

INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY PLAN

Exmoor National Park Authority
June 2015

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1.0. INTRODUCTION

Exmoor National Park Infrastructure Delivery Plan

- 1.1. This reports sets out the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) in line with the Local Plan from 2011-2031 for Exmoor National Park. The plan is an evolving document and will be updated when necessary, to provide the latest information.

Background

- 1.2. Exmoor National Park covers 693 sq km, of which approximately two thirds lies within West Somerset and one third of the area in North Devon. A total of 42 parishes are within (or partly within) the National Park with most of the population living in small, dispersed settlements. Within the Park, there are three Local Service Centres, 17 designated villages and a number of small hamlets dispersed amongst the open countryside. The National Park is subject to significant environmental constraints, including international nature conservation designations, which are reflected by planning policies, seeking development restraint in the area. Due to the nature of the Park, and the low levels of development, we do not expect any significant infrastructure requirements during the plan period.

Infrastructure definition

- 1.3. The Planning Advisory Service defines 'infrastructure' as including (but not limited to) the following:
 - Health and Social Care
 - Community Infrastructure
 - Open Space and Green Infrastructure
 - Historic Sites and Culture
 - Transport
 - Utility Infrastructure
 - Housing
 - Education
 - Emergency Services
- 1.4. The above infrastructure will be delivered by a range of agencies which have been consulted in the preparation of this report. This IDP briefly outlines the situation as at June 2015 in the main infrastructure areas outlined above.

National policy contexts

- 1.5. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published in 2012 contains guidance on the provision of infrastructure:
 - 1.5.1. *“Local planning authorities should work with other authorities and providers to:*
 - *assess the quality and capacity of infrastructure for transport, water supply, wastewater and its treatment, energy (including heat), telecommunications, utilities, waste, health, social care,*

education, flood risk and coastal change management, and its ability to meet forecast demands; and

- *take account of the need for strategic infrastructure including nationally significant infrastructure within their areas.”¹*

- 1.6. This IDP does not cover *nationally significant infrastructure*. The relevant Secretary of State holds the decision making powers for major infrastructure projects and since April 2012 the functions of the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) were transferred to the Planning Inspectorate. Nationally significant infrastructure projects include the large projects that support the economy and vital public services, such as: railways, large wind farms, power stations, reservoirs, harbours, airports and sewage treatment works. There are no such proposals in or near Exmoor National Park.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

- 1.7. On 6th April 2010 the CIL Regulations came into force. In addition to planning conditions and obligations, local planning authorities are able to introduce CIL which can be used to secure a levy from development to deliver infrastructure to support the development of the local area. However, it is not obligatory. In Exmoor National Park for example, CIL could be used for improvements and additions to: sporting and recreational facilities, open spaces, schools and other educational facilities, medical centres, transport infrastructure and flood defences.
- 1.8. Much infrastructure is owned and/or managed by town and parish councils the district councils and county councils. The need for CIL is established through this Infrastructure Delivery Plan which sets out existing infrastructure deficiencies and what is required for the future.
- 1.9. A community infrastructure levy CIL is generally charged on development that is over 100sq metres or for new dwellings. There are developments which do not pay into this levy which include: self-build homes, social housing, agricultural workers dwellings and charitable development. Exmoor National Park has relatively limited development, particularly of 100sqm or above and much of the housing delivered to address the affordable housing needs of local communities would be exempt from CIL. However, it is recognised that such development still has an impact on local infrastructure and the needs of local communities.
- 1.10. Given the limited level and scale of development in Exmoor National Park and that much of the local infrastructure is owned and/or managed by other local authorities, the National Park Authority will need to work with partners and review the Infrastructure Delivery Plan periodically and as appropriate, to inform its position on the CIL, including consideration of the benefits of a CIL and its impact on the viability of development in the National Park.

¹ DGLG (2012) National Planning Policy Framework (paragraph 162). *Department for Government and Local Communities*.

2.0. HEALTH

- 2.1. The Devon Clinical Commissioning Group and the Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group² are the organisations established under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, taking over the statutory responsibility of commissioning health services for the residents of Devon and Somerset. They took over the role of NHS Devon and NHS Somerset. The National Park falls within the North Devon Clinical Commissioning Group and the West Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group.
- 2.2. Health services and facilities within the Park are mainly situated within the Local Service Centres of Dulverton, Dunster, Lynton/Lynmouth and Porlock, which serve the surrounding villages. Health and social welfare issues are a priority in dispersed rural areas, such as Exmoor, and there are concerns over access to health services in some parishes, such as the Lyn and Exmoor Vision³ stating that many in the area have to travel at least 20 miles to access health services. An increasingly older population is also likely to put pressure on local social services and healthcare.
- 2.3. Within the North Devon Clinical Commissioning Group, the redevelopment of the Lynton Health Centre was completed in July 2014 and now provides more suitable premises that complies with current guidance to GP practices.
- 2.4. Within the West Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group, Dunster gained planning permission in March 2013 to construct a new medical centre to replace the existing surgery in Dunster; construction work commenced in January 2015. Just outside the Park, in Minehead the redevelopment of community hospital was completed in 2011 costing £23million. Minor alterations and extensions to the GP surgeries in Minehead are also being undertaken. There may be an impact of the Hinkley Point Power Station project in West Somerset which has projections of approximately 3,500 new workers in the area for the short term with works starting in 2010 and the site preparation phase being completed in 2015⁴. Further health care development will be dependent on population growth and need.

3.0. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

- 3.1. Problems associated with the loss of services, such as shops, post offices and petrol stations within local communities and low levels of public transport provision are well documented. The retention of local services and facilities such as shops, post offices and schools in rural settlements helps to address accessibility issues⁵. The

² Somerset CCG (2015) Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group: About Us [Online] <http://www.somersetccg.nhs.uk/somerset-clinical-commissioning-group/about-us/>

³ Lyn and Exmoor Vision is a Community Strategic Plan for the years 2006-2021, which covers the parishes of Brendon, Parracombe, Challacombe, Martinhoe, Trenishoe, Lynton, Lynmouth, Countisbury and Kentisbury.

⁴ EDF Energy (2010) Hinkley Point C: Proposed Nuclear Development. Consultation on Preferred Proposals.

⁵ ENPA (2010) Local Development Framework, Consultation Draft Local Plan & Development Management Policies: Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. *Exmoor House, Dulverton*

Porlock Parish Plan argues that there are insufficient amenities and facilities for the younger generation and there is a desire to retain and enhance local service provision⁶. The Lyn & Exmoor Vision states a number of priorities including enhancing leisure, health and community facilities⁷.

- 3.2. There are currently 26 community meeting spaces in the National Park which include buildings, such as village halls and parish meeting rooms. Community infrastructure will be provided on a case by case basis throughout the lifetime of the Local Plan. This is likely to be through extensions, refurbishments and improvements⁸. The new Local Plan incorporates policies to ensure that local commercial services and community facilities are safeguarded and enable opportunities to enhance provision.

