011), the Landscape Sensitivity Study (2013) and the Government's Planning Practice Guidance for Renewable and Low Carbon Energy (July 2013). Depending on the proposal, Policies DM4 (pollution), DM25 (heritage assets), DM27 (protected landscapes) and DM28 (other protected sites) may also have a bearing on whether planning permission is granted.

4.8 In some cases, Devon County Council will act as the Local Planning Authority in dealing with an application for planning permission. For instance, renewable and low carbon energy proposals that use materials originating from outside the site as the fuel will normally be determined by Devon County Council as the waste planning authority.

## Policy DM3

### Transport and air quality

**Development proposals that would give rise to significant levels of vehicular movement must be accompanied by an integrated Transport Assessment, Travel Plan, traffic pollution assessment and Low Emission Assessment. The traffic pollution assessment must consider the impact of traffic-generated nitrogen oxides on environmental assets including protected sites listed in Policy DM28, and propose mitigation measures where appropriate. The Low Emission Assessment shall include the following:**

- a) **Assessment of the impact on existing Air Quality Management Areas, or an impact likely to result in the declaration of an additional Air Quality Management Area, in cases where a demonstrable negative impact on ambient concentrations of air pollutants is considered likely;**
- b) **Modelling of local residual road transport emissions from the development without mitigation measures; and**
- c) **Onsite mitigation measures to reduce negative impacts on local air quality.**

4.9 A Transport Assessment is a comprehensive and systematic process that sets out transport issues relating to a proposed development. It identifies what measures will be required to improve accessibility and safety for all modes of travel, particularly for alternatives to the car such as walking, cycling and public transport and what measures should be taken to deal with the anticipated transport impacts of the development.

4.10 A Travel Plan is a long-term management strategy for an organisation or site that seeks to deliver sustainable transport objectives. Travel plans should encourage the use of alternatives to single-occupancy car use by prioritising pedestrian and cycle movements through the site, providing appropriate facilities, and implementing initiatives that encourage sustainable travel. Clear outcomes should be set out that link to an appropriate package of measures which should where suitable, include the promotion of:

- **Walking and cycling**
- **Rail services**
- **Eco-driving such as low emission vehicles**
- **Car clubs**
- **Public transport**
- **Car sharing**
- **Motorcycle safety**
- **Flexible working practices**

Travel plans should include details of how the progress of the travel plan will be monitored and reported.

4.11 Applicants are advised to engage in pre-application discussions with the Council and Devon County Council as Highway Authority if the development is likely to generate significant levels of vehicular movement, to discuss the scope and detail of the information required. Whether or not an application's traffic impact is considered 'significant' will depend on a range of factors such as the location of the development, its relationship to an Air Quality Management Area, its intended use and the capacity of the road network. The requirement will not usually apply to small-scale development, but occasionally a development not classed as 'major' may still have a significant impact. Where an integrated assessment is required, the Council will usually require an analysis of traffic flows at key periods and the 'mass emissions' or total emission footprint to be expected from the development. Where criterion (a) of the policy applies, the assessment should also focus on key road links. The Council will require development proposals to demonstrate that they will not cause significant harm to people or the environment through an increase in traffic-related pollutants. A traffic pollution assessment should consider the effects that additional emissions from vehicles will have on any environmental assets, including important wildlife habitats. This may be combined with an assessment under Policy DM4, if appropriate. In particular, development that increases traffic along the A361 may have an impact on the Special Area of Conservation at Rackenford, which adjoins the Mid Devon boundary. Where a development would cause significant harm to this site and adequate mitigation would not be possible, planning permission will be refused.



4.12 Developments affecting the Special Area of Conservation could include:

- Intensive farming
- Commercial riding stables
- Employment development
- Tourism
- Gypsy and traveller sites
- Any other developments that increase cross-traffic along the A361

4.13 The Transport Assessment should identify the boundaries of the Low Emission Assessment, which evaluates the effect of the development on local air quality. The main routes of travel will be assessed for their residual road transport emissions after development, with and without mitigating measures to reduce emissions. The Low Emission Assessment must also take account of existing Air Quality Management Areas (Cullompton and Crediton), and include air quality exposure modelling for specified residential properties or other sensitive properties either within or adjoining an Air Quality Management Area or in a location at risk of being designated as one if a demonstrable harm has been identified. There are a number of standard models used for air quality exposure modelling, which should be carried out by a suitably qualified person. Procedural guidance for carrying out a Low Emission Assessment is contained in Annex 2.

4.14 Tiverton is at risk of being designated an Air Quality Management Area. Any relevant development proposal in or adjoining Tiverton, Cullompton and Crediton should consider the significance of its impact on the most congested routes within the town and the properties most directly affected by the development. Where mitigation measures are necessary, these should be designed to reduce both the direct impacts to nearby properties and an Air Quality Management Area, and indirect impacts to local road transport.

4.15 Mitigation measures might include:

- Use of low-emission vehicles and fuels during construction
- Onsite infrastructure for charging and fuelling low emission vehicles
- Parking management (differential rates, priority or dedicated parking for low emission vehicles)
- Low emission vehicle or bicycle rental/purchase schemes
- Car clubs
- High quality public transport services

4.16 Some measures to reduce emissions and encourage sustainable modes of travel may be designed and built into the development. Other measures are less straightforward and refer to activities and choices made by residents. To ensure that the measures included in a Low Emission Assessment and Travel Plan are implemented and continued in the long-term, the Council may require the applicant to enter into a planning obligation under Section 106 of The Town and County Planning Act 1990. The obligation would require the establishment of a management company which would administrate differential charging levies, rental/purchase schemes or car clubs, as appropriate.

## Policy DM4

### Pollution

**Applications for development that risks negatively impacting on the quality of the environment through noise, odour, light, air, water, land and other forms of pollution must be accompanied by a pollution impact assessment and mitigation scheme where necessary. Development will be permitted where the direct, indirect and cumulative effects of pollution will not have an unacceptable negative impact on health, the natural environment and general amenity.**

4.17 When the location or characteristics of a proposed development give rise to concern that the development would cause pollution or nuisance to surrounding people, properties or the environment, the Council will require an appropriate impact assessment to be undertaken by a suitably qualified person so that the potential effects can be properly understood. This may include cases where the site is already unstable or contaminated due to its former use, requiring mitigation or remediation to be carried out so as not to harm the health and wellbeing of future occupiers of the development. The Council will also have regard to the River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) and, where appropriate, seek to achieve measures which will achieve the objectives of the RBMP and the Water Framework Directive (WFD). Under the WFD there should be no deterioration in the status of a water body. If planning permission is granted, a planning condition should be used to ensure that any mitigation measures set out in the assessment are implemented.

4.18 The subject and scope of assessments will vary depending on the scale and type of development being proposed. For instance, where there is concern regarding the effect of additional traffic emissions on nearby residential properties, a Low Emission Assessment should include air quality exposure modelling for affected properties, and any mitigating measures that would reduce the impact. In this case the Council would discuss with the applicant or agent the level of information required and the methodology to be used.

- Assessments required under this policy include:
- Contamination and subsidence reports
- Noise assessments
- Low Emission Assessments
- Hydrological or drainage reports
- Any other technical assessment required to enable sustainable development

## Policy DM5

### Parking

**Development must provide an appropriate level of parking, taking into account:**

- a) **The accessibility of the site, including the availability of public transport; and**
- b) **The type, mix and use of development.**

**Design must enable and encourage the maximum use of sustainable modes of transport, including provision for cyclists and low-emission vehicles. Within the towns of Tiverton, Cullompton and Crediton, infrastructure for electric vehicles should be built into development. The Council will seek parking provision and infrastructure for electric vehicles according to the following standards, the variation of which must be justified on a case-by-case basis.**

Residential					
Use class	Description	Location	Minimum car parking standard	Minimum cycle parking standard	Electric vehicle infrastructure (Tiverton, Cullompton, Crediton)
C3, C4	Dwellings	General	1.7 per dwelling	1 or 2 beds – 2 per dwelling 3+ beds – 4 per dwelling	1 charging point per 10 units
Non-residential					
Use class	Description	Location	Minimum car parking standard	Minimum cycle parking standard	Electric vehicle infrastructure (Tiverton, Cullompton, Crediton)
			Per sqm gross floor area unless otherwise stated		
A1	Non-food retail	General	1 per 20	1 per 200	2 charging points per 200
A1	Food retail	General	1 per 14	1 per 140	2 charging points per 200
A2	Financial and professional	Within Tiverton, Cullompton & Crediton	1 per 30	1 per 300	2 charging points per 200
		Elsewhere	1 per 20	1 per 200	N/A

Non-residential					
A3	Restaurants	General	1 per 5.5sqm of eating area	1 per 55sqm of eating area	2 charging points per 200
A4	Public houses	General	1 per 3sqm of drinking area	1 per 20sqm of drinking area	2 charging points per 200
B1, B2	Business and general industry	General	1 per 30	1 per 300	2 charging points per 200
B8	Warehousing and distribution	General	1 per 46.5	1 per 46.5	2 charging points per 10 parking spaces (employees/visitors)
C1	Tourist accommodation	General	1 per bedroom	1 per 10 bedrooms	2 charging points per 30 rooms or per 10 parking spaces
C2	Residential institutions	General	1 per bedroom	1 per 10 bedrooms	2 charging points per 30 rooms or per 10 parking spaces
D1	Non-residential institutions (exc. Schools and health facilities)	General	1 per 40	1 per 400	2 charging points per 200
D2	Indoor and outdoor sports	General	1 per 2 players and 1 per 10 spectator seats	1 per 20 players and 1 per 100 spectator seats	2 charging points per 200
	Indoor entertainment	General	1 per 5 seats	1 per 50 seats	2 charging points per 200

4.19 Road transport accounts for over a third of end-user carbon emissions in Mid Devon, at a time when European and national policies set increasingly challenging targets for reduction of carbon emissions. However, research by the RAC in 2009 showed that, while car usage is reducing, this does not correspond to a reduction in car ownership. Research carried out on behalf of the Department of Communities and Local Government in 2007 forecast an increase of approximately 18% in car ownership between 2001 and 2026. In view of local levels of car ownership and the rural nature of the district, there is clearly a need for development in Mid Devon to provide sufficient parking.

4.20 Accepting that people will continue to own cars, there is a need to make the transition to a low carbon economy through the promotion of low emission transport. Policy DM3 also refers to transport and low emissions.

