




Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist


EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK LOCAL PLAN 2011 – 2031

FOR SUBMISSION – MAY 2016

If you have any queries or questions relating to this document please get in touch with the Policy & Community Team using the contact details below:

 Exmoor National Park Authority
Exmoor House
Dulverton
Somerset
TA22 9HL

 localplan@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

 01398 32366

This note was prepared by AMEC and URS on behalf of the Planning Advisory Service. It aims to help local authorities prepare their plans in advance of an examination, taking into account the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework. A separate checklist looks at legal compliance.

In summary – the key requirements of plan preparation are:

- Has the plan been positively prepared i.e. based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed requirements?
- Is the plan justified?
- Is it based on robust and credible evidence?
- Is it the most appropriate strategy when considered against the alternatives?
- Is the document effective?
- Is it deliverable?
- Is it flexible?
- Will it be able to be monitored?
- Is it consistent with national policy?

The Tests of Soundness at Examination

The starting point for the examination is the assumption that the Council has submitted what it considers to be a sound plan. Those seeking changes should demonstrate why the plan is unsound by reference to one or more of the soundness criteria.

The tests of soundness are set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (para 182): “The Local Plan will be examined by an independent inspector whose role is to assess whether the plan has been prepared in accordance with the Duty to Cooperate, legal and procedural requirements, and whether it is sound. A local planning authority should submit a plan for examination which it considers is ‘sound’ “, namely that it is:

1. Positively Prepared: based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements

This means that the Development Plan Document (DPD) should be based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development. The NPPF, together with the Marine Policy Statement (MPS) set out principles through which the Government expects sustainable development can be achieved.

2. Justified: the most appropriate strategy when considered against the reasonable alternatives, based on proportionate evidence

This means that the DPD should be based on a robust and credible evidence base involving:

- Research/fact finding: the choices made in the plan are backed up by facts.
- Evidence of participation of the local community and others having a stake in the area; and

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

The DPD should also provide the most appropriate strategy when considered against reasonable alternatives. These alternatives should be realistic and subject to sustainability appraisal. The DPD should show how the policies and proposals help to ensure that the social, environmental, economic and resource use objectives of sustainability will be achieved.

3. Effective: deliverable over its period based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic priorities

This means the DPD should be deliverable, requiring evidence of:

- Sound infrastructure delivery planning;
- Having no regulatory or national planning barriers to delivery;
- Delivery partners who are signed up to it; and
- Coherence with the strategies of neighbouring authorities, including neighbouring marine planning authorities.
- The DPD should be flexible and able to be monitored.

The DPD should indicate who is to be responsible for making sure that the policies and proposals happen and when they will happen. The plan should be flexible to deal with changing circumstances, which may involve minor changes to respond to the outcome of the monitoring process or more significant changes to respond to problems such as lack of funding for major infrastructure proposals. Although it is important that policies are flexible, the DPD should make clear that major changes may require a formal review including public consultation. Any measures which the Council has included to make sure that targets are met should be clearly linked to an Annual Monitoring Report.

4. Consistent with national policy: enabling the delivery of sustainable development

The demonstration of this is a 'lead' policy on sustainable development which specifies how decisions are to be made against the sustainability criterion (see the Planning Portal for a model policy www.planningportal.gov.uk). If you are not using this model policy, the Council will need to provide clear and convincing reasons to justify its approach.

The following table sets out the requirements associated with these four tests of soundness. Suggestions for evidence which could be used to support these requirements are set out, although these have to be viewed in the context of the plan being prepared. Please don't assume that you have got to provide all of these, they are just suggestions of what could be relevant.

In addition, the Legal Compliance checklist (a separate document, see www.pas.gov.uk) should be completed to ensure that this aspect is covered.

The Duty to Co-operate will also be assessed as part of the examination process.

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

Soundness Test & Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p><i>Vision and Objectives</i></p> <p>Has the LPA clearly identified what the issues are that the DPD is seeking to address? Have priorities been set so that it is clear what the DPD is seeking to achieve?</p> <p>Does the DPD contain clear vision(s) and objectives which are specific to the place? Is there a direct relationship between the identified issues, the vision(s) and the objectives?</p> <p>Is it clear how the policies will meet the objectives? Are there any obvious gaps in the policies, having regard to the objectives of the DPD?</p> <p>Have reasonable alternatives to the quantum of development and overall spatial strategy been considered?</p> <p>Are the policies internally consistent?</p> <p>Are there realistic timescales related to the objectives?</p> <p>Does the DPD explain how its key policy objectives will be achieved?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections of the DPD and other documents which set out (where applicable) the vision, strategic objectives, key outcomes expected, spatial portrait and issues to be addressed. • Relevant sections of the DPD which explain how policies derive from the objectives and are designed to meet them. • The strategic objectives of the DPD, and the commentary in the DPD of how they derive from the spatial portrait and vision, and how the objectives are consistent with one another. • Sections of the DPD which address delivery, the means of delivery and the timescales for key developments through evidenced infrastructure delivery planning. • Confirmation from the relevant agencies that they support the objectives and the identified means of delivery. <p>Information in the local development scheme, or provided separately, about the scope and content (actual and intended) of each DPD showing how they combine to provide a coherent policy structure.</p>	<p>The Vision & objectives are set out in Chapter 2. These are shared with the National Park Partnership Plan, which is equivalent to the Sustainable Community Strategy for the National Park. They were subject to extensive consultation as the Plan was developed and stem from the issues that the Plan is seeking to address. The spatial portrait sets out the context of the National Park and introduces the issues—these are set out in more detail in the relevant chapters.</p> <p>The relevant objectives are listed at the start of each Chapter of the Plan, to indicate which policies will help deliver the objectives.</p> <p>Strategic priorities were added as a result of 2013 consultation comments. The Vision and objectives are long term aspirations for the National Park, the strategic priorities lead on from the objectives and set out the focus for development management in the National Park to address the key issues identified.</p> <p>The Duty to Co-operate Protocol demonstrates agreement amongst the signatory organisations about the strategic priorities and cross-boundary issues that the Local Plan needs to address.</p> <p>The Local Plan does not allocate sites for housing or employment, but rather uses an exceptions site approach. The Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment identified a potential stock of housing land to meet identified local needs where they arise. A Viability Study has also been undertaken to demonstrate various delivery mechanisms for providing affordable housing in the National Park.</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

Soundness Test & Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<p>The Infrastructure Delivery Plan confirms no strategic infrastructure needed or planning in the National Park – confirmed by the relevant agencies / organisations.</p> <p>The Authority considered reasonable alternatives for its spatial strategy and housing development. The SSA report documents how alternatives were considered, appraised and consulted on as part of the Plan preparation.</p> <p>The SSA of the consultation draft Local Plan had a matrix of the SSA objectives and Local Plan policies to check whether there were any policies or objectives where a number of negative impacts were identified and if this could lead to cumulative impacts.</p> <p>The General Policies at the beginning of the Plan, set out the overall approach to all development. The other policies in the Plan lead on from these to provide more detail. This ensures internal consistency of the policies in the Plan.</p>

Soundness Test & Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p><i>The presumption in favour of sustainable development (NPPF paras 6-17)</i></p> <p>Plans and decisions need to take local circumstances into account, so that they respond to the different opportunities for achieving sustainable development in different areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An evidence base which establishes the development needs of the plan area (see Justified below) and includes a flexible approach to delivery (see ‘Section 3 Effective’, below). • An audit trail showing how and why the quantum of development, preferred overall strategy and plan area distribution of development were arrived at. 	<p>Policy GP1 sets out the National Park’s approach for achieving sustainable development.</p> <p>However, in achieving sustainable development, policy GP1 provides that all proposals for new development, activities and land use will demonstrate that they are consistent with the National Park’s legal purposes and duty. Consequently, although the policies do allow</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

Soundness Test & Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs, with sufficient flexibility to adapt to rapid change, unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> —any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole; or —specific policies in this Framework indicate development should be restricted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of responding to opportunities for achieving sustainable development in different areas (for example, the marine area) 	<p>flexibility where appropriate, there may not always be sufficient flexibility to adapt to rapid change.</p> <p>The need for housing in the housing market area has been objectively assessed and updated and is evidenced in the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) and housing topic paper.</p>
<p>Policies in Local Plans should follow the approach of the presumption in favour of sustainable development so that it is clear that development which is sustainable can be approved without delay. All plans should be based upon and reflect the presumption in favour of sustainable development, with clear policies that will guide how the presumption should be applied locally.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A policy or policies which reflect the principles of the presumption in favour of sustainable development (see model policy at www.planningportal.gov.uk) 	<p>The Model policy has been deleted from the Plan as it is in the NPPF. However, GP1 sets out the Local Plan approach to sustainable development.</p>
<p><i>Objectively assessed needs</i></p> <p>The economic, social and environmental needs of the authority area addressed and clearly presented in a fashion which makes effective use of land and specifically promotes mixed use development, and take account of cross-boundary and strategic issues.</p> <p>Note: Meeting these needs should be subject to the caveats specified in Paragraph 14 of the NPPF (see above).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background evidence papers demonstrating requirements based on population forecasts, employment projections and community needs. • Technical papers demonstrating how the aspirations and objectives of the DPD are related to the evidence, and how these are to be met, including from consultation and associated with the Duty to Co-operate. 	<p>The economic, social and environmental needs of the area have been assessed in a number of different ways which include the following:</p> <p>SHMA: The SHMA was undertaken in partnership with North Devon Council, West Somerset Council and Torrington District Council who make up the Northern Peninsula Housing Market Area to address the housing needs across the area. Partners of the Northern Peninsula Housing market area have been working together to ensure provision of housing across the area and this is evidenced in the Duty to Co-operate statement and the Joint Housing Topic paper.</p> <p>Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA): A SHLAA has been undertaken along with a Landscape</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

