

Response to EDDC LDP Consultation from WEB Ref: 3005 to Ross Sutherland

Thank you for your email dated 1st December, inviting comments on the Draft Consultation Plan for East Devon.

Your invitation asks me to take this opportunity to influence the policies that will shape future developments in East Devon. In response I have read with interest your 2006-2026 East Devon Local Plan in its totality.

Further to this I would like to draw your attention to a few points and ask that these considerations be taken into account.

Section 2: Pen Portrait. Page 15

Quote “There are more deaths than births in the district with population increasing due to inward migration; most noticeably 60-65+ age groups, with Seaton, Sidmouth, Budleigh Salterton and Exmouth with high elderly population numbers.”

Response: You acknowledge the increasing population and refer to the 60+ age group prevalence with regard to Exmouth and Budleigh Salterton, however, you make no mention of how these increased demands will be supported by health and social care and how you plan to build this into your strategy.

Question: How do you plan to work with local health and social care provider to ensure these demands can be met in a sustainable way?

Section 3: Vision. Page 16

Quote “Focus on creating employment land, residential development, green space and sports space – whilst safeguarding the rural country and coastal for the enjoyment of residents and visitors. The Local Plan will keep East Devon as an outstanding place to live; a place where job creation is raising average income and where homes will become more affordable. Affordable homes are a top priority for this Council.”

Question: How do you plan to work with local health and social care providers and commissioners to ensure that the population and environment are healthy? How will plans for strategic allocations take this into account?

Section 3: Vision. Page 18

“Budleigh Salterton 100 new homes. Promotion of town as holiday destination”

“Exmouth 690 new homes, 20 hectares of employment land. Significant housing/affordable housing development. Further regeneration driven by new employment sites. Less commuting - more work for Exmouth people in the town, more tourism jobs and further improvement to town centre.”

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Question: We would welcome detailed discussion on how we can work together to plan for and provide health and care services that are sustainable and fit for purpose into the future.

Section 3: Vision. Page 19

3.15 Quote “The East Devon Sustainable Community Plan – ‘Keeping Healthy and Independent’ Positive mental health (it is a fundamental requirement upon which other aspects of health and social improvement rely).

Response: We agree with this statement in principle, however, how are the council proposing to link with the limited and fragmented services for people with mental health problems from ages 18+ including older people’s mental health and dementia. Has the council explored in depth what is currently available for this populous and projected this in line with the increasing elderly population?

3.16 Quote “One of the jobs of the planning system is to provide a clear picture to public, private and voluntary bodies about proposals for future development. This will give other organisations the opportunity to design their plans and proposals around the changes we plan. We, as a Council also need to understand what other organisations are planning as we will want to tie our proposals into schemes and proposals that they plan to bring forward”

Response: We are pleased that you state that you need to understand other organisations plan to tie in your schemes and proposals, can we assume this means working closely with health and social care providers and commissioners to determine the impact of future planning upon the current infrastructure?

Section 4: Key Issues and Objectives. Page 20

4.1 Statement of key factors that influence EDDC policy making

Response: We note that there is no mention of health and social care provision in any of these factors that you claim influence your policy making, do you have plans to rectify this?

Section 5: Policy Context and Public Engagement Pages 21 -24

5.2 Quote: Under the current Government there are very clear messages about local people making local decisions about how and why their home places should change and therefore what development should happen. In the way we work as a Council we need to be responsive to the views of Parish Councils, local neighbourhoods and other local area bodies and organisations.

Response: This statement feels like there is some potential for partnership working in the future and we look forward to close liaison to ensure timely influence of and contributions from health in relevant policy developments.

Section 6. Spatial Strategy Page 28- 37

6.2 **Quote:** 'Development should be focused on areas that have the greatest amount of services' – the District's main towns largely meet this criteria'. And... 'The Sustainability Appraisal supports a strategic approach to planned growth, to ensure that transport, open space, jobs and renewable energy provision can all be co-ordinated with the building of new homes'

6.5 **Quote:** The council will aim to ensure that East Devon is an outstanding place to live in, work in and enjoy, with social and community facilities and jobs, whilst remaining appealing places to live'

Response: We were pleased to read the aspirations about making East Devon a great place to live. We would again welcome the opportunity to influence development taking into account the importance of health and care infrastructures as determinants of planning, to meet population expansion and predicted demographic change.

Page 37 **Quote:** Balanced communities: c) 'Getting more age-balanced communities – many East Devon communities have an overtly aged population profile. Where this is the case we will encourage residential development that will be suited to or provide for younger people and younger families.'

Response: We were pleased to see acknowledgement of this issue and the proposals to address the imbalance, with health care as core policy areas.

Section 7. Development of East Devon' West End. Page 44 – 50

Response: Given the proposed scope of development and population growth, we were very surprised to find that health provision was not mentioned until Page 50. There may be underlying assumptions that health providers will meet growing demand, but we do need to work together to make sure that the strategy development, policy implementation and 'doing it' involves leaders in health and the people we care for at all levels. ,

Section 9. Budleigh Salterton. Page 70 – 72

Response: We were pleased to see such an explicit statement about the high proportion of elderly residents in the town and the importance of medical and care facilities. We are keen to work together to identify ways in which health and care can develop to meet increasing demand; achieve a more balanced population and at the same time work within the constraints of development within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Section 10. Exmouth – Pages 73 – 75

Quote: Page 76. 10.8 Promoting new recreational, health and educational facilities ' A particular emphasis will be attached to local area facility provision in the North of the town." And 'Seeking to secure 'care' and 'extra care' housing provision in the town for the elderly'

Response: We noted with interest that Exmouth is considered mainly a dormitory town. Also that there is potential 'developable' land for 861 homes, in addition to those with permission and yet to be built. Clearly, the demands on health and social care are only going to expand and we are looking forward to working together to embed health and care provision in the forward planning and delivery of the Local Plan