4.21 Policy DM5 applies a minimum residential parking standard of 1.7 spaces per dwelling based on car ownership levels in Mid Devon. This figure will be used to calculate the minimum number of parking spaces for the whole development site, with a minimum of one parking space to be allocated for the sole use of each property. The remaining parking provision (and more if preferred) should be distributed appropriately throughout the development, in accordance with principles set out in the Council's Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on the provision of parking in new development. Other principles in the SPD should also be adhered to when drawing up development proposals, including the allocation of appropriately located motorcycle, visitor and disabled spaces with sufficient manoeuvring space. For developments comprising one or two dwellings the standard will be rounded up to two spaces per dwelling. It is always preferential to locate the parking in close proximity to the property it services. For houses, car parking should ideally be provided adjacent to the property, either within the residential curtilage or in well-designed on-street parking. Spaces within parking courts are much less frequently used, and can be perceived to be inconvenient and insecure. Large, isolated and rear parking courts should be avoided. For non-residential development, parking should be provided in accordance with Policy DM5 except where alternative provision can be justified on the basis of existing parking provision or other factors.

## Residential development

### Policy DM6

#### Rural exceptions sites

**The development of a site for predominantly affordable or low-cost housing, including self-build housing, to meet proven local need in rural areas will be permitted where:**

- a) **There is up-to-date evidence of housing need secured through a housing need survey or, in the case of a self-build proposal, evidence of eligibility for shared ownership housing through 'Help to Buy' or an equivalent scheme;**
- b) **The housing will be occupied by at least one person with a strong local connection to the parish;**
- c) **The site adjoins a settlement and is in a suitable location which takes account of the potential for any visual impact and other relevant planning issues;**
- d) **The type and scale of affordable or low-cost housing is appropriate to the proven need;**
- e) **The affordable or low-cost housing will remain affordable for and available to local people in perpetuity, limited to no more than 80% of its market value upon resale.**

**The inclusion of a proportion of market housing within exception sites will be permitted where the proportion of market housing will be less than the provision of affordable or low-cost housing and the market housing will be at the lowest level necessary to ensure that the development is deliverable.**

4.22 To encourage the delivery of affordable and low-cost housing in rural areas, exceptions can be made to the normal restrictions on housing development outside defined settlements. Exception sites must adjoin a settlement, which for the purposes of this policy will usually mean one of the settlements defined as suitable for limited development in Policy S13. However, some parishes do not contain a defined settlement but may have an affordable housing need, in which case a broader interpretation of 'settlement' will be appropriate, as long as there would be reasonable access to local services and infrastructure. Isolated sites in the countryside are not considered sustainable locations for new housing even under the exceptions policy.

4.23 Affordable and low-cost housing is reserved for those who cannot afford open market housing and have a connection to the local area. The definition of a 'local connection' is kept under review and as such it is appropriate that it is contained in supporting guidance rather than determined through a Local Plan policy. In broad terms there should be a long-term residential, family or employment connection to the parish where the housing will be located. The criteria will be operated in a cascade to ensure those with the strongest connection are considered first. A planning obligation will be required to ensure that the affordable or low-cost housing remains available for local people in perpetuity.

4.24 Self-build housing will be permitted under this policy where at least one of the occupiers has an established housing need, assessed against appropriate officially published criteria. The Government's Help to Buy scheme applies eligibility criteria. Successful applicants:

- Cannot afford to purchase a home suitable for their housing needs within a reasonable travelling distance of their work place and have a household income not exceeding £60,000;
- Have savings or sufficient funds to pay, if required, a deposit (which may be 5% or more of the purchase price), legal fees, stamp duty and other costs of moving;
- Can sustain home ownership in the longer term;
- Are not already a home owner or named on a home mortgage;
- Have a good credit history.

4.25 Self-build housing will constitute low-cost housing rather than affordable housing, as it will not be rented or part-owned by a housing association. In the event that the Help to Buy scheme is discontinued or the Council identifies a more appropriate way of assessing eligibility, the Council will consider whether suitable criteria for assessing housing need exist elsewhere that can be applied to self-build proposals. Whilst low-cost housing does not meet the definition of affordable housing in terms of tenure, the Council will require the same controls over the housing to ensure that it remains available for people with a local connection who cannot afford open market housing in their area.

4.26 Affordable and low-cost housing must be appropriate to the needs of the people occupying it. For instance, if a housing need survey identifies a need for one or two bedroom dwellings, this is what should be provided. Self-build proposals will be tailored to the needs of the applicant, but will be expected to be of a modest size that reflects the principles of affordability for those in housing need.

4.27 National policy allows for some 'cross-subsidy' of affordable housing by market housing. This allows for sites which would not otherwise be viable for affordable housing to come forward, with market housing limited to the minimum level necessary to ensure delivery. Consistent with the overall principle of exception sites, the proportion of affordable housing must always be greater than that of market housing, and developers will be expected to submit evidence to demonstrate that the level of market housing proposed is the lowest level needed to deliver significant affordable housing. Evidence of local need for affordable housing will be required, as for any rural exception scheme. The Council will have regard to any up-to-date local housing need surveys and information from Devon Home Choice.

## Policy DM7

### Gypsy and traveller accommodation

**Planning applications for gypsy and traveller pitches, including pitches for travelling showpeople, will be permitted where:**

- a) The need cannot be met on another suitable site in Mid Devon which has consent or is allocated for gypsy and traveller pitches;**
- b) Local services can be accessed without the use of a car;**
- c) Suitable onsite facilities will be provided including space for children's play;**
- d) The proposal will have suitable environmental quality for residents including non-isolating boundary treatments; and**
- e) Occupation will be limited to those who meet the Government's published definition of gypsies and travellers, including travelling showpeople.**

**Sites with associated employment or storage elements may be permitted where there is specific justification and the location will not have harmful impacts on local amenity or the local environment. Gypsy and traveller accommodation may be included as part of the affordable housing requirement.**

4.28 To ensure that sites will meet the needs of the travelling communities and the settled community a criteria based policy will be operated as set out above to determine applications for traveller sites. In order to ensure that users of sites will have access to facilities, national policy indicates that local planning authorities should strictly limit new traveller site development in countryside that is away from existing settlements or outside allocations in the development plan. Sites will therefore only be permitted where facilities will be accessible without recourse to a car either by walking, cycling or utilising public transport. However, sites must also be in locations where the local environment is of satisfactory quality, so locations adjacent to noisy or polluting land uses or in areas of floodplain will not be suitable.



4.29 The need for gypsy and traveller accommodation is identified to be in the region of 25 pitches across the plan period. These are to be included within allocated developments at Tiverton Eastern Urban Extension, North-West and East Cullompton, and Pedlerspool in Crediton. Where gypsy and traveller pitches are provided on housing allocations, these are to be counted against the affordable housing targets for that site. There are also existing consented sites in Mid Devon. Proposals for gypsy and traveller accommodation will not be permitted in other locations unless it is demonstrated that the existing consented or allocated sites will not be available to the prospective occupiers in a reasonable timescale.

## Policy DM8

### Rural workers' dwellings

**Applications for rural workers' dwellings will be permitted where:**

- a) **It can be demonstrated that the nature and demands of an existing rural business are such that a full time worker has an essential need to be permanently resident at or near their place of work so they are available at most times;**
- b) **The need cannot be met within a nearby settlement, or by existing housing at or near the site or through the conversion of a suitable redundant or disused rural building at the site;**
- c) **The size and scale of rural workers dwellings will be commensurate with the scale of the operation and designed to reflect the location and setting of the proposed site; and**
- d) **The rural enterprise has been established for at least three years, is currently financially sound, and has a clear prospect of remaining so.**

**Where a rural business is not yet established a mobile home may be permitted for a temporary period, on the basis of criteria b) and c) above, and evidence of:**

- (i) **An essential need for one or more workers to be readily available at most times**
- (ii) **A firm intention and ability to develop the enterprise**
- (iii) **Sound financial planning**

**Permissions for rural workers dwellings will be subject to an occupancy condition. Removal of such a condition will only be permitted where there is clear evidence that there is no need for the condition to remain in place.**

4.30 With the majority of Mid Devon's population living outside its main towns the contribution of rural areas is a very important part of the district's overall economy. Therefore, it is important that the Council's planning policies support rural enterprises. To promote sustainable patterns of development rural workers will usually be expected to find housing in existing rural communities. However, an exception to this approach can be justified where it can be shown that a rural worker has an essential need to be available at most times as part of the operation of a rural business in accord with national policy. Essential need means a specific management activity or combination of activities which require the ready presence of a worker at most times if the proper functioning of an enterprise is not to be prejudiced and which cannot be achieved by any other practical means such as electronic surveillance. Such need would relate to any particular event or combination of events that could lead to adverse animal welfare, crop or product quality, or health and safety consequences which might threaten the stability and economic well-being of an enterprise. In all cases, these would be events which could not be properly managed within normal working hours. Security concerns on their own will not be sufficient to justify a new dwelling. On working family farms, the Council recognises that retired farmers may continue to live on the farm and there could be a need for additional accommodation to meet the needs of the next generation. In these cases the existing dwelling will not be treated as available alternative accommodation pursuant to criterion b) of the policy, though the Council may require a Section 106 Agreement (planning obligation) to ensure the existing dwelling remains occupied by agricultural workers.

4.31 Applications for rural workers' dwellings will need to be accompanied by evidence which conclusively demonstrates the essential nature of the need and that suitable accommodation can only be provided through the construction of a new dwelling. In order for such dwellings to remain affordable for rural workers and to protect the intrinsic beauty of the countryside proposed dwellings will need to be of a size which matches the scale of the operation and other buildings on the site. As such development will take place in areas where the development of new houses would not normally be permitted, it will also be important to ensure that its design reflects its immediate context and its wider rural setting. Permitted development rights may be removed to prevent further enlargement of the dwelling without planning permission, to keep the dwelling at a size and value that will be affordable for rural workers.

4.32 Where a rural business is not yet established, the Council will consider granting a temporary mobile home, subject to appropriate evidence of essential need, a firm intention to develop the enterprise and sound financial planning. A 'firm intention' and sound financial planning might be demonstrated by a combination of measures such as the construction of new buildings; the purchase of stock needed to operate a rural business; appropriate agricultural or rural business training and qualifications; work experience; and evidence of sufficient finances to establish the enterprise.

