

Date: 30 March 2015
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Dear Mr Thickett

East Devon Local Plan Examination

As you will be aware on the 26 March 2015 this Council considered proposed changes to the local plan. I am pleased to advise that plan changes have now been agreed by Council. We would be keen to start consultation as soon as possible and would therefore be most obliged if you would set specific consultation questions that you would seek responses to. I would advise that Council has resolved to request that you endorse an eight rather than six week consultation period. The reason for this is that Members were concerned that the upcoming election would make it difficult for some parties particularly town and parish councils to respond within a six week period.

In recommending proposed changes to Council we chose to highlight all proposed changes to the plan, including those arising from discussions at oral hearing sessions last year. Therefore, and in respect of further consultation, we have sought to provide information in such a way that respondents would be able to see and comment on all changes. However we would take instruction from you on the form and manner that you identify as appropriate for consultation.

Provided with this letter, in paper format and separate files, are copies of:

- a) **A Tracked Changes draft of the Local Plan** – this shows changes arising from oral hearing sessions in 2014 and changes resulting from further evidence gathering and Council consideration in 2015. I trust you would be happy for us to correct any outstanding typographical errors ahead of consultation;
- b) **Summary Schedule of Plan Changes** – in support of the above a schedule of changes has been produced. You may consider that this schedule, amended if appropriate, should also be consulted on/sit alongside consultation material;
- c) **Officer report to and Minutes of Development Management Committee on 23 March 2015 and Council on 26 March 2015;**
- d) **The final Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) report** – it should be noted that an interim draft of this report is also published on our website but it has been superseded

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Chief Executive: Mark R Williams Deputy Chief Executive: Richard Cohen



by this final version. I do not enclose the interim draft but would be happy to forward a paper copy if it would help;

- e) **Employment Projections Report for East Devon** – to inform a final objectively assessed housing number for East Devon we commissioned work looking at future job numbers in order to understand more about overall housing needs;
- f) **East Devon Demographic Scenario – ‘Policy-on’ Report** –through this work the employment report, above, translated the future job numbers into a housing requirement figure;
- g) **Housing Monitoring Update Report;**
- h) **Employment Land Review 2014;**
- i) **Small Towns and Village Assessment;**
- j) **Sustainability Appraisal Addendum Report**
- k) **Habitat Regulations Assessment of the Exmouth Masterplan;**
- l) **Cranbrook Draft economic Development Strategy;**
- m) **West Dorset and East Devon Duty to Cooperate Report;**
- n) **River Axe Diffuse Water Pollution Plan;** and
- o) **Interim draft Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment** – we are expecting the final draft in the very near future and we will forward it when completed. I would not expect the final draft to differ in any significant way, in respect of East Devon findings, from the interim draft.

In respect of gypsies and travellers I would advise that policy revisions to the plan do not specifically allocate sites or land to provide for Gypsies and Travellers. We consider that provision is best made through a separate Development Plan Document and recognise the urgency attached to its production.

I would also advise that we have provided an interim draft **Sustainability Appraisal report** and await the final document from our consultants. This should be ready this week/early next and we were awaiting final Council consideration of the plan, with any changes made at Council, before completion of appraisal. We will forward the final report on receipt.

I should of course be happy to provide any further information that may help you with your work and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely

Ed Freeman,
Service Lead - Planning Strategy and Development Management