4.0. OPEN SPACE AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

- 4.1. Exmoor National Park lies within the counties of Somerset and Devon and was designated a National Park in 1954. Currently there are 39.82ha of existing areas of important visual amenity open space and 39.46ha of recreational open space within settlements or adjoining them as designated on the Local Plan proposal maps⁹ which are considered to be important green infrastructure for communities. Currently policy aims to conserve and enhance the natural and built environment. These aims will continue during the lifetime of the Local Plan.
- 4.2. The Open Space Strategy provides an assessment of the amount; distribution and quality of existing open amenity space within communities and a total of 122 open spaces within the National Park were assessed. Out of the 22 settlements surveyed:
- 2 settlements had the provision of parks and gardens;
 - 1 settlement had the provision of a green corridor;
 - 12 settlements included outdoor or sports facilities;
 - 18 settlements had amenity green space;
 - 13 settlements provided facilities for children and young people;
 - 5 settlements provided allotments; and
 - 18 settlements had cemeteries and churchyards¹⁰.
- 4.3. The need for improving and providing for open space and recreation facilities in communities is evident from the open space report. Some settlements on Exmoor link together in terms of the collective services and facilities they provide, creating stronger communities and providing more variety of open spaces to a larger audience than just individual parishes. The Strategy identified that the provision of

⁶ Porlock Parish Council (2007) Porlock Vale Parish Plan: Shaping our future. Covering parishes of Porlock and Selworthy and Minehead without.

⁷ Lyn and Exmoor Vision is a Community Strategic Plan for the years 2006-2021

⁸ ENPA (2010) Exmoor National Park Annual Monitoring Report. Figure based on 2009 Settlement Audit. *Exmoor House, Dulverton*

⁹ ENPA (2015) Exmoor National Park Publication Draft Local Plan -Proposals Maps. *Exmoor House, Dulverton*

¹⁰ ENPA (2015) Open Space Strategy. *Exmoor House, Dulverton*.

further open spaces within some settlements should be explored further, reflecting the demand within the settlement.

- 4.4. Policies HC-S6, HC-D19 and HC-D20 support the provision and retention of new outdoor recreation areas and publicly accessible amenity spaces and the retention of existing outdoor recreation and amenity areas as identified within the Open Space Strategy.
- 4.5. Publication Draft Local Plan Policy CE-D2 requires that all development proposals should include measures that will enhance green infrastructure. The policy states:

*“Green Infrastructure proposals should:
2e) improve the quality of life through the provision of benefits for health and well-being, including opportunities to access open space and enjoyment of the National Park and its special qualities.
3. Proposals will be encouraged where a range of green infrastructure benefits can be achieved.”*

5.0. HISTORIC SITES AND CULTURE

- 5.1. The National Planning Policy Framework has regard to ‘conserving and enhancing the Historic Environment’ whereby the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment brings¹¹, should be recognised in the delivery of sustainable development. Heritage assets should be conserved in a way that is consistent with their significance and where possible through an appropriate viable use. Based on the 2009 settlement audit¹² and updated in 2015¹³, there are currently 8 local/specialist museums, 10 local galleries and 1 cinema.
- 5.2. There are approximately 9213 current entries in the Exmoor National Park Historic Environment Record (HER)¹⁴. This is a database that records historic sites and features from the earliest human activity to present day and includes unlisted records. Policies CE-S4 and CE-D3 of the Publication Draft Local Plan have an underlying aim to protect and conserve all assets in the HER. There currently are 741 listed buildings in Exmoor National Park of which 20 are Grade I listed; 53 are Grade II*; 668 are Grade II; 2 historic parks/gardens and approximately 201 scheduled ancient monuments. There are also 12 settlements and 4 building groups, such as farmsteads, that have been designated as ‘Conservation Areas’ which are intended to preserve and enhance the essential historic character of a settlement and to protect it from demolition or inappropriate new development.
- 5.3. Exmoor is considered to have historic environment at low risk due to its remote nature however there are instances where heritage may become at risk. Based on the Heritage at Risk Register from English

¹¹ DCLG (2012) National Planning Policy Framework (para. 126). *The Stationery Office, London.*

¹² ENPA (2010) Exmoor National Park Annual Monitoring Report. Figure based on 2009 Settlement Audit. *Exmoor House, Dulverton*

¹³ ENPA (2015) Settlement Hierarchy- Local Plan Technical Paper. *Exmoor House, Dulverton.*

¹⁴ ENPA (2015) Exmoor Historic Environment Record [Online] www.exmoorher.co.uk

Heritage (2014) currently there are 21 scheduled monuments at risk within the National Park¹⁵. The condition of assets is continually monitored by Exmoor National Park Authority with recommendations to improve those assets at risk¹⁶. The number of historic and archaeological sites may fluctuate during the lifetime of the Local Plan due to some assets becoming “At Risk” or lost due to influences such as degradation, climate change and tourism pressures. One such example is within Porlock Weir (designated a Conservation Area with 24 known historic assets) where heritage assets may become “At Risk” or possibly lost during the lifetime of the Local Plan due to a change in Shoreline Management Plan policy from ‘Hold the Line’ to ‘No Active intervention’¹⁷. On the other hand fluctuations in the number of historic and archaeological sites may occur due to the increase of historic assets through the discovery of new historic buildings, sites or monuments.

6.0. TRANSPORT

Roads

- 6.1. Devon County Council and Somerset County Council are responsible for the repair and maintenance of the road network in the National Park¹⁸. There are no trunk roads or motorways in the National Park, which are the responsibility of the Highways Agency. The Exmoor Route Network shown in Figure 1.0 provides a hierarchy of routes for different types and modes of travel. The A class roads are the principal transport routes in the National Park, suitable for most types of traffic; B class roads are suitable for medium sized vehicles; other smaller roads and lanes and only suitable for cars and other small vehicles. HGV movements on roads within the National Park are at significantly lower levels in relation to total traffic flows but large vehicles can still cause problems on narrow roads in villages. There has been a significant increase in delivery vans, some of which is likely to have resulted from the growth in internet shopping¹⁹. However, although this is preferable to additional HGV movements within the Park, such increases in traffic may in future, benefit from co-ordination and shared deliveries using appropriate sized vehicles suited to the small rural roads within the National Park.
- 6.2. There are no long distance freight routes through the National Park, apart from a short section of A399 that passes through the western edge of the National Park which is identified as a County Freight Route. The A39 from Williton to Dunster and Minehead (outside the National Park boundary) is also designated as a County Freight Route. Local Freight Routes, for local access only, are designated for the B3190 (Ralegh’s Cross towards Washford Cross), the tertiary

¹⁵ English Heritage (2014) Heritage at Risk. [Online] <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/heritage-at-risk/>

¹⁶ Exmoor National Park Authority (2009) Scheduled Monument Condition Assessment. *Exmoor House, Dulverton*

¹⁷ NDASCAG (2010) North Devon & Somerset Coastal Advisory Group [Online] <http://www.ndascag.org/>

¹⁸ ENPA (2015) Local Plan Publication Draft (Paragraph 9.15) *Exmoor House, Dulverton*

¹⁹ Somerset County Council (2011) 2011- 2026 Freight Strategy. *Somerset County Council*

route from Machine Cross to Heathpoult Cross, and the east/west route across the National Park consisting of the B3224, B3223 and B3358. These are longstanding routes signposted for HGVs for local access only and not as strategic county level routes. The Exmoor Route Network (Figure 1.0), provides the framework to ensure that freight traffic uses roads most suited to the purpose of its journey. The average daily traffic figures show a relatively stable pattern over the past 5 years²⁰.

- 6.3. Both Devon County Council and Somerset County Council do not have any major further road infrastructure proposed for the National Park²¹ and ENPA has worked with Devon and Somerset Highway Authorities to develop a more sensitive approach to signage and road management on Exmoor to reduce unnecessary road infrastructure.
- 6.4. It should be noted that it is not a realistic prospect of displacing the private car in rural areas therefore issues of increased congestion due to traffic growth may arise within the lifetime of the Local Plan²². Such issues will be addressed through close liaison of ENPA with Devon and Somerset County Councils. However during the next 15-20 years modes and means of transport may change with regard to variable fuel prices and changes in technology such as the development of electric and hybrid cars.