4.33 Consent is granted for rural workers' dwellings as an exception to normal policy to support the rural economy. Therefore such planning permissions will be made subject to an occupancy condition which ensures the dwelling remains tied to the agricultural or other appropriate occupational use and is not sold or rented to unsuitable occupants. To prevent abuse of the exception for rural workers dwellings the removal of such conditions will need strong evidence to show that the occupancy by a rural worker is no longer justified, such as evidence of marketing at an appropriate price for a period of at least 18 months and an assessment of the demand for rural dwellings in the area.

4.34 In appropriate circumstances the Council will also seek Section 106 Agreements to ensure that a temporary dwelling is not put in place until associated development or infrastructure has been completed, and to tie the rural workers' dwelling to the operation and associated land which has the essential need to prevent the splitting of the dwelling from the operation.

## Policy DM9

### Conversion of rural buildings

**The conversion of redundant or disused rural buildings of substantial and permanent construction which positively contribute to an area's rural character for residential, tourism or employment uses will be permitted where:**

- a) **A suitable access to the building is in place or can be created without damaging the surrounding area's rural character and the road network can support the proposed use;**
- b) **The building can be converted without significant alteration, extension or rebuilding;**
- c) **The design will retain the original character of the building and its surroundings; and**
- d) **The development will retain any nature conservation interest associated with the site or building, and provide net gains in biodiversity where possible.**

4.35 The buildings within Mid Devon's countryside are an essential part of its character and when they become redundant or disused they can provide a useful resource to allow the delivery of sustainable economic or residential development. In many cases the conversion of a rural building to an alternative use will be permitted development, requiring only a prior notification to the Local Planning Authority rather than a full planning application. However, if the relevant criteria for permitted development do not apply, planning permission is still required and it is important to ensure that such conversions take into account their rural setting and the need to deliver good design.

4.36 National policy supports the sustainable re-use of rural buildings for economic and residential uses, requiring development to be sustainable and recognise the intrinsic beauty of the countryside. Development must be well designed and achieve a good standard of amenity for all existing and future occupants of land and buildings. Specifically in relation to residential conversions national policy states that they should lead to an enhancement to the immediate setting.

4.37 To ensure a conversion does not have a detrimental impact on the countryside and is sustainable, it is important that its development does not involve works that will have a harmful impact. The building should retain its original character in order that the converted building continues to positively contribute to the area's rural character. It is therefore important that any changes to the buildings are kept to a minimum, as reflected in the policy. Negative impacts could include the creation of a new access across an open field or light pollution in areas away from existing development. In order to ensure highway safety it is also important that a suitable access can be provided and the road network can support the proposed use. The rural nature of Mid Devon's highway network means that traffic intensive uses such as distribution or the movement of heavy and or bulky goods will not be appropriate in many locations. Further, rural buildings' role in the character of the countryside means that buildings in a ruinous state should not be re-used, the visual impact of the converted building should be no greater than that of the original building and local vernacular architecture should be retained. The Council will require a structural survey to be submitted to demonstrate that the building can be converted without significant alteration, extension or rebuilding, and may impose a planning condition which restricts permitted development rights for subsequent extensions and alterations.

4.38 Redundant rural buildings often serve as bat roosts or habitats for other protected species. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and a number of other Regulations and Directives designate 'protected species' with legal protection. It is an offence recklessly or deliberately to kill, injure, capture or disturb protected species, which includes carrying out works which obstruct, damage or destroy access to that species' habitat. The Council will require a habitat survey to accompany any planning application for the conversion of a rural building, to identify protected species within the application site, set out any mitigation measures where appropriate and include recommendations for the enhancement of biodiversity.

## Policy DM10

### Replacement dwellings in rural areas

**The construction of replacement dwellings outside defined settlement limits will be permitted where the replacement dwelling's floorspace will be no greater in size than the existing dwelling, taking into account any unspent permitted development rights.**

4.39 Situations can arise where a replacement dwelling is sought because the cost of repairing or altering an existing building exceeds the cost of its total replacement. As the principle of development is established by the existing dwelling its replacement will generally be acceptable. However, to ensure that the character and amenity of the area are not harmed, and the rural dwelling stock remains affordable for local residents, the size of the new dwelling should be restricted to that of the previous dwelling except where there are any unspent permitted development rights. In all circumstances, the permitted development rights for the replacement dwelling will be removed. The relocation of a building within a plot will generally be acceptable provided it is in keeping with the placement of nearby houses in their plot. Policy DM10 refers to the replacement of existing dwellings, the use of which has not been abandoned.

## Policy DM11

### Residential extensions and ancillary development

**Extensions to existing dwellings and other ancillary development will be permitted provided that they:**

- a) **Respect the character, scale, setting and design of existing dwelling;**
- b) **Will not result in over-development of the dwelling curtilage; and**
- c) **Will not have a significantly adverse impact on the living conditions of occupants of neighbouring properties.**

4.40 Rather than moving house to gain extra space many people extend their existing property and permitted development rights allow many extensions to be built without the need to apply for planning permission. However, there are still situations where planning permission is required and where extensions needing planning permission are proposed. It is important that the design of the extension is suitable for the building it will extend and for its immediate surroundings. For example it would not be acceptable for an extension to dominate the existing dwelling or to block light into principal rooms in an adjacent dwelling. The living conditions of neighbours should not

be significantly harmed, and the Council will have regard to a number of factors affecting living conditions, such as light, privacy and overbearing or over-dominating effects. However, there is no right to a view across someone else's land, so the loss of a view will not in itself be a reason for refusal of planning permission. There are also occasions where ancillary development to a dwelling may need planning permission and in such cases it will also be important to ensure that the design and location of ancillary development is acceptable.

## Policy DM12

### Design of housing

**New housing development should be designed to deliver:**

- a) **High quality local places taking into account physical context, local character, density and land use mix;**
- b) **Adequate levels of daylight, sunlight and privacy to private amenity spaces and principal windows;**
- c) **Suitably sized rooms and overall floorspace which allows for adequate storage and movement within the building together with external space for recycling, refuse and cycle storage;**
- d) **Adaptable dwellings that can accommodate a range of occupiers and their changing needs over time which will include the provision of a stairway suitable for stairlift installation or space for the provision of a lift in homes with more than one storey;**
- e) **Private amenity space that reflects the size, location, floorspace and orientation of the property;**
- f) **Sustainable forms of development that maximise the natural benefits of the site through design, materials, technology and orientation;**
- g) **On sites of 10 houses or more the provision of 30% of dwellings built to Level 2 of Building Regulations Part M 'access to and use of dwellings'; and**
- h) **Car parking in accordance with Policy DM5.**

4.41 National policy states that planning should always seek to secure high quality design and a good standard of amenity for all existing and future occupants of land and buildings. This is particularly important for the design of the homes that people live in and the spaces that surround those homes. The aim in Mid Devon is to deliver high quality buildings and spaces that meet the needs of users, taking account of an aging population whilst ensuring compatibility with surrounding development and uses. Though compliance is delivered through building regulations, criterion (g) will be implemented through a condition attached to the planning permission.

## Policy DM13

### Dwelling sizes

Newly constructed dwellings should meet or exceed the following minimum internal floorspace requirements (measured in gross square metres, 'sqm'). The internal Design Standard requires that:

- a) Every dwelling provides at least the gross internal floor area and built-in storage area set out in the below table;
- b) Every dwelling with two or more bedspaces provides at least one double (or twin) room;
- c) In order to provide one bedspace, every single bedroom has a floor area of at least 7.5sqm and is at least 2.15m wide;
- d) In order to provide two bedspaces, every double (or twin room) has a floor area of at least 11.5sqm;
- e) One double (or twin bedroom) is at least 2.75m wide and every other double (or twin) bedroom is at least 2.55m wide;
- f) Any area with a headroom of less than 1.5m is no counted within the Gross Internal Area (GIA) unless used solely for storage (if the area under the stairs is to be used for storage, assume a general floor area of 1sqm within the GIA);
- g) Any other area that is used solely for storage and has a headroom of 900-1500mm (such as under eaves) is counted at 50% of its floor area, and any lower than 900mm is not counted at all; and
- h) The minimum floor to ceiling height of the main living space is 2.5m for at least 75% of the GIA;

### Minimum gross internal floor areas and storage (sqm)

Number of bedrooms	Number of bedspaces	1 storey dwellings	2 storey dwellings	3 storey dwellings	Built-in storage
Studio	1 person	39 (37)*			1.0
1	2 person	50	58		1.5
2	3 person	61	70		2.0
	4 person	70	79		
3	4 person	74	84	90	2.5
	5 person	86	93	99	
	6 person	95	102	108	
4	5 person	90	97	103	3.0
	6 person	99	106	112	
	7 person	108	115	121	
	8 person	117	124	130	
5	6 person	103	110	116	3.5
	7 person	112	119	125	
	8 person	121	128	134	
6	7 person	116	123	129	4.0
	8 person	125	132	138	

Notes: GIAs for one storey dwellings include enough space for one bathroom and one additional WC (or shower room) in dwellings with 5 or more bedspaces. \*Where a studio has a shower instead of a bathroom, the floor area may be reduced from 39sqm and 37sqm, as shown bracketed. GIAs for two and three storey dwellings include enough space for one bathroom and one additional WC (or shower room). Built-in storage areas are included within the overall GIA and include an allowance of 0.5sqm for fixed services or equipment such as a hot water cylinder, boiler or heat exchanger.

4.42 Homes should be designed to have sufficient space based on the expected number of occupants, in order to avoid problems of lack of privacy, insufficient areas for moving around the house and not enough storage space. National and local research has demonstrated that homes have not been built to a sufficient size to meet the needs of the occupants. In recent years, it has also been the case that some market housing has been built to a smaller standard than would be deemed acceptable for affordable housing. In response to local concerns about unacceptably small dwelling sizes Mid Devon has previously operated a space standard which set agreed minimums which applied across all tenures.

4.43 The Government has subsequently proposed a new national space standard, to replace all existing size standards being used. In order to continue to ensure that houses of a sufficient quality continue to be built within the district, the Local Plan incorporates the Government standard into planning policy. Should changes be made to the Government standard, the application of the policy will be amended to align it with the latest approach.