Soundness Test & Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<p>Sensitivity Study to objectively assess where appropriate sites are located in the National Park for housing development.</p> <p>Employment Land Review (ELR): An ELR was undertaken in 2009 and has been recently updated in 2016 to assess the need for employment land using the latest census data and employment projections.</p> <p>Quantitative Needs Assessment: A Quantitative Needs Assessment was undertaken for Exmoor National Park and West Somerset Council on the retail and leisure needs of the respective areas.</p> <p>Infrastructure Delivery Plan: provides an assessment of the infrastructure needs for the National Park.</p> <p>Spatial Strategy Topic Paper: This is based on details of an assessment undertaken in 2009 of the community facilities and businesses within each settlement. The topic paper was updated in 2015 and sets out the approach taken to identify settlements within the spatial strategy, including the analysis of settlements and community facilities.</p> <p>Consultations: Extensive consultations have been undertaken to understand the needs of the local community including 'Your Future Exmoor' which involved consulting with the local schools and holding events in 21 settlements across the National Park.</p>
<p>NPPF Principles: Delivering sustainable development</p>		
<p>1. Building a strong, competitive economy (paras 18-22)</p>		

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

Soundness Test & Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>Set out a clear economic vision and strategy for the area which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth (21),</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articulation of a clear economic vision and strategy for the plan area linked to the Economic Strategy, LEP Strategy and marine policy documents where appropriate. 	<p>The Local Economic Partnership Plan (LEPP) provides the economic strategy for the area, and this is reflected in the Plan. Although the Authority does not have an economic strategy, as it is not responsible for economic development, the vision and objectives, which are then supported by policy and are shared with the Partnership Plan, provide for a ‘strong, diverse and resilient economy where farming, forestry, land management and rural enterprises are playing a lead role in conserving and enhancing Exmoor’s special qualities, producing high quality food and other produce, and conserving local breeds’(objective 14).. and where ‘there is a sustainable tourism and recreation economy in harmony with local communities and the local environment ‘(objective 15).</p>
<p>Recognise and seek to address potential barriers to investment, including poor environment or any lack of infrastructure, services or housing (21)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A criteria-based policy which meets identified needs and is positive and flexible in planning for specialist sectors, regeneration, infrastructure provision, environmental enhancement. • An up-to-date assessment of the deliverability of allocated employment sites, to meet local needs, (taking into account that LPAs should avoid the long term protection of sites allocated for employment use where there is no reasonable prospect of an allocated site being used for that purpose) para (22) 	<p>Policy SE-S1, A sustainable Exmoor economy, seeks to strengthen, enhance and diversify the Exmoor economy. It also seeks to safeguard existing employment sites in accordance with SE-D2. However, as the supporting text stipulates, there is scope for appropriate change of use in certain circumstances including where employment sites or buildings cannot be made viable in the longer term.</p> <p>The Local Plan does not allocate employment sites, as the evidence, as provided in the 2009 ELR and supported by the ELR Update 2016, shows there is not the need to allocate sites, rather the emphasis is on safeguarding existing employment sites. This should ensure that a supply of land is available for prospective businesses and minimises the need for, and avoids the cost and complication of developing new sites of which there is a limited supply.</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

Soundness Test & Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<p>In turn, the Plan allows for businesses to expand appropriately in accordance with policies SE-S1, SE-S2, SE-S3 and SE-D1.</p> <p>In terms of infrastructure, although the Infrastructure Delivery Plan does not identify any specific required infrastructure for the National Park, policy HC-S6 provides for commercial services and community facilities that will benefit the local resident community and the needs of visitors but that are of a scale and in a location appropriate to the community they serve.</p>
<p>2. Ensuring the vitality of town centres (paras 23-37)</p>		
<p>Policies should be positive, promote competitive town centre environments, and set out policies for the management and growth of centres over the plan period (23)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Plan and its policies may include such matters as: definition of networks and hierarchies; defining town centres; encouragement of residential development on appropriate sites; allocation of appropriate edge of centre sites where suitable and viable town centre sites are not available; consideration of retail and leisure proposals which cannot be accommodated in or adjacent to town centres. 	<p>The Plan classifies the settlements of Dulverton, Lynton and Lynmouth and Porlock as local service centres, being that they are the largest settlements within the National Park that provide the most extensive range of services in one place. Policy GP3: Spatial Strategy provides that <i>‘Development should strengthen the role and function of the Local Service Centres to sustain and improve the wide range of services and facilities, to serve the needs of the settlement and surrounding communities, address locally identified needs for housing ...’</i> and that new build development for <i>‘local need affordable housing, business premises, and community services and facilities will be acceptable in principle where it is well related to existing buildings in the settlements.’</i></p> <p>Policy HC-S6: Local Commercial Services and Community Facilities seeks to sustain Exmoor’s communities, strengthen the economy and the needs of visitors. It recognises the important role of community services and</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

Soundness Test & Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<p>facilities within Exmoor communities and for those who visit the National Park and is supportive of maintaining and enhancing their provision. Whilst guarding against the loss of services and facilities, existing shops, services and facilities should be able to develop and modernise in a sustainable way so that they can be retained for the benefit of the community.</p>
<p>Allocate a range of suitable sites to meet the scale and type of retail, leisure, commercial, office, tourism, cultural, community services and residential development needed in town centres (23)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An assessment of the need to expand (the) town centre(s), considering the needs of town centre uses. • Primary and secondary shopping frontages identified and allocated. 	<p>The Quantitative Needs Assessment for Exmoor National Park and West Somerset provided that there would be no significant increase in retail or leisure facilities in Exmoor National Park, rather the emphasis is on enabling and supporting more modest scale improvements to these sectors. Policy HC-S6 provides for new or extended commercial services and community facilities where they will benefit the local resident community and needs of visitors, and are of a scale and location appropriate to the community they serve.</p> <p>The Local Plan does not allocate employment sites, as the evidence, as provided in the 2009 ELR and supported by the ELR Update 2016, shows there is not the need to allocate sites, rather the emphasis is on safeguarding existing employment sites. However, Policy SE-S2 provides a criteria based approach for business development in settlements.</p> <p>Similarly, the Local Plan does not allocate housing sites, as the evidence, as provided in the Local Housing Topic Paper, shows that it is appropriate to provide local needs housing exceptionally on a needs based approach.</p> <p>The approach in the Plan seeks to provide for housing to address the needs of Exmoor’s communities with the priority being local needs affordable housing by ensuring that most housing and all new build housing is in</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

Soundness Test & Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		settlements. Policy GP3 provides the basis for the spatial strategy of the Plan.
3. Supporting a prosperous rural economy (para 28)		
<p>Support sustainable economic growth in rural areas. Planning strategies should promote a strong rural economy by taking a positive approach to new development. (28)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where relevant include a policy or policies which support the sustainable growth of rural businesses; promote the development and diversification of agricultural businesses; support sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments, and support local services and facilities. 	<p>Sections 7 and 8 of the Plan is dedicated to supporting the sustainable growth, enhancement and diversification of rural businesses.</p> <p>Section 7 contains policies on business development in settlements and the open countryside and is supportive of home-based businesses. Policy SE-D2 seeks to safeguard existing employment land and buildings and policy SE-S4 recognises the importance of farming and woodland management in helping to manage and enhance Exmoor’s wildlife and environment, and as a major contributor to the Exmoor economy. Policy SE-S4 sets out where permission will be granted for new or replacement buildings, tracks and structures or extensions required for agricultural or forestry purposes.</p> <p>Within Section 8, Policy RT-S1 supports the provision of accessible and inclusive tourism and recreation developments on Exmoor which encourage the quiet enjoyment and appreciation of the National Park special qualities.</p> <p>As noted above policy HC-S6 (Section 6 Achieving a Thriving Community) provides for new or extended commercial services and community facilities.</p>

Soundness Test & Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>4. Promoting sustainable transport (paras 29-41)</p> <p>Facilitate sustainable development whilst contributing to wider sustainability and health objectives. (29)</p> <p>Balance the transport system in favour of sustainable transport modes and give people a real choice about how they travel whilst recognising that different policies will be required in different communities and opportunities to maximise sustainable transport solutions will vary from urban to rural areas. (29)</p> <p>Encourage solutions which support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and congestion (29) including supporting a pattern of development which, where reasonable to do so, facilitates the use of sustainable modes of transport. (30)</p> <p>Local authorities should work with neighbouring authorities and transport providers to develop strategies for the provision of viable infrastructure necessary to support sustainable development. (31)</p> <p>Opportunities for sustainable transport modes have been taken up depending on the nature and location of the site, to reduce the need for major transport infrastructure. (32)</p> <p>Ensure that developments which generate significant movement are located where the need to travel will be minimised and the use of sustainable transport modes can be maximised (34)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint working with adjoining authorities, transport providers and Government Agencies on infrastructure provision in order to support sustainable economic growth with particular regard to the facilities referred to in paragraph 31. • Policies encouraging development which facilitates the use of sustainable modes of transport and a range of transport choices where appropriate, particularly the criteria in paragraph 35. • A spatial strategy and policy which seeks to reduce the need to travel through balancing housing and employment provision. • Policy for major developments which promotes a mix of uses and access to key facilities by sustainable transport modes. • If local (car parking) standards have been prepared, are they justified and necessary? (39) • Identification and protection of sites and routes where infrastructure could be developed to widen transport choice linked to the Local Transport Plan. 	<p>Policy AC-S1: Sustainable Transport seeks to provide a choice of and encourage sustainable modes of transport including public transport provision, community based demand-responsive transport and car sharing, provision for walking, cycling and horse-riding and low carbon travel.</p> <p>Policy AC-S2 provides that the ENPA will work with highways authorities and local communities to support transport infrastructure provision.</p> <p>Policy AC-S2 seeks to provide a choice of and encourage sustainable modes of transport in new development.</p> <p>Policy GP3 seeks to secure new development within the named settlements where core services and facilities and employment are located which can help to minimise the need to travel.</p> <p>There will be no major developments given the nature of the National Park, and the Spatial Strategy does therefore not provide for these.</p> <p>The parking standards adopted by the Authority provide a guide for applicants and are based on Somerset County Council's Parking Standards (Zone C), adapted to reflect the lower levels and sizes of developments that are more typical of the National Park.</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

