

Exmoor Local Plan 5 Year Review Survey

The survey provides an opportunity to have your say on whether the Exmoor National Park Local Plan policies remain effective and up to date. The survey is based on the interim conclusions that have been drawn from the evidence and analysis carried out so far, and which we are seeking your views on.

Before you fill in the survey, you are encouraged to read the Topic Papers for the topics you are interested in and to familiarise yourself with the relevant policies for your area of interest. These are available on the website along with the Local Plan and summary.

The survey is available from 11th January to 28th February 2022. All responses need to be submitted by 23:59 on 28th February 2022.

If you experience any technical difficulties while completing this form, then please contact us on localplan@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk and we will ensure that any comments you would like to make are fully recorded.

Section 1 – Your Details

Data Protection

The Authority is registered with the ICO and processes data in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and The General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR). Any personal contact information shared within this questionnaire will be stored securely and will not be used for any other purpose nor shared with any third parties. Personal data will be retained for two years and will then be anonymised. Comments made and your name will be available to the public via our website so do not include any information you do not wish to be available to the public, nor make any discriminatory comments. By submitting this questionnaire, you agree that any comments made are your own. Personal contact details such as address, phone number, email, will not be published. We reserve the right to withhold any comments or parts of comments that are offensive or defamatory. Anonymous comments cannot be considered. Personal contact details may be used to provide updates in relation to any representation you may make.

1. Name*
2. Organisation you represent (if any)
3. Address*
4. Postcode*
5. Email*
6. Phone Number*
7. Please specify whether you are a resident of Exmoor or work on Exmoor? *
 - a. Resident of Exmoor
 - b. Work on Exmoor
 - c. Both resident and work on Exmoor
 - d. Responding on behalf of an organisation
 - e. None of the above
8. What is your interest in the Local Plan? *

Section 2 – Content of the survey

The survey comprises of 3 topics on housing and community, the environment and the economy. When the National Park Authority considers whether to review or update the Local Plan it must have

sound evidence on which to base a decision. It would help if when answering the questions you could support your answers with evidence, particularly where you think we need to review certain policies.

9. You will be asked if you would like to comment on each section in turn, beginning with the first section on housing and community. Would you like to comment on the housing and community section?*

 - a. Yes
 - b. No

Section 3 - Housing & Community Topic

The key purpose of the Exmoor National Park Local Plan housing strategy is to address the housing needs of local communities: the priority is for housing that is affordable to local people. This includes those with a longstanding local connection including those who wish to return to live on Exmoor; or those who work/are moving to work on Exmoor. The plan also provides for other locally needed housing: rural worker and succession farm housing, extended family, and adaptable and accessible housing. The Plan also allows for market housing where this is needed to help fund affordable housing, and in these cases a condition is placed on the housing to ensure that it is lived in by people as their principal residence rather than as a second home.

10. Affordable Housing Delivery

Our analysis to date (in the summary paper and interim housing and community topic paper) suggests that although fewer homes have been delivered than expected, there are other factors outside the planning system impacting on the delivery of sufficient affordable housing for local people. As such, changes are not needed to the housing policies to enable the delivery of local need homes.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? *

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neither agree or disagree
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

11. Please use the text box below to provide a reason and explanation for your answer to Question 10. Please tell us which policies your comment refers to, be as specific as possible, providing examples and a brief outline of your reasons.
(TEXT BOX)

12. Updated evidence (summarised in the interim housing and community topic paper) shows there have been continued rises in house prices and an increased affordability gap between house prices and wages within the National Park, and therefore affordable housing for local communities remains a priority.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? *

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neither agree or disagree
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

13. Please use the text box below to provide a reason and explanation for your answer to Question 12. Please tell us which policies your comment refers to, be as specific as possible, providing examples and a brief outline of your reasons.
(TEXT BOX)

14. Our analysis to date (in the summary paper and housing and community topic paper) suggests that changes are not needed to the housing strategy and housing policies.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?*

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neither agree or disagree
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

15. Please use the text box below to provide a reason and explanation for your answer to Question 14. Please tell us which policies your comment refers to, be as specific as possible, providing examples and a brief outline of your reasons.
(TEXT BOX)

16. The Rural Enterprise Exmoor (REE) Vision talks about more housing for local people in general, which would widen the focus of the current Plan which is for local people who need affordable housing. A link to information on the vision can be found on the Local Plan 5-Year Review webpage. As well as prioritising local affordable housing including for local workers and through self or custom build, the Local Plan has policies enabling a variety of other housing for local people such as rural workers, succession farming, extended family and accessible and adaptable housing. Widening the policies further to consider any local (but not affordable) housing could have consequences in terms of the ability to deliver affordable housing for local people.