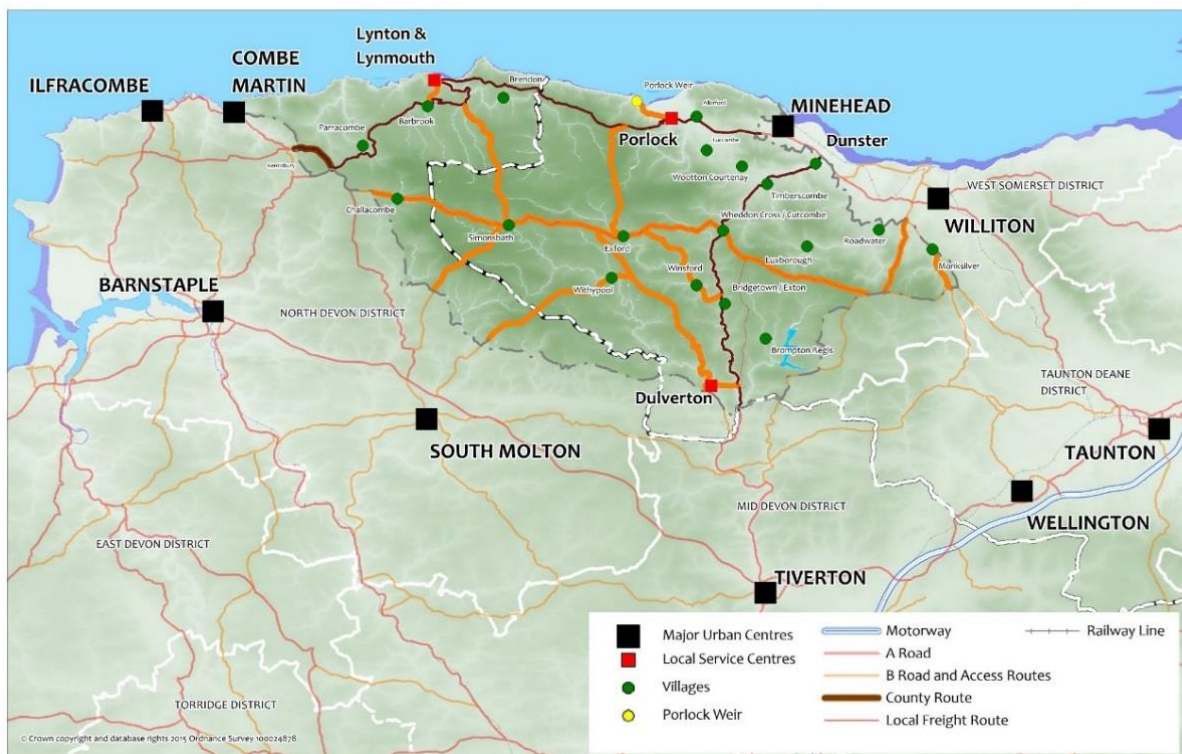


Figure 1.0 Exmoor National Park transport network

²⁰ Exmoor National Park (2014) Annual Monitoring Review 2013/2014 (p52). *Exmoor House, Dulverton.*

²¹ Devon County Council (2010) Exmoor Infrastructure Delivery Plan Consultation Response. *Exmoor House, Dulverton.*

²² Speech by The Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP, Secretary of State for Transport, 10 September 2010, IBM START Conference: Business Summit

- 6.5. Two reports were produced by Hamilton-Baillie Associates in 2009 and 2010 based on the settlements of Porlock and Dunster to guide the Exmoor National Park Authority, Somerset County Council and Porlock Town Council/Dunster Working Group on the future design, management and maintenance of streets and spaces as well as the relationship between the passing traffic and the quality of the public realm. The reports raised traffic and accessibility as a dominant local issue. Recommendations made are primarily based on design principles e.g. share spaces, street surface materials, use of trees and street furniture²³. The Dunster Working Group has implemented some of these changes, such as the change in pavement surface material to make access user friendly for all, which was undertaken in 2015.

Rail

- 6.6. There is no strategic rail infrastructure within the National Park. The nearest mainline stations are located at Barnstaple, Tiverton and Taunton. However there are three heritage railways within or in close proximity to the National Park. The West Somerset railway connecting Bishops Lydeard to Minehead is a branch line of the former Great Western railway and operates as a steam train attraction. It passes close to the National Park boundary at Dunster Marsh. There are aspirations for this railway to provide a public service by offering commuter service to Taunton using the Norton Fitzwarren triangle however this is being assessed and reviewed within the next three years with a formal report due in 2017²⁴.
- 6.7. In Lynton & Lynmouth there is the cliff railway which connects the twin towns of Lynton and Lynmouth acting as a tourist attraction but can also be used by local residents that wish to travel between the two settlements. There are no changes during the lifetime of the Local Plan for this service.
- 6.8. The third railway is the Lynton and Barnstaple railway which currently runs from Woody Bay to Killington Lane. The Exmoor Enterprise project hopes to raise enough funds to be able to reinstate the railway line from Lynton and Wistlandpound Reservoir²⁵ and this is supported within the Local Plan by Policies RT-D13 (Safeguarding Land Along Former Railways) and RT-S2 (Reinstatement of the Lynton and Barnstaple Railway). Proposals for changes to the rail infrastructure within Exmoor will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

²³ Hamilton-Baillie Associates (2009, 2010) Projects: UK [Online] <http://www.hamilton-baillie.co.uk/index.php?do=projects>

²⁴ WSR (2014) West Somerset Railway Corporate Plan 2014-2023

²⁵ Lynton and Barnstaple Railway (2014) The Last Railway Adventure. [Online] <http://www.lynton-rail.co.uk/enterprise>

Bus

- 6.9. There are a number of bus operators in the National Park some of which provide regular scheduled public bus services, such as the 398, 309/310 and 25²⁶. These buses serve a number of settlements on Exmoor on a regular daily basis (Monday - Saturday) connecting key villages to each other, external towns (e.g. Barnstaple, Tiverton, Taunton, Minehead) and external strategic railway stations. Smaller settlements on Exmoor may only receive a weekly bus service or no service at all. Some community transport schemes have encompassed a demand responsive form of transport e.g. the Slinky Bus²⁷, MoorRover²⁸.
- 6.10. Although the importance of public transport and other measures to reduce car use is noted and should be supported where it is cost effective, the overall level of passenger transport provision reflects areas predominantly rural in nature. Many residents are far from bus and rail access; consequently car ownership is high²⁹. There are no major infrastructure implications concerning the provision of bus services for Exmoor National Park.

Harbours

- 6.11. Currently there are two harbours within Exmoor; one in Porlock Weir and the other in Lynmouth. The harbour in Porlock Weir may be under threat due to coastal change. However it is likely there will be continual use of both harbours during the lifetime of the Local Plan.

Car parking

- 6.12. In the 2013/2014 Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)³⁰, seven applications directly specified parking arrangements for motorised vehicles, including to ensure adequate parking arrangements for re-development of the business site at Shearwell Data. During the lifetime of the Local Plan there may be issues with limited car parking provision, although there are policies to enable temporary car parking to address peak demand (policy AC-D4). Parking provision in new development will be provided in accordance with the parking standards set out in Policy AC-D3.

Cycle/pedestrian facilities

- 6.13. There are 988km of Rights of Way on Exmoor, which include long distance footpaths, such as the South West Coast Path (National Trail), Coleridge Way and the Two Moors Way. The Rights of Way network is managed and maintained by Exmoor National Park Authority which has delegated powers from Devon and Somerset

²⁶ DCC (2014) interactive bus map [Online] http://www.cartogold.co.uk/Devon_Transport/Devon.htm

²⁷ The SLINKY bus is a door to door pre booked, demand responsive bus service serving the West Somerset parishes in the National Park and is subsidised by Somerset County Council.