Soundness Test & Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>Plans should protect and exploit opportunities for the use of sustainable transport modes for the movement of goods or people. (35)</p> <p>Policies should aim for a balance of land uses so that people can be encouraged to minimize journey lengths for employment, shopping, leisure, education and other activities. (37)</p> <p>For larger scale residential developments in particular, planning policies should promote a mix of uses in order to provide opportunities to undertake day-to-day activities including work on site. Where practical, particularly within large-scale developments, key facilities such as primary schools and local shops should be located within walking distance of most properties. (38)</p> <p>The setting of car parking standards including provision for town centres. (39-40)</p> <p>Local planning authorities should identify and protect, where there is robust evidence, sites and routes which could be critical in developing infrastructure to widen transport choice. (41)</p>		
<p>5. Supporting high quality communications infrastructure (paras 42-46)</p>		
<p>Support the expansion of the electronic communications networks, including telecommunications' masts and high speed broadband. (43)</p> <p>Local planning authorities should not impose a ban on new telecommunications development in certain areas, impose blanket Article 4 directions over a wide area or a wide range of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy supporting the expansion of electronic communications networks, including telecommunications and high speed broadband, noting the caveats in para 44. 	<p>Policy AC-S4 provides that development to improve accessibility and standard of the electricity and telecommunications networks will be encouraged in order to contribute to thriving communities and businesses. Although great weight is given to ensuring the National Park and its special qualities are conserved and enhanced,</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

Soundness Test & Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>telecommunications development or insist on minimum distances between new telecommunications development and existing development. (44)</p>		<p>there are no undue restrictions placed on this type of development.</p> <p>The Exmoor National Park Authority has also been taking advantage of government funding to improve mobile coverage for those communities without mobile signal, while aiming to ensure that the natural beauty of Exmoor's landscape was conserved. It is envisaged that through various initiatives, the National Park will be able to provide broadband coverage to 95% of homes and businesses in the National Park.</p>
<p>6. Delivering a wide choice of high quality housing (paras 47-55)</p>		
<p>Identify and maintain a rolling supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide five years' worth of housing against their housing requirements; this should include an additional buffer of 5% or 20% (moved forward from later in the plan period) to ensure choice and competition in the market for land. 20% buffer applies where there has been persistent under delivery of housing(47)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) five years or more supply of specific deliverable sites; plus the buffer as appropriate • Where this element of housing supply includes windfall sites, inclusion of 'compelling evidence' to justify their inclusion (48) • A SHLAA 	<p>Within the context of restraint, the 2005 Local Plan provided that exceptionally, new affordable housing to meet local need should be delivered through a needs led exceptions approach to ensure that the needs of local communities were prioritised. Underpinning this approach has been that the level of housing development should be compatible with the conservation and enhancement of Exmoor making maximum use of existing accommodation and buildings to reduce the need for greenfield development.</p> <p>Feedback from various stages of consultation on the emerging Local Plan gave support to the continuation of the adopted approach. The policies put forward in the Publication Draft Local Plan therefore provide for local need affordable housing through a rural exceptions approach with the provision of 'Principle Residence' housing, as a response to the reduction in levels of public funding, where essential to deliver the required affordable housing.</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

Soundness Test & Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<p>In addition, severe physical constraints, such as flood risk and topography and the sensitivity of Exmoor’s landscape, affect the capacity of Exmoor’s settlements to absorb more housing development. The Landscape Sensitivity Study for Exmoor National Park sets out the landscape capacity for new build housing on greenfield sites in each named settlement in the adopted Local Plan. In turn, the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) examined the potential of land to deliver future housing development over the plan period. It was based on realistic assumptions about the availability and suitability of land taking account of constraints. The potential for the reuse of existing buildings was also examined. The SHLAA supply was calculated at 249 units on deliverable sites.</p> <p>The SHLAA demonstrated that there are a low number of brownfield sites suitable and available for new housing. If the few remaining suitable housing sites and traditional buildings within Exmoor’s settlements are not used to provide local needs housing then it will put pressure on other sites outside settlements that have the potential to harm the landscape. The approach of providing housing to meet local needs therefore has to be based on the ‘exceptions’ approach and sites will therefore not be allocated, but rather released on an individual basis, based upon the needs evidence of the applicant.</p> <p>A Viability Study has also been undertaken to demonstrate various delivery mechanisms for providing affordable housing in the National Park.</p>
Identify a supply of developable sites or broad locations for years 6-10 and, where possible, years 11-15 (47).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of a supply of developable sites or broad locations for: a) years 6-10; b) years 11-15 	Please see above

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

Soundness Test & Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>Illustrate the expected rate of housing delivery through a trajectory; and set out a housing implementation strategy describing how a five year supply will be maintained. (47)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A housing trajectory • Monitoring of completions and permissions (47) • Updated and managed SHLAA. (47) 	<p>Please see above</p>
<p>Set out the authority’s approach to housing density to reflect local circumstances (47).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy on the density of development. 	<p>Policy GP4: The Efficient Use of Land and Buildings, provides for the efficient use of land and buildings and that a density of at least 30 dwellings per hectare will apply to developments of 10 or more dwellings.</p>
<p>Plan for a mix of housing based on current and future demographic and market trends, and needs of different groups (50) and caters for housing demand and the scale of housing supply to meet this demand. (para 159)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy on planning for a mix of housing (including self-build, and housing for older people • SHMA • Identification of the size, type, tenure and range of housing) required in particular locations, reflecting local demand. (50) • Evidence for housing provision based on up to date, objectively assessed needs. (50) • Policy on affordable housing and consideration for the need for on-site provision or if off-site provision or financial contributions are sought, where these can these be justified and to what extent do they contribute to the objective of creating mixed and balanced communities. (50) 	<p>The evidence for housing provision is provided in the SHMA and the Joint Housing Topic paper.</p> <p>Policy HC-S1 provides that the purpose of housing development will be to address the housing needs of the local communities. The principal community identified need is for affordable housing with local occupancy ties. Exceptionally, new housing will be acceptable where it address an identified need for those in proven housing need, rural workers in agriculture, forestry or other rural land based businesses, specialist housing for older people, or an extended family dwelling in accordance with Policy HC-D4.</p> <p>Any market housing will be principal residence housing. Policy HC-S1 makes provision for the consideration of principal residence housing where it is essential to enable the delivery an identified need for local affordable housing.</p> <p>Policy HC-S2 A Balanced Housing Stock, provides that all new residential development will contribute towards the creation of sustainable, balanced, inclusive communities through providing a range of accommodation sizes, types and tenures to meet the needs of all sections of the community.</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

Soundness Test & Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		Policy HC-D5 Custom/Self Build Local Need Housing in Rural Communities provides a criteria based approach for the provision of custom/self-build housing.
<p>In rural areas be responsive to local circumstances and plan housing development to reflect local needs, particularly for affordable housing, including through rural exception sites where appropriate (54).</p> <p>In rural areas housing should be located where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of allowing some market housing to facilitate the provision of significant additional affordable housing to meet local needs. • Consideration of the case for resisting inappropriate development of residential gardens. (This is discretionary)(para 53) • Examples of special circumstances to allow new isolated homes listed at para 55. 	<p>Please see above</p> <p>Policy HC-D8 and HC-D9 provide for new build development in the open countryside to meet a proven need of a rural worker.</p>
<p>7. Requiring good design (paras 56-68)</p>		
<p>Develop robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the area (58).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of policy or policies which seek to increase the quality of development through the principles set out at para 58 and approaches in paras 59-61, linked to the vision for the area and specific local issues 	<p>In accordance with the vision of the Plan, Policy CE-S6 stipulates that development proposals should deliver high quality sustainable designs that ‘conserve and enhance the local identity and distinctiveness of Exmoor’s built environment and landscape character’. The policy then goes onto provide a number of design principles that need to be demonstrated in development proposals.</p>
<p>8. Promoting healthy communities (paras 69-77)</p>		
<p>Policies should aim to design places which: promote community interaction, including through mixed-use development; are safe and accessible environments; and are accessible developments (69).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of a policy or policies on inclusive communities. • Promotion of opportunities for meetings between members of the community who might not otherwise come into contact with each other, including through mixed-use developments which bring together those who work, live and play in the vicinity; safe 	<p>Policy GP1 provides that opportunities must be taken to provide accessibility to services, local services and facilities, jobs and technology. The policy supports the health and socio economic wellbeing of local communities and encourages community participation.</p> <p>In addition Policy HC-S6, Local Commercial Services and Facilities, seeks to sustain Exmoor’s communities through</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

Soundness Test & Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
	<p>and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion; and accessible developments, containing clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas. (69)</p>	<p>the provision of new or extended local commercial services and community facilities subject to the criteria set out in the policy, and supports the provision of publicly accessible green space within or adjoining settlements.</p>
<p>Policies should plan positively for the provision and use of shared space, community facilities and other local services (70).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of a policy or policies addressing community facilities and local service. • Positive planning for the provision and integration of community facilities and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments; safeguard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services; ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernize; and ensure that housing is developed in suitable locations which offer a range of community facilities and good access to key services and infrastructure. 	<p>Policy HC-S6, Local Commercial Services and Facilities, seeks to sustain Exmoor’s communities through the provision of new or extended local commercial services and community facilities subject to the criteria set out in the policy.</p> <p>Policy HC-S6 further stipulates that new development should be located within Local Service Centres and Villages or, for community facilities where no suitable site exists, are well related to these settlements.</p> <p>Policy HC-S6 also seeks to safeguard local services and community facilities in accordance with policy HC-D19.</p>
<p>Identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities; and set locally derived standards to provide these (73).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. (73) • A policy protecting existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land from development, with specific exceptions. (74) • Protection and enhancement of rights of way and access. (75) 	<p>The Open Space Strategy provides an analysis of the open space, sport and recreation facilities within or adjoining the 22 named settlements on Exmoor and identifies whether or not there are specific needs, deficits or surpluses of open space, sport and recreation with regard to quantity, quality and accessibility.</p> <p>Policy HC-S6, HC-D18 and HC-D19, support the provision and retention of new outdoor recreation areas and publicly accessible amenity spaces and the retention of existing</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

