

# East Devon Local Plan 2021-2040



## Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

### Draft Scoping Report – January 2021



East Devon – an outstanding place

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# 1 Introduction

## A new local plan and the role of sustainability appraisal

- 1.1 East Devon District Council is producing a new local plan, envisaged at this stage to cover the period from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2040. In support of the local plan this Scoping Report represents the first stage of work in undertaking Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
- 1.2 The principles of sustainable development are at the heart of the planning system. The SA process is intended to ensure that through plan-making potential social, environmental and economic considerations are taken into account in a systematic manner.
- 1.3 Under Section 39(2) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Planning Act 2008) the carrying out of SA is mandatory for any new or revised Development Plan Document (DPD). The new East Devon local plan will qualify as a DPD. In addition to the SA requirement there is also a requirement for qualifying documents to conduct a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), in accordance with the requirements of European Directive 2001/42/EC. This Directive “*on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment or ‘SEA Directive’*” is outlined in detail in the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA regulations).
- 1.4 In practice these two processes of SA and SEA are generally combined and they will be for the East Devon Local Plan. The report highlights throughout where and how it fulfils the SEA Directive requirements. In this report the term sustainability appraisal and abbreviation SA should be read to also include/cover SEA requirements unless text advises otherwise.

## Stages in sustainability appraisal

- 1.5 This draft scoping report sets out an evidence baseline and sustainability objectives for the local plan. This report and subsequent SA reports will be prepared in accordance with the legal and planning framework, making use where available of Government’s guidance. This document takes into account and uses best practice as well as the specific Articles of the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC).
  - 1.6 Stages A-E of the Sustainability Appraisal process are sub-divided into a number of tasks which will need to be completed in order to satisfy the SA and SEA requirements. These stages and the tasks associated with them are defined in more detail below, noting that this Scoping Report is concerned with meeting the requirements of Stage A.
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**Figure 1 – Stages in the SA Work and relationship to local plan production**

SA Stage	Task	Purpose	Relationship with local plan production
<b>Stage A:</b> Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope	A1: Identifying other relevant plans, policies, programmes, and sustainability objectives.	To document and identify how the local plan is affected by outside factors and suggest ideas for how any constraints can be addressed.	This is the scoping report and it should be read alongside the local plan issues and options report.  <b>At January 2021 this is the current stage of local plan making.</b>
	A2: Collecting baseline information.	To provide an evidence base for sustainability issues, effects and monitoring.	
	A3: Identifying sustainability issues.	To focus the SA and streamline subsequent stages.	
	A4: Developing the SA framework.	To develop a means by which the sustainability of the local plan can be appraised.	
	A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA.	To consult with statutory bodies to ensure SA covers key sustainability issues.	
<b>Stage B:</b> Developing and refining options and assessing effects	B1: Testing the local plan objectives against the SA framework.	To ensure that local plan objectives accord with sustainability principles and identify any conflicts between objectives.	One or more interim draft SA reports will be produced which appraise the draft local plan (or any further iterations of a draft plan)
	B2: Developing the local plan options.	To identify a range of development options which can be assessed against the SA framework.	
	B3: Predicting the effects of the local plan.	To predict the social, environmental and economic effects of the options being considered in the plan making process. Potential effects should be quantified where possible.	
	B4: Evaluating the effects of the local plan.	To evaluate the significance of the likely effects of the local plan.	
	B5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects.	To identify measures to prevent, reduce or offset significant adverse effects of implementing the local plan.	
	B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the local plan.	To identify a means by which to monitor actual significant effects of implementation of the local plan against those predicted by the SA.	
<b>Stage C:</b> Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report	C1: Preparing the sustainability appraisal report.	This report on the proposed local plan is a key output in the SA process. It should clearly show how SEA directive requirements have been met.	An SA report will accompany the published version, and any subsequent redrafts, of the local plan. The SA report will be submitted at examination.

SA Stage	Task	Purpose	Relationship with local plan production
<b>Stage D:</b> Consulting on proposed local plan and the SA report.	D1: Public participation on the SA, the issues and options report and the draft of the local plan.	To provide the public the opportunity to comment on not only the draft local plan but also the SA and its findings.	Consultation on the plan in its various draft versions, and of the SA reports, will be undertaken.
	D2(i): Appraising significant changes.	To ensure any changes that are made between the draft local plan and it being submitted are appraised in terms of their sustainability impact.	
	D2(ii) Appraising significant changes resulting from representations.	To ensure that any changes made to the local plan following binding recommendations of an Inspector are appraised in terms of their sustainability impact.	
	D3: Making decisions and providing information.	To ensure that an adopted local plan has taken into account the findings of the SA process in full.	
<b>Stage E:</b> Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the local plan.	E1: Finalising aims and methods for monitoring.	To ensure that the monitoring information gathered is appropriate, up-to-date and reliable.	Monitoring will occur on adoption of the plan.
	E2: Responding to adverse effects.	To ensure that when a plan results in adverse effects the council can take action.	

- 1.7 The subsequent chapters of this Scoping report satisfy Tasks A1 to A5 of the SA process requirements as set out above. Stages B to F are later stages in appraisal that follow on after the scoping report is completed.
- 1.8 Any feedback on consultation on this draft Scoping Report and the proposed draft sustainability objectives will inform any future refinement to ensure a final Scoping Report can be produced. Such feedback will ensure that the Stage A Scoping Report is completed.
- 1.9 This report will be made available to all relevant consultation bodies which include:
- the Environment Agency;
  - Natural England;
  - Historic England; and
- we will make the SA report an open public consultation document that anyone can comment on.
- 1.10 With regards to meeting SEA Directive requirements the table below/over the page specifies the requirements and where they can be found in this report.

**Figure 2 - Satisfying the requirements of the SEA Directive**

SEA Directive Requirement	Where covered
a) An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans or programmes;	Chapter 2
b) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme;	Chapter 3
c) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;	Chapter 4
d) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC;	Chapter 4
e) The environmental protection objectives, established at international, community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and the environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;	Chapter 2
SEA Directive Requirements f) to j) will be covered in subsequent SA reports	
<p><b>Consultation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Authorities with environmental responsibility, when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the environmental report (Art 5.4)</li> <li>· Authorities with environmental responsibility and the public shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan or programme (Art. 6.1, 6.2)</li> <li>· Other EU Member States, where the implementation of the plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment of that country (Art. 7).</li> </ul>	<p>This draft Scoping Report is being consulted on with the statutory consultees of the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England and the public and anybody that wishes to raise any issue.</p>
Taking the environmental report and the results of the consultations into account in decision-making (Art. 8)	Detailed reports on the results of plan consultations, issues raised, and the changes arising will be provided.

SEA Directive Requirement	Where covered
<p><b>Provision of information on the decision:</b>                      When the plan or programme is adopted, the public and any countries consulted under Art. 7 must be informed and the following must be made available to those so informed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The plan or programme as adopted</li> <li>• A statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme and how the environmental report of Article 5, the opinions expressed pursuant to Article 6 and the results of consultations entered into pursuant to Art. 7 have been taken into account in accordance with Art. 8, and the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and</li> <li>• The measures decided concerning monitoring (Art. 9)</li> </ul>	<p>This task cannot be completed at this stage.</p>
<p><b>Monitoring</b> of the significant environmental effects of the plan's or programme's implementation (Art. 10)</p>	<p>This task cannot be completed at this stage.</p>
<p><b>Quality Assurance:</b> environmental reports should be of a sufficient standard to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive.</p>	<p>This self-assessment satisfies this requirement.</p>

## 2 Task A1 - Policy context – other relevant plans and policies

- 2.1 This section of the work addresses Task A1 of the sustainability appraisal by identifying other relevant plans, policies, programmes, and sustainability objectives.
- 2.2 Under the SEA Directive Requirement (Annex 1) there is a requirement that an Environmental Report (referring to the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (i.e. the SEA regulations) which must be met in order to satisfy the requirements of the European Directive 2001/42/EC) must include:
- (a) *“an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes”*
  - (e) *“the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation”*
- 2.3 Amongst other things, Stage A1 requires a review of the context in which the plan is being prepared to include an assessment of the policies, plans, programmes, strategies and initiatives which may influence the content of local plan and which may in turn be affected by the local plan. Many policies and plans set out objectives which relate to the environment and wider sustainability objectives more generally and the most significant ones which are directly relevant to the local plan have been identified through this policy context review to satisfy the SEA Directive requirements.
- 2.4 The local plan covers the operational geographical extent of East Devon District Council. The local plan is envisaged to cover all relevant planning policy matters that fall to the District Council. The extent of East Devon and local plan coverage is shown on the map below/over.

