

Equality Impact Assessment East Devon Villages Plan

The Process, Procedure and Practice

The East Devon Villages Plan is a Development Plan Document (DPD) which establishes Built-up Area Boundaries (BUAB's) for those villages identified in Strategy 27 of the East Devon Local Plan as being suitable for additional development. BUAB's for the main East Devon towns are identified in the Local Plan itself. Land outside the BUAB's is subject to countryside protection policies of the Local Plan where development is normally only acceptable as an exception in particular circumstances. Local communities are able to produce Neighbourhood Plans which allocate particular sites for development or establish their own BUAB's.

The purpose of defining BUAB's around the most sustainable villages is to ensure that future development is undertaken in an appropriate way, ensuring that the existing and future residents are able to meet their everyday needs in a high quality, sustainable environment.

The Plan also identifies the extent of employment land at Hill Barton and Greendale Barton rural business parks and sets out retail policies for Beer and Colyton.

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STAGE 1		
Question	Answer	Comments
Who is the policy, process, procedure or practice aimed at?	Anyone with an interest in the villages of East Devon, particularly the current and future residents.	
Are there any other stakeholders?	1. East Devon District Council/lors 2. Town Council/lors 3. Devon County Council 4. Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority 5. Devon and Cornwall Police Authority Neighbourhood Plan groups Developers Residents, visitors and businesses	1 and 2. The Councils are responsible for decision making in East Devon. Councillors are consulted on planning applications and, through the development management system, may determine planning applications. 3. Devon County Council have a responsibility for education, public highways and other land uses in the District. 1-5. Precepting authorities responsible for providing services to all residents in their areas.

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<p>List any partners who provide the service on behalf of the Council or jointly.</p>	<p>1. Private landowners 2. Registered Housing Providers 3. Other authorities (Parish Councils/DCC) 4. Developers</p>	<p>The Villages Plan focuses new development to the most sustainable rural settlements in East Devon. This will particularly affect housing delivery, but also the services, facilities, transport and employment which are required to support it. Key areas in which the public sector is likely to be involved are: Delivery and operation of housing/affordable housing Delivery and operation of Gypsy and Traveller sites Delivery and operation of schools Delivery and maintenance of open spaces/recreation space/ country park</p>
<p>Data sources: Do you have any data or information (research; outcomes of inspections/audits) which shows disparities in relation to this policy, process, procedure or practice?</p>	<p>No, the Villages Plan is underpinned and supported by a range of data sources but none of these indicate disparity in our approach</p>	<p>No feedback has mentioned specific equalities disparities in relation to the plan, site identification or delivery process. Some respondents feel that a BUAB will unnecessarily restrict the location of new development to existing settlements and outward expansion and/or countryside development should be permitted.</p> <p>No requests for forms or explanatory booklets in larger type/Braille or a foreign language. We have offered to visit Parish Councils to explain the approach proposed and have discussed the approach with members of the public, in person and over the telephone.</p>
<p>Have you compared this policy, process, procedure or practice with others in similar authorities? What did this show?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The strategy of directing growth to the most sustainable locations is set by Government through the NPPF. Most other rural authorities take a similar approach to EDDC, whereby a BUAB is defined for each settlement which is suitable to accommodate growth.</p>

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<p>Does this policy, process, procedure or practice have consequences for our customers or staff and could these consequences differ by group?</p>	<p>Potentially Those who have mobility issues (whether through age, disability or lack of private transport)</p>	<p>Directing growth to the most sustainable locations will ensure that a range of goods, facilities and services are available without the need to travel far. This will positively benefit those who have restricted mobility and those without access to private transport. Furthermore, in settlements where topography (such as steep inclines, regular flooding or unmade roads) and/or physical constraints (such as main roads without pavements) restrict movement. Alternative approaches for defining the BUAB's have been developed and the preferred approach is to draw <u>them</u> to exclude particularly difficult to access areas.</p>
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Assess the likely impact on target groups in relation to equality strands:		
1. Race	1 - part	1 – Potentially there is a language barrier. Small black and ethnic minority population of 0.7% in East Devon as a whole in the 2011 census. 169 Chinese formed the largest group. The Institute of Public Policy Research estimates around 1000 people from the EU accession states are working in East Devon but this is likely to vary, particularly given the seasonal nature of many jobs.
2. Age	2 – yes	Gypsies and Travellers, protected as a racial group, have a need for additional sites which is unlikely to be met within the BUAB's (due to the size requirements and the need for 'affordable' pitches)
3. Gender	3 – no	2 – 33% of our residents are aged 60 or over (21% nationally) and 8% are aged over 80. Mobility issues are greatest in older people and isolation can lead to health problems, exacerbated by poor access to health facilities.
4. Disability	4 – yes	4– Those with disabilities which make accessing facilities, goods and services difficult will benefit significantly from living close to them.
5. Social class	5 – no	
6. Sexuality	6 – no	
7. Religion	7 - no	