Soundness Test & Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<p>outdoor recreation and amenity areas as identified on the Policies Map and in Annex 3 Important Open Space in Allerford and Luccombe, with specific exception (HC-D19).</p> <p>Policy RT-12 provides for the safeguarding of access land and rights of way.</p>
<p>Enable local communities, through local and neighbourhood plans, to identify special protection green areas of particular importance to them – ‘Local Green Space’ (76-78).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy enabling the protection of Local Green Spaces. (Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or reviewed, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period. The designation should only be used when it accords with the criteria in para 77). Policy for managing development within a local green space should be consistent with policy for Green Belts. (78) 	<p>Communities were asked during the Your Future Exmoor consultations to identify important green space on maps provided. These areas were then assessed against the criteria for Important Visual Amenity Space and were subject to consultation during the draft Local Plan consultation</p> <p>Policy HC-D20 provides protection for identified areas of important visual amenity space.</p>
<p>9. Protecting Green Belt Land (paras 79-92)</p>		
<p>Local planning authorities should plan positively to enhance the beneficial use of the Green Belt, such as looking for opportunities to provide access; to provide opportunities for outdoor sport and recreation; to retain and enhance landscapes, visual amenity and biodiversity; or to improve damaged and derelict land. (81)</p> <p>Local planning authorities with Green Belts in their area should establish Green Belt boundaries in their Local Plans which set the framework for Green Belt and settlement policy. (83)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where Green Belt policies are included, these should reflect the need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enhance the beneficial use of the Green Belt. (81) ○ Accord with criteria on boundary setting, and the need for clarity on the status of safeguarded land, in particular. (85) ○ Specify that inappropriate development should not be approved except in very special circumstances. (87) ○ Specify the exceptions to inappropriate development (89-90) 	<p>N/A</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

Soundness Test & Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>When drawing up or reviewing Green Belt boundaries local planning authorities should take account of the need to promote sustainable patterns of development. (84)</p> <p>Boundaries should be set using ‘physical features likely to be permanent’ amongst other things (85)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify where very special circumstances might apply to renewable energy development. (91) 	
<p>10. Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change (paras 93-108)</p>		
<p>Adopt proactive strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change taking full account of flood risk, coastal change and water supply and demand considerations. (94)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning of new development in locations and ways which reduce greenhouse gas emissions. • Support for energy efficiency improvements to existing building. • Local requirements for a building’s sustainability which are consistent with the Government’s zero carbon buildings policy. (95)) 	<p>The Exmoor Climate Change Adaptation Study set out a range of responses to climate change, including managing flood risk and coastal change.</p> <p>Policy CC-S1 seeks to encourage climate change mitigation and adaptation measures and to direct development away from areas at risk of flooding and encourages land management that reduces food risk.</p> <p>More specifically Policy CC-S1 seeks to promote the use of the energy hierarchy, to encourage measures that ensure sustainable and efficient water supplies and reduce the demand for water including through water conservation.</p> <p>Policy CC-S1 is supported by Policy CC-D1 on flood risk and a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, which has taken into account tidal, fluvial and surface water flood risk and the implications of climate change.</p> <p>Policy CC-S3 aims to respond to coastal change through designating Porlock Weir as a coastal change management area and Policy CC-S4 seeks to replace development within coastal change management areas which are at risk from coastal change.</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

Soundness Test & Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<p>Policy CC-D2 on Water Conservation provides that development proposals should demonstrate how water conservation measures will be incorporated in proposals and how demand for water will be minimised.</p> <p>Policy CE-S6 on Design and Sustainable Construction principles provides that proposals for new development should demonstrate that they will incorporate sustainable construction methods that promote the sustainable use of resources, reduce carbon emissions, future proof against climate change impacts and provide adequate storage for recycling waste.</p>
<p>Help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy through a strategy, policies maximising renewable and low carbon energy, and identification of key energy sources. (97)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strategy and policies to promote and maximise energy from renewable and low carbon sources, • Identification of suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources, and supporting infrastructure, where this would help secure the development of such sources (see also NPPF footnote 17) • Identification of where development can draw its energy supply from decentralised, renewable or low carbon supply systems and for co-locating potential heat customers and suppliers. (97) 	<p>Policy CC-S5 provides a criteria based approach for small scale renewable energy schemes that assist in contributing towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions and moving towards a carbon neutral National Park.</p> <p>Policy CC-D4 provides further detail on small scale freestanding solar arrays and Policy CC-D3 provides further detail on small scale wind turbines. However, the Written Ministerial Statement(WMS) on wind energy development (18 June 2015) requires that planning permission for wind energy development is only approved if the proposal is located within a suitable area identified in a Local or Neighbourhood Plan, and has the local community's backing. The schedule of Proposed Changes therefore includes amendments to enable compliance with the WMS, which would need to be identified as Main Modifications and subject to further sustainability appraisal and consultation. A landscape sensitivity assessment has been produced to inform the identification of 'suitable areas'.</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

Soundness Test & Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>Minimise vulnerability to climate change and manage the risk of flooding (99)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Account taken of the impacts of climate change. (99) Allocate, and where necessary re-locate, development away from flood risk areas through a sequential test, based on a SFRA. (100) Policies to manage risk, from a range of impacts, through suitable adaptation measures 	<p>Policy CC-S1 provides that proposals to adapt to the consequences of climate change will be encouraged by avoiding development at risk of flooding; improving the resilience of development, essential services and infrastructure to cope with changes in climate; and promoting land management which reduces the overall risk of flooding in and around the area.</p> <p>Similarly Policy CC-S2 seeks to avoid development in areas at risk from coastal change and coastal erosion.</p> <p>Policy CC-S3 notes that Porlock Weir has been designated as a coastal change management area and a strategy will be produced for the area in due course.</p> <p>Flood risk has been assessed through the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA), taking account of tidal, fluvial and surface water flood risk and the implications of climate change. The SFRA defines flood zones 3a (high risk) and 3b functional flood plain, within the principal local service centres of Dulverton, Porlock and Lynton and Lynmouth. For areas outside of these settlements, the precautionary approach has been adopted whereby the whole of Flood Zone 3 is considered to constitute the functional flood plain. Policy CC-D1 provides a sequential test, based on the SFRA, to require that development proposals are consistent with the sequential test and that applicants demonstrate that sites are at little or no risk of flood and are developed in preference to areas of higher risk.</p>
<p>Take account of marine planning (105)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure early and close co-operation on relevant economic, social and environmental policies with the Marine Management Organisation 	<p>Section 4 looks at significant landscape and seascape attributes and notes that Marine Plans will help integrate marine and land planning, contributing to vibrant coastal communities and consideration of cultural heritage, seascape and local environmental quality. The Plan</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

Soundness Test & Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the aims and objectives of the Marine Policy Statement, including local potential for marine-related economic development Integrate as appropriate marine policy objectives into emerging policy Support of integrated coastal management (ICM) in coastal areas in line with the requirements of the MPS 	<p>provides that the Authority supports the formation of marine protected areas (including Marine Conservation Zones) and will work with the Marine Planning Authority to ensure that Exmoor’s high quality seascape is maintained.</p> <p>Policy CE-S1 seeks to conserve and enhance the high quality, diverse and distinct seascapes and that development proposals should have regard to the conservation of significant seascape attributes which includes the designated heritage coast, which covers the whole coastline of Exmoor National Park.</p> <p>Protection of the marine conservation area is also considered under the proposed changes, and this runs from Bideford to Forum Point.</p> <p>Section 5 considers coastal development and provides that when adopted, the Marine Plan, will be taken account of in National Park decision making. It notes, that in the absence of marine plans the Marine Planning Statement will prevail.</p>
Manage risk from coastal change (106)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of where the coast is likely to experience physical changes and identify Coastal Change Management Areas, and clarity on what development will be allowed in such areas. Provision for development and infrastructure that needs to be re-located from such areas, based on SMPs and Marine Plans, where appropriate. 	<p>Policy CC-S2 provides that development should avoid areas at risk from coastal change.</p> <p>Policy CC-S3 provides for the designation of Porlock Weir as a coastal change management area and gives clarity on what development will be allowed in the area.</p> <p>Policy CC-S4 provides for replacement development from coastal change management areas where appropriate.</p>
11. Conserving and enhancing the natural environment (paras 109-125)		
Protect valued landscapes (109)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A strategy and policy or policies to create, protect, enhance and manage networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure. 	<p>Policy GP1 Achieving National Park Purposes and Sustainable Development, provides that all proposals for new development, activities, and land use will</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