What do you see as the potential negative or positive consequences of allowing more local housing?*

(TEXT BOX)

17. Monitoring suggests there has been some loss of community facilities due to permitted development changes, but that policies have enabled some to be replaced or diversified to help with their long-term viability. Our analysis to date suggests that changes are not needed to policies to continue supporting community facilities.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? *

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neither agree or disagree
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

18. Please use the text box below to provide a reason and explanation for your answer to Question 17. Please tell us which policies your comment refers to, be as specific as possible, providing examples and a brief outline of your reasons.

(TEXT BOX)

19. Please indicate from the following options which statement is closest to your views on the Local Plan policies on housing and community. *

- a. I fully support the policies in the Local Plan on housing and community
- b. I support the housing and community policies in the Local Plan but would like ways to be found to improve their delivery
- c. I am neutral on the policies in the Local Plan on housing and community
- d. I generally support the intentions of the policies in the Local Plan on housing and community but feel that they may need some updating and fine tuning to make them more effective
- e. I consider that the policies on housing and community are out of date when considered against the latest national policies and up to date evidence

20. Please use the text box below to provide a reason and explanation for your answer to Question 19. Please tell us which policies your comment refers to, be as specific as possible, providing examples and a brief outline of your reasons.

(TEXT BOX).

21. Please provide additional comments on the questions above or other policies in the housing and community topic. Please tell us which policies your comment refers to, be as specific as possible, providing examples and a brief outline of your reasons. If you have no further comments to make, please indicate this by entering 'N/A' into the text box.*

(TEXT BOX)

Section 4 – Next Section

The next topic of this survey is on the environment. Please indicate below whether you wish to comment on this section or if you would prefer to skip to the final section on the economy.

22. Would you like to comment on the environment section? *

- a. Yes
- b. No

Section 5 – Environment Topic

These policies ensure development proposals conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park, including through the design of new buildings and the small-scale extraction of building stone.

There are policies to address adaptation to climate change including flood risk, water conservation, and coastal change; whilst mitigating the effects of climate change through appropriate low carbon and renewable energy technologies. Policies also ensure that the management of resources such as waste protects the National Park and avoids the impacts of pollution.

23. Biodiversity net gain (BNG) is a new legal requirement for development, and/or land management, that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was beforehand.

The interim environment topic paper explains that current Local Plan policies refer to biodiversity enhancement rather than net gain, but it is considered that the legal requirement for BNG can be implemented within current policy, and no changes are necessary. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? *

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neither agree or disagree
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

24. Please use the text box below to provide a reason and explanation for your answer to Question 23. Please tell us which policies your comment refers to, be as specific as possible, providing examples and a brief outline of your reasons.
(TEXT BOX)

25. It has been suggested that the Authority should prepare an Exmoor-specific approach and guidance to implementing BNG as this could be helpful for applicants and landowners. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? *

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neither agree or disagree
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

26. Please use the text box below to provide a reason and explanation for your answer to Question 25. Please tell us which policies your comment refers to, be as specific as possible, providing examples and a brief outline of your reasons.
(TEXT BOX)

27. Exmoor National Park Authority has declared a climate emergency and there is greater awareness of the urgency to respond to climate change. Contributions to date include responding via land management e.g. through peatland restoration and woodland creation. Whilst there is a limit to what planning can control and the scale of development in the National Park, there are positive Local Plan policies enabling renewable energy schemes, adaptation to flood risk and coastal change.

Therefore, it is considered that at this stage there is no need to amend the policies to respond to the climate emergency. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? *

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neither agree or disagree
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

28. Please use the text box below to provide a reason and explanation for your answer to Question 27. Please tell us which policies your comment refers to, be as specific as possible, providing examples and a brief outline of your reasons.
(TEXT BOX)

29. There is now a much greater emphasis on design in national policy. As a National Park, the Local Plan already has detailed policies on design and the Authority is also working on an updated Design Guide which will expand upon the policies.

The analysis to date in the interim environment topic paper has not identified a need for policies to be changed.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this assessment? *

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neither agree or disagree
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

30. Please use the text box below to provide a reason and explanation for your answer to Question 29. Please tell us which policies your comment refers to, be as specific as possible, providing examples and a brief outline of your reasons.
(TEXT BOX)

31. Please indicate from the following options which statement is closest to your views on the Local Plan policies on the environment. *

- a. I fully support the policies in the Local Plan on the environment
- b. I support the environment policies in the Local Plan but would like ways to be found to make them more effective
- c. I am neutral on the environment policies in the Local Plan
- d. I generally support the intentions of the environment policies in the Local Plan but feel that they may need some updating and fine tuning to make them more effective
- e. I consider that the policies on the environment are out of date when considered against the latest national policies and up to date evidence

32. Please use the text box below to provide a reason and explanation for your answer to Question 31. Please tell us which policies your comment refers to, be as specific as possible, providing examples and a brief outline of your reasons.
(TEXT BOX)

33. Please provide additional comments on the questions above or other policies in the environment topic. Please tell us which policies your comment refers to, be as specific as possible, providing examples and a brief outline of your reasons. If you have no further comments to make, please indicate this by entering 'N/A' into the text box. *
(TEXT BOX)

Section 6 – Next Section

The final topic of this survey is on the economy. Please indicate below whether you wish to comment on this section or if you would prefer to skip to the end of the survey where you may add any other comments you have.