**Figure 3 - Map showing extent of East Devon**



- 2.5 The SA has focused on identifying those plans, policies and projects which are most relevant to local plan policy matters in and for East Devon. Information relating to waste and minerals planning will not be included within the scope of the local plan (other than in the context of how such issues could impact on other plan policy). Waste and mineral planning matters are addressed through plans prepared by Devon County Council.
- 2.6 Appendix 1 to this SA report tabulates the key plans, policies and programmes that have been identified that could have an impact on and needs to be taken into account in SA work with commentary provided on their application.

### 3 Task A2 - Collecting baseline information

- 3.1 In order to undertake the SA work it is important to have an understanding of the baseline, the where we are now position, so that local plan strategy and policy choices can be informed by the current position. This Task A2 stage of work reflects on the current state of the environment, society and economy and those characteristics which are most likely to be affected by a new plan. This understanding allows us to not only consider the likely effects and impacts of the local plan but also to understand how it can make positive contributions in the future.
- 3.2 Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 sets out a number of topics that must be considered and presented in an SEA, these are as follows:
- Biodiversity
  - Population
  - Human health
  - Fauna
  - Flora
  - Soil
  - Water
  - Air
  - Climatic factors
  - Material assets
  - Cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological
  - Landscape
- 3.3 The above are assessed in this scoping report but also to broaden out the basis for the work, specifically to meet Sustainability Appraisal specific requirements, assessment work also looks more broadly at social and economic considerations.
- 3.4 This paper splits the sustainability matters into environmental, social and economic categories, and these form sub-headings in this chapter, with more detailed themes and issues sitting under these. However, it should be noted that much of the information recorded in this report could comfortably sit under any or all of the three main strands of sustainability and indeed under differing sub-headings. To avoid repetition this Scoping Report has sought to include the information under what is considered to be the most or at least an appropriate heading. However, sustainable development, by its nature, is a holistic concept and therefore the various themes, by implication, interact and cross boundaries.
- 3.5 East Devon District Council publish a bi-annual report called 'Knowing East Devon', see: <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/media/3720891/knowing-east-devon-version-14-2019-access-checked.pdf> the most recent draft was dated 2019 and it contains a considerable amount of information about the district, especially in respect of social and economic matters. This report is produced for the Council by Place Analytics and much of the content of this scoping report, specifically in this chapter, has been taken from this report. However, additional information and text has also been incorporated where it helps expand on subject matters or provides more up to date or relevant information.

- 3.6 It should be noted that there are some quite marked variations in the environmental, social and economic make-up across differing parts of East Devon and this work picks up on not just an overarching East Devon wide picture but where information and data is available it seeks to drill down to smaller scale geographies.
- 3.7 As well as commenting on the current state of affairs the SA work comments on potential impacts and implications that could arise without the benefit of a local plan or a coherent set of planning policies.

### Impacts of Covid-19

- 3.8 The data and information in this scoping report largely dates from before Covid-19. The pandemic, starting from early 2020, can be expected to have short term as well as potentially long term impacts. At this stage it is not possible to state what these impacts, especially over the long term, may prove to be. This scoping report in any redraft, or more likely appraisal work that follows from it, may require updating over time to take into account possible impacts, but in its present draft it reports on published (largely pre Covid-19) data and information that is available.

## Key environmental baseline data

- 3.9 East Devon benefits from a very high quality environment with an exceptional landscape, great biodiversity resources and outstanding heritage assets. Commentary in this section provides an overview of the state of East Devon's natural, built and historic environment, highlighting the qualities of the area as well as the concerns and challenges that exist.

### Biodiversity in East Devon

- 3.10 Biodiversity refers to the variety of life on earth, including the different species of animals, plants, and micro-organisms that coexist. East Devon is home to an abundance of rare species (including dormice, otters, reptiles, bats and birds) and home to important habitat types, including woodland, meadows, hedges, heaths, ponds as well as a varied coastline.
- 3.11 Many sites and land areas in East Devon, on account of their habitat types and/or species present, are protected by national and European Union legislation. The exceptional wildlife and biodiversity of East Devon is important in its own right but also it provides a highly appealing asset and attraction that enhances the quality of people's lives, and supports many jobs, for example in tourism and wildlife friendly land management.

### Statutory wildlife designations in East Devon

- 3.12 The highest tier of wildlife sites in England (and across the countries of the European Union) are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs). There is a further designation, Ramsar sites, that although established through different means, are afforded the same protection as the SPAs and SACs.
- 3.13 There are four SACs in East Devon, these are:
- Beer Quarry and Caves (rare bats);
  - East Devon Pebblebed Heaths (lowland heathland);
  - River Axe (supporting rare fish); and
  - Sidmouth to West Bay (sea cliffs).

Lyme Bay and Torbay (reefs and sea caves) is a currently a candidate SAC (and a Site of Community Importance), it is treated in planning terms as an SAC.

- 3.14 There are also two SPAs,
- the Exe Estuary (also a Ramsar site and designated for waterbirds); and
  - East Devon Pebblebeds (Dartford warbler and nightjar).
- 3.15 There are a number of further European Sites within 20 kms of East Devon. Sites beyond East Devon but which planning and development decisions in East Devon could impact on need to be taken onto account in when making planning policy. Separate assessment under the Habitat Regulations will be

undertaken to look at potential issues and mitigation associated with development that could adversely impact on this highest tier of wildlife sites.

- 3.16 There are 26 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) falling wholly or partly in East Devon. These are sites designated for wildlife and/or geological interest. Site conditions are varied though the Government has set (in Biodiversity 2020) national targets for 50% of SSSI to be in favourable condition and 95% to be in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition by 2020. There is one National Nature Reserve in East Devon the Axmouth to Lyme Regis Undercliffs.

### Other designations and habitats

- 3.17 The existing local plan advises that there are approximately 300 non-statutory County Wildlife Sites (CWS) in East Devon as well as many other County Geological Sites and Local Nature Reserves. The district also supports Ancient Woodlands and a wealth of UK Priority habitats (such as grazing marsh, lowland meadow, lowland heathland, hedgerows and coastal habitats). It is important to note that many of these habitats are of CWS and SSSI standard but have no formal designation.
- 3.18 Ancient woodland are an irreplaceable natural resource that has remained constantly wooded since at least AD1600 with a number of such wooded areas across the District. The length of time ancient woodland takes to develop and evolve (centuries, even millennia), coupled with the vital links it creates between plants, animals and soils accentuate its irreplaceable status. The varied and unique habitats of ancient woodland sites support many of the UK's most important and threatened fauna and flora species and ancient woodlands cannot be re-created. Approximately one quarter of priority UK Biodiversity Action Plan species are associated with woodland habitats. Forests, woods, and trees make a significant contribution to biodiversity, and ancient sites are recognised as being of particular value. Due to their longevity, ancient woodlands are more species rich, and are often refuges for specialist woodland species that struggle to colonise new areas.