Soundness Test & Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy which seeks to minimise the loss of higher quality agricultural land and give great weight to protecting the landscape and scenic beauty of National Parks, the Broads and AONBs. 	<p>demonstrate that they are consistent with the National Park’s legal purposes and duty. Where there is irreconcilable conflict between statutory purposes, the conservation and enhancement of the National Park will prevail consistent with the Sandford Principle.</p> <p>Policy GP4 provides that development should not result in the loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land (Grades 1, 2 and 3a) unless the development of alternative sites would conflict with National Park purposes.</p> <p>Policy CE-S3 Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure, provides for the conservation and enhancement of wildlife, habitats and sites of geological interest. It seeks to enhance biodiversity and the creation of multi-functional green infrastructure networks at a variety of spatial scales. It provides that green infrastructure that incorporates measures to enhance biodiversity, including matrix areas identified within the ecological network, should be provided as an integral part of new development.</p> <p>Policy CE-D2 Green Infrastructure Provision, provides further for green infrastructure provision by requiring development proposals to include measures that will enhance green infrastructure provision and create opportunities for wildlife in the National Park commensurate with the scale of the proposal and intensity of activity expected. Proposals are encouraged where a range of green infrastructure benefits can be achieved.</p>
Prevent unacceptable risks from pollution and land instability (109)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy which seeks development which is appropriate for its location having regard to the effects of pollution on health, the natural environment or general amenity. 	<p>Policy CC-S7 sets out the Authority’s policy on pollution. When considering the impact of development, the various forms of potential pollution including air, soil, water, noise and light, from both individual and cumulative sources will be considered.</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

Soundness Test & Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<p>Applicants should firstly seek to avoid pollution where possible including through using preventative measures and working in partnership. Where pollution cannot be avoided, proposals will be expected to demonstrate that there will be no unacceptable adverse impacts individually or cumulatively on the environment, public health, communities, quality of life, amenity and neighbouring land uses including areas outside of the National Park.</p> <p>Policy GP1 (h) Achieving National Park Purposes and Sustainable Development seeks to prevent unacceptable risk form land instability through ensuring ground conditions are acceptable for development.</p>
<p>Planning policies should minimise impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity (117)</p> <p>Planning policies should plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries (117)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification and mapping of local ecological networks and geological conservation interests. • Policies to promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the recovery of priority species 	<p>Policy CE-S3 Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure, provides that the conservation and enhancement of wildlife, habitats and sites of geological interest within the National Park will be given great weight.</p> <p>Development delivery, management agreements and positive initiatives will conserve, restore and re-create priority habitats and conserve and increase priority species identified for Exmoor in the Exmoor Wildlife Research and Monitoring Framework.</p> <p>Regionally important geological sites (RIGS) will be safeguarded for their geological and geomorphological interest.</p> <p>Planning policies plan for biodiversity at a landscape scale: Ecological Zones of Influence (EZI) have been identified for the Exmoor and Quantock Oakwoods SAC; Exmoor has a number of Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) which have been identified by Local Geo conservation groups for their geological or geomorphological interest; and the Somerset (including Exmoor National Park)</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

Soundness Test & Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<p>ecological network is a plan of existing and potential strategically important ecological assets which identifies existing and new opportunities for biodiversity, and the linkages required to ensure connectivity between these elements.</p> <p>The Plan provides that the National Park Authority will work with adjoining authorities, local communities and land managers, the private sector and conservation organisations to identify and take forward opportunities for biodiversity enhancement where this is consistent with landscape character.</p>
12. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment (paras 126-141)		
<p>Include a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk (126)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strategy for the historic environment based on a clear understanding of the cultural assets in the plan area, including assets most at risk. • A map/register of historic assets • A policy or policies which promote new development that will make a positive contribution to character and distinctiveness. (126) 	<p>Objective 5 states: <i>To ensure that the built tradition, character, distinctiveness and historic character of Exmoor's settlements, buildings, farmsteads, landscapes, archaeological sites and monuments are conserved and enhanced and that the cultural heritage of Exmoor is protected through careful management of development.</i></p> <p>Policy CE-S4 provides for the conservation and enhancement of the local distinctiveness, cultural heritage, and historic environment. The policy states that where development is likely to cause significant harm to or loss of designated heritage assets or assets of national significance, permission will be refused. Adverse impacts on locally important heritage assets are to be avoided. The policy goes on to provide that development proposals should positively reinforce the historic character of Exmoor's settlements through reflecting the traditional vernacular architecture and enhancing local distinctiveness.</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

Soundness Test & Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>13. Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals (paras 142-149)</p>		
<p>It is important that there is a sufficient supply of material to provide the infrastructure, buildings, energy and goods that the country needs. However, since minerals are a finite natural resource, and can only be worked where they are found, it is important to make best use of them to secure their long-term conservation (142)</p> <p>Minerals planning authorities should plan for a steady and adequate supply of industrial materials (146)</p>	<p>Account taken of the matters raised in relation to paragraph 143 and 145, including matters in relation to land in national / international designations; landbanks; the defining of Minerals Safeguarding Areas; wider matters relating to safeguarding; approaches if non-mineral development is necessary within Minerals Safeguarding Areas; the setting of environmental criteria; development of noise limits; reclamation of land; plan for a steady and adequate supply of aggregates. This could include evidence of co-operation with neighbouring and more distant authorities.</p>	<p>The Exmoor National Park Authority has worked with Devon and Somerset County Council respectively on joint evidence base studies for minerals provision through Local Aggregate Assessments (LAAs). The national status of the National Park means that it is not considered to be an appropriate location for major mineral extraction, reflecting national policy. The LAAs for Devon and Somerset demonstrate that there is an adequate availability of crushed rock aggregate mineral resources from outside the National Park, and consequently there is no expectation that major mineral development is required within Exmoor. In accordance with policy CE-S7, with the exception of proposals for small scale quarries or the reworking of existing small quarries to provide building or roofing stone, the minerals resources required will come from outside of the National Park.</p> <p>Minerals Safeguarding Areas are defined in the Publication Draft Local Plan. However, as a result of consultation comments ENPA has reconsidered its position. Exmoor National Park has no active quarries and an extensive resource of building stone to meet needs within the National Park. Low levels of development are unlikely to sterilise future small scale extraction. Therefore, minerals safeguarding areas are considered not to be needed.</p>
<p>Justified: <i>The plan should be the most appropriate strategy, when considered against the reasonable alternatives, based on proportionate evidence.</i></p> <p>To be 'justified' a DPD needs to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founded on a robust and credible evidence base involving: research / fact finding demonstrating how the choices made in the plan are backed up by facts; and evidence of participation of the local community and others having a stake in the area. • The most appropriate strategy when considered against reasonable alternatives. 		

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

Soundness Test & Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p><i>Participation</i></p> <p>Has the consultation process allowed for effective engagement of all interested parties?</p>	<p>The consultation statement. This should set out what consultation was undertaken, when, with whom and how it has influenced the plan. The statement should show that efforts have been made to consult hard to reach groups, key stakeholders etc. Reference SCI</p>	<p>The Representation Statement sets out the stages of consultation which have briefly comprised of the following:</p> <p><u>Scoping Issues and Options: Dec 08-Jan 09</u>: Three stakeholder workshops were held to scope key issues and options as an important component of preparing for the Core Strategy & Development Management Policies DPD. A questionnaire was also sent to those stakeholders unable to attend the workshops.</p> <p><u>Issues and Options: Your Future Exmoor: July 2009-December 2010</u>: Extensive community and stakeholder engagement took place over a period of 18 months, to enable local communities, young people, individuals, visitors and representatives of other bodies/organisations to participate in shaping the Local Plan for Exmoor National Park.</p> <p><u>November – December 2010: Topic Group Meetings</u></p> <p>Group discussions were held with individuals and members of organisations to discuss specific issues relating to housing, climate change, recreation and tourism in greater detail.</p> <p><u>Vision, Objectives and General Policies – Local Plan Options for Housing and the Spatial Strategy. November 2011-January 2012.</u></p> <p>A consultation on the emerging Local Plan was held in parallel with the Exmoor National Park Partnership Plan</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

Soundness Test & Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<p>2012-2017 – both documents having a shared vision and objectives.</p> <p>The following aspects of the Local Plan were consulted on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Vision & Objectives ▪ General Policies (overarching strategic policies) <p>Options for the location of new development and the delivery of affordable housing</p> <p><u>Draft Local Plan: November – December 2013</u></p> <p>The outcomes of previous consultation and engagement, together with a Sustainability Appraisal, informed the preparation of the Draft Exmoor National Park Local Plan (including minerals and waste policies).</p> <p>Consultation took place over a 6 week period - this was widely publicised and the Local Plan was available for inspection at a number of locations within and around the National Park</p> <p><u>Publication Draft Local Plan(Pre-Submission) June-July 2015</u></p> <p>The Publication Draft Local Plan and accompanying documents were published under Regulation 19 for a 7 week period from 15 June to 31 July 2015. 1 Appendix 2 lists those organisations and individuals who were notified of the consultation.</p>

¹ Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

Soundness Test & Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p><i>Research / fact finding</i></p> <p>Is the plan justified by a sound and credible evidence base? What are the sources of evidence? How up to date, and how convincing is it?</p> <p>What assumptions were made in preparing the DPD? Were they reasonable and justified?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The studies, reports and technical papers that provide the evidence for the policies set out in the DPD, the date of preparation and who they were produced by. <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sections of the DPD (at various stages of development) and SA Report which illustrate how evidence supports the strategy, policies and proposals, including key assumptions. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A very brief statement of how the main findings of consultation support the policies, with reference to: reports to the council on the issues raised during participation, covering both the front-loading and formulation phases; and any other information on community views and preferences. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For each policy (or group of policies dealing with the same issue), a very brief statement of the evidence documents relied upon and how they support the policy (where this is not already clear in the reasoned justification in the DPD). 	<p>Please see the list of documents in the electronic Library of evidence.</p> <p>The Plan sets out, prior to each policy, how the evidence supports the strategy and policies, and key assumptions.</p> <p>The Plan has been SA'd at key stages and this is illustrated in the Sustainability Appraisal reports.</p> <p>Please also see the Representation Statement which provides how the main findings of the consultation support the policies.</p> <p>Please also see the Joint Housing Topic Paper which sets out the justified approach to housing in the Housing Market Area.</p>
<p><i>Alternatives</i></p> <p>Can it be shown that the LPA's chosen approach is the most appropriate given the reasonable alternatives? Have the reasonable alternatives been considered and is there a clear audit trail showing how and why the preferred approach was arrived at? Where a balance had to be struck in taking decisions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports and consultation documents produced in the early stages setting out how alternatives were developed and evaluated, and the reasons for selecting the preferred strategy, and reasons for rejecting the alternatives. This should include options covering not just the spatial strategy, but also the quantum of development, strategic 	<p>The SA provides an assessment of all the reasonable spatial options that were considered.</p> <p>The Submission SA provides a consideration of the reasonable alternatives, and the SA for the Local Plan Vision, Objectives and General Policies provides a more detailed consideration of the alternatives.</p>