²⁸ MoorRover is a seasonal demand responsive service operating in Somerset areas of Exmoor National Park where other bus services are not available. www.atwest.org.uk/moor_rover.html

²⁹ ENPA (2010) Your Future Exmoor Community Events Consultation Responses

³⁰ AMR (2013/2014) Exmoor National Park Annual Monitoring Review 2013/2014. [Online] http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0010/518482/AMR-FINAL-05.12.14.pdf

County Councils³¹. The National Park Partnership Plan addresses the continuing high standard for maintenance for the Rights of Way network to enable people to explore and experience the special qualities of the National Park.³² The Exmoor Rights of Way Improvement Plan specifies how the Authority will meet this objective in addition to encouraging and improving opportunities for recreation and access within the National Park for all people³³. Mountain biking and road biking are the two main cycling options with the National Park. There are currently no major plans to extend, amalgamate or reduce the cycle/pedestrian facilities however minor changes will be taken on a case by case basis; where appropriate this will be in partnership with Devon and Somerset County Council who are the responsible bodies for the maintenance of roads and pavements.

7.0. UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Electricity/Gas

- 7.1. The National Grid owns and operates the high-voltage electricity network and gas transmission network in England. Currently there are no electricity or gas assets within the National Park.
- 7.2. Western Power Distribution³⁴ is the local distribution network operator for electricity transmission in the National Park. It currently delivers electricity to approximately 1.4 million customers in South West England and has stated that there will be no plans from now until 2030 of expanding or reducing their services in the National Park area and infrastructure will be extended to meet demand as and when necessary³⁵. Western Power Distribution is responsible for maintaining the electricity network on a daily basis, repairing the electricity network when faults occur, reinforcing the electricity network to cope with changes in the pattern of demand and extending the network to connect new customers. It is predicted that the maximum demand for electricity from Western Power Distribution will for the short term future (until 2017) fluctuate between 2,500 and 3,000 MW which is similar to historic projections of electricity use in the South West since 1992. Currently gas use is minimal on Exmoor with most forms of heating reliant on woodfuel, oil based heating or through electricity e.g. storage heating.
- 7.3. Wales and West Utilities is the local distribution network operator for gas and they have no planned major infrastructure works over the next 5 year period ending in 2020. The majority of their infrastructure

³¹ ENPA (2014) The Path Network and Maintenance [Online] <http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/visiting/confidence-in-the-countryside/path-maintenance>

³² ENPA (2012) Exmoor National Park Management Plan 2012-2017 'Working together for Exmoor: Connecting People and Places'. *Exmoor House, Dulverton*.

³³ ENPA (2005) Exmoor National Park Authority RoWIP chapter within Devon and Somerset County Council's RoWIP. [Online] http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/index/visiting/looking_after_access/visiting-access-paths/rights_of_way_improvement_plan_2.htm

³⁴ Western Power Distribution is owned by PPL Global LLC, a subsidiary of PPL Corporation of Allentown, Pennsylvania

³⁵ Western Power Distribution (2014) Longer Term Development Statement for November 2014
Western Power Distribution (2014) Exmoor Infrastructure Consultee Response.

projects are customer driven, however until 2032 they are currently replacing the metallic mains with plastic mains for their existing assets³⁶.

- 7.4. ENPA has worked with infrastructure organisations to facilitate undergrounding of electricity cables. For certain areas there are some challenges due to environmental constraints. Funding is available to underground electricity lines in protected areas; this is a fund for the AONB's and National Parks in the South West and will be focused on iconic sites. Exmoor National Park has benefitted from this fund through for undergrounding schemes within the Dulverton conservation area, Hawkcombe and Porlock Marsh. In the 2013/14 AMR, 7 developments required the undergrounding of power lines in order to mitigate the negative impacts on sensitive landscapes. It is likely that during the lifetime of the Local Plan developments, such as those monitored in the 2013/14 AMR will come forward and electricity/gas infrastructure will be provided on a case by case basis. ENPA where possible will continue to work with infrastructure organisations to facilitate undergrounding of wires for certain areas³⁷. The level of development expected in the National Park during the lifetime of the Local Plan is not dependent on major upgrades to these services.

Renewable or low-carbon energy

- 7.5. In 2008 the UK passed the Climate Change Act to tackle the dangers of climate change. It is the first country in the world to have a legally binding long-term framework to cut carbon emissions. It also includes a framework for forming the UK's ability to adapt to climate change³⁸. The 2012-2017 National Park Partnership Plan has a target of making progress towards becoming a carbon neutral National Park by 2030.
- 7.6. In 2010, ENPA received £400,000 funding towards the Low Carbon Community Challenge programme. The funding as used for 10 projects comprising 20 installations including solar PV, wood pellet heating and wind power. As a legacy to the project the Carbon Neutral Exmoor Fund has been developed to fund further community renewable energy schemes in the National Park³⁹.
- 7.7. Currently the development plan policies for Exmoor National Park encourage small scale renewable energy generation, and most schemes are of a domestic or micro scale. In 2013-2014 there were 17 applications permitting renewable energy development. However the vast majority of PV arrays and ground source heat pumps on domestic premises do not need planning permission so there is no data available for these schemes being erected on Exmoor. It is acknowledged that small-scale renewable technologies can provide

³⁶ Wales and West Utilities (2014) Exmoor Infrastructure Consultee Response.

³⁷ ENPA (2015) Local Plan Publication Draft (paragraph 9.37) *Exmoor House, Dulverton*

³⁸ Committee on Climate Change (2014) The Climate Change Act and UK regulations [Online] <http://www.theccc.org.uk/tackling-climate-change/the-legal-landscape/global-action-on-climate-change/>

³⁹ ENPA (2014) Low Carbon Communities Challenge [Online] <http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/communities/sustainable-exmoor/carbon-neutral-programme/low-carbon-communities-challenge>

a valuable contribution to overall renewable energy outputs. It is likely that domestic renewables will increase in the National Park and applications will be determined in accordance with the development plan; ensuring that there are no unacceptable adverse impacts (including cumulative landscape effects) on the National Park and its special qualities.

- 7.8. During 2013/2014 the Government launched the Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive which is a financial incentive to promote the use of renewable heat as households switch to heating systems that use naturally replenished energy to help reduce carbon emissions. The heating system must have been first commissioned on or after 15 July 2009. During the 2013/14 AMR five applications for biomass boilers were approved and two applications were permitted for wood chip/log boilers⁴⁰.
- 7.9. The RWE Npower Renewables, announced in 2013 that the Atlantic Array project, to deliver 350 offshore wind turbines in the Bristol Channel, off of the North Devon Coastline, was deemed unviable⁴¹. However, the South West Marine Energy Park, which stretches from Bristol to Cornwall, has created a collaborative partnership in the region to speed up the progress of marine power development⁴². The North Devon Demonstration Zone, which is part of the Energy Park, is a new tidal energy site located off of the coast near Lynmouth. The site has the potential to support the demonstration of tidal stream arrays with a generating capacity of up to 30MW for each project⁴³. The site has previously been used by Marine Current Technologies and Pulse???. Which carried out successful trials for their marine energy technologies and the site will be continued to be promoted for a successful marine energy site⁴⁴.
- 7.10. The Hinkley Point Power Station C project proposal submitted in winter 2010 in West Somerset is predicted to provide a clean, secure and affordable source of electricity for around 5 million homes. This project is to replace Hinkley Point A station which is being decommissioned. On 8th October 2014 the European Commission approved the agreements between EDF Group and the UK Government to build Hinkley Point C. The development is due to have the first reactor operational in 2018 and the second unit to follow 18 months later⁴⁵.
- 7.11. There will be implications for transport, housing, and health services in the immediate area with the possibility of having some impact on