### Protected species

- 3.19 A number of species are afforded particular protection specifically on account of their rarity. In some cases protected species will be found on designated sites (designation can be justified on account of their presence) but also these species may be found in or on none-designated areas. European protected species found in East Devon, amongst others, include otter (widespread on rivers), dormice (widespread in woodlands, hedges and scrub), Great Crested Newts and bats, noting that East Devon supports Greater Horseshoes, Lesser Horseshoes, Barbastelle and Bechstein bats which are all Annex 1 species.

### Wildlife more generally

- 3.20 Most of East Devon does not, however, fall within area designated for nature conservation value though great un-designated swathes of the district are of importance for wildlife. Farmland (particularly where not intensively managed) and hedgerows, trees and woodland, parks and open spaces of all sorts can be important for wildlife and the public enjoyment of wildlife. In addition domestic gardens can be of real significance for wildlife and just simply for human enjoyment of outdoor space.

## Threats to biodiversity and opportunities for enhancement

- 3.21 Notwithstanding the important biodiversity that East Devon supports, there has been, in common with the national picture a decline in biodiversity and loss of habitats across East Devon over past decades.
- 3.22 Wildlife and habitat are vulnerable to a number of threats, these include:
- changing agricultural practices and particularly agricultural intensification (over past decades this has had the biggest adverse impacts on wildlife);
  - habitat fragmentation/isolation;
  - urbanisation impacts (including lighting, traffic collisions, fire, noise, cat predation, invasive species, pollution);
  - air and water quality/quantity impacts; and
  - recreational impacts.
- 3.23 Whilst significant adverse impacts have occurred there are, however, opportunities to improve the biodiversity interest. Rebuilding Devon's Nature Map identifies the priority areas (river corridors and Strategic Nature Areas) in Devon for expanding our wildlife habitats. However, there are also opportunities in and around development sites for wildlife enhancement.
- 3.24 Government's planning policy seeks to achieve net gain in biodiversity where possible and the degree to which such enhancement will be sought will be set out in local plan policy.

### The landscape and seascape of East Devon

- 3.25 East Devon has exceptional landscape qualities and the planning system gives great weight to conserving landscape and scenic beauty, specifically including Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs). The East Devon AONB falls entirely in East Devon as does most of the Blackdown Hills AONB, they collectively cover around 2/3rds of the District. A very small part of the Dorset AONB also falls in East Devon.
- 3.26 There are distinct variations in the character of the landscape across East Devon as described in the East Devon and Blackdown Hills Landscape Character Assessment, see: [https://eastdevon.gov.uk/media/2816886/lca\\_complete\\_final\\_march-2019\\_low-res.pdf](https://eastdevon.gov.uk/media/2816886/lca_complete_final_march-2019_low-res.pdf). Broad types of landscape include valleys, scarp slopes, estuaries, cliffs, rolling hills, plateaux and ridges. However, although varied, there are comparatively few areas of low lying flat land and the vast majority of the landscape is characterised in some form by undulating topography.
- 3.27 Away from the main towns of East Devon the District is predominantly rural, characterised by a land cover of fields, hedges, copses and woodland with a settlement pattern of villages, hamlets and isolated dwellings and farmsteads. Many settlements have distinct relationships with their landscape, located on intersections of historic routes, at water sources and crossings, but away from wetlands or exposed areas. Many have distinct identities and traditional vernacular character reflecting a long history of human settlement, locally available building materials and agricultural land use. The rural setting and identity of many settlements is valued and protected as is evident from designations that

seek to maintain their open, undeveloped character. The character of historic built cores of many are also valued, evident from conservation area designations.

- 3.28 In some parts of East Devon, however, major road and rail corridors and pylons dissect the landscape and there are distinct areas of modern and recent development including the growth areas around Exeter Airport and Cranbrook. There are also numerous medium to large-scale solar farms in East Devon.

### The East Devon coast

- 3.29 East Devon benefits from a stunning coastline and International recognition, on account of geological interest and importance, comes from inscription of the Dorset and East Devon Coast on the World Heritage Site list. The coastline is cliff dominated with some sandy but mostly rocky beaches. The coastline provides residents and visitors with opportunities for work in tourism and maritime industries as well as recreational opportunities, it provides an exceptionally attractive place to play and relax.
- 3.30 The coast of East Devon is subject to ongoing erosion from wave's and the sea's activity as well as water flowing from the land. Impacts are exacerbated by rising sea levels. It is important to note, however, that the status of the World Heritage Site rests in part on this erosive activity.
- 3.31 In addition to the cliffs and beaches the landward site of the coast has an outstanding patchwork of flora and fauna.
- 3.32 The coastline of East Devon is mostly undeveloped though there are towns and villages located in valley systems that cut through higher land to the sea. Fishing and maritime activities remain commercially important activities in many of these towns and villages and tourism forms a significant part of the economy.

## Historic environment, built heritage and design quality

### East Devon's historic environment

- 3.33 Many millennia of human occupation in East Devon has left a rich legacy of historic buildings, structures and spaces, historic landscapes and archaeological sites and monuments. Collectively these are referred to as heritage assets. This heritage forms a fundamental feature of the physical fabric and cultural identity of East Devon. A significant proportion of historic buildings and areas of our towns and villages, as well as in the open countryside, are valued and protected as Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Registered Historic Parks and Gardens or Scheduled Monuments. However, the majority of the area's heritage assets are un-designated. In 2019 East Devon District Council adopted a heritage strategy<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> See: <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/media/3413423/final-heritage-strategy-2019-2031.pdf>

3.34 The table below identifies heritage assets in East Devon.

**Figure 4 – Heritage assets in East Devon**

	East Devon
Listed Buildings	3,086
Scheduled Monuments	112
Registered Park/Gardens	8
Conservation Areas	34

3.35 Heritage assets, in their various forms, can require ongoing use and management if they are to remain in good condition. They are, however, highly vulnerable to negative impacts from poor quality and inappropriate works and activities.

### Design quality

3.36 The design quality of new development (and that built in recent years) in East Devon varies greatly and it can be a challenge to uphold high design standards. Much building work is undertaken to national design standards using materials that are not local and design approaches that are not reflective of or sympathetic to local vernacular styles or not innovative in approach.

3.37 The existing East Devon Local Plan does, none the less, include design policies which encourage high quality urban design in new developments. There are various measures which could be used to measure design quality of new development, such as the number of schemes which score highly in the Building for Life system. However, consistent monitoring of recent development has not been undertaken and the onus typically rests on encouraging good design and ‘testing’ planning applications coming forward.

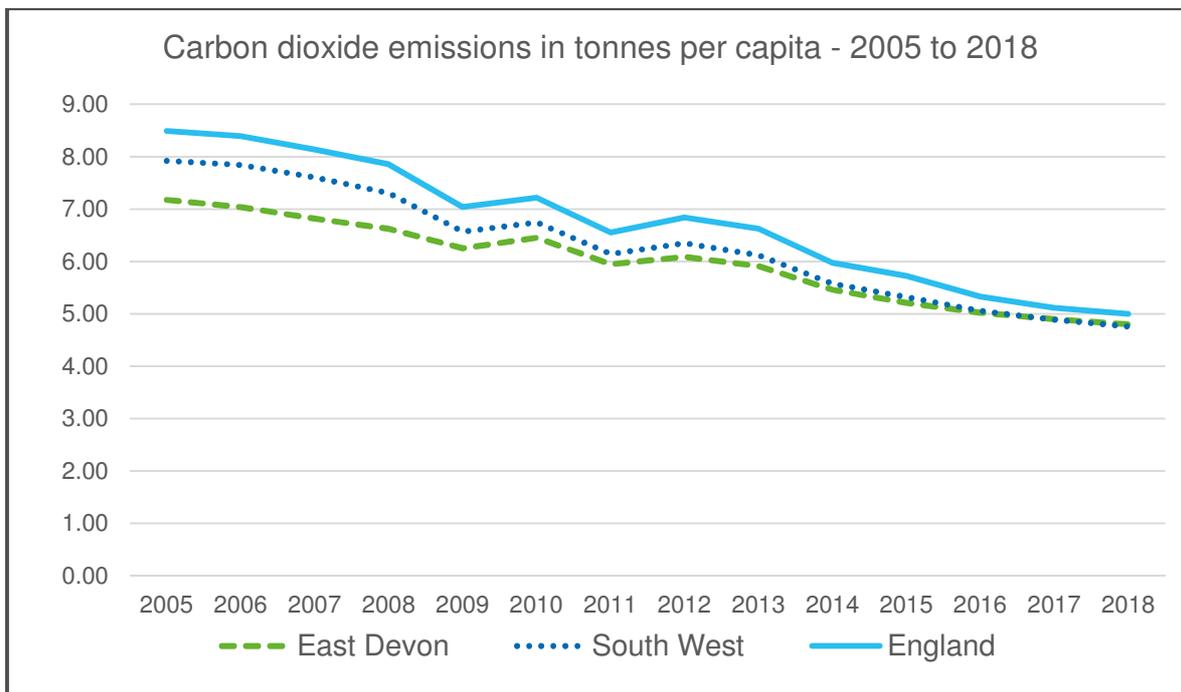
## The changing climate and carbon emissions