Soundness Test & Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>between competing alternatives, is it clear how and why the decisions were taken?</p> <p>Does the sustainability appraisal show how the different options perform and is it clear that sustainability considerations informed the content of the DPD from the start?</p>	<p>policies and development management policies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An audit trail of how the evidence base, consultation and SA have influenced the plan. • Sections of the SA Report showing the assessment of options and alternatives. • Reports on how decisions on the inclusion of policy were made. • Sections of the consultation document demonstrating how options were developed and appraised. • Any other documentation showing how alternatives were developed and evaluated, including a report on how sustainability appraisal has influenced the choice of strategy and the content of policies. 	<p>The Regulation 22 Representations Statement also provides details on the consideration of issues and options.</p>
<p>Effective: <i>the plan should be deliverable over its period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic priorities.</i></p> <p>To be 'effective' a DPD needs to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be deliverable • Demonstrate sound infrastructure delivery planning • Have no regulatory or national planning barriers to its delivery • Have delivery partners who are signed up to it • Be coherent with the strategies of neighbouring authorities • Demonstrate how the Duty to Co-operate has been fulfilled • Be flexible • Be able to be monitored 		
<p><i>Deliverable and Coherent</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is it clear how the policies will meet the Plan's vision and objectives? Are there any obvious 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections of the DPD which address delivery, the means of delivery and the timescales for key developments and initiatives. 	<p>At the beginning of each section, the Plan sets out which objectives will be fulfilled by the policies in that section. These objectives are also set out in the Exmoor National Park Partnership Plan. Together the Exmoor Local Plan and</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

Soundness Test & Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>gaps in the policies, having regard to the objectives of the DPD?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are the policies internally consistent? • Are there realistic timescales related to the objectives? • Does the DPD explain how its key policy objectives will be achieved? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation from the relevant agencies that they support the objectives and the identified means of delivery, such as evidence that the plans and programmes of other bodies have been taken into account (e.g. Water Resources Management Plans and Marine Plans). • Information in the local development scheme, or provided separately, about the scope and content (actual and intended) of each DPD showing how they combine to provide a coherent policy structure. • Section in the DPD that shows the linkages between the objectives and the corresponding policies, and consistency between policies (such as through a matrix). 	<p>Partnership Plan provide a platform and strategy to deliver the objectives.</p> <p>The Plan is linked together by five general policies at the beginning of the Plan, which set the framework for the plan and apply to all development. All the other policies in the Plan stem from these five general policies to provide more detailed policies and justification.</p> <p>The indicators set out in the Monitoring Framework will be used to monitor the impact of the policies within each section of the Local Plan. The majority of indicators are relevant to numerous policies in the Plan and these are shown within the Framework. The Framework also shows where indicators link to objectives outlined in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.</p>
<p><i>Infrastructure Delivery</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have the infrastructure implications of the policies clearly been identified? • Are the delivery mechanisms and timescales for implementation of the policies clearly identified? • Is it clear who is going to deliver the required infrastructure and does the timing of the provision complement the timescale of the policies? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A section or sections of the DPD where infrastructure needs are identified and the proposed solutions put forward. • A schedule setting out responsibilities for delivery, mechanisms and timescales, and related to a CIL schedule where appropriate. • Confirmation from infrastructure providers that they support the solutions proposed and the identified means and timescales for their delivery, or a plan for resolving issues. • Demonstrable plan-wide viability, particularly in relation to the delivery of affordable housing and the role of a CIL schedule. 	<p>The Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) contains the infrastructure implications for the Exmoor National Park. The IDP shows that 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. Rather, the provision of key infrastructure will be enabled on an individual basis through the relevant policies for that particular development as well as through developer contributions and public and private sector funding.</p> <p>Policy GP5 in the Local Plan sets out the Authority's approach to developer contributions, and the use of the Community Infrastructure Levy.</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

Soundness Test & Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p><i>Co-ordinated Planning</i></p> <p>Does the DPD reflect the concept of spatial planning? Does it go beyond traditional land use planning by bringing together and integrating policies for the development and use of land with other policies and programmes from a variety of agencies / organisations that influence the nature of places and how they function?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections of the DPD that reflect the plans or strategies of the local authority and other bodies • Policies which seek to pull together different policy objectives • Expressions of support/representations from bodies responsible for other strategies affecting the area 	<p>The Plan shares its visions and objectives with the National Park Authority's Partnership Plan. The Partnership Plan is the key mechanism for focusing and co-ordinating activities by various partners from the public, private and voluntary sectors to achieve National Park purposes and the vision and objectives of the Plan. The vision and objectives are for Exmoor as a whole – hence the title of the Plan 'Exmoor National Park Partnership Plan'.</p> <p>The Statement of Community Involvement and the Representation Statement both show the involvement of partners from public, private and voluntary sectors, residents and visitors alike and their expressions of support/representations on the policies of the Plan.</p>
<p><i>Flexibility</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the DPD flexible enough to respond to a variety of, or unexpected changes in, circumstances? • Does the DPD include the remedial actions that will be taken if the policies need adjustment? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections of the DPD setting out the assumptions of the plan and identifying the circumstances when policies might need to be reviewed. • Sections of the annual monitoring report and sustainability appraisal report describing how the council will monitor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the effectiveness of policies and what evidence is being collected to undertake this b. changes affecting the baseline information and any information on trends on which the DPD is based • Risk analysis of the strategy and policies to demonstrate robustness and how the plan could cope with changing circumstances • Sections within the DPD dealing with possible change areas and how they would be dealt with, including mechanisms for the rate of 	<p>Section 11 of the Local Plan sets out the approach to Implementation and Monitoring and identifies the indicators that will be used to monitor how the Local Plan is being delivered. The monitoring of the Local Plan will indicate whether parts of the Plan or specific policies will need review.</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

Soundness Test & Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
	<p>development to be increased or slowed and how that would impact on other aspects of the strategy and on infrastructure provision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sections of the DPD identifying the key indicators of success of the strategy, and the remedial actions which will be taken if adjustment is required. 	
<p><i>Co-operation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the Duty to Co-operate has been undertaken appropriately for the plan being examined? Is it clear who is intended to implement each part of the DPD? Where the actions required are outside the direct control of the LPA, is there evidence that there is the necessary commitment from the relevant organisation to the implementation of the policies? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A succinct Duty to Co-operate Statement which flows from the strategic issues that have been addressed jointly. A 'tick box' approach or a collection of correspondence is not sufficient, and it needs to be shown (where appropriate) if joint plan-making arrangements have been considered, what decisions were reached and why. The Duty to Co-operate Statement could highlight: the sharing of ideas, evidence and pooling of resources; the practical policy outcomes of co-operation; how decisions were reached and why; and evidence of having effectively co-operated to plan for issues which need other organisations to deliver on, common objectives for elements of strategy and policy; a memorandum of understanding; aligned or joint core strategies and liaison with other consultees as appropriate. 	<p>ENPA worked with neighbouring authorities and other partners to agree a Duty to Co-operate Protocol which identifies the strategic priorities and cross-boundary issues requiring joint working across Exmoor National Park and surrounding areas.</p> <p>The Duty to Co-operate Statement issued alongside the Publication Draft Local Plan for consultation, documents how the Duty to Co-operate requirements have been met, including detailing discussions with relevant partners, joint working, how the strategic priorities and cross-boundary issues were addressed, and the outcomes arising from this.</p> <p>Duty to Co-operate working is on-going and has recently included preparation of a Joint Housing Topic Paper for the Northern Peninsula Housing Market Area, with North Devon Council, Torrington District Council and West Somerset Council.</p> <p>In addition to the Duty to Co-operate Statement, the ENPA have worked with the Devon authorities to sign up to a Devon wide Duty to Co-operate Protocol, and with the Somerset Minerals Authority to sign up to a Memorandum of Understanding.</p>
<p><i>Monitoring</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the DPD contain targets, and milestones which relate to the delivery of the policies, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sections of the DPD setting out indicators, targets and milestones 	<p>The approach to Implementation & Monitoring is set out in Section 11 of the Local Plan and includes the monitoring framework which identifies the indicators that will be</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

Soundness Test & Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>(including housing trajectories where the DPD contains housing allocations)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is it clear how targets are to be measured (by when, how and by whom) and are these linked to the production of the annual monitoring report? • Is it clear how the significant effects identified in the sustainability appraisal report will be taken forward in the ongoing monitoring of the implementation of the plan, through the annual monitoring report? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections of the current annual monitoring report which report on indicators, targets, milestones and trajectories • Reference to any other reports or technical documents which contain information on the delivery of policies • Sections of the current annual monitoring report and the sustainability appraisal report setting out the framework for monitoring, including monitoring the effects of the DPD against the sustainability appraisal 	<p>monitored. This cross-references to the SSA objectives to ensure that the effects of the Local Plan against the SSA will be monitored. No significant adverse effects were identified in the SSA for monitoring.</p> <p>The implementation of the Local Plan will be monitored and reported on annually through the Annual Monitoring Report.</p>
<p><i>Consistent with national policy: the plan should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the Framework.</i></p>		
<p>The DPD should not contradict or ignore national policy. Where there is a departure, there must be clear and convincing reasoning to justify the approach taken.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the DPD contain any policies or proposals which are not consistent with national policy and, if so, is there local justification? • Does the DPD contain policies that do not add anything to existing national guidance? If so, why have these been included? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections of the DPD which explain where and how national policy has been elaborated upon and the reasons. • Studies forming evidence for the DPD or, where appropriate, other information which provides the rationale for departing from national policy. • Evidence provided from the sustainability appraisal (including reference to the sustainability report) and/or from the results of community involvement. • Where appropriate, evidence of consistency with national marine policy as articulated in the UK Marine Policy Statement • Reports or copies of correspondence as to how representations have been considered and dealt with. 	<p>The Local Plan complies with national policy but in a number of cases an alternative approach has been taken, reflecting the National Park's status and the specific circumstances in the National Park.</p> <p>The model policy on sustainable development is no longer included following determination that the inclusion of this policy is no longer necessary, and would be a repetition of national policy.</p> <p>The approach to housing is set out in the Housing Topic paper. This includes how the Objectively Assessed Need figure for housing was calculated, the decision not to allocate sites and to identify an estimate of affordable housing need, rather than a housing requirement.</p> <p>The Local Plan does not allocate employment land. This approach is set out in Section 7 of the Plan and is</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

Soundness Test & Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		supported by evidence from the Employment Land Review (ELR) and the ELR Update.