⁴⁰ AMR (2014) Exmoor National Park Annual Monitoring Review 2013/2014. [Online]

http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/518482/AMR-FINAL-05.12.14.pdf

⁴¹ RWE npower renewable (2013) Atlantic Array [Online] <http://www.rwe.com/web/cms/en/86182/rwe-innogy/news-press/press-release-09-july-2013-export-cables-in-at-gwynt-y-mr-offshore-wind-farm/?pmid=4010256>

⁴² DECC (2012) South West makes splash as first marine energy park [Online]

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/south-west-makes-splash-as-first-marine-energy-park>

⁴³ WaveHub (2015) North Devon Tidal Zone [Online] <http://www.wavehub.co.uk/north-devon-tidal-zone>

⁴⁴ North Devon Journal (2014) North Devon MP calls for additional support of marine energy [Online] <http://www.northdevonjournal.co.uk/North-Devon-MP-calls-additional-support-marine/story-25734334-detail/story.html>

⁴⁵ EDF Energy (2014) Hinkley Point C [Online] <http://www.edfenergy.com/energy/nuclear-new-build-projects/hinkley-point-c>

all forms of infrastructure in Exmoor. From the granting of the Site Preparation Works application for Hinkley Point C, a £7.2 million fund known as the Community Impact Mitigation Fund was created via a S106 agreement to be spent exclusively on improvements for communities most affected by the impacts arising from the Site Preparation Works⁴⁶.

8.0. WATER AND DRAINAGE

Water Supply

- 8.1. The National Park is supplied primarily with water from Roadford and Wimbleball reservoirs, a number of rivers and their tributaries and numerous groundwater resources which are administered by South West Water and Wessex Water. In some cases, in more remote areas there may be private water supplied from sources such as springs, wells and boreholes where access to public water supply is too expensive to connect due to distance.
- 8.2. The EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) came into force in December 2000 and has regard to protection, improvement and sustainable use of Europe's freshwater systems and coastal waters. The WFD came into UK law in 2003. To meet the WFD objectives the EA have produced a series of River Basin Management Plans (RBMP). The actions arising from the RBMP which are relevant to LPAs include:
 - An aim to reduce the physical impacts of urban development in artificial or heavily modified waters, to help waters reach good ecological potential
 - To promote the use of sustainable drainage systems in new urban and rural development where appropriate and retrofit priority areas including highways where possible
 - Encourage sustainable water management such as water efficiency measures by builders and developers⁴⁷
- 8.3. South West Water covers parts of the Western side of the National Park and has set up a Final Water Resources Plan 2015-2040 published in June 2014 to ensure that all customers in the South West have a secure supply of water until the year 2039/40. Water is managed through resource zones. The key resources that are available from South West Water for the National Park are Roadford and Wimbleball reservoirs and a number of groundwater resources. A number of schemes have been implemented since 2004 to improve the efficiency of these resources such as distribution improvements from Northcombe water treatment works to North Devon and opportunities for infrastructure replacement will be continually sought to tackle leakage issues. As part of the options appraisal to help meet peak demand in the South West Water

⁴⁶ West Somerset Council (2014) Community Impact Mitigation Fund [Online] <http://www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk/Hinkley-Point-Community-Fund/About-the-Fund/Criteria>

⁴⁷ EA (2009) River Basin Management Plan: South West River Basin District [Online] <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/planning/125027.aspx>

Resources Plan, the company are not expecting to see a deficit in their supply demand position for the duration of the planning period and therefore do not need to implement any options for water resource purposes⁴⁸.

- 8.4. Wessex Water covers parts of the Eastern side of the National Park and has set up a Draft Water Resources Management Plan 2013 which describes how they expect to balance the demand for water from their customers with available supplies over the next 25 years⁴⁹.
- 8.5. Groundwater makes up the majority of water resource available from Wessex Water at 75% of provision. Other key water resources that are available from Wessex Water are Wimbleball Lake and a number of rivers and tributaries. In accordance with their Water Resource Plan, the public water supply from Nutscale reservoir has been discontinued. The assets will remain as out of operation and there will be further decommissioning work downstream as improvements are made from alternative sources⁵⁰. Wessex Water has indicated that there are no plans from now until 2026 of expanding their services in the Exmoor National Park area⁵¹.

Drainage and Flood Defences

- 8.6. The NPPF⁵² states that local plans should be supported by Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and develop policies to manage flood risk from all sources, taking account of advice from the Environment Agency and other relevant flood risk management bodies. A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 1 was carried out with West Somerset Council in 2009, which provided a broad assessment of flood risk for the National Park and West Somerset. The Assessment was updated in 2014, which provides more relevant data with regards to flooding and the potential flood risk within the areas⁵³.
- 8.7. The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA) designates Somerset County Council (SCC) as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for areas located within the SCC administrative area. This includes central and eastern areas of Exmoor National Park, which includes the principle settlements of Dulverton and Porlock. Devon County Council (DCC) is the designated the LLFA for the far western areas of the National Park, which includes the key settlements of Lynton and Lynmouth⁵⁴.
- 8.8. The LLFA has the 'lead' role in managing flood risk from surface water, groundwater and Ordinary Watercourses within their area.

⁴⁸ South West Water (2014) Waters Resources management Plan 2015-2040 [Online] https://www.southwestwater.co.uk/media/pdf/o/o/Water_Resources_Management_Plan_June_20141.pdf

⁴⁹ Wessex Water (2013) Draft Water Resources Management Plan.

⁵⁰ Wessex Water (2014) Utilities Consultations response.

⁵¹ Wessex Water (2010) Water Resources Management Plan 2010-2035 [Online]

<http://www.wessexwater.co.uk/water-and-sewerage/threecol.aspx?id=578&linkidentifier=id&itemid=578>

⁵² DCLG (2012) National Planning Policy Framework (para. 100). *The Stationery Office, London*

⁵³ ENPA (2015) SFRA [Online] <http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/local-development-framework/evidence-base/sfra>

⁵⁴ ENPA (2014) Exmoor National Park Level 1 SFRA Addendum produced by URS. *Exmoor House, Dulverton.*

This involves close working with partners involved in flood and water management, known as Risk Management Authorities (RMAs). The Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) was officially formed in January 2015 as a response to the floods of winter 2013/14. The SRA covers the whole of Somerset including the National Park with the aim of establishing a Somerset Rivers Board that has greater control and responsibility for work to maintain and improve water and flood risk management.

