

Date: 22 August 2014
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Dear Mr Thickett

East Devon Local Plan Examination and Housing Numbers

I write as a follow on to previous correspondence in respect of the timetable for further work on the above. The Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) covering the Districts of East Devon, Mid Devon and Teignbridge (incorporating part of Dartmoor National Park) and also Exeter City is, I am sorry to say, subject to a delay in production. This is principally due to the collective belief of the five SHMA authorities that the full objective assessment of need isn't yet fully evidenced. Officers of the commissioning authorities have agreed what needs to be done and are in the process of quickly confirming this with the consultants. The result will be that all authorities arrive at a sound and robust report that meets individual and collective needs and requirements and which for all promotes effective plan making and decision taking. We have an update report going to our Development Management Committee on 26 August 2014, see: http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk/dm260814-emerging_housing_numbers.pdf

I am very keen to stress that we are proceeding as speedily as possible, bearing in mind the importance of robust evidence, and I shall keep you informed of our work programme when we have more information. I expect that within two weeks of today (or sooner) I will be able to provide a much fuller update on the future work programme on the SHMA and projected draft and final report completion.

I can advise that we are undertaking other elements of work as you requested. However the SHMA is of greatest importance and its conclusions are of critical relevance should plan changes be appropriate and therefore could impact on other work areas.

I should be happy to provide any further information that you may require or that may be of assistance.

Yours sincerely


Matthew Dickins
Planning Policy Manager