Planning policy for traveller sites

Planning Policy for Traveller Sites was published in 23 March 2012 and came into effect on 27 March 2012. Circular 01/06: Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites and Circular 04/07: Planning for Travelling Showpeople have been cancelled. Planning Policy for Traveller Sites should be read in conjunction with the National Planning Policy Framework, including the implementation policies of that document.

The government's aim in relation to planning for traveller sites is:

'To ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional and nomadic life of travellers whilst respecting the interests of the settled community'.

Government's aims in respect of traveller sites are:

- That local planning authorities (LPAs) make their own assessment of need for the purposes of planning
- That LPAs work collaboratively, develop fair and effective strategies to meet need through the identification of land for sites
- Plan for sites over a reasonable timescale
- Plan-making should protect green belt land from inappropriate development
- Promote more private traveller site provision whilst recognising that there will always be those travellers who cannot provide their own sites
- Aim to reduce the number of unauthorised developments and encampments and make enforcement more effective.

In addition local planning authorities should:

- Include fair, realistic and inclusive policies
- Increase the number of traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply
- Reduce tensions between settled and traveller communities in plan-making and decision-taking
- Enable provision of suitable accommodation from which travellers can access education, health, welfare and employment infrastructure
- Have due regard to protection of local amenity and local environment

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

Policy Expectations	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
Policy A: Using evidence to plan positively and manage development (para 6)		
Early and effective community engagement with both settled and traveller communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early and effective engagement undertaken, including discussing travellers’ accommodation needs with travellers themselves, their representative bodies and local support groups. 	An assessment of gypsies and travellers was completed in 2015 for a partnership of Devon local planning authorities, including the whole of the Exmoor National Park.
Co-operate with travellers, their representative bodies and local support groups, other local authorities and relevant interest groups to prepare and maintain an up-to-date understanding of likely permanent and transit accommodation needs of their areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration of a clear understanding of the needs of the traveller community over the lifespan of your development plan. • Collaborative working with neighbouring local planning authorities. • A robust evidence base to establish accommodation needs to inform the preparation of your local plan and make planning decisions. 	<p>The research drew on a number of data sources including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of secondary information: including a literature review and secondary data analysis • Consultation with organisations involved with Gypsy and Traveller issues • Face-to-face surveys of Gypsies and Travellers
Policy B: Planning for traveller sites (paras 7-11)		
<p>Set pitch targets for gypsies and travellers and plot targets for travelling showpeople which address the likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs of travellers in your area, working collaboratively with neighbouring LPAs.</p> <p>Set criteria to guide land supply allocations where there is identified need.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification, and annual update, of a supply of specific, deliverable sites sufficient to provide 5 years worth of sites against locally set target. Identification of a supply of specific, developable sites or broad locations for growth for years 6-10, and, where possible, for years 11-15. 	<p>The Study identified the level of accommodation need and demand for each local planning authority within the partnership area. For Exmoor National Park, the evidence demonstrates that there is no demonstrable need for permanent or transit pitches to 2034, nor is there any requirement for additional housing to meet ‘bricks and mortar’ needs of travelling communities.</p> <p>Because no demonstrable need was identified within the National Park, this Plan includes a</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

Policy Expectations	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
Ensure that traveller sites are sustainable economically, socially and environmentally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An assessment of the need for traveller sites, and where an unmet need has been demonstrated a supply of specific, deliverable sites been identified. Policy which takes into account criteria a-h of para 11 	criteria based policy (HC-S5 Travelling Communities) and does not include pitch or plot targets or sites.
Policy C: Sites in rural areas and the countryside (para 12)		
When assessing the suitability of sites in rural or semi-rural settings LPAs should ensure that the scale of such sites do not dominate the nearest settled community.		Policy HC-S5 provides that exceptionally small sites for travelling communities may be permitted, subject to the criteria in policy HC-S5.
Policy D: Rural exception sites (para 13)		
If there is a lack of affordable land to meet local traveller needs, LPAs in rural areas, where viable and practical, should consider allocating and releasing sites solely for affordable travellers' sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a rural exception site policy is used, and if so clarity that such sites shall be used for affordable traveller sites in perpetuity. 	Because no demonstrable need was identified within the National Park, this Plan includes a criteria based policy (HC-S5 Travelling Communities) and does not include pitch or plot targets or sites.
Policy E: Traveller sites in Green Belt (paras 14-15)		
Traveller sites (both permanent and temporary) in the Green Belt are inappropriate development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Belt boundary revisions made in response to a specific identified need for a traveller site, undertaken through the plan making process. 	N/A

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

Policy Expectations	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>Exceptional limited alteration to the defined Green Belt boundary (which might be to accommodate a site inset within the Green Belt) to meet a specific, identified need for a traveller site ... should be done only through the plan-making process.</p>		
<p>Policy F: Mixed planning use traveller sites (paras 16-18)</p>		
<p>Local planning authorities should consider, wherever possible, including traveller sites suitable for mixed residential and business uses, having regard to the safety and amenity of the occupants and neighbouring residents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of the need for sites for mixed residential and business use (having regard to safety and amenity of the occupants and neighbouring residents), or separate sites in close proximity to one another. • N.B. Mixed use should not be permitted on rural exception sites 	<p>Because no demonstrable need was identified within the National Park, this Plan includes a criteria based policy (HC-S5 Travelling Communities) and does not include pitch or plot targets or sites.</p>
<p>Policy G: Major development projects (para 19)</p>		
<p>Local planning authorities should work with the planning applicant and the affected traveller community to identify a site or sites suitable for relocation of the community if a major development proposal requires the permanent or temporary relocation of a traveller site.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where a major development proposal requires the permanent or temporary relocation of a traveller site, the identification of a site or sites suitable for re-location of the community. 	<p>Please see above.</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Integration of marine and terrestrial planning

As the UK marine area and marine plan area boundaries extend up to the level of mean high water spring tides while terrestrial planning boundaries generally extend to mean low water spring tides (including estuaries), the marine plan area will physically overlap with that of some terrestrial plan. Local authorities with any tidal frontage, even if far inland and not conventionally regarded as coastal, must therefore take full account of the MMO, the MPS and marine plans under S.58 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act and the Duty to Co-operate in Section 110 of the Localism Act 2011. A full list of the local planning authorities whose areas overlap with the UK marine area appears in Appendix One.

Furthermore, the Duty to Co-Operate requires all local planning authorities, even if landlocked, to take account, where relevant, of the MMO's plans and activities when preparing their Local Plans. Finally, the NPPF requires LPAs to take the MPS into account under the tests of soundness (specifically, to test if an emerging DPD is consistent with national policy, which includes the MPS).

The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (the Act) provided for the introduction of a marine planning system for England's inshore and offshore marine area, establishing the Secretary of State as the Marine Planning Authority for these areas. The Act also provided for the establishment of the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and for the Secretary of State to delegate various planning functions. The planning functions including preparation and review were delegated to the MMO in 2010. The Act also provided for the adoption of the UK Marine Policy Statement (MPS). The MPS was adopted on 18 March 2011 and provides the policy framework for marine planning and for all decisions likely to affect the marine area.

There are eleven plan areas in English waters, for each of which a Marine Plan will be prepared by the MMO and adopted by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

In practical terms, all activities undertaken in the marine area require land based infrastructure, without which our ability to benefit economically and socially from activities in the marine area would be extremely limited.

The UK Government's vision for the marine environment, as articulated in the MPS, is:

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

‘clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas’.

In the absence of a marine plan prepared by the MMO and adopted by the Secretary of State the MPS is the relevant marine policy document. Where a marine plan has been adopted both the MPS and the Marine Plan are relevant marine policy documents for the marine plan area.

As articulated in the Marine and Coastal Act and the MPS, the Government aims for the MPS and marine planning systems to sit alongside and interact with existing planning regimes across the UK. Specifically, s.58 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act requires all² public bodies to:

- take authorisation or enforcement decisions that affect or might affect the UK marine area in accordance with the MPS and relevant Marine Plans, unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise
- state their reasons where authorisation or enforcement decisions are not taken in accordance with the MPS and relevant Marine Plans
- have regard to the MPS and relevant Marine Plans when taking decisions that affect or might affect the UK marine area which are not authorisation or enforcement decisions³

In addition, the MPS seeks integration of marine planning and the terrestrial planning system through:

- Consistency between marine and terrestrial policy documents and guidance
- Liaison between respective responsible authorities for terrestrial and marine planning, including in plan development, implementation and review stages
- Sharing the evidence base and data where relevant and appropriate so as to achieve consistency in the data used in plan making and decisions

These aims are further supported by footnote 36 in the NPPF.

