

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

Matter 8: Policy Area Strategies:
Thriving Towns and Villages
27th February – 1st March 2018

Devon County Council Position Statement

8th January 2018

Devon County Council
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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 8 of the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan (2014-2034) Examination.
- 1.1.2. This statement relates to question 8.2(ii) and 8.5(i)a of Matter 8 (Thriving Towns and Villages).
- 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 8, 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 8.2(ii)

Are the strategic infrastructure measures for the Main Towns listed in Policy TTV3 effective and justified?

- 2.1.1. The infrastructure measures identified in Policy TTV3 have been identified by the Joint Local Plan (JLP) authorities in cooperation with Devon County Council. Policy TTV3 appropriately identifies a number of strategic infrastructure measures within the Devon County Council administrative boundary.
- 2.1.2. The County Council has worked and will continue to work closely with West Devon Borough Council to secure the funding and delivery of a number of key transport infrastructure requirements including a road linking Crediton

Road to Exeter Road through Okehampton, improvements to the A386 (as identified in the Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3)) and improvements to rail infrastructure in Okehampton and Tavistock (also identified in LTP3).

- 2.1.3. In accordance with Devon County Council's Education Infrastructure Plan (EIP) (O4), the Policy appropriately identifies the requirement for the expansion of early years, primary school and secondary school provision where required. As outlined within the EIP, contributions towards the expansion of education facilities will be requested from development where justified and appropriate.
- 2.1.4. The Policy also identifies a number of flood defence and alleviation measures that have been identified in partnership with Devon County Council and the Environment Agency. The measures identified are included on the County Council's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy priority list and are considered to be the most pressing flood risk management requirements. Recently, Devon County Council has worked alongside other bodies to contribute to studies on the schemes to ensure the most effective solution is sought.

2.2. Question 8.5(i)a

Is the scale of housing for each site justified having regard to any constraints and the provision of necessary infrastructure?

- 2.2.1. The response to this question does not include each individual allocation, but rather the allocations with the most significant County infrastructure requirements. Overall, Devon County Council is satisfied that the appropriate and necessary infrastructure has been identified to match the scale of the proposed development.
- 2.2.2. TTV18: East of Okehampton. The County Council is supportive of this policy and the infrastructure requirements associated with development here. Through the preparation of the Core Strategy and associated with a number of major planning applications here, the County Council, in partnership with the Local Planning Authority, has undertaken significant work to support the identification of appropriate infrastructure and mechanisms for its delivery. There has been particular focus here on the Link Road between Crediton Road and Exeter Road, for which developer contributions have been secured. There has also been significant work on the planning of a new primary school which is due to open later in 2018.
- 2.2.3. TTV21: Callington Road, Tavistock. The County Council is supportive of this policy and the infrastructure requirements associated with development here. Through the preparation of the Core Strategy and associated with a major planning application here, the County Council, in partnership with the Local Planning Authority, has undertaken significant work to support the identification of appropriate infrastructure and mechanisms for its delivery including the Tavistock to Bere Alston Railway and a new primary school. Developer contributions have been secured towards these projects.