### Climate change

3.38 Climate change is the effect of direct and indirect human activity *“that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods”* United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (Article 1:2, p.7). The potential impacts and implications of further climate change, noting the world is warming, may include more extreme weather events, flooding, coastal erosion and loss of species and habitats.

3.39 Reducing carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions in the atmosphere is a national objective. This is driven by the Climate Change Act (2008), which sets a legally binding target of at least a 34% reduction in UK emissions by 2020 and net zero by 2050, against a 1990 baseline. The graph below shows per capita CO2 emissions for East Devon, the south west region and England from 2005 to 2018.

**Figure 5 – Carbon dioxide emissions 2005-2018 - tonnes per person**

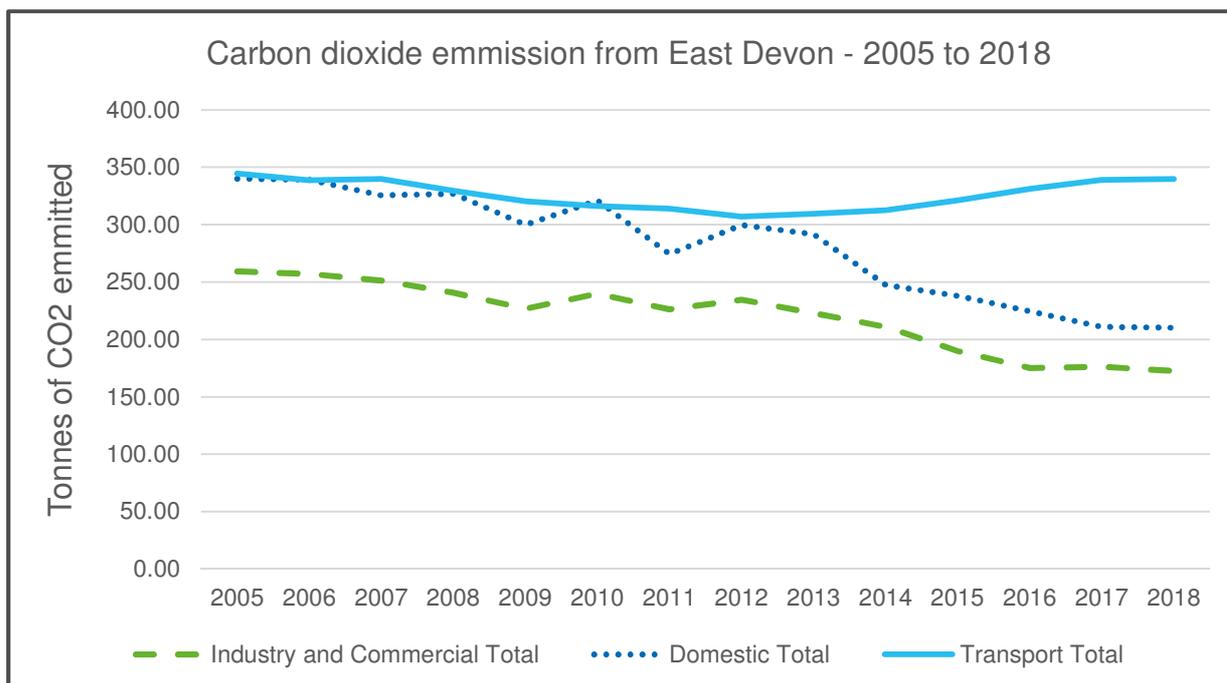


Source: UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics: 2005 to 2018<sup>2</sup>

- 3.40 The graph shows a clear pattern of declining carbon dioxide emissions per person over the period from 2005 to 2018. In 2005 there were 7.18 tonnes per person emitted in East Devon compared to an England figure of 8.49 and a south west figure of 7.92. By 2018 the differences between the District, region and national level were very close with comparative figures being 4.80, 4.76 and 5.00 tonnes.
- 3.41 At the main drivers of the fall in emissions were a decrease in the use of coal for electricity generation and a reduction in the use of natural gas for space heating. The figure below/over the page shows the changes in emission levels arising from East Devon over the period of 2005 to 2018. Just the three main sources of emission, as taken from national statistics (same source as above), are show on the graph and what can be seen is a declining pattern over the years in the industrial and commercial total and the domestic total. However, following a decline to 2012 the transport sector emissions have risen back up toward 2005 levels. The graph does not take into account emissions associated with agricultural and other land use.

<sup>2</sup> See: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-to-2018>

**Figure 6 – Carbon dioxide emissions 2005-2018 - tonnes by main emitter sector**



**Climate change adaption**

3.42 Despite efforts to reduce levels of CO2 emissions, and even if worldwide carbon and other greenhouse gas neutrality was achieved now, global warming can be expected to continue over the coming years. There is, therefore a need to adapt to a changing environment and this will affect the world we live in and how we need to plan for it,

**Flood risk**

3.43 Some areas within East Devon are at risk from fluvial (river), pluvial (surface water) and coastal (tidal) flooding. Development within these areas also has the potential to exacerbate flooding elsewhere and under an increasingly heated earth there is the very real likelihood that the flooding concerns will be greater in the future.

3.44 The extent of the flood risk zones are shown in the figure below/over the page. The map shows all areas within flood zone 2 or flood zone 3 in East Devon. Flood zones mapping is undertaken by the Environment Agency and they advise that:

- Flood Zone 1 - land assessed as having a less than 1 in 1,000 annual probability of river or sea flooding (<0.1%)
- Flood Zone 2 - land assessed as having between a 1 in 100 and 1 in 1,000 annual probability of river flooding (1% – 0.1%), or between a 1 in 200 and 1 in 1,000 annual probability of sea flooding (0.5% – 0.1%) in any year

- Flood Zone 3 - land assessed as having a 1 in 100 or greater annual probability of river flooding (>1%), or a 1 in 200 or greater annual probability of flooding from the sea (>0.5%) in any year

Note: These flood zones refer to the probability of river and sea flooding, ignoring the presence of defences<sup>3</sup>.

**Figure 7 - Flood Zones 2 and 3 in East Devon**



3.45 It should be noted that flood zone mapping is subject to review and updates and as more information is understood about global warming such reviews could show greater areas being vulnerable to flooding. Other localised areas across the District, not showing on flooding maps, may also be at risk, often associated with minor watercourses through urbanised areas. Within the plan area there are also areas and properties at risk from surface water flooding.