## Retail, business and tourism

### Policy DM14

#### Town centre development

**The Council will promote the sustainable growth and regeneration of Tiverton, Cullompton and Crediton and Bampton. Within defined town centres, development proposals for retail, leisure, commercial, office, tourism, cultural, community and residential development will be supported where they:**

- a) **Retain or enhance the town centre's historic character and appearance, vitality and viability;**
- b) **Sustain or enhance diverse town centre uses and customer choice, incorporating residential accommodation above ground floor level where possible; and**
- c) **Are readily accessible by public transport, walking and cycling.**

**Within defined primary shopping areas, the shopping function will be safeguarded and enhanced. Development and change of use of ground floor premises to alternative uses will not be permitted where:**

- i) **The primary retail role and character is undermined, causing unacceptable fragmentation and isolation of the remaining shops;**
- ii) **The proposed use would harm the vitality and viability of the primary shopping area; and**
- iii) **There would be a detrimental effect on the visual character and amenities of the surrounding area.**

**Within primary shopping frontages, at ground floor level the proportion of A1 retail uses will not be permitted to fall below 65% of all units.**

4.44 The town centre is at the heart of a market town's community. The Local Plan distributes development according to the location, role and function of the towns of Tiverton, Cullompton and Crediton, with Cullompton expected to expand considerably over the plan period. Other Local Plan policies will also apply as appropriate, such as Policy DM1 on high quality design.

4.45 Retail markets change quickly and it is important that local planning policies are flexible enough to respond to rapid change. For this reason, Policy DM14 sets out a wide range of permissible uses in town centres, seeking to diversify customer choice while protecting and enhancing the viability of the town centre, its historic character and its accessibility by the most sustainable modes of transport. This applies to change of use applications as well as new-build development.

4.46 Primary shopping frontages have been defined within Tiverton and Crediton town centres, showing where retail development is concentrated. The primary shopping frontage (identified on the Policies Map) should include a high proportion of retail uses which may include food, drinks, clothing and household goods. These are the core town centre retail uses and should be protected, while other uses such as takeaways and professional services may be located elsewhere in the town centre.

4.47 Planning applications within the primary shopping areas will not be permitted if any of criteria i-iii of Policy DM14 apply. The assessment of such applications will include consideration of:

- The location and prominence of the premises within the shopping frontage
- The floorspace and length of frontage of the premises
- The number, distribution and proximity to other premises within use classes A2-A5, or within planning permissions for such use
- The particular nature and character of the use proposed, including the level of pedestrian activity associated with it
- The level of vacancies in ground floor properties
- Whether the proposed use would give rise to noise, smell or other environmental problems

## Policy DM15

### Development outside town centres

**Within Tiverton, Cullompton and Crediton and Bampton the Council will apply a sequential approach to planning applications for main town centre uses, according to the following descending order of preference:**

- a) **Town centre**
- b) **Edge of town centre**
- c) **Out of town centre**

**Edge of centre and other out of centre proposals must be well related to the town centre and accessible by public transport, walking or cycling. Proposals in these locations must also demonstrate that no suitable sites are available in a more sustainable location according to the order of preference given above.**

**The Council will require an impact assessment to be submitted for any proposals for retail and leisure development outside of town centres, where the proposed gross floorspace would exceed 500 square metres. The impact assessment must include an assessment of:**

- i) **The impact of the proposal on existing, committed and planned public and private investment in the town or other centres in the catchment area of the proposal; and**
- ii) **The impact of the proposal on town centre vitality and viability, including local consumer choice and trade in the town centre and wider area, up to five years from the time the application is made, or ten years in the case of major development, taking into account the cumulative impact of recently completed developments, planning permissions and development plan allocations.**

4.48 National policy requires local authorities to apply a sequential approach to retail development in towns, to ensure the vitality and viability of town centres are not harmed by out-of-centre development. A proportionate, locally set threshold may be applied to retail floorspace proposed outside of town centres, over which an impact assessment should be required. The Mid Devon Retail Study recommends a threshold of 500 square metres gross floorspace.

4.49 In considering development proposals in edge of centre or out of centre locations, the Council will assess whether there are suitable sites in a more sustainable location according to the order of preference and apply a flexible approach where justified. The nature, scale, car parking requirements and market demands of the proposal will be taken into account.

4.50 National policy defines 'edge of centre' as follows:

*For retail purposes, a location that is well connected and up to 300 metres of the primary shopping area. For all other main town centre uses, a location within 300 metres of a town centre boundary. For office development, this includes locations outside the town centre but within 500 metres of a public transport interchange. In determining whether a site falls within the definition of edge of centre, account should be taken of local circumstances.*

4.51 A retail impact assessment submitted in accordance with Policy DM15 should have regard to the findings of the Retail Study 2012. The assessment should consider the effect on existing stores and centres of committed and allocated developments and the development being proposed, based on:

- (i) the turnover of existing facilities in the catchment area (including any completed since the Retail Study 2012)
- (ii) the expected trade diversion from these facilities to any retail sites under construction, with planning permission or allocated for development
- (iii) the trade diversion resulting from the proposed development

Applications for leisure development over 500 square metres floorspace should use a similar approach based on the Tourism Study and any other appropriate evidence.

Where proposals are predicted to have a likely adverse impact (including cumulative) on town centre health, planning permission should be refused. The Mid Devon Retail and Tourism Studies are available at <http://www.middevon.gov.uk/evidence>.

## Policy DM16

### Fronts of shops and business premises

**Proposals for the alteration, replacement or construction of fronts for shops or business premises must be well proportioned and suited to the character of the building, adjacent buildings and the surrounding street scene. Where security measures such as grilles or shutters are proposed, these should be designed as an integral part of the building's front, maintaining the visibility of the building's interior and minimising visual impact. Independent ground floor access to the upper floors must be retained.**

4.52 The fronts of shops and business premises visually dominate town centres and have a considerable impact on the town centre's character and appearance. Attractive shop fronts that respect their surroundings have a positive effect on the overall quality and attractiveness of a town centre. This policy should be read in conjunction with Policy DM1 on high quality design and Policy DM25 on heritage assets.

4.53 National policy emphasises the importance of residential development in bolstering the vitality of town centres. Policy DM14 therefore promotes residential development in town centres where possible, and Policy DM16 supports this further by ensuring that access to accommodation above ground floor commercial units is not lost through redevelopment of the building's ground floor front.

4.54 Advertisements including fascia and projecting signs often go hand-in-hand with the design of shop fronts and other business premises. Applications for Advertisement Consent are determined outside of the Development Plan, under the 'Control of Advertisements' regulations. Such applications are determined on the basis of public amenity and highway safety. National policy provides additional guidance.

## Policy DM17

### Rural shopping

**Retail development will be permitted within defined villages, where it will meet local needs and is accessible by a range of transport modes.**

**Adjacent to defined villages and elsewhere in the open countryside, proposals for retail development must demonstrate that:**

- a) The location and scale of the development would not harm the vitality and viability of town centre or village shopping facilities;**
- b) The development would not lead to an unacceptable impact on the local road network; and**
- c) There would not be an unacceptable adverse impact to the character and appearance of the countryside.**

4.55 Policy S13 defines the villages in Mid Devon that are considered suitable for limited growth, due to their physical characteristics and the availability of a range of facilities and services. The Council supports the sustainable growth and expansion of business and enterprise in rural areas, while protecting the predominance of town centres for meeting the district's retail needs. Policy DM17 refers only to retail development, while Policy DM18 will be applied to non-retail business development. Policy DM1 (high quality design) also applies.

## Policy DM18

### Rural employment development

**In countryside locations, planning permission will be granted for new-build employment development or expansion of existing businesses, provided that the development is of an appropriate use and scale for its location. Proposals must demonstrate that:**

- a) The development would not lead to an unacceptable impact on the local road network;**
- b) There would not be an unacceptable adverse impact to the character and appearance of the countryside; and**
- c) There are insufficient suitable sites or premises in the immediate area to meet the needs of the proposal.**

4.56 The Council recognises the importance of retaining and providing rural employment opportunities outside settlement limits as a means of ensuring a diverse and healthy rural economy. There is a range of employment activities, particularly those associated with tourism, recreation and rural diversification that can be accommodated in countryside locations, without any adverse effects upon the character of Mid Devon's rural areas or existing development. It is important that the various indirect consequences of employment development such as security fencing, lighting, advertising material, open storage and vehicle parking and manoeuvring provisions do not harm the visual environment. It is also important that development outside settlement limits only occurs where there are insufficient alternatives available otherwise such development would not be sustainable. The policy is not intended to relate to large scale strategic development which would be contrary to Policy S2.

4.57 Policy DM18 refers to new-build developments and expansion of existing businesses. Proposals for conversion of existing buildings to an employment use will be assessed against Policy DM9. Other policies in the Local Plan will also be applied as appropriate.

## Policy DM19

### Protection of employment land

**Non-employment use or development of employment land or buildings, including sites that are established, allocated or have planning permission, will be permitted where it can be demonstrated that there is no reasonable prospect of the site being used for employment purposes. Alternative uses will be permitted where it is demonstrated that:**

- a) **Firstly, there is a sufficient range of suitable and available employment sites in the local area; then**
- b) **There is no commercial interest in the re-use of the site for employment, demonstrated by suitable marketing at an appropriate price for at least 18 months; and**
- c) **A sequential viability test has been applied following the unsuccessful marketing of the site, based on the following sequence of testing:**
  - i) **Mixed use of the site that incorporates an employment-generating use, then**
  - ii) **Non-employment use.**

4.58 One of the Council's five key objectives is a thriving economy. The Local Plan allocates commercial land sufficient to meet the district's future needs to 2033, but many people in the district will continue to commute to other areas and it is important to protect the sites that are currently providing jobs in Mid Devon. Employment land is a scarce and valuable resource which needs to be retained to ensure that the Council can deliver one of its key objectives.

4.59 National planning policy discourages the long-term protection of allocated employment sites where there is no reasonable prospect of a site being used for that purpose, and requires local planning authorities to have regard to market signals. Policy DM19 sets out local requirements that help to establish whether individual sites can provide employment. In assessing the range of suitable and available alternative employment sites in the local area (criterion a), the Council will have regard to the specific and wider conclusions of the Employment Land Review (2013), which describes a shortage in small employment allocations in Mid Devon. For the purposes of Policy DM19, the 'local area' means the Mid Devon district and, if an application site is in a parish adjacent to the district's boundary, a neighbouring district.

4.60 Applicants will also be required to demonstrate that there is no commercial interest in the re-use of the site for employment purposes. In view of the on-going fluctuations in the national economy, an 18 month marketing period is considered appropriate and will be kept under review in subsequent local plans. In relation to the appropriate price referred to in criterion (c) the price should reflect the price of similar employment sites or buildings which have been marketed within the previous two years or result from an independent assessment of the value of the land or buildings where this is not feasible. If there is no interest in the site as a result of marketing, the potential of the site for mixed use development including employment must be considered in preference to the total loss of employment. This will involve determining whether the site still has the potential to be developed viably for mixed use development or can only be viable if the whole site is developed for non-employment uses. In all cases, the proposed use must not significantly harm any other existing uses in the area, or be harmed by those uses. For example, housing development may not be acceptable in close proximity to general industry, depending on the nature and scale of the industrial use.