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Question	Answer	Comments
<p>Is the relevance to the equality strands considered to be high, medium or low?</p> <p>1. Race</p> <p>2. Age</p> <p>3. Gender</p> <p>4. Disability</p> <p>5. Social class</p> <p>6. Sexuality</p> <p>7. Religion</p>	<p>1 - medium</p> <p>2 – medium</p> <p>3 – low</p> <p>4 – high</p> <p>5 – low</p> <p>6 – low</p> <p>7 – low</p>	<p>1. Gypsies and Travellers are a recognised ethnic group with protected characteristics.</p> <p>2. Considered to be medium for the very young and elderly because distance and topography may make accessing goods, services and facilities particularly hard. The need to access education and health care are particularly pertinent to these age groups.</p> <p>3. Low because no particular gender issues/requirements have been identified.</p> <p>4. Poor access to facilities, goods and services are particular problems for those with limited mobility or other disabilities. Steep or uneven terrain exacerbates the issue.</p> <p>5. Low because no particular gender issues/requirements have been identified.</p> <p>6. Low because no particular gender issues/requirements have been identified.</p> <p>7. Low because no particular gender issues/requirements have been identified.</p>

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STAGE 2		
Question	Answer	Comments
Consultation		
Please list any consultation which you have carried out over the last year in relation to this policy, process, procedure or practice including how you have consulted.	<p>Consultation on proposed criteria to be used to define BUAB's Summer 2015</p> <p>Consultation on proposed BUAB's 27 July- 14 September 2016</p>	<p>Both consultations- letters/emails to all statutory consultees and interested parties. Offer to attend Parish Council meetings to explain proposals. Promoted through EDDC website 2nd consultation- plain English guide also available (as a result of feedback to 1st consultation)</p>
Please list the traditionally excluded groups you have consulted with.	<p>No groups specifically, however, all the statutory consultees were consulted along with community groups, Parish Councils and Ward Members (who represent all constituents). Anyone who had expressed an interest in the document previously, or had submitted sites for consideration, was consulted.</p>	
Please state how you publish the results of these consultation exercises.	<p>Feedback on website and report to Members</p>	

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STAGE 2 cont.		
Question	Answer	Comments
Consultation		
Please outline any evidence you have of the policy, process, procedure or practice having an adverse impact on different groups.	No direct evidence.	
Could the policy, process, procedure or practice have an adverse impact on relations between groups? If so please describe.	No	

STAGE 2 cont.		
Activity	Answer	Comments
Service delivery		

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<p>Please list alternative ways to improve access to or use of your service by different groups. (Please include specific actions in your improvement plan summary at the end of this document).</p>	<p>The addition of an equalities statement on the response form.</p> <p>Liaison with Parish Clerks to promote the consultation among local interest/support groups, particularly those whose members are otherwise hard-to-reach.</p> <p>Increased publicity offering to explain the consultation on a one-to-one basis.</p> <p>Availability of a 'Plain English' guide</p>	<p>The website provides the facility to increase the size of the document. This improves access to the service for visually impaired people and/or older people.</p> <p>Customer service officers available who are able to use sign language. Hearing loop available.</p> <p>Language line to assist people for whom English is not their first language.</p>
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<p>STAGE 3</p>		
<p>Activity</p>	<p>Examples</p>	<p>Comments</p>
<p>Monitoring</p>		
<p>How is the impact of this policy, process, procedure or practice monitored?</p>	<p>Feedback forms are available during the consultation on the website and at the counter at East Devon District Council in Sidmouth. Otherwise limited to comments made via phone calls or in writing.</p>	
<p>What information already exists?</p>	<p>General guidance, none specific to this work as no comments received.</p>	

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What does this monitoring show?	N/A	
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STAGE 4		
Activity		
Action plan	Actions	By When Who?
What policy, process, procedure or practice changes need to be made?	<p>The addition of an equalities statement on the response form.</p> <p>Liaison with Parish Clerks to promote the consultation among local interest/support groups, particularly those whose members are otherwise hard-to-reach.</p> <p>Increased publicity offering to explain the consultation on a one-to-one basis.</p> <p>Availability of a 'Plain English' guide</p>	<p>All to be actioned by Planning Policy Team For the next consultation</p> <p>Already available</p>
What further consultation needs to take place: how and with whom?	None specific to equalities issues.	

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What further action needs to be taken in respect of monitoring?	We will record all calls and letters received from anyone who thinks they have been disadvantaged and consider making reasonable adjustments where possible.	With immediate effect Planning Policy Team
How will you make the results of consultation and monitoring available?	Website At EDDC office	If complaints are received, Planning Policy Team
Any other information or comments:	None	

Name and contact details for responsible person for actions:

Name..... Linda Renshaw Job Title...Senior Planning Officer (Policy).....

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