<sup>3</sup> See: <http://apps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/cy/151263.aspx>

## Coastal flooding and erosion

- 3.46 The flooding maps show areas of coastline that are potentially liable to flood and in many cases, in urbanised areas, sea defences may be built. The Exe Estuary Strategy (Managing Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk for the Exe Estuary, Environment Agency 2014) concluded that it would be necessary to defend most of the developed coastline, although some of the defences might need to be moved or altered over time.
- 3.47 In addition, and sometimes related, to flooding concerns is the process of coastal erosion. Large parts of the coastline of East Devon is subject to erosion and work being undertaken by the University of Plymouth is mapping out projected vulnerability to loss to the sea of the coast of the District. At the time of drafting this report draft mapping work covers the coastline from Sidmouth to the East Devon border with Dorset.

## The land resources of East Devon

### Soil quality

- 3.48 Soil is a fundamentally important natural resource that has developed over the millennia. Due to its varied geology East Devon has a number of different soil types.
- 3.49 The best and most versatile agricultural land is defined as Grades 1, 2 and 3a with Grades 3b, 4 and 5 representing poorer quality agricultural land. This grading system considers climate, gradient, flood risk and soil quality. In broad terms, Grade 1 land is concentrated in or close to the Exe valley on the western edge of the District and more generally in valley systems. It is important to note that whilst higher grade land is more productive in agricultural terms it is often the case that lower grade land, especially where it has been less intensively farmed, will be of greater importance for wildlife and biodiversity.
- 3.50 The main threats to soil quality in Devon relate to land in natural, countryside or agricultural uses, and include erosion by flooding and surface water runoff, intensive cultivation, poor forestry practice and trampling by grazing animals. These threats fall largely outside of the control of the planning system. However, development and urbanisation is clearly a planning matter and development in general can result in loss or damage.

## Land contamination

- 3.51 Many areas of land become contaminated by residues left behind by activities such as waste disposal and general industrial processes. Until the contamination is treated the land may be severely restricted in how it may be used in the future.
- 3.52 During a ten year period from 2001, in East Devon, over 700 potentially contaminated sites were listed on the basis of their former uses. However over the same timescale no new sites were determined as ‘contaminated land’, although several are subject to ongoing investigation and works by landowners. Two of the council’s priorities are to encourage voluntary remediation and promote the re-use of brownfield land, using the Local Plan, planning process and regeneration proposals.

## Brownfield land

- 3.53 Brownfield land (also referred to as Previously Developed Land) is land that has previously been built-on or developed and which frequently will be in a despoiled state. The supply of brownfield land assessed as being suitable for redevelopment is shown in the following table. The land identified as being potentially suitable for redevelopment still makes up a relatively small proportion of overall potential land supply and the absence of a heavily industrialised past has meant that East Devon does not have the brownfield land legacy that many more urban areas have.

	East Devon
Number of Sites on Register	36
Total Area of Sites in Hectares	24.3

Source: East Devon Pilot Brownfield Register

## Minerals

- 3.54 There are a range of minerals worked across East Devon. There are Mineral Safeguarding Areas concentrated through the eastern part of East Devon stretching from Exmouth towards the county border with Somerset near Wellington.

## Waste

- 3.55 Devon’s households (East Devon specific data is not available) generated 373,000 tonnes of waste in 2012/13 and businesses generated 455,000 tonnes in 2009. These levels were, however, greatly exceeded by that from construction, demolition and excavation activity (1.2 million tonnes in 2010). There has been a strong shift away from land filling of waste towards recycling and energy recovery.
- 3.56 Recycling rates of household waste in Devon have seen great improvement since 2004/5, including in East Devon, as shown in the table below. Slight reductions between 2011/12 and 2014/15 are attributed to reduced budgets for householder education and a significant reduction in paper waste as a

consequence of digital media. A reduction of material use in the first instance, that therefore reduces resulting waste should be seen as a positive outcome.

**Figure 8: Historical Recycling Rates (%)**

Area	2004/2005	2011/2012	2014/2015
East Devon	16.4	48.5	46.3
Exeter	20.7	36.2	33.8
Mid Devon	17.8	49.2	48.2
Teignbridge	26.9	57.3	53.7
Devon	32.7	55.3	55.4

Sources: Devon Waste Plan 2014 (DCC); Devon Waste & Resource Management Strategy Review & DEFRA (2015) Local Authority Collected Waste Statistics – Local Authority Data

**The water quality of East Devon**

**Water quality**

- 3.57 Water is a critical resource in terms of meeting human needs as well as being of wider environmental importance.
  
- 3.58 Surface water includes rivers, lakes, estuaries and (under council planning control) the coast down to the mean low water mark. The waters are important in their own right but so are associated floodplains and wooded banks. A surface water’s overall quality is assessed as a combination of its ecological and chemical quality.
  
- 3.59 The biggest rivers in East Devon are the Exe, Otter and the Axe. The largest is the River Exe, whilst much of its length falls outside East Devon, it does reach the sea at Exmouth. Adequate quantity, quality and timing of water flows is required to sustain ecosystems and the valuable clean water that they provide.
  
- 3.60 The ecological status for surface freshwaters, estuaries and coastal water bodies varies across East Devon. In the most part, surface water quality is moderate to good across the plan area, with a small incidence of poor quality affecting parts of the Exe Estuary and other locations. Common reasons for less than good status include impacted fish and diatom (algae) communities; physical modification; and phosphate, which can be linked to fertilisers used in farming and other pollutants. The River Axe is a case where phosphate pollution has been identified as significant in terms of impacts on the designated Special Area of Conservation status that the river is afforded. Other impacts on water quality may come from pollution from road run-off, and overflow of sewage from combined sewerage systems after heavy rain.

- 3.61 A recent project initiative of South West Water (SWW) called 'Upstream Thinking' is an environmental improvement programme aimed at improving water quality in river catchments to reduce water treatment costs
- 3.62 Groundwater quality varies across East Devon. The majority of the District has some poor chemical status with pockets of good status for instance around the Yarty and Axe. Generally in the plan area groundwater sources such as springs, wells and boreholes are limited and account for a small proportion of water supplies. Surface water sources therefore provide the majority of the supply from reservoirs and river intakes. The most significant reservoir is at Wimbleball. Drinking Water Safeguard Zones have been designated where the land use is causing pollution of the raw water. Groundwater bodies that fall into this category are located between Ottery St Mary and Otterton.

## Key social baseline data

3.63 This section covers issues relating to social considerations – falling under the broad headings noted below:

- The population and homes of East Devon;
- Health in East Devon;
- Wellbeing in East Devon; and
- Access to services.

### The population and homes of East Devon

#### The population make up

3.64 East Devon had a population, at 2020, estimated at 145,871 persons. This population level has shown a year on year pattern of increase as more people move into the district. Of particular note is that the District has an older age profile than most of the rest of England with the average age of its residents being 50.7 years (the national average is 40.1 years). East Devon has a highest age profile of all of the districts in Devon with the largest percentage of those aged 65+ at 30.06%, this equates to 42,758 people. East Devon also has 2,652 people aged 90+, this is more any other district in the county, Teignbridge is next with 1,997 (age information draws on 2017 data).

3.65 The table below shows the comparative age make-up of the East Devon population at 2017 when set against other Devon authorities and a national average.