- 8.9. There are a number of fluvial flood defences around the National Park with different defence crest levels currently in place including areas around Lynmouth, Dulverton, Porlock, Bridgetown, Timberscombe, Parracombe, Barbrook, Hillsford, Bridgeball, Dunster, Roadwater and Wootton Courtenay. Within the lifetime of the Local Plan there is currently no indication of changes to the fluvial flood defences in Exmoor National Park⁵⁵.
- 8.10. The Environment Agency's Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Development Programme involves improvements to Roadwater's flood infrastructure with the estimated earliest construction start between 2018 and 2021. The estimated project total cost is £563,500 and it is predicted that a total of 35 households will have a better level of flood protection when the scheme is complete with an economic benefit estimated at £1,272,000⁵⁶.
- 8.11. In the 2013/14 AMR, two applications incorporated sustainable drainage measures (SUDS). It is predicted that throughout the lifetime of the Local Plan, water drainage provisions will be developed on a case by case basis. However, it should be noted that since April 2015, SUDS are now required with all major applications and the Planning Authority will be advised on the matter by the County Council Drainage Boards rather than the Environment Agency. Prior to 2008 the EA did not differentiate between flood zone 3a⁵⁷ and 3b⁵⁸ on their flood maps, and therefore a methodology was agreed with the EA regarding the delineation of these zones in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment which have been highlighted within the principal settlements of Dulverton, Porlock and Lynton & Lynmouth.
- 8.12. There are a number of Groundwater Protection Zones (GPZ) which are particularly vulnerable to contamination these are concentrated in the North East of the National Park and are located at Croydon Hill, East of Treborough, North East of Wootton Courtenay, North of Woodcombe, West of Allerford, West of Porlock, South West of Withypool, Blagdon Cross and Brendon Hill Farm. Activities within or

⁵⁵ ENPA and WSC (2008) Strategic Flood Risk Assessment produced by Scott Wilson. [Online] http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/index/living_in/planning/ldf/ldf_evidence_base.htm

⁵⁶ Environment Agency (2014) FCERM programme [Online] <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/programme-of-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-schemes>

⁵⁷ Flood zone 3a; zone with a high probability of flooding (1 in 100 or greater annual probability of river flooding)

⁵⁸ Flood zone 3b; zone within functional flood plain – where water has to flow or be stored in times of flood (1 in 20 or greater annual probability of river flooding)

near to these zones need to be closely monitored to reduce the risk of contamination. These zones may include boreholes and springs used for public drinking water.

- 8.13. A large part of central Exmoor forms the upper part of the Exe catchment, drained by the River Exe and its main tributary, the Barle. The west side of the National Park is drained by the rivers Yeo, Mole and Bray into the river Taw. The northern section of the National Park is drained by rivers and streams that run into the Bristol Channel including Umber and Heddon in the west and Horner and Washford in the east. Many of the watercourses on Exmoor flow through steep confined valleys which respond rapidly to rainfall. Rapid run-off is thought to have been exacerbated by land drainage schemes on the moors and high ground. The Mire Restoration Project (now the Exmoor Mires project) has a range of benefits including increasing rainfall storage and reducing peak run-off flows through blocking moorland ditches. This also creates a more stable flow in rivers and streams which helps to reduce flooding and erosion downstream⁵⁹.
- 8.14. In February 2014 data analysis collected from the project indicated that the amount of storm water running off this area of moorland has reduced by a third. The increased water storage in the re-wetted bogs also has the effect of reducing the fluctuation of river flows, making flooding less likely, reducing soil erosion and the amount of silt entering rivers. South West Water is funded the £2.2million work to restore 2,000 hectares of peat bog on Exmoor between 2010 and 2015 with contributions and support from the Environment Agency, Exmoor National Park Authority and Natural England. The project continues to be part of the water company's Upstream Thinking initiative which focuses on managing water in whole catchments⁶⁰. The new Upstream Thinking Programme has recently been approved for 2015-2020 which will include the ongoing investment into the Exmoor Mires project with further restoration work and monitoring. In addition, funding for a Catchment Management Programme in the Headwaters of the River Exe has been secured which will support land management to reduce soil erosion and diffuse pollution, in order to maintain and improve water quality in the catchment.
- 8.15. A project in the Holnicote Estate near Porlock is also underway in which the National Trust are working in partnership with the Environment agency, JBA Consulting/Maslen Environmental and Penny Anderson Associates to reduce flood risk through good rural land management. The Holnicote Estate comprises about 5,000 hectares of land, from the uplands of Exmoor to the sea. Houses across the villages in Bossington, Allerford, West Luccombe and Horner at risk from flooding could benefit from changes in rural land management in the catchment providing a more sustainable flood

⁵⁹ ENPA (2011) Exmoor Mire Restoration Project pages [Online] <http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/mire>

⁶⁰ South West Water (2014) Peat bog restoration holds back water, scientists say [Online] <http://www.southwestwater.co.uk/index.cfm?articleid=11311>

attenuation function. Some of these land management techniques include controlling headwater drainage, creating new woodlands and retaining water on lowland flood meadows. The project has run from 2009-2015 with funding by DEFRA and further funding has been obtained to continue monitoring for a further year⁶¹. In parallel with the flood project, a further project funded by DEFRA is being run for Ecosystem Services Pilot Project to optimise the outcomes of the flood work and to source additional funding mechanisms for long term catchment monitoring.

- 8.16. The draft Shoreline Management Plan (SMP2) provides information regarding the risks of coastal change and the preferred strategy to adopt when considering future development and land use change on the coast. Exmoor's coastline is largely undeveloped and dominated by steep sided valleys and Porlock Vale. The main settlements along the coast are Lynton & Lynmouth and Porlock with a small harbour and hamlet at Porlock Weir. Policy recommendation in the SMP2 for Lynmouth is 'Hold the Line' which recommends maintenance and improving the structures of sea defences where appropriate over the lifetime of the Local Plan. Impacts could include the loss of beach width due to the combination of sea level rise and retention of coastal defence, the potential loss of terrestrial habitat from the Exmoor Coastal Heaths SSSI and Exmoor Heath and Coast SAC. Further impacts could include the loss of, or damage to, a number of non-designated archaeological features, scheduled monuments and parts of the South West Coast Path.
- 8.17. At Porlock, natural coastal evolution will be allowed to continue along the Porlock Shingle Ridge as the flood risk in this area is fluvial rather than tidal. At Porlock Weir the policy recommendation in the SMP2 is 'No Active Intervention' which implies that it will be unlikely to be able to gain public funding to maintain, renew or improve the sea defences at this point. However, existing privately owned defences may be maintained/ improved by the landowner. The Local Plan reflects these policy approaches, and designates a Coastal Change Management Area for Porlock Weir to enable replacement development if required due to loss of existing buildings or facilities resulting from coastal change. Adaption measures are also supported⁶².

Waste Water

- 8.18. The sewerage system is made up of public sewers, private sewers and private drains. Wessex Water and South West Water are responsible for the public sewerage system in Exmoor which carries waste water away from homes and businesses for treatment at sewage treatment works. Customers are responsible for their private drains up to the point where they join the public sewer. Properties

⁶¹ Eco Systems Knowledge (2014) Holnicote Estate land management [Online] <http://ecosystemsknowledge.net/resources/examples/holnicote>

National Trust (2014) Exmoor Infrastructure Consultee response.

⁶² NDASCAG (2010) Shoreline Management Plans.[Online] <http://www.ndascag.org/SMP2.html>

that are not connected to sewers are served by cesspits and septic tanks.

- 8.19. South West Water has 9 sewage treatment works in the vicinity of Exmoor National Park serving the following places: Lynton, West View, Parracombe, Challacombe, Exford, Winsford, Dulverton, Brompton Regis and Bridgetown. There are currently no plans to increase sewage treatment works capacity in these locations by South West Water. Wessex Water has 3 sewage treatment works in the vicinity of Exmoor National Park serving the following places: Porlock, Leighland and Luxborough. In the foreseeable future there is a capital maintenance project planned for Porlock Sewage Treatment Works, this will involve replacing outdated apparatus and maintenance works which is likely to be completed in phases over the period to 2020.
- 8.20. Additional capacity will be driven by development needs, where the cost of connecting new properties to the waste water network is borne by the developer or where environmental improvements are required in association with the Water Development Framework or Bathing Water Directive.