² Like the Duty to Co-Operate, no distinction is made by the Marine and Coastal Access Act between public authorities with a tidal frontage and those without. Emphasis is placed on the likelihood of the decision being made affecting the marine area.

³ For example, decisions about what representations they should make as a consultee or about what action they should carry out themselves.

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

Policy Expectations	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
Key requirements under the Duty to Co-Operate		
Consistency between marine and terrestrial policy documents and guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration of consistency of aim between relevant local plan policies and marine policy documents (i.e. the MPS and any relevant adopted marine plans) • Proof of collaborative working with the MMO and that the MPS has been taken into account. 	<p>Section 4 looks at significant landscape and seascape attributes and notes that Marine Plans will help integrate marine and land planning, contributing to vibrant coastal communities and consideration of cultural heritage, seascape and local environmental quality.</p> <p>The Plan provides that the Authority supports the formation of marine protected areas (including Marine Conservation Zones) and will work with the marine planning authority to ensure that Exmoor's high quality seascape is maintained.</p>
Liaison between respective authorities responsible for terrestrial and marine planning, including in plan development, implementation and review stages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early and effective policy development engagement undertaken, including discussions with the MMO • Evidence of iteration of policies and plans as a result of engagement with the MMO • Evidence of engagement with the MMO in relation to monitoring, implementation and throughout the policy cycle • Support of integrated coastal management (ICM) in coastal areas in line with the requirements of the MPS 	<p>Policy CE-S1 seeks to conserve and enhance the high quality, diverse and distinct seascapes. The policy provides that development proposals should have regard to the conservation of significant seascape attributes which includes the designated heritage coast, which covers the whole coastline of Exmoor National Park.</p> <p>Protection of the marine conservation area is also considered under the proposed changes, and this runs from Bideford to Forum Point.</p> <p>Section 5 looks at coastal development and provides that when adopted, the Marine Plan, will be taken account of in National Park decision making. It notes, that in the absence of marine plans the Marine Planning Statement will be taken account of.</p>
Sharing the evidence base and data where relevant and appropriate so as to achieve consistency in the data used in plan making and decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence that the LPA has shared or provided relevant data to the MMO that can help inform Marine Plans or MPS review • Demonstration that local plan policy has been underpinned by data provided by the MMO or the MPS 	<p>The Marine Management Organisation have been consulted at each stage of the Local Plan consultation process, since they have come into being. The Representation Statement demonstrates consultation with the Marine Management Organisation.</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

Policy Expectations	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explicit cross-referencing in local plan to MPS, the MMO, their roles, and relevant marine plans 	
Marine Policy Statement- Chapter 2: General Principles for Decision-Making⁴		
Sections 2.1 -2.2: The UK vision for the marine environment		
<p>The UK vision for the marine environment ('clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas')</p> <p>Achieving the vision through marine planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reference in DPD where appropriate to UK vision for the marine environment Contribution to the vision through local plan policies and supporting text 	<p>Section 5 provides the policies on coastal development and responding to coastal change and these are in accordance with the Marine Policy Statement.</p> <p>Section 5 provides that ENPA will work closely with neighbouring partners and the Marine Management Organisation to ensure a co-ordinated approach to planning on the coast. It makes reference to the UK vision for the marine environment of 'clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas.'</p>
Section 2.4: Considering benefits and adverse effects in marine planning		
<p>Consider benefits and adverse effects of plan policies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration of benefits and adverse effects of policy on the marine area as appropriate within the DPD's sustainability appraisal 	<p>The sustainability appraisal objectives seek to minimise air and water pollution and ensure air and water quality are maintained or improved. They also seek to protect and enhance coastal areas.</p> <p>All the policies in the Plan were assessed against these sustainability appraisal objectives.</p>

⁴ As the Marine Policy Statement was not targeted specifically at terrestrial planning authorities, some of its sections are, in practice, relevant to marine planning authorities only and/or there is already a comprehensive policy framework governing terrestrial development (e.g. energy infrastructure), Where this is considered to be the case, i.e. where it is considered likely that a terrestrial planning DPD would be found sound without referencing that section, the section in question has been omitted from this checklist.

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

Policy Expectations	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
Section 2.5: Economic, social and environmental considerations		
<p>Contribute to the objectives of relevant EU Directives (Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Water Framework Directive)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference to relevant EU Directives in DPD and sustainability appraisal • Consideration of contribution of DPD policies to the objectives of relevant EU Directives 	<p>Policy CC-D2 on Water Conservation seeks to protect, improve and make sustainable use of freshwater systems and coastal waters in line with the Water Framework Directive, which is made reference to, through requiring development proposals to demonstrate how water conservation measures will be incorporated in proposals and how demand for water will be minimised.</p>
Marine Policy Statement- Chapter 3: Policy Objectives for Key Activities		
3.1 Marine Protected Areas		
<p>Incorporate identified areas and features of importance for nature conservation</p> <p>Activities or developments that may result in adverse impacts on biodiversity should be designed or located to avoid such impacts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of relevant areas and features of importance for nature conservation within relevant marine plan area(s) • Consideration of impacts of policy and/or terrestrial development on those areas and features of importance • Measures to mitigate, monitor and manage negative impacts on those areas and features of importance 	<p>The whole of the Exmoor coast line is designated as heritage coast. ENPA is therefore not only committed to National Park purposes, but also to the purposes of the Heritage Coast, which seek to conserve, protect and enhance the natural beauty of the coasts, their marine flora and fauna, and their heritage features.</p> <p>Policy CE-S1 seeks to conserve and enhance the seascapes of Exmoor.</p> <p>Policy CE-S3 seeks to conserve and enhance the wildlife and habitats of the National Park and identifies relevant areas and features of importance for nature conservation.</p> <p>Policy CE-S3 provides that where in exceptional circumstances, the wider sustainability benefits of the development are considered to outweigh the harm to habitats, species or the geological interest of sites, then measures will be required to</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

Policy Expectations	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		first avoid such impacts, and if they cannot be avoided, then to mitigate damage and provide appropriate compensatory measures.
3.4 Ports and shipping		
<p>Take into account and seek to minimise any negative impacts on shipping activity, freedom of navigation and navigational safety</p> <p>Protect the efficiency and resilience of continuing port operations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence that policy with potential impact on ports and shipping minimises negative impacts on sector • Where relevant, evidence that economic, employment and transport policies are protective of ports and shipping sector 	N/A
3.8 Fisheries		
<p>Consider potential economic, social and environmental impacts of other developments on fishing activity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where relevant, evidence that other policies minimise negative impacts on fishing activity and/or aquaculture 	<p>The whole of the Exmoor coast line is designated as heritage coast. ENPA is therefore not only committed to National Park purposes, but also to the purposes of the Heritage Coast, which seek to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conserve, protect and enhance the natural beauty of the coasts, their marine flora and fauna, and their heritage features; • maintain and improve the health of inshore waters affecting heritage coasts and their beaches through appropriate environmental management measures;

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

Policy Expectations	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> take account of the needs of agriculture, forestry and fishing, and of the economic and social needs of the small communities on these coasts.
3.9 Aquaculture		
<p>Consider the benefits of encouraging the development of efficient, competitive and sustainable aquaculture industries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where relevant, evidence that the benefits of aquaculture industry development have been considered 	<p>The whole of the Exmoor coast line is designated as heritage coast. ENPA is therefore not only committed to National Park purposes, but also to the purposes of the Heritage Coast, which seek to take account of the needs of agriculture, forestry and fishing, and of the economic and social needs of the small communities on these coasts.</p> <p>Section 10 Exmoor’s settlements also recognises and supports Lynmouth as a fishing settlement and the working harbour at Porlock Weir.</p>
3.10 Surface water management and waste water treatment and disposal		
<p>Maximise opportunities for co-existence of waste water infrastructure with other activities in the marine environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reference to and consideration of the co-existence of waste water infrastructure with other marine activities, including the potential for waste water infrastructure to mitigate marine impacts through design or location 	<p>Given the low level of development in the National Park, it is not considered appropriate for consideration to be given to the co-existence of waste water infrastructure with other marine activities. Rather Policy CC-D5, seeks to connect new development to the public mains sewer where possible. Where this is not feasible, other measures should be considered, which do not pose an unacceptable harm to public health, amenity or environmental quality in accordance with the criteria in Policy CC-D5.</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (May 2016)

Policy Expectations	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
3.11 Tourism and recreation		
<p>Consider the potential for tourism and recreation in the marine environment and the benefits this will bring to the economy and local communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where relevant, reference to marine tourism and recreation • Evidence that the potential for marine tourism and recreation has been recognised in plan-making 	<p>Tourism is recognised as one of the major industries of the economy of the National Park, and is considered in detail in the ELR and ELR Update.</p> <p>The high quality landscape, wildlife, cultural heritage and experience of tranquillity that Exmoor provides are a major attraction for visitors that underpins the local tourism industry.</p> <p>Policy RT-S1 sets out the strategic approach to tourism and encourages the quiet enjoyment and appreciation of the National Park’s special qualities which includes the spectacular coast and high sea cliffs of Exmoor.</p> <p>The written text to Policy RT-D10 recognises the fast changing patterns and popularity of uses of the leisure sector and it is therefore not appropriate to specify particular recreational activities within the policy or provide an area based approach. Rather, the policy seeks to determine proposals on a case by case basis using the principles of the policy, to ensure a flexible approach over the plan period. Appropriate facilities to enable recreational activities which promote the understanding and enjoyment of Exmoor’s special qualities and contribute to the local economy and employment are encouraged.</p>