**Figure 9: Proportion (%) of the population by age range 2017<sup>4</sup>**

	0-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Average age (years)
<b>East Devon</b>	<b>14.92</b>	<b>8.68</b>	<b>18.83</b>	<b>27.52</b>	<b>30.06</b>	<b>50.7</b>
Exeter	14.68	20.33	27.95	21.10	15.94	33.9
Mid Devon	17.17	10.06	20.87	28.68	23.22	46.4
North Devon	16.25	9.70	21.00	28.15	24.91	47.3
South Hams	14.74	8.69	18.33	30.53	27.72	50.9
Teignbridge	15.30	9.08	20.34	29.28	26.00	48.9
Torridge	15.37	9.08	19.16	29.60	26.79	49.7
West Devon	15.05	8.62	18.73	30.39	27.21	50.4
National Average	18.07	11.95	26.38	25.57	18.03	40.1

<sup>4</sup> Office for National Statistics: PPSA Population Estimates

- 3.66 The elderly population profile has an impact on the provision of health care, housing requirements, the labour market and economic growth in the District and a further aging population will present additional challenges.
- 3.67 Drawing on 2017 date the East Devon ward with the highest number of 65+ year olds is Seaton with 2,914. The ward with the highest proportion of 65+ population is Sidmouth Town with 45.13% of its residents being 65+. The proportion of 85+ residents in Sidmouth is 10.99% compared with the East Devon average of 4.8% and the English average of 2.2%.<sup>5</sup>
- 3.68 The ward with the highest number of 0-14 year olds is Exmouth Withycombe Raleigh with 1,271. The ward with the highest proportion of 0-14 population is Ottery St Mary Town with 18.2%.<sup>6</sup>
- 3.69 One of the effects of the ageing population is the impact it will have on the dependency ratio, the ratio of economically dependent people to those who are economically active, (those aged 16-64). In East Devon this is 0.78 which is very high by local and national standards and puts the district in the top 10 of all districts areas. By comparison, Exeter has a dependency ratio of 0.42 and the national figure is 0.55. With an increase in the ageing population this dependency on the economically active will increase and effect our labour market.<sup>7</sup>
- 3.70 Areas that have a relatively higher number of elderly to working age residents would be said to have a relatively high dependency ratio. A higher ratio may suggest an increased burden on the economically active part of the population. However nationally there has been a growth in the numbers of those aged 65+ being in employment since 1992 from 5% to just over 10%.<sup>8</sup> In East Devon in 2018 13% of the 65+ population were in employment.<sup>9</sup>

### The potential future population of East Devon

- 3.71 For many years there has been an overall pattern of population increase in East Devon, with more people moving into the district than leaving. It is this net in-migration, particular by the middle aged (with an associated in movement of older school children) and older people that is the primary factor accounting for the increasing population change. In contrast, however, there is a pattern of net out-migrations of younger adults.
- 3.72 The increasing population, alongside a decreasing average household size (less people on average living in each home) has informed house building needs. Though other factors such as economic growth policies and job creation projections have been important in East Devon in terms of determining housing provision. More recently, as set out in the Government's Planning White Paper consultation

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<sup>5</sup> Office for National Statistics: Mid year population estimates 2017

<sup>6</sup> Office for National Statistics: Mid year population estimates 2017

<sup>7</sup> Office for National Statistics: Mid year population estimates 2017

<sup>8</sup> Office for National Statistics: HI09 Regional labour market: Headline indicators for the South West 2019

<sup>9</sup> South West Observatory Environment Module Local Profiles 2011 <http://www.swenvo.org.uk/>

document of August 2020, there is a Government aspiration for the affordability of housing to be a very major determinant of future housing requirements.

- 3.73 In a housing needs report for the council from ORS<sup>10</sup>, drawing on Office for National Statistics records, there is a projected population increase in East Devon of 23,343 people over the 20 year period from 2020, with the population of 145,871, going up to a 2040 population of 169,214. This amounts to a projected annual average increase in population of 1,167 persons. On the basis of these projections, and with people generally living longer, the ORS work shows that there will be a marked increase in older people in the district, specifically those aged 65 and older. For aged group below 65 comparative population changes between the 2020 and 2040 are not as significant with most five year age bands seeing moderate increases in population, and the greatest increases being in 40 to 50 year olds and 15 to 19 years old.
- 3.74 It should be noted, however, that there is an possible mismatch between these projected population levels and the population of East Devon that would occur if current Government (Autumn 2020) proposed house building levels occur. In their report ORS advise of a 20 year need of 15,143 dwellings to meet projected population growth. This averages out at 757 new dwellings a year. The Government currently sets out, through a standard national Government methodology, an annual average level of house building of 918 new homes per year. This level of house building clearly exceeds the 757 figure and some of it would provide for what the consultants refer to as 'pent-up' demand but also a small part, an annual average of around 80 homes a year, would effectively imply a moderate increase in net in-migration above the Office for National Statistics estimates. Contrasting this, however, to a proposed new Government requirement figure of 1,614 homes per year, were they to be built and applying them against the ORS reasoning, would imply a very significant change in levels of in-migration of people into East Devon and a far more marked overall population increase in the future. It remains to be seen what may happen to Government housing requirement figures.

### Ethnicity and religion

- 3.75 Predominantly East Devon residents are from a white British background. The 2011 census shows that just 1.59% of the district's population is from an ethnic background, this is a slight increase on the 2001 census at which 0.74% of the population were from an ethnic background. This is very low by national standards with the England and Wales average standing at 14.03% but is in common with the other districts in Devon.
- 3.76 Christianity is the largest religion practiced in East Devon at 65.6% of residents being adherents (86,934). The largest non-Christian religion practiced in East Devon is Buddhism with 351 adherents. 10,796 people (8.2% of the population) said that they followed no religion at the 2011 Census.

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<sup>10</sup> See:

<https://eastdevon.gov.uk/papers/strategicplanning/201020bpitem9afinalhousingneedsineastdevonappendix%201orsaug2020.pdf>

## Housing and its affordability

- 3.77 The latest available data on tenure types of homes occupied by East Devon resident's dates back to the 2011 census, see ORS report. This showed that around 76% of households in the District either owned their home outright or were in the process of buying it. The proportion of households owning or buying their home has fallen slightly in recent years. The proportion of household in social rented housing has also fallen in recent years, down from 11% in 1991, to 10% in 2001 and to 9% in 2011. In contrast the proportion of households in the private rented sector has seen a marked increase, 11% in 1991 up to 12% in 2001 and 15% in 2011. It should be noted that the above information reflects a percentage split of total housing, actual numbers of households in owner occupied and private rent have increased, in contrast, and since the 1980's, those in social rent have gone down.
- 3.78 Whilst it is still a minority part of the overall market there has been a clear and growing trend of increasing numbers and an increasing proportion of households living in private rented sector housing. As the cost of buying a house has increased, and specifically so has the ratio of income levels to house prices, and as fewer affordable houses are being built, people are increasingly turning to private rented sector housing to meet their needs. This East Devon pattern of occupation is consistent with the national trend and in their report ORS advise that the CLG forecast that the private rented sector could increase in size to 35% of households nationally by 2032. A continued pattern of increasing private sector renting of housing may therefore be seen in East Devon in the future.