9.0. WASTE

- 9.1. North Devon Council and West Somerset District Council are the responsible authorities for the collection and disposal of waste within Exmoor National Park. The Works and Recycling Service are responsible for collecting household waste on behalf of North Devon Council. This includes a comprehensive weekly recycling service across the whole of North Devon and a fortnightly refuse collection. North Devon Council is responsible for 4 recycling centres in North Devon with three (Seven Brethren, Barnstaple; Killacleave, Ilfracombe; Maclins Quarry, South Molton) serving some of the population of Exmoor. The 2 days a month rural skip service at Lyn Down, Lynton has now been closed by Devon County Council following budget cuts.
- 9.2. Currently Kier Services⁶³ collects household waste on behalf of the Somerset Waste Partnership within West Somerset District Council. This includes a fortnightly kerbside collection of refuse and a weekly recycling collection throughout the District. Somerset County Council is responsible for the three Household Waste Recycling Centres in West Somerset. None are within the National Park boundaries however the centres in Minehead and Brushford Road near Dulverton serve some of the population of Exmoor. As a result of budget cuts threatening the closure of smaller recycling centres, Dulverton Community Recycling centre is now open 5 days a week and there is a £2 entry charge whereas Minehead recycling centre remains open 7 days a week and has free entry.
- 9.3. There are no landfill sites within the National Park.

⁶³ Somerset Waste Partnership (2014) Somerset Waste Partnership: About us [Online] <http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/about/>

10.0. ICT - BROADBAND AND WIRELESS PUBLIC PHONES

- 10.1. Information and communication technology (ICT) activity has proven to improve economic development, increase productivity and provide access to services such as health, education and finance. The Government's ambition is to provide everyone in the UK with access to broadband with a download speed of at least 2 megabits per second (Mbps) and to provide 90% of the UK with 'superfast broadband' (at least 24Mbps).
- 10.2. BDUK is responsible for managing the Government's broadband funding. Individual projects are the responsibility of local authorities and the devolved administrations, as set out in BDUK's delivery model. Each local authority in England has been allocated funding to help provide 90 per cent of homes and businesses with access to superfast broadband and everyone with access to at least 2Mbps. The rural broadband programme will be delivered through numerous separate local projects with complex procurements. Exmoor National Park is included within the Connecting Devon and Somerset project which has been allocated £22,750,000 with the project currently in procurement and in Phase II (95% UK superfast broadband coverage by December 2017) of the BDUK Superfast broadband programme⁶⁴. The contract between Connecting Devon and Somerset and BT also requires that no premises within the programme across Devon and Somerset remain below 2 Mbps by the end of the roll out⁶⁵.
- 10.3. The Government also announced in March 2014, a £10 million Innovation Fund which aims to test innovative solutions to deliver superfast broadband services to the most difficult to reach areas such as the remaining 5% on Exmoor. Exmoor has two rural settlements included within the Devon and Somerset Satellite Internet pilot project with a fund of £175,125 being invested into using KA-band satellite uplink/downlink as backhaul for local wireless networks and directly to customer premise equipment⁶⁶. The pilot aims to explore how to expand coverage in remote areas, using satellite technologies, a social investment financial model and an operating model which aggregates small rural networks. The pilot scheme was up and running in Luxborough from March 2015 and the scheme is getting underway in Simonsbath.
- 10.4. British Telecommunications have stated that they are a demand responsive organisation. Currently there is no telecommunications infrastructure planned but if capacity fails British Telecommunications will react to demand⁶⁷. Mobile Operators

⁶⁴ BDUK (2014) Table of Local broadband projects [Online] <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0Ah3sVRjT82kKdEltX0IJNjNVVWhNbjBnNGwxeHhQMHc#gid=4>

⁶⁵ ENP (2013) Improving access to broadband and mobile communication in Exmoor National park; Report of the Chief Executive. [Online] http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/387560/ar-enpa-12.11.13-Item-7.pdf

⁶⁶ ISP (2014) Governments £10 million Innovation fund [Online] <http://www.ispreview.co.uk/index.php/2014/06/uk-government-unveils-bidders-10m-broadband-innovation-fund.html>

⁶⁷ British Telecommunications (2008) Exmoor Utility Consultation Response.

Association which represents the four UK mobile network operators of EE (the company that runs EE, Orange & T-Mobile in the UK), O2, Three, and Vodafone, has also noted that the demand for additional infrastructure is consumer led and is reactive rather than proactive⁶⁸.

- 10.5. Mobile phone coverage is very patchy across the National Park and large areas do not receive any mobile phone signal. This common problem in rural parts of the UK and the need to improve mobile infrastructure has been identified as a priority by Government. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) launched the Mobile Infrastructure Project (MIP) in February 2013. MIP is a £150m UK Government funded project to support the deployment of additional mobile phone masts to serve communities that currently receive no mobile signal. MIP aims to complete deployment by the end of 2015⁶⁹. In 2014 one application for a telecommunications mast and antennae was submitted and approved under the Mobile Infrastructure Project (MIP). Arqiva have a number of sites that they are progressing as upgrades of existing installations on their property portfolio as part of MIP, but there are no specific details on these at the present time⁷⁰.
- 10.6. A new agreement in 2014 between National Parks England and the Mobile Operators Association launched by Government Ministers from DCMS, Defra and CLG aims to help communities living within the National Parks benefit from consistent high quality connectivity; protect the special qualities of the National Parks by minimising any adverse environmental impacts and support close working between Operators and National Park Authorities to achieve this aim⁷¹.
- 10.7. Telefónica UK limited has entered into an agreement with Vodafone Limited pursuant to which the two companies plan to jointly operate and manage a single network grid across the UK⁷². These arrangements will be overseen by Cornerstone Telecommunications Infrastructure Ltd (CTIL) which is a joint venture company owned by Telefónica UK Limited and Vodafone Limited. The agreement allows both organisations to:
- Pool their basic network infrastructure, while running two independent, nationwide networks.
 - Maximise opportunities to consolidate the number of base stations.
 - Significantly reduce the environmental impact of network development.
- 10.8. Currently, only one site from CTIL in Lynton has been brought forward and obtained planning permission to replace and upgrade the existing 20m pole in June 2014 under the joint CTIL scheme.

⁶⁸ Mobile Operators Association (2014) Exmoor Utility Consultation Response

⁶⁹ ENP (2013) Improving access to broadband and mobile communication in Exmoor National park; Report of the Chief Executive [Online] http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/387560/ar-enpa-12.11.13-Item-7.pdf

⁷⁰ CTIL (2014) Exmoor Communications Consultation Response

⁷¹ Mobile Operators Association (2014) Exmoor Utility Consultation Response

⁷² CTIL (2014) Exmoor Communications Consultation Response

11.0. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- 11.1. In rural areas, local planning authorities (LPAs) are able to respond to local circumstances and plan for housing to address local needs, particularly for affordable housing, including through rural exception sites⁷³ within and adjoining small rural settlements. Housing provision should be related to evidence of need for the local community and remain affordable 'in perpetuity'. Housing development in existing towns and villages should be allowed where it benefits the local economy or community.
- 11.2. New houses in the open countryside are strictly controlled and will require special justification (functional and financial tests) for an agricultural or forestry worker⁷⁴. The National Parks Circular states that National Park Authorities have an important role to play as planning authorities in the delivery of affordable housing. The government recognises that National Parks are not suitable locations for unrestricted housing and does not therefore provide general housing targets for them⁷⁵.
- 11.3. The Northern Peninsula Housing Strategic Housing Market assessment, which included the Exmoor National Park area in West Somerset, was published in 2008. It sets out 4 main priorities for intervention:
- 1) To achieve a more balanced housing market, balancing housing need and demand with deliverability to provide greater choice for local people.
 - 2) To target the appropriate type, quality, size and location of homes to reflect local housing requirements at market conditions.
 - 3) To increase the proportion of affordable housing to meet housing need in the most appropriate locations.
 - 4) To provide homes to meet the changing requirements of a growing older population.
- 11.4. The Rural Housing Project (RHP) which was set up in 2002, provided independent advice on delivering affordable housing across the whole of North Devon and West Somerset, including Exmoor. It did this by working the Parish Councils to identify local housing need, then working with them, district councils, landowners, housing associations and others to ensure that affordable housing was provided. The project was funded by a broad partnership of DEFRA, North Devon District Council, West Somerset Strategic Partnership, Exmoor National Park Authority and the four main housing associations delivering affordable housing- Falcon Rural Housing, Hastoe, Magna West Somerset and North Devon Homes. The RHP has undertaken household surveys to provide evidence of housing