34. Would you like to comment on the economy section?*

- a. Yes
- b. No

Section 7 - Economy Topic

The economy policies in the Local Plan ensure that new businesses can develop in sustainable locations and existing businesses are able to grow. Policies also provide for home-based businesses and encourage entrepreneurship. This section also sets the policy requirements for new agricultural and forestry development. The Local Plan underpins opportunities for understanding and enjoying the National Park and its special qualities by providing for a range of visitor accommodation and recreation facilities.

Also included under this topic are policies that ensure development proposals incorporate the requirements for sustainable transport, road safety, traffic management and parking provision while conserving the National Park. Finally, there are policies that encourage electricity and telecommunication networks (e.g. mobile phone and broadband coverage), whilst ensuring that the high-quality landscapes of the National Park are conserved and enhanced.

35. The Rural Enterprise Exmoor evidence highlights the very high proportion of micro-businesses on Exmoor. Local Plan policies provide for a flexible approach to business development in settlements and the open countryside as well as home-based businesses. The analysis to date in the interim economy topic paper has not identified a need for policies to be changed.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? *

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neither agree or disagree
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

36. Please use the text box below to provide a reason and explanation for your answer to Question 35. Please tell us which policies your comment refers to, be as specific as possible, providing examples and a brief outline of your reasons.
(TEXT BOX)

37. The coronavirus pandemic has impacted on the tourism sector and it is difficult to predict what the long-term effects will be and therefore changes that might be considered in the future to respond to these effects. From the evidence to date, the Local Plan policy approach is considered to be sufficiently flexible to enable future recovery.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? *

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree

- c. Neither agree or disagree
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

38. Please use the text box below to provide a reason and explanation for your answer to Question 37. Please tell us which policies your comment refers to, be as specific as possible, providing examples and a brief outline of your reasons.

(TEXT BOX)

39. There are many challenges and changes facing the farming and land management sector including the coronavirus pandemic and leaving the European Union and it is difficult to predict what the long-term effects will be and therefore any changes that might be considered in the future to respond to these effects. From the evidence to date, the Local Plan policy approach is considered to be sufficiently flexible to respond to future needs and changes in this sector.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? *

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neither agree or disagree
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

40. Please use the text box below to provide a reason and explanation for your answer to Question 39. Please tell us which policies your comment refers to, be as specific as possible, providing examples and a brief outline of your reasons.

(TEXT BOX)

41. The Rural Enterprise Exmoor Vision highlights digital connectivity as a key objective. Monitoring data shows a high number of permissions granted for telecommunications masts and mobile communications infrastructure. The analysis to date suggests that the Local Plan policies provide an appropriate basis to support the future roll out of digital connectivity in the National Park.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? *

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neither agree or disagree
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

42. Please use the text box below to provide a reason and explanation for your answer to Question 41. Please tell us which policies your comment refers to, be as specific as possible, providing examples and a brief outline of your reasons.

(TEXT BOX)

43. Please indicate from the following options which statement is closest to your views on the Local Plan policies on the economy. *

- a. I fully support the policies in the Local Plan on the economy
- b. I support the economy policies in the Local Plan but would like ways to be found to make them more effective
- c. I am neutral on the economy policies in the Local Plan
- d. I generally support the intentions of the policies on economy in the Local Plan but feel that they may need some updating and fine tuning to make them more effective
- e. I consider that the policies on the economy are out of date when considered against the latest national policies and up to date evidence

44. Please use the text box below to provide a reason and explanation for your answer to Question 43. Please tell us which policies your comment refers to, be as specific as possible, providing examples and a brief outline of your reasons.

(TEXT BOX)

45. Please provide additional comments on the questions above or other policies in the economy topic. Please tell us which policies your comment refers to, be as specific as possible, providing examples and a brief outline of your reasons. If you have no further comments to make, please indicate this by entering 'N/A' into the text box. *

(TEXT BOX)

Section 8 – Any other comments?

46. The content of this survey has been structured around the three topics of housing and community, the environment and the economy. If you wish to provide comments on other areas of the Plan or wish to draw our attention to other evidence, please do so below. If you have no further comments to make, please indicate this by entering 'N/A' into the text box.

If you experienced any technical difficulties whilst completing this form, then please contact us on localplan@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk and we will ensure that any comments you would like to make are fully recorded.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. * (TEXT BOX)