## Housing costs in East Devon

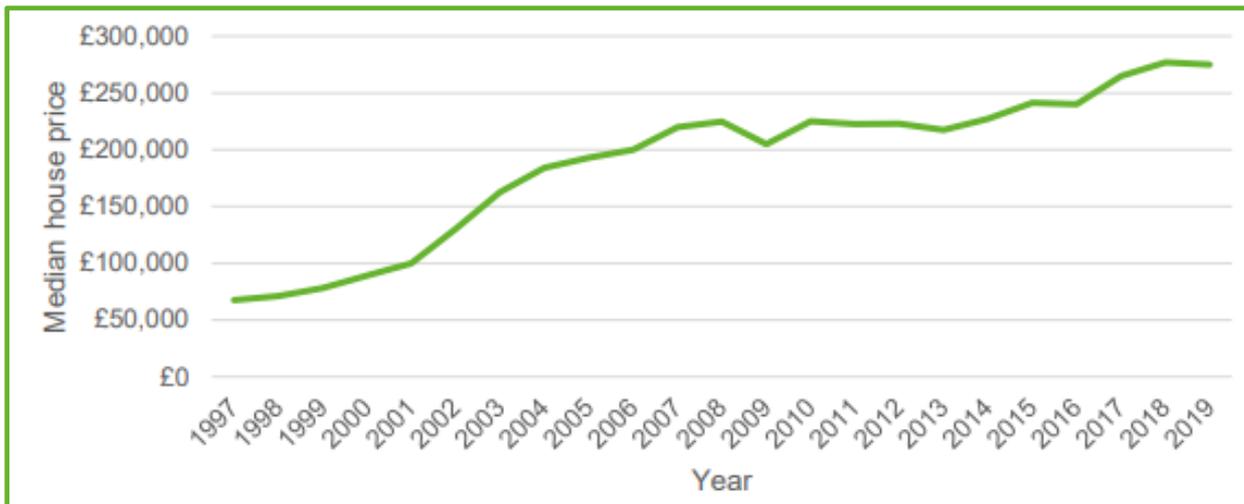
- 3.79 Drawing on 2019 data<sup>11</sup> the average house price in East Devon is £275,000, which is 10.47 times average earnings. This makes East Devon a less affordable place to buy a house than both the England (7.83) and south west region (8.79) averages. The following graphs show average house prices in East Devon since 1997, along with the affordability ratio that compares house prices to earnings. These indicate that house prices trebled between 1997 and 2007, but were then broadly stable until a rise in 2017-18. The affordability ratio doubled from 5 to 10 between 1997 and the mid-2000s, and house prices have remained around 10 times earnings ever since. In line with the national picture the comparative cost of buying a house, the income to house price ratio, has risen significantly over recent years. In simple terms house prices have gone up but wage levels have not followed in the same way. It is worth noting that house prices vary across East Devon – for example houses in the coastal towns, specifically Sidmouth and Budleigh Salterton, are typically more expensive than elsewhere.

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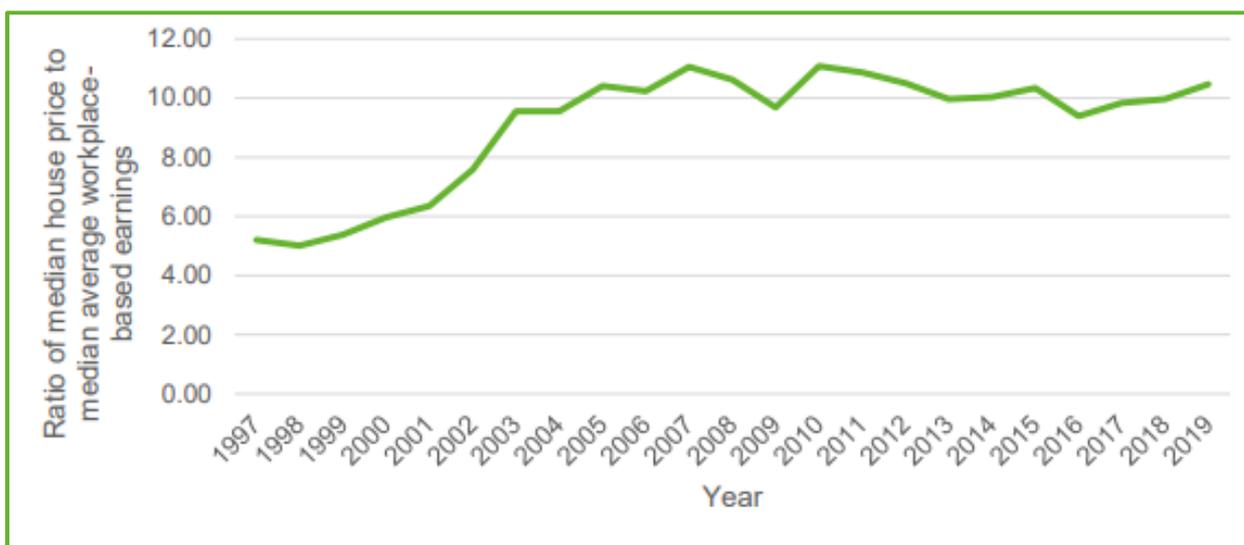
<sup>11</sup> See:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/bulletins/housingaffordabilityinenglandandwales/2019>

**Figure 10 - Average house price in East Devon 1997 – 2019**



**Figure 11 - Affordability ratio in East Devon 1997 – 2019<sup>12</sup>**



3.80 Private renting prices are also understood to have increased over recent years though social rent costs are less volatile and will not have seen such significant changes. However, social housing forms just a part of the affordable housing sector and whilst there are still a large number of social rent properties in East Devon, specifically in the form of a retained Council Housing stock, they are largely a product of 20<sup>th</sup> century development. Many recent additions to the affordable housing stock are not in the social rent sector and are typically more expensive to occupy.

<sup>12</sup> See: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/bulletins/housingaffordabilityinenglandandwales/2019>

3.81 The latest housing monitoring report for East Devon<sup>13</sup> reports on a local plan objectively assessed housing need to build an average of 950 homes per year from 2013 to 2031 (that is 17,100 over 18 years). From 2013 to 2020 there were 6,470 new homes built, an average of 924 per year. Over the next five years the annual average build rate is predicted to be 1,186 per year and over the full duration of the local plan there is a current (as at 1 April 2020) projected delivery of 18,415 new homes.

**The health of the East Devon population**

3.82 At just over 82.6 years old the life expectancy for residents in East Devon is very high with the area ranking in the top 10% of districts nationally and is top of all the Devon districts.<sup>14</sup> The ward with the highest average life expectancy is Yarty at 85 years and the lowest is Trinity at 77 Years old.<sup>15</sup>

3.83 The proportion of the working age who are economically inactive due to suffering from long-term sickness is about the national average at 2.29% of the working age population. The national average is 2.29%, although the Devon average is 1.25% which is low by national standards.<sup>16</sup>

3.84 At the 2011 census residents were asked what their general health had been like in the past 12 months. In East Devon 79.81% of residents said that they were in good or very good health. This is below the national average of 81.19% and one of the lowest of the Devon districts. The figure in the 2011 census was a rise from the 2001 census when 67.1% of residents said they were in good health, with 24.2% in fairly good health and 8.7% whose health was not good.<sup>17</sup>

**Figure 12 - Health of the resident population - self reporting 2011<sup>18</sup>**

	Good Health: good (pop.)	Good Health: fairly (pop.)	Good Health: not good (pop.)
<b>East Devon</b>	<b>79.81</b>	<b>15.07</b>	<b>11.68</b>
Exeter	83.28	11.95	9.57
Mid Devon	82.08	13.37	9.75
North Devon	80.23	14.16	12.1
South Hams	81.78	13.32	10.34
Teignbridge	79.83	14.68	12.22
Torridge	78.37	15.42	14.28
West Devon	80.58	14.28	11.21
National Average	81.19	13.2	11.9

<sup>13</sup> See: <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/monitoring/>

<sup>14</sup> Office for National Statistics: Life expectancy at birth 2012-14

<sup>15</sup> Office for National Statistics: Life expectancy at birth 1999-2003 Ward Level

<sup>16</sup> Office for National Statistics: Annual Population Survey 2018

<sup>17</sup> Office for National Statistics: Census 2011

<sup>18</sup> Office for National Statistics: Census 2011

- 3.85 The East Devon Public Health Implementation Plan 2018/19 sets out the areas of health and wellbeing where the greatest impact can be made on the health inequality of the Devon population and the actions being taken to tackle them. The priorities within the Public Health Implementation Plan are:
- Improving the wider determinants of health
  - Health Improvement
  - Health protection
  - Healthcare public health and preventing premature mortality.

