

Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan 2014-2034 Examination

Matter 4: Transport and Infrastructure
1st February 2018
Devon County Council Position Statement

8th January 2018

Devon County Council
County Hall
Topsham Road
Exeter
Devon
EX2 4QD



1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose of this Statement

- 1.1.1. This statement has been prepared to answer the questions and address the associated issues as posed by the Planning Inspectors in relation to matter 4 of the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan (2014-2034) Examination.
- 1.1.2. This statement relates to questions 4.1(i) and 4.1(ii) of Matter 4 (Transport and Infrastructure).
- 1.1.3. It should be noted that this statement does not cover all of the questions raised by the Planning Inspectors in relation to Matter 4, but focuses upon those which Devon County Council has a specific interest in order to fulfil its statutory responsibilities, in this case regarding County infrastructure.

1.2. Summary of Devon County Council (DCC) position

- 1.2.1. The County Council has worked co-operatively with the Joint Local Plan authorities (Plymouth City Council, South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council) throughout the preparation of the Local Plan including the provision of advice to inform the development of policies and proposals for South Hams and West Devon. This has included attendance at numerous meetings when required, the preparation of evidence reports and the submission of representations at the appropriate formal stages in the plan making process.
- 1.2.2. This approach of continuous engagement and co-operation between the Authorities has meant it has been possible to investigate and address issues collaboratively as they have emerged. As such, the County Council is supportive of the overall strategic development strategy as set out within the Joint Local Plan.

2. Questions

2.1. Question 4.1(i)

Have all essential transport and infrastructure elements been established and does the plan adequately address these needs in its identification of the scale and location of proposed development?

- 2.1.1. The County Council has assisted the Joint Local Plan authorities in identifying and establishing the infrastructure requirements within the Devon County Council administrative boundary to support the proposed development within the Plan.
- 2.1.2. Devon County Council has a robust approach to the identification of infrastructure and services for which the County Council has a responsibility to ensure that they are not adversely affected by the proposed development

identified in the Plan. The approach also seeks to ensure that new development is supported effectively by the necessary infrastructure in order to ensure the creation of sustainable communities.

- 2.1.3. The approach, which draws on the expertise of a number of county officers from various service areas including education and youth, transportation, social services, waste management and library services, follows a sequential approach of reviewing the existing infrastructure conditions and considering this in the context of the anticipated impacts of proposed development. Infrastructure requirements necessary to mitigate the impact of development have been identified as an output of this process.
- 2.1.4. The approach to the identification of non-transport infrastructure need for which Devon County Council is responsible is outlined in document O8 'South West Devon Infrastructure Planning Evidence Base Report'. In particular, this makes reference to the approach taken to pupil place planning in the context of new development in Devon. The DCC Education Infrastructure Plan is an important document in this regard.
- 2.1.5. A series of more detailed transport reports (Documents T7, T7A, T7B, T7C, T9, T12, T13, T14 and T15) have also been prepared outlining the evidence and justification for a number of the essential transportation infrastructure requirements.
- 2.1.6. Document O9 'Plymouth and South West Devon Infrastructure Needs Assessment: Main Report' brings these documents together and gives detail on all of the infrastructure requirements for the plan period. Devon County Council has been involved in the production of this document and considers that the scale and location of the proposed development responds appropriately to the identified needs and new or improved infrastructure is appropriately identified where necessary.
- 2.1.7. It should be noted that following the submission of the JLP, discussions with the Joint Local Plan Authorities have continued, particularly on cross-boundary education matters. This has resulted in an appropriate and pragmatic agreement for delivering future education requirements resulting from development at Woolwell and Ivybridge. Such provision could come forward in Plymouth.

2.2. Question 4.1(ii)

Is there clear evidence that infrastructure needs will be funded and delivered in a co-ordinated manner across the plan area?

- 2.2.1. It is acknowledged that a significant amount of collaborative work will be required in order to progress the identified infrastructure schemes from concept to delivery. Securing funding for the schemes is a fundamental stage in this process. The JLP authorities have proposed a number of mechanisms to ensure this can be achieved in a coordinated manner, which the County Council fully supports.

- 2.2.2. Firstly, the Duty to Cooperate Protocol (SUB11D) signed by all relevant parties sets out the basis for planning and delivering infrastructure through a cooperative approach and identifies how the relevant authorities will work together consistently to secure funding for and the delivery of infrastructure.
- 2.2.3. In addition, Devon County Council's involvement with the preparation of the Plan and with the future delivery of the infrastructure requirements at an Officer and Member level demonstrates how the funding and delivery of the necessary infrastructure can be planned for, funded and delivered in a co-ordinated manner. Through mechanisms including the established 'Infrastructure and Investment Forum' and a 'Transport Strategy Working Group', the key stakeholders and delivery partners are engaged in the planning for and delivery of key infrastructure.
- 2.2.4. Both the Infrastructure Needs Assessment (O9) and Plan for Infrastructure and Investment (O10) demonstrate that funding is available from a wide range of sources to deliver the key infrastructure requirements with increased certainty for projects to be delivered within the first 5 years.
- 2.2.5. Devon County Council welcomes acknowledgement from the Joint Local Plan authorities of the importance of a collaborative approach to the funding and delivery of infrastructure across the plan area, particularly in relation to those areas within the County Council's administrative boundary which are covered by the Plymouth Policy Area policies.
- 2.2.6. The County Council and the JLP authorities have a history of collaborative delivery approaches including, but not limited to, the Sherford Delivery Team which is successfully delivering a significant number of homes and the associated infrastructure in a co-ordinated manner.
- 2.2.7. In addition, the County Council has recently worked with the JLP authorities to submit a joint bid to the National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIF) for funding towards the delivery of Sherford and the associated infrastructure needs. It is anticipated that a similar approach could be taken in the future to seek funding opportunities and ensure delivery of infrastructure in a co-ordinated manner.