## Policy DM20

### Agricultural development

**Agricultural development will be permitted where:**

- a) **The development is reasonably necessary to support farming activity on that farm or in the immediate agricultural community;**
- b) **The development is sensitively located to limit any adverse effects on the living conditions of local residents and is well-designed, respecting the character and appearance of the area;**
- c) **The development will not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the environment; and**
- d) **The development will not have an unacceptable traffic impact on the local road network.**

4.61 Agriculture is an important element of the Mid Devon economy. Agricultural development is essential to support modern farming and ensure a sustainable rural economy. This policy permits new agricultural development outside of the defined settlements, whilst seeking to balance the needs of modern farming with protecting the countryside and residential amenity.

4.62 Proposals for the development of new buildings for livestock need to take account of waste product storage or removal, and the effect this can have on the amenity of local residents and the environment. Such proposals will need to be accompanied by a Waste Management Plan, which sets out how the development limits any adverse effects. Where the development is likely to cause demonstrable harm to the environment, for instance where drainage from the site threatens the ecological integrity of a water body, a hydrological or drainage report will be required in accordance with Policy DM4 (pollution). A planning condition may be imposed to ensure that appropriate mitigation measures are implemented.

## Policy DM21

### Equestrian development

**Horse-related facilities and equestrian enterprises in the countryside will be permitted where they are well integrated with their surroundings, being of appropriate location, scale, design and materials so as not to harm the character and landscape of the rural area or the amenity of nearby residents.**

**Equestrian development must not result in an unacceptable increase in traffic on the local highway network.**

4.63 The use of land for horse keeping is a common feature of the Mid Devon landscape. Equine activities are an established part of the rural economy, providing opportunities for recreation and employment. Equestrian activities are typically located in the open countryside, away from settlements, where most forms of development are restricted.

4.64 New equine facilities can have a negative impact on the rural nature of an area, adversely affecting landscape character and natural beauty, by their appearance, scale, materials or design. Individually, equestrian developments may seem inconsequential, but cumulatively they may, over time, significantly alter the character of an area. It is therefore important that any new developments are designed and located as to minimise their impact, taking account of local character and landscape. Where proposals are part of an existing agricultural development, any new facilities should be integrated with, or located near to existing farm buildings or structures.

4.65 Commercial establishments or large scale domestic operations including racing stables, horse riding centres and liverys will have a greater impact on a local area, through their size, associated traffic generation and greater use of local roads for exercising of horses. Such establishments should demonstrate how they will not result in an unacceptable increase in traffic on local roads.

## Policy DM22

### Tourism and leisure development

**Proposals for new or expanded tourism, visitor or leisure facilities will be supported within or adjacent to defined settlements. Elsewhere, the nature of the proposed development must justify a countryside location and minimise environmental impacts, avoiding an unacceptable traffic impact on the local road network. Development proposals must:**

- a) **Respect the character and appearance of the location;**
- b) **Where possible, involve conversion or replacement of existing buildings; and**
- c) **Demonstrate that the need is not met by existing provision within nearby settlements.**

4.66 Tourism plays an important role in generating income for local residents. Devon is a very popular tourist destination, providing leisure and recreation activities for its own residents and those visiting the county. Despite a number of small scale attractions and places to stay across Mid Devon, tourism is less developed than within other parts of the county, partly reflecting the district's inland location and distance to the coast.

4.67 Tourism and leisure development is generally welcomed, providing employment and a means of supplementing rural incomes. However, it can have negative impacts on the surrounding area if located insensitively, being out of scale with its context or by failing to take account of local character and appearance. The policy seeks to locate most development within or close to defined settlements, where local shops and facilities are most accessible and stand to benefit the most. Sustainable development will be approved in accordance with Policy S1.

4.68 Applications for tourism and leisure development in the countryside will need to be justified by the applicant. The Council will require a marketing strategy and business plan to be submitted, to explain how the development will achieve a high quality tourism product that meets demand. Proposals must demonstrate that their benefits outweigh any harm and that they do not cause an unacceptable impact to traffic on the local road network. Tourism and leisure development should benefit local businesses, the environment, communities and visitors in the long-term, so the Council will seek the right form of development in the right location, with evidence that the need is not already being met by existing provision. In demonstrating unmet need for tourism proposals outside settlement limits, applicants should have regard to the Council's Tourism Study, available at <http://www.middevon.gov.uk/evidence>.

4.69 Evidence supporting a countryside location should be proportionate to the scale and nature of the tourism proposal being considered. For instance, the conversion of a barn to tourist accommodation is permissible in principle under Policy DM9 (conversion of rural buildings) and is often dependent on an agricultural character which would not be found in a nearby town or village. Larger tourism attractions such as animal sanctuaries, museums, outdoor activity centres or hotels may have a significant impact on the countryside and the local road network, so in these cases more comprehensive supporting evidence will be required.

## Community facilities

### Policy DM23

#### Community facilities

**The development of new community facilities providing a local community benefit or environmental enhancement will be permitted where they are easily accessible by the local community and well related to a settlement. Proposals for the redevelopment of existing community facilities that enables them to modernise, remain viable and continue to be retained for the benefit of the community will be supported.**

**Proposals involving the loss of community facilities such as local shops, public houses, allotments, cultural and recreational facilities and other important local services will not be permitted where this would damage the settlement's ability to meet its day to day needs or result in the total loss of such services to the community. Only in circumstances where the facility is proven to be no longer economically viable, including for alternative community uses, will applications for alternative use be considered acceptable.**

4.70 Community facilities provide for the health and wellbeing, social, educational, spiritual, recreational, leisure and cultural needs of the community. They include pubs, post offices, shops, village halls, allotments, places of worship and various recreational facilities. National policy seeks to retain and develop local services and community facilities and guard against their unnecessary loss. Policy DM23 therefore builds on this guidance and seeks to protect those existing services whilst permitting some redevelopment where it is necessary to ensure viability.

4.71 The Council will guard against the unnecessary loss of valued community facilities and services. In circumstances where a community facility is proved to be no longer economically viable in a particular location, the Council will consider an alternative use. Assessment of viability will require the submission of detailed evidence relating to trading accounts, valuation considerations and the marketing of the business or property at a reasonable price for a minimum of 12 months.

4.72 Local communities can nominate buildings as 'assets of community value' to be added to a register held by the Council. Once on the register the owners of a facility will need to notify the Council if they intend to sell the asset, at which point the community will be offered the opportunity to purchase it. Mid Devon District Council will compile this list as community assets are brought forward. Applicants should contact the Council for further advice should they wish to apply for planning permission or change of use on a community facility that has been included on the register. The Council cannot refuse planning permission purely on the basis that a community asset is on the register.

## Policy DM24

### Protection of Local Green Space and recreational land/buildings

**Open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, will be protected from alternative development unless:**

- a) **An assessment has been undertaken which demonstrates that the site is surplus to requirements, including requirements within the parish for alternative forms of open space, sports or recreational use; or**
- b) **The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location, prior to the commencement of the development; or**
- c) **The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.**

**Designated areas of Local Green Space will be protected from development unless the development meets the criteria set out in national policy for the protection of Green Belts.**

4.73 This policy aims to protect open space, sport and recreational land or buildings from redevelopment, with the exception of any sites allocated for alternative use.

4.74 The Open Space and Play Area Strategy (2014) identifies sites of public open space, sports and recreational land in the district. Where the strategy shows a surplus of play areas or other open space according to the standards set out in Policy S5, the Council will consider which open spaces are most important for long-term maintenance and retention. Those which include a flexible mix of uses such as equipped play space, sports and informal recreation land will normally be considered a priority for retention, and also those which are an integral and well-functioning part of an existing housing estate. Proposals for redevelopment of surplus open space must demonstrate that the site is less preferable for public recreational use than the alternative open spaces within an accessible distance of the development. If this is not the case, criteria b) or c) of the policy apply.

4.75 Sites which are particularly important to local communities may be designated as Local Green Space, through the preparation of local or neighbourhood plans. The Local Plan designates Local Green Space at the following locations:

- Church Green, Bickleigh
- Joan's Orchard, Bickleigh
- Recreation Ground, Bickleigh
- Nick's Farm Field, Bradninch
- Millennium Green, Thorverton
- Sports Field, Witheridge

4.76 Neighbourhood plans produced by local communities may designate further areas in addition to the above list. Local Green Space must be reasonably close to the community it serves; have demonstrable local significance and interest; be local in character and not cover an extensive tract of land. National policy applies a level of protection equivalent to Green Belts.

## Environment

### Policy DM25

#### Development affecting heritage assets

**Heritage assets and their settings are an irreplaceable resource. Accordingly the Council will:**

- a) **Apply a presumption in favour of preservation in situ in respect of the most important heritage assets;**
- b) **Require development proposals likely to affect heritage assets and their settings, including new buildings, alterations, extensions, changes of use and demolitions, to consider their significance, character, setting and local distinctiveness, and the opportunities to enhance them;**
- c) **Only approve proposals that would be likely to substantially harm heritage assets and their settings if substantial public benefit outweighs that harm or the requirements of paragraph 133 of the National Planning Policy Framework are met;**
- d) **Where a development proposal would lead to less than substantial harm, that harm will be weighed against any public benefit, including securing optimum viable use; and**
- e) **Require developers to make a proportionate but systematic assessment of the impact on setting as set down in the guidance from English Heritage: "The Setting of Heritage Assets".**

4.77 The historic environment is an asset of great cultural, social, economic and environmental value. It is a non-renewable resource that contributes significantly to our quality of life and to the character of the district. Heritage assets are defined as those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest over and above their functional utility and covers both designated and non-designated assets.

4.78 A heritage asset is defined as a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions because of its heritage interest. This includes designated heritage assets such as listed buildings, scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens and conservation areas, and undesignated sites that can include archaeological sites, locally listed assets and any asset included on the Devon County Historic Environment Record.

4.79 Where proposed development will have the potential to impact upon a heritage asset or its setting, the Council will require the applicant to submit sufficient information to enable a description of a heritage asset affected and a consideration of the impact of the development upon it. This may take the form of an appropriately detailed desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation. The level of detail required should be proportionate to the asset's importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on its significance. If physical preservation of a heritage asset in situ is not appropriate or feasible, "preservation by record" may be acceptable and implementation required by a condition attached to planning permission. Non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest that are of equivalent significance to a scheduled monument, will be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets.