### Deprivation

- 3.86 The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is based upon seven domains of deprivation: income, employment, health and disability, education skills and training, barriers to housing and services, living environment and crime. These are weighted and combined to create the overall IMD. Overall, the district is relatively well-off and is in the 40% least deprived districts nationally.
- 3.87 East Devon’s ranking in the Indices of Multiple Deprivation is 248 out of 326 (1 being the most deprived). Therefore overall average deprivation levels in East Devon are comparatively low. There are, however, some pockets of deprivation with two Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) in the most deprived 30% of all areas across England, these are within the wards of Exmouth Littleham and Exmouth Withycombe Raleigh. There are areas of Honiton St Michael’s and Exmouth Town which are in the top 40% most deprived nationally.<sup>19</sup>

**Figure 13 - : The top 10 most deprived LSOA’s in East Devon 2015<sup>20</sup>**

Rank	LSOA	Ward	Deprivation score	National Rank
1	East Devon 020C	Exmouth Littleham	33.67	6640
2	East Devon 018C	Exmouth Withycombe Raleigh	27.85	9250
3	East Devon 019A	Exmouth Town	26.84	9802
4	East Devon 019C	Exmouth Town	25.95	10311
5	East Devon 002A	Honiton St Michael’s	25.39	10647
6	East Devon 002B	Honiton St Paul’s	24.69	11018
7	East Devon 019D	Exmouth Town	22.53	12371
8	East Devon 010B	Seaton	19.82	14414
9	East Devon 001A	Dunkeswell	19.64	14557
10	East Devon 005B	Axminster Town	19.2	14877

<sup>19</sup> Office for National Statistics: LA Summaries ID 20102012

<sup>20</sup> Office for National Statistics: LA Summaries ID 20102012

## Wellbeing in East Devon

- 3.88 Wellbeing can be looked upon as the quality and happiness of life that people enjoy. Key determinants of wellbeing are general health as well levels of mental and physical activity and access to stimulating and attractive environments. Good jobs, housing and general safety also all feed into wellbeing. Many of these wider wellbeing considerations are addressed elsewhere in tis appraisal.

### Air quality and Air quality

- 3.89 The quality of the air we breathe, and the pollutants it may contain, can have fundamental impacts on human health, wellbeing and also wider environmental impacts and implications.
- 3.90 The main pollutant of concern in East Devon is Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) arising from road traffic around the busier and more congested areas. East Devon District Council had fifty four passive monitoring sites monitored NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations across the District in 2018, as well as the Honiton Urban Background automatic monitoring site.
- 3.91 Air quality across the District is of a high overall standard; with only two exceedances in the most recent reporting year, with both being below the exceedance limit after distance correction. Monitoring results from the more populous towns such as Honiton and Axminster were slightly elevated compared to other areas.
- 3.92 Historically there was one Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) declared in East Devon which was revoked in April 2018 as a result of improvement in air quality in the designated area as well as the preparation of a detailed air quality report that found no exceedances observed at sensitive receptor locations.

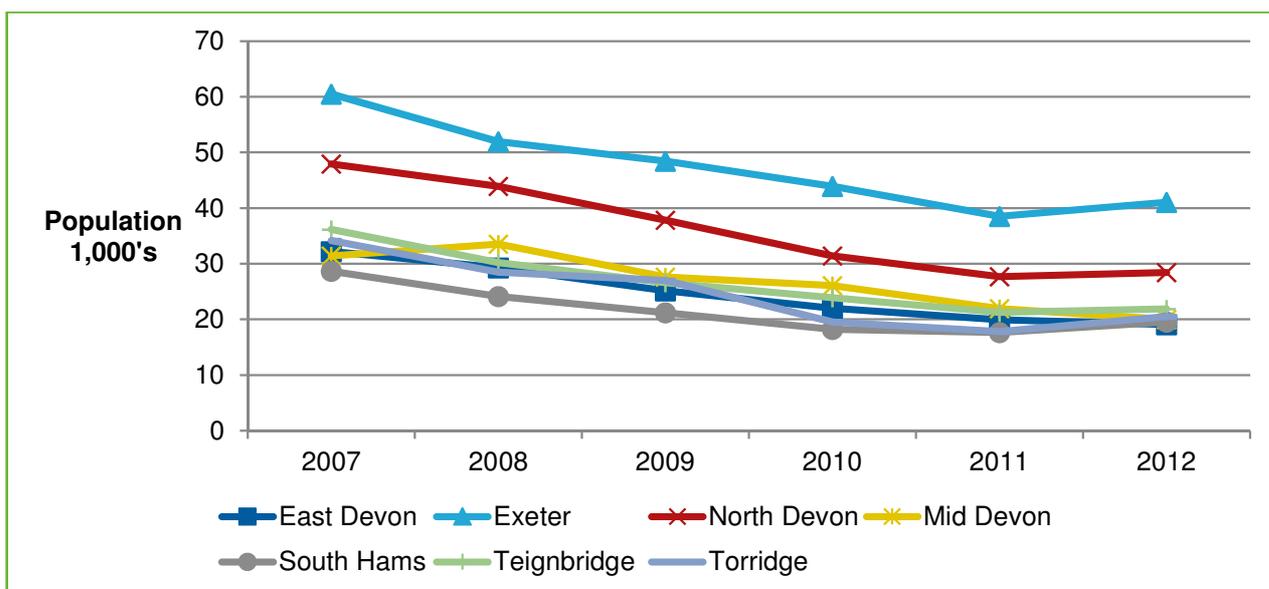
### Noise

- 3.93 Noise pollution can also have a detrimental impact on levels of wellbeing. Urban areas tend to be noisier than rural areas though it is vehicle and traffic noise that typically generates the greatest levels of noise pollution and dwellings and other noise sensitive land uses near to main roads can see significant detrimental noise impacts.
- 3.94 Exeter International airport, in the western part of the District, also generates high noise levels from aircraft movements as well as engine testing and there are particular restrictions to development that apply close to the airport, theses have, for example, constrained options for Cranbrook new town development.

## Crime

3.95 East Devon has one of the lowest crime rate in Britain with 19.1 offences per 1,000 residents in 2012. By comparison the Devon figure 27.49 and the national figure was 37.63 offences per 1,000 residents.<sup>21</sup>

**Figure 14: Recorded crime per 1,000 population 2007-2012<sup>14</sup>**



3.96 The levels of recorded crime in East Devon have fallen for the last 6 years, following a similar pattern to the rest of the Devon districts. East Devon has very low rates of crime for dwelling burglaries, vehicle crimes and violent crimes making East Devon one of the safest districts to live in, in one of the safest counties to live. However, there does remain a fear of crime that can be a significant concern and it will also be the case that there are localised areas where crime rates are much higher than general District wide levels.

**Figure 15 - Crime rates by crime types 2012<sup>22</sup>**

	Burglaries (per 1000 pop.)	vehicle crimes (per 1000 vehicles)	violent crimes (per 1000 pop.)
<b>East Devon</b>	<b>1.43</b>	<b>5.23</b>	<b>8.6</b>
Exeter	3.6	15.63	18.77
Mid Devon	1.87	4.51	8.49
North Devon	1.81	7.37	14.43
South Hams	1.66	5.85	7.27

<sup>21</sup> Office for National Statistics: Recorded Crime 2012

<sup>22</sup> Office for National Statistics: Recorded Crime 2012

Teignbridge	1.44	6.33	9.83
Torridge	1.5	4.69	11.23
West Devon	1.15	3.56	7.41
Devon	1.85	7.69	9.6
National Average	4.44	16.38	13.57

## Access to and availability of facilities and services

### Access to services

- 3.97 The ability to be able to readily access services and facilities can be of great significance to many people. For those with a private vehicle proximity may be of lesser importance but for those without (and for all in broader sustainability terms) the ability to walk to facilities on good quality routes or to use frequent and affordable public transport can be of real significance.
- 3.98 Some of the key services and facilities of community importance are identified as:
- Nursery and pre-school;
  - Primary school;
  - Secondary schools;
  - further and higher education;
  - healthcare facilities;
  - local shops;
  - meeting venues;
  - public houses;
  - places of worship;
  - Cultural buildings