⁷³ DCLG (2012) National Planning Policy Framework (paragraph 54). *The Stationery Office, London.*

⁷⁴ ENPA (2015) Local Plan Publication Draft (paragraphs 6.136 – 6.149) *Exmoor House, Dulverton.*

⁷⁵ DEFRA (2010) English National Parks and the Broads UK Government Vision and Circular [Online] https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/221086/pb13387-vision-circular2010.pdf

- need including for parishes wholly or partly within the National Park since the project began in 2002. The project ended in March 2015.
- 11.5. A 'park-wide' housing survey was undertaken across the National Park during the summer of 2008. The analysis of the survey returns has found 130 households in housing need which would meet the local occupancy requirements of Local Plan policy H2 'Criteria for Occupancy of a Local Need Affordable Dwelling'⁷⁶. In reality this is likely to be significantly higher as the Rural Housing Project which aims to provide new affordable housing for people with a strong local connection, has found that once a scheme for a parish is progressed to a point where the community perceives a greater certainty of delivery, more people in housing need will come forward⁷⁷.
- 11.6. Since the adoption of the Local Plan in March 2005, a total of 277 dwellings have been delivered within the National Park⁷⁸ (Table 1.0) with an average annual completion rate of 31 dwellings. With regards to affordable housing, between 2005/06 and 2013/14, there was an average annual delivery rate of 9 dwellings per annum which increased to 29 dwellings per annum, between 2011/12 to 2013/14. The affordable housing delivery uplift demonstrates the effect of the Plan policies. There will be continued support given to communities to identify the level of local need and agree appropriate sites.

Year	Market	Affordable	Total
2005/06	38	3	41
2006/07	57	8	65
2007/08	18	11	29
2008/09	19	1	20
2009/10	13	11	24
2010/11	12	0	12
2011/12	16	26	42
2012/13	15	3	18
2013/14	6	20	26
Total	194	83	277

- 11.7. A Strategic Housing Market Assessment update was undertaken for Exmoor National Park in March 2015. This highlighted the need to increase the supply of affordable and lower cost market homes⁷⁹.
- 11.8. The Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment indicated a current supply of 45 deliverable sites within capacity for 249 dwellings across the National Park. This included 20 sites with planning permission for 44 dwellings and a further 25 promoted sites which could yield 205 dwellings. In addition it has identified a

⁷⁶ ENPA (2008) Exmoor National Park Parish Housing Need Reports [Online] http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/index/living_in/affordable-housing/enp-affordable-housing/living_in-enp-parish-housing-need-reports.htm

⁷⁷ Rural Housing Project (2010) Exmoor Infrastructure Delivery Plan Consultation Response

⁷⁸ ENPA (2015) Housing Topic Paper. *Exmoor House, Dulverton*.

⁷⁹ Housing Vision (2015) Strategic Housing Market Assessment update: Exmoor National Park March 2015. *Exmoor House, Dulverton*.

potential supply of 49 sites with a yield of 228 dwellings which are considered to be suitable, but are not currently being promoted, that could come forward to meet local needs affordable housing as and when these needs are identified⁸⁰.

12.0. EDUCATION

- 12.1. Somerset County Council and Devon County Council are the Local Education Authorities covering the National Park. Devon County Council has identified a fall in 2014 in the number on roll in Lynton CofE Primary and Parracombe School. Parracombe School was rebuilt following a fire in 2011 and now has a larger classroom in the main school building. Bratton Fleming Primary School which serves Challacombe is currently at capacity and looking to expand its accommodation by an additional classroom⁸¹.
- 12.2. Somerset County Council in 2008 identified that there are no plans to expand the schools in the National Park. It is projected that there will be a fall in the number of pupils until 2017 in Exmoor National Park. Somerset County Council has stated that this is likely to lead to changes in some of the first schools in the National Park within the time period of the Local Plan. It is likely there will be some remodelling or rebuilding of the current organisation for education restructuring, as necessary, which will may impact on the physical infrastructure of the schools associated⁸².

13.0. EMERGENCY SERVICES

Fire Services

- 13.1. Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service provide the fire and rescue services for Exmoor National Park. The existing fire stations serving the National Park are in Dulverton, Porlock, Lynton, Combe Martin and Minehead. Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service do not foresee any additional resources being added to the existing infrastructure within the Park within the next 5 years, however with budget cuts, there may be the possibility of fire station closures but all risks associated with any closures are being fully considered during the analysis of options for future arrangements for the fire service. ⁸³

Police

- 13.2. Avon & Somerset Constabulary and Devon & Cornwall Constabulary are responsible for policing in the Local Plan area. During the plan period, within the National Park, it is proposed that the police station in Dulverton will be redeveloped in 2016/2017 as the existing building is deemed unsuitable for on-going use⁸⁴.

⁸⁰ Exmoor National Park (2014) Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Report December 2014. *Exmoor House, Dulverton*

⁸¹ Devon County Council (2014) Exmoor Schools Consultation Response

⁸² Somerset County Council (2008) Exmoor Schools Consultation Response

⁸³ Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service (2015) Exmoor Services Consultation Response

⁸⁴ Avon and Somerset Police (2015) Exmoor Services Consultation Response

Ambulance

- 13.3. The South Western Ambulance Service operate within the National Park area, and is responsible for providing emergency, urgent and non-urgent Ambulance and transport services and out-of hours unscheduled care services. The Ambulance Stations that cover the National Park area are Lynton, Minehead, Taunton, Ilfracombe, South Molton and Tiverton. There is no planned development proposed for any Ambulance stations within the National Park; however redevelopment is planned for Minehead and Taunton Ambulance Stations which is to occur by 2016⁸⁵.

14.0. CONCLUSION

- 14.1. The IDP shows the current and future investment in infrastructure proposed which will affect the National Park area. The IDP provides a useful resource, bringing together the infrastructure plans of many key organisations.
- 14.2. The provision of key infrastructure will be enabled through the determination of planning applications as well as through developer contributions and public and private sector funding. In addition, the provision of key services will be through public and private funding such as the Clinical Commissioning Group funding improvements to health care facilities within the National Park.
- 14.3. The level of development expected in the National Park during the plan period up to 2031 is not reliant on the provision of any major new infrastructure and does not in itself result in the need for any additional major infrastructure. Other associated infrastructure such as open space is either to be provided on-site, or off site through developer contributions. Policy GP5 in the Local Plan sets out the Authority's approach to developer contributions, and the use of the Community Infrastructure Levy.
- 14.4. Through the Annual Monitoring Reports (AMR), the provision of infrastructure will be monitored, which will highlight whether the Infrastructure Delivery Plan needs to be reviewed.

⁸⁵ South Western Ambulance Service Trust (2010) Estates and Facilities Strategy 2010-2016 [Online] <http://www.swast.nhs.uk/Downloads/SWASFT%20policies/EFS2010-2016.pdf>