4.80 Proposed development that would lead to substantial harm or total loss of significance of a designated heritage asset will be assessed against national policy, which requires that such proposals should be refused unless there are substantial public benefits that outweigh the harm, or all of the following considerations apply:

- The nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site
- No suitable viable use of the heritage asset can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing
- There is no possibility of conservation as a result of grant-funding or charitable or public ownership
- The harm or loss would be outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use

4.81 Balancing the importance of conservation with the challenge of tackling climate change represents a priority for the district. Proposals for measures to mitigate the effects of climate change that affect listed buildings or buildings in a conservation area can sometimes conflict negatively with the principles of conservation. Therefore prior to determination, the Council will work with applicants to identify feasible solutions that deliver climate change mitigation with less or no harm to the significance or setting of the heritage asset. Where conflict is unavoidable, the public benefit of mitigating the effects of climate change will be weighed against any harm to the significance of the heritage assets affected.

4.82 Further background information in relation to Mid Devon's historic environment can be found within the Town and Village Character Assessment and Conservation Area Appraisals. Where these are available, applications should make reference to how the proposed development contributes towards the priorities set out in these documents. Specific studies may also be relevant to development proposals depending on their location. For instance, where development would affect the setting of Knightshayes Court or Killerton Park, the Council will have regard to The Setting of Knightshayes Park and Garden: A Historic Landscape Assessment (The Parks Agency; Sept 2007),

or the Killerton Park Setting Study (Land Use Consultants; final report, April 2013), as appropriate. These documents will be a material consideration when planning applications are determined. Applicants are encouraged to contact the Council to check if their site falls within the setting study areas surrounding Knightshayes or Killerton, and consider the implications of this at the design stage. It should also be noted that the areas covered by setting studies do not represent a finite limit of setting.

4.83 Details of Mid Devon's non-designated heritage assets are on the register of heritage assets, which is available on the Council's website at [www.middevon.gov.uk/heritageassets](http://www.middevon.gov.uk/heritageassets). The Council's online Public Access system at [www.middevon.gov.uk/online-applications](http://www.middevon.gov.uk/online-applications) has a property address search facility that identifies where heritage assets are present. Further details of heritage assets are also available from English Heritage and the Historic Environment Service at Devon County Council, which holds the Devon County Historic Environment Record. The Council will publish a local register of non-designated heritage assets.

4.84 Existing registers of heritage assets are not an exhaustive list of heritage assets. The Mid Devon local list is regularly reviewed to take account of new information. A development proposal might draw attention to a heritage asset that had not previously been identified or assessed. The absence of an asset from the heritage asset register at the time an application is submitted does not indicate that the asset has no heritage value.

## Policy DM26

### Green infrastructure in major development

**Major development proposals must demonstrate that green infrastructure will be incorporated within the site as follows:**

- Biodiversity mitigation, resulting in a net gain in biodiversity;**
- Flood and water resource management;**
- Green corridors and public rights of way to link the site to the wider GI network, provide walking and cycling opportunities and avoid habitat fragmentation; and**
- New green infrastructure such as the creation of native woodland where possible.**

**Where evidence demonstrates that meeting these criteria in full would render the development unachievable, the Council will balance the benefits of the development against the objectives of this policy.**



4.85 Green infrastructure is a network of multi-functional green space with recreational, visual and ecological value. It includes:

- Natural and semi-natural green spaces such as grassland and nature reserves
- Green corridors such as hedgerows, verges and public rights of way, or 'blue infrastructure' such as watercourses and other water bodies
- Public or private spaces such as gardens, parks, village greens and allotments

4.86 Biodiversity is in long-term decline, with habitats becoming increasingly fragmented and degraded as a result of changing land use and agricultural practices. National policy seeks to reverse this trend, halting overall biodiversity loss and reintroducing well-functioning and coherent ecological networks for the benefit of all. There is an opportunity for development in Mid Devon to play its part in improving the quality and connectivity of green infrastructure.

4.87 Major applications (defined in the glossary) should be accompanied by a habitat survey describing what flora and fauna are present on the site, with particular regard to protected species. In permitting the development, the Council must be satisfied that onsite biodiversity mitigation, where required, is sufficient to make the development acceptable in planning terms.

4.88 Green infrastructure provided within major development sites should normally serve a variety of purposes such as flood attenuation, leisure and recreation, provision of natural habitats, and shading and cooling of buildings and public areas. Green infrastructure functions can co-exist in one place, so the land coverage does not have to be extensive in every case. Green infrastructure within the site should be achieved as part of the broader objectives for high quality design set out in Policy DM1 (high quality design). Applicants should have regard to the Town and Country Planning Association document, Biodiversity by Design, and should explore opportunities for green infrastructure to deliver wider environmental measures, such as those set out in the SW River Basin Management Plan.

4.89 This policy should be considered alongside Policy S5, which sets local standards for the provision of public open space in new development.

## Policy DM27

### Protected landscapes

**Development proposals within or affecting the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Dartmoor National Park, Exmoor National Park and the North Devon Biosphere Reserve must demonstrate that:**

- Cultural heritage and the character, appearance, setting and other special qualities of the landscape will be conserved or, where possible, enhanced; and**
- Biodiversity will be conserved and enhanced where possible through improved linking of habitats, appropriate landscaping and habitat creation.**

**Major developments within or adjoining the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Dartmoor or Exmoor National Parks will only be permitted in exceptional cases.**

4.90 National policy accords the highest status of protection to the landscape and scenic beauty of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and National Parks. The Mid Devon district incorporates a very small part of Dartmoor National Park in the Cheriton Bishop parish, for which Dartmoor National Park Authority is the Local Planning Authority. The district shares boundaries with both Dartmoor and Exmoor National Parks.

4.91 The Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is a nationally important landscape designation, aiming to preserve and enhance the natural and historic landscape features, flora and fauna of the AONB. The Blackdown Hills Management Plan outlines measures for the protection and management of this landscape. Development should not in any way undermine the special qualities that led to the designation of this landscape as AONB.

4.92 Part of the western side of the district falls within the transition area for the North Devon Biosphere Reserve. Biosphere Reserves are areas nominated by national governments and designated under UNESCO's 'Man and Biosphere Programme.' These areas are recognised for their high biodiversity value combined with sustainable use of natural resources for the benefit of local communities. The purpose of the biosphere reserve is to reconcile the conservation of biodiversity with human development needs. The part of the reserve within Mid Devon is known as a 'transition area'. This does not benefit from the very high level of environmental protection found in the 'core area' at Braunton Burrows, but contains agricultural activities and local communities that are recognised for their progress towards achieving this environmental and economic balance.

4.93 Further information on the cultural heritage, character, appearance and setting of the district's landscapes may be found in the Mid Devon Landscape Character Assessment, the Devon Landscape Character Assessment and Devon County Council's Historic Environment Record, which the Council may use as a background to decision-making. Where a development proposal would have potentially significant landscape impact, a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment and ecological report will be required. For applications not supported by specific studies, such as small-scale proposals with no likely significant effects on the landscape or biodiversity, the requirements of the policy should be met through the Design and Access Statement where one is required.

4.94 Where major developments are proposed within protected landscapes or adjoining the National Parks, it must be demonstrated that they are sufficiently in the public interest to overcome any detriment to the landscape in question. National policy criteria will be applied, including an assessment of the need for the development, consequences of approval or refusal, opportunities for an alternative location and the extent to which any detrimental effects on the environment could be mitigated.

## Policy DM28

### Other protected sites

**Where development proposals would lead to an individual or cumulative adverse impact on Sites of Special Scientific Interest, ancient woodland, ancient trees, Regionally Important Geological Sites, County Wildlife Sites, Local Nature Reserves or priority habitats defined under the UK and Devon Biodiversity Action Plans, the Council will balance the overall benefits of the proposal against the impact. Sufficient information must be provided for the Council to assess the significance of the impact against the importance of the protected site and the species which depend upon it. Planning permission will be granted where:**

- a) **The benefits of and need for the development clearly outweigh the direct and indirect impact to the protected site and the ecosystem services it provides;**
- b) **The development could not be located in an alternative, less harmful location; and**
- c) **Appropriate mitigation measures have been put in place.**

**Where development proposals would lead to an individual or cumulative adverse impact on Natura 2000 sites, planning permission will be refused unless the proposal complies with criteria b) and c) above, and the fundamental integrity of the features of the Natura 2000 site would not be affected.**

4.95 Natura 2000 sites include habitats protected under European Legislation, such as Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas for birds. There are no sites in Mid Devon that are designated at European level for wildlife protection or special conservation. However, there is a European-designated Special Area of Conservation (SAC) adjacent to the district's boundary on the A361 road near Rackenford, within North Devon district. While the policies in this plan incorporate counter-acting measures to reduce effects on SACs, the protection of European sites is of the utmost importance. Development that would adversely affect a Natura 2000 site will not normally be permitted, given the stringent tests applied in Policy DM28 and the National Planning Policy Framework.

4.96 Within the Mid Devon district, the Council accords the highest degree of importance to Sites of Special Scientific Interest, as these are sites of national importance with regard to flora, fauna, geological and physiographical (landform) features. They are statutorily protected from harmful operations under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Proposed development that has an adverse effect on a Site of Special Scientific Interest, whether individually or in combination with other developments, will not normally be permitted. Paragraph 118 of the National Planning Policy Framework will be applied.

4.97 Ancient woodland will be accorded the same level of importance as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, as it comprises a number of woodland habitats that are a national priority for improvement under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. Ancient woodland and trees are irreplaceable. As such, the opportunities for mitigation under criterion c) of the policy are limited, and planning permission is likely to be refused for development that would result in the loss of ancient woodland or trees unless the need for, and benefits of, the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss. Where the Council becomes aware of ancient trees not previously identified and under threat from development, a Tree Preservation Order will be considered.

4.98 Regionally Important Geological Sites, being of regional significance, are also accorded a high degree of importance. Mid Devon only has six such sites, within the parishes of Cridton, Cridton Hamlets, Zeal Monachorum, Kentisbeare and Uffculme. More information is available in the glossary. Any development proposal that impacts upon one of these sites would need to be extremely well justified.

4.99 County Wildlife Sites are undesignated sites selected because of the presence of important habitats or species. There are over 200 such sites in Mid Devon, representing a variety of habitats. Development proposals adversely affecting a County Wildlife Site will be considered on a case-by-case basis, according to the amount of information available about the site and its significance, relative to the type, scale and benefits of the development being proposed. The same position will be taken on proposals that impact on Local Nature Reserves and priority habitats (other than ancient woodland) defined in the UK and Devon Biodiversity Action Plans.

4.100 Priority habitats include certain classifications of grassland, heathland, woodland or marsh. While the loss of irreplaceable habitats will not normally be permitted, the Council will seek the replacement of a priority habitat where it is significantly affected and its replacement can be achieved, through a planning obligation as appropriate.

4.101 The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and a number of other Regulations and Directives also designate particular 'protected species' with legal protection. It is an offence recklessly or deliberately to kill, injure, capture or disturb protected species, which includes carrying out works which obstruct, damage or destroy access to that species' habitat. These provisions are set out in law and apply in addition to relevant policies in the Local Plan. The Council will require a protected species survey to be carried out in support of any relevant planning application, including when the application site is not a protected site under Policy DM29 but may affect protected species such as bats and birds.

4.102 Policy DM29 affords protection to sites of significant wildlife or geological importance. Where adverse impacts are likely, planning permission will be refused unless there is particular justification that clearly outweighs the impact in that case. The Council will consider the wider implications of any adverse impact to a protected site, such as its role in providing a vital wildlife corridor, attenuating flood risk or ensuring good water quality in a catchment. National policy criteria will be applied.

4.103 The protected sites listed in Policy DM29 are identified on the Policies Map where they are within or adjoining a defined settlement. Larger sites are also identified on the district-scale map. Up-to-date mapping and information for County Wildlife Sites are held by Devon Biodiversity Record Centre (DBRC). Applicants are advised to contact DBRC when the full extent of a County Wildlife Site is in question.

## Enforcement

### Policy DM29

#### Planning enforcement

**The Council will investigate unauthorised development, acting proportionately to the scale of the suspected breach of planning control. Enforcement action will be taken where it is appropriate to do so and in the public interest.**

4.104 Investigating suspected breaches of planning control is an important function of a Local Planning Authority. Unauthorised development can be detrimental to the local environment and be a source of social tension. Failure to enforce planning conditions or address unauthorised development can reduce the effectiveness of a Local Planning Authority and undermine public confidence in the planning system.

4.105 When undertaking investigations, the Council will act in proportion to the scale of the suspected breach to which it relates. The Council will then take enforcement action where it deems such action to be appropriate, having regard to the scale of the breach and the impact on public amenity.

4.106 To ensure that enforcement is managed proactively and in a way that is appropriate to Mid Devon the Council will publish a Local Enforcement Plan. This document will set out the Council's approach to enforcement, including timescales for action and stating in detail how the Council will respond to suspected breaches of planning control.





## 5.0 Monitoring



5.1 Monitoring is important to understand the characteristics of the local area, assess the impact of policies and whether the strategy is delivering sustainable development so that the policies can be reviewed as appropriate. The Council is required to produce a Monitoring Report at least annually to provide information on the following matters:

- Progress of local plans including the timetable for completion, stage reached and reasons for any delays;
- Any local plans or supplementary planning documents that have been approved or adopted, including relevant dates;
- Decisions not to implement any Local Plan policy including reasons and steps to implement the policy in the future;
- The number of market and affordable dwellings built in the reporting period and since the relevant Local Plan policy target was introduced;
- Any neighbourhood plans or development orders made in the district;
- Progress on the implementation of the Community Infrastructure Levy, if any; and
- Actions taken to ensure cooperation with other local authorities and prescribed organisations under the 'duty to cooperate'.

5.2 The Local Plan contains local indicators and targets where appropriate to inform this process and to measure the Council's performance against relevant policies and legislation.

Indicator	Relevant Policies	Target	Implementation Agencies	Comments
<b>Housing</b>				
Housing trajectory showing net additional dwellings from 2013-2033	S2; S3; S4; S10; S11; S12; S13	Annual completions of 360 dwellings	Development industry, MDDC	
Affordable housing completions; number of dwellings	S1; S3	Annual average completions 100 per year.	MDDC, development industry, registered providers, Housing and Communities Agency	
Affordable housing on rural exception sites	S3; DM6	>50% affordable housing	MDDC, development industry, registered providers, Housing and Communities Agency	Proportion of market housing on rural exception sites should be lower than that of affordable housing.
Net additional gypsy and traveller pitches	S3; DM7		MDDC	
Self-build completions	S3	5% on sites of 20+ dwellings	MDDC, development industry	
Sizes and types of dwellings completed	S1; S3; DM13	No target	MDDC, development industry	
Net density of new residential development	S9; DM1	None	MDDC, development industry	Policies do not set minimum housing densities but promote the efficient and effective use of land.

Indicator	Relevant Policies	Target	Implementation Agencies	Comments
<b>Housing</b>				
Availability of land for housing	S3; S4	>105% housing supply against requirement	MDDC, development industry	Target applied to whole district. Target will be revised to >120% if persistent under-delivery of housing is proven.
Development of housing on allocated sites	S3; S4 All housing allocations	>50% of completions	MDDC, development industry	
Total amount and percentage of housing development (including conversions) on previously developed land.	S1	No target	MDDC, development industry	
Number of parking spaces provided in new residential developments	DM5	≥1.7 car parking per dwelling	MDDC, development industry	
<b>Commercial</b>				
Total amount of additional commercial floorspace for the whole district and individually for Tiverton, Cullompton, Crediton and rural areas	S2; S6; S10; S11; S12; S13; DM14; DM15, DM18	Average annual completions (square metres) Mid Devon 7700 Tiverton 1540 Cullompton 3850 Crediton 770 Rural Areas 1540	MDDC, development industry	Monitoring reports will break down the provision of use classes A1-A5, B1-B8, C1-C2, D1-D2 and sui generis uses.
Development of employment on allocated sites	S6; All commercial allocations	>50% of completions	MDDC, development industry	
Losses of commercial land in local authority area	S6; DM14; DM15; DM19	No Target	Mid Devon District Council, development industry, businesses	Loss of commercial land will be broken down according to use class.
Number of active businesses	S1; S2; S6	Maintain or increase number of active businesses.	MDDC, Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership, private sector	
Job Seekers Allowance as a proportion of working age population each April	S1; S6	Remain below regional average	MDDC, development industry, business sector	Gives indicator for deprivation and employment.
Total amount of floorspace for town centre uses, in total and within town centres (Classes A1, A2, B1a and D2)	S6; S7	No target	MDDC, development industry, retail business sector, leisure industry.	

Indicator	Relevant Policies	Target	Implementation Agencies	Comments
Total amount of floorspace for town centre uses out of town centres (Classes A1, A2, B1a and D2)	S6; DM14; DM15	No target	Mid Devon District Council, development industry, retail business sector, leisure industry.	To monitor edge-of-centre and out-of-centre development, mainly retail.
A1 shops in primary shopping frontages.	S7; DM14	>65%	Mid Devon District Council, development industry, retailers	
Total amount and percentage of commercial floorspace on previously developed land.	S1	No target	MDDC, development industry	
<b>Infrastructure</b>				
Community Infrastructure Levy. Monitor annual receipt of CIL.	S8	No target.	MDDC, development industry	
Public open space provision and accessibility. Applications complying/failing to comply with quantity and access standards in Policy S5	S1; S5; S8	No target	MDDC, development industry, town and parish councils, Sport England, private and voluntary organisations.	Policy S5 sets out standards for open space provision. Smaller sites may provide financial contributions in lieu of onsite open space, with these funds being directed to the provision or improvement of public open space elsewhere.
Strategic Housing and Commercial Land Availability Assessment	S3; S4; S6	To review SHLAA/SCLAA when the Local Plan is reviewed	MDDC, development industry, infrastructure providers	
Services available in towns and rural areas	S8; S10; S11, S12; S13; S14	No reduction in services	MDDC, Devon County Council, other organisations	Services include: Public transport, educational facilities, convenience stores, community halls
Loss of community facilities	S1; DM23	No total loss in settlement	MDDC, development industry	
<b>Environment</b>				
Number of Conservation Area Appraisals and Conservation Area Management Plans	S9	1 new or updated CAA/MP per year	MDDC	
Habitat surveys (where applicable) for consented developments demonstrate no loss in biodiversity.	S1; S9	100%	Natural England, MDDC, development industry	No loss may be achieved through avoidance, mitigation and compensation of impacts.
Developments permitted on protected sites (habitats)	S1; S9; DM28	No target	MDDC, Natural England, development industry	Policy directs development away from protected sites subject to criteria, so the number of consents should be low.

Indicator	Relevant Policies	Target	Implementation Agencies	Comments
Ecological status of water bodies	S1; S9; DM4	No target	MDDC, development industry, Environment Agency.	Target in South West River Basin Management Plan is to achieve good ecological status for water bodies and protected areas by 2015. The Environment Agency monitors water quality.
Consented renewable energy development by type and megawatts.	S1; S9 DM2	No target	Mid Devon District Council, development industry.	
Number of heritage assets added to the local register	DM25	No target	Mid Devon District Council, development industry, English Heritage	
Air Quality Management Areas	S1; S11; S12; DM3; DM4	Reduction in air pollutants within AQMAs	MDDC, development industry, Devon County Council, Highways Agency	
<b>Enforcement</b>				
Number of planning enforcement cases, notices and prosecutions	DM29	No target	MDDC	

# Annex 1

## Glossary

### **Adopted Policies Map (Proposals Map):**

A map showing the areas or sites to which local plan policies and proposals apply. It will contain Inset Maps, showing particular areas in more detail.

### **Affordable Housing:**

Social rented, affordable rented and intermediate housing, provided to eligible households whose needs are not met by the market. Eligibility is determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices. Affordable housing should include provisions to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households or for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision.

Social rented housing is owned by local authorities and private registered providers (as defined in section 80 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008), for which guideline target rents are determined through the national rent regime. It may also be owned by other persons and provided under equivalent rental arrangements to the above, as agreed with the local authority or with the Homes and Communities Agency.

Affordable rented housing is let by local authorities or private registered providers of social housing to households who are eligible for social rented housing. Affordable Rent is subject to rent controls that require a rent of no more than 80% of the local market rent (including service charges, where applicable).

Intermediate housing is homes for sale and rent provided at a cost above social rent, but below market levels subject to the criteria in the Affordable Housing definition above. These can include shared equity (shared ownership and equity loans), other low cost homes for sale and intermediate rent, but not affordable rented housing.

Homes that do not meet the above definition of affordable housing, such as "low cost market" housing, may not be considered as affordable housing for planning purposes.

### **Allocations:**

Proposals that a certain site or area of land should be developed for particular uses and/or buildings. They are shown on a Policies Map, contained within the Local Plan or Local Development Framework. There will be a related policy setting out any parameters and criteria for the site, contained within the local plan.

### **Assets of Community Value:**

A property or place that has been nominated by the local community and included on the Council's list of Assets of Community Value. If a registered property is to be sold, the local community is given the opportunity to bid for it before it is released for sale on the open market.

### **Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM):**

An environmental assessment method and rating system for buildings, to evaluate a building's specification, design, construction and use.

### **Car Club:**

An organisation that owns cars that are shared by its members. People arrange in advance when they want to use a car, and pay to use it. The advantage is that members do not have to pay the whole cost of owning a car, but are able to use one when they need to.

### **Community Infrastructure Levy:**

A levy allowing local authorities to raise funds from owners or developers of land undertaking new building projects in their area.

### **Curtilage:**

The extent of the land around a property (particularly a dwelling) that often, but not always, delineates the amount of land associated with the property. For larger, particularly country properties, the curtilage may often only refer to an immediate cultivated garden and associated forecourt, rather than any other land included within the overall 'planning use'.

### **Devon Biodiversity Record Centre (DBRC):**

An online database of over two million wildlife records, hosted by the Devon Wildlife Trust.

### **Ecosystem services:**

The products of natural systems from which people derive benefits, including goods and services, some of which can be valued economically and others which have a non-economic value. Ecosystem services include: provisioning services (products from land and water); regulating services (processes such as pollination; water purification and climate regulation); cultural services (heritage, recreation, health and wellbeing); and supporting services (essential functions such as soil formation and nutrient cycling).

### **Embodied carbon:**

The amount of CO2 emitted during a product's entire lifecycle, including raw material extraction, transport, manufacture, assembly, installation, maintenance, disassembly or demolition and decomposition. A complete assessment of embodied carbon is often termed 'cradle to grave', while an assessment limited to the early phases (up to the point the product leaves the factory) is called 'cradle to gate'.

### **Local Development Scheme:**

A project plan for the preparation of local plans.

### **Local Green Space:**

The designation of locally important land for special protection, ruling out development other than in exceptional cases. Local Green Space is designated when a local or neighbourhood plan is prepared or reviewed. It must be reasonably close to the community it serves; have demonstrable local significance and interest; be local in character and not cover an extensive tract of land.

### **Low Carbon technologies:**

Includes energy for heating and cooling as well as generating electricity. Low carbon technologies are those that can help reduce emissions (compared to conventional use of fossil fuels).

### **Major development:**

Applications for residential development with a minimum of 10 dwellings or a 0.5 hectare site area, and planning applications for non-residential development with a minimum of 1000 square metres gross floor area, or a 1 hectare site area.

### **Minor development:**

Planning applications which are not any of the following types: a major application, a change of use application or a householder application.

### **Neighbourhood plans:**

Plans and Development Orders produced by parish councils or other designated neighbourhood forums with the support of the local community, including Community Right to Build Orders.

### **Planning obligation:**

A legal agreement or undertaking under Section 106 of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Planning obligations provide a means of ensuring that developers contribute towards the infrastructure and services that are necessary to facilitate proposed development. The use of Section 106 Agreements is affected by the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations.

**Primary shopping area:**

Defined area where retail development is concentrated (generally comprising the primary and secondary shopping frontages which are adjoining and closely related to the primary shopping frontage).

**Primary and secondary frontages:**

Primary frontages are likely to include a high proportion of retail uses which may include food, drinks, clothing and household goods. Secondary frontages provide greater opportunities for a diversity of uses such as restaurants, cinemas and businesses. Mid Devon towns do not have defined secondary frontages but these are generally located within the primary shopping area, outside of the primary shopping frontage (see Policies Maps).

**Priority habitat/species:**

Priority species and habitats are those that have been identified as being the most threatened and requiring conservation action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

**Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS):**

These are the most important sites for geology and geomorphology outside of statutorily protected land such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest. They are designated according to criteria set at regional or county level. The following table details the six Mid Devon RIGS:

Grid_Ref	Parish	Description
SS789022	Crediton Hamlets	Quarry with exposures of Permian volcanic lava
SS714032	Zeal Monachorum	Quarry with exposure of Upper Carboniferous Bude formation
SS820005	Crediton	Road cutting with exposure of Crediton Breccia
SS817002	Crediton Hamlets	Exposure of Newton St.Cyres Breccia on the sides of a deeply sunken lane
ST096090	Kentisbeare/Uffculme	Scarp hillside covered in bracken & woodland
SX823985	Crediton Hamlets	Quarry with volcanic lava resting on soft reddish Knowle sandstone

**Renewable energy:**

Includes energy for heating and cooling and electricity generation. Renewable energy covers those energy flows that occur naturally and repeatedly in the environment – from the wind, the fall of water, the movement of the oceans, from the sun and also from biomass and deep geothermal heat.

**River Basin Management Plan (RBMP):**

A plan produced by the Environment Agency in order to meet the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive. Each plan sets out the environmental objectives for all water bodies in the region and how they will be achieved. The South West RBMP can be downloaded at <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/planning/125027.aspx>.

**Rural workers:**

are people whose place of work is located within the countryside, typically comprising farm workers, forestry workers and others involved in rural-based enterprises.

**Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI):**

SSSIs are the country's very best wildlife and geological sites. SSSIs are important as they support plants and animals that find it more difficult to survive in the wider countryside. The protection of SSSIs is a shared responsibility between landowners, local authorities and Natural England.

**Statement of Community Involvement:**

a statement within the Local Development Framework that sets out the Council's policies for the public involvement in the preparation of Local Development Documents and planning applications.

**Supplementary Planning Document:**

a document within the Local Development Framework that sets out more detailed policies in support of those contained in a local plan. It does not form part of the Development Plan, but is a material consideration on planning applications.

**Sustainable Development:**

is development which meets the needs of the present while not preventing future generations meeting their own needs. The sustainability of local plans must be assessed through Sustainability Appraisals and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA).

**Telecommunications development:**

Operational development and change of use of land to provide buildings, instrumentation and other equipment necessary for telecommunications (telegraph, cable, telephone, radio, or television). The National Planning Policy Framework sets out the requirements for decision-making on telecommunications proposals.

**Water Framework Directive (WFD):**

European Union legislation that requires all countries throughout the EU to manage the water environment to consistent standards.

**Zero carbon:**

A set of standards prepared by the Government for the construction of new homes which are intended to ensure zero net carbon emissions from on-going use and maintenance from the building. Regulated emissions such as a building's energy efficiency and onsite renewable or low carbon heat and power supply will be controlled through the Building Regulations, while any remaining emissions may be offset through 'allowable solutions' (to be determined by Government).



## Annex 2

### Low Emission Assessments (LEA): Procedural guidance

Steps	Information required	Notes
<b>Step 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overview of development proposal.</li> <li>Summary of pre-application discussions.</li> <li>Identify boundaries of the assessment according to the proximity to an Air Quality Management Area, expected routes of travel, properties most affected and years of interest, to determine whether a concentrations-based air quality assessment is required under Policy DM6 criterion a).</li> <li>Set out the assessment methodology used to comply with criterion a) of Policy DM6 if necessary, including sources of data and assumptions used.</li> </ul>	<p>Years of interest will be influenced by the anticipated operational commencement and lifespan of the development; the timescale to achieve specified national targets for emissions; and the availability of robust emissions data projected forward to 2020 or beyond.</p>
<b>Step 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using the Low Emission Toolkit (or equivalent), calculate the baseline residual road transport emissions from the development, for the first operational year and specified future years after development trips have been reduced as far as possible. The calculation should be based on a 'without measures' scenario, i.e. not including any low emission mitigation measures.</li> <li>If an air quality assessment has been identified as necessary under Step 1, summarise: all impacts (during and post-construction) on identified properties or other local receptor locations; any exceedences of the air quality objectives resulting from the development; any effect on the delivery of the relevant Air Quality Action Plan; the significance of the results; and the options for measures to reduce, mitigate or compensate an air quality impact.</li> </ul>	<p>Display data as annual emissions.</p>

Steps	Information required	Notes
<b>Step 3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider whether additional trip reduction measures can be incorporated.</li> <li>Using the Low Emission Toolkit (or equivalent), evaluate the impact on residual road transport emissions of applying low emission mitigation measures, both on and offsite, against 'business as usual' baseline levels, for the specified years of interest.</li> <li>Evaluate any trade-offs that occur as a result of mitigation measures, for instance where one pollutant would decrease but another increase, or where there is a net increase in the road traffic emissions in Mid Devon but a decrease within the Air Quality Management Area.</li> <li>If an air quality assessment is included (see Step 1), summarise the effect that mitigation measures will have on: identified properties or other local receptor locations; any exceedences of the air quality objectives resulting from the development; and any effect on the delivery of the relevant Air Quality Action Plan.</li> </ul>	<p>Steps 2 and 3 may be combined as a site emissions mitigation plan, with clear links to the Travel Plan.</p>
<b>Step 4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Calculate the remaining residual road transport emissions after mitigation measures have been incorporated, using a 'mass emissions' approach (Low Emissions Toolkit) and in addition a concentrations-based approach in cases where criterion a) of Policy DM6 applies (see Step 1).</li> </ul>	<p>The Local Planning Authority may wish to negotiate further/ alternative mitigation measures, requiring a revised LEA to be submitted.</p>

Steps	Information required	Notes
<b>Step 5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Translate the calculated remaining residual road transport emissions into damage costs for the pollutants of concern. (Information on calculating damage costs is available from DEFRA: <a href="http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/air/air-quality/economic/damage/">http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/air/air-quality/economic/damage/</a>)</li> </ul>	<p>If damage costs are significant, the Local Planning Authority will consider whether a Section 106 Agreement is required and feasible to make the development acceptable in planning terms, to deliver a cost-equivalent air quality improvement identified in the relevant Air Quality Action Plan. In this case the identified project would be excluded from the Council's list of infrastructure funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). CIL would remain payable for all other generic offsite infrastructure. The Council may take legal advice before deciding on this approach, where a Section 106 Agreement would deliver off-site infrastructure.</p>

# Local Plan Review 2013 - 2033

## Policies Map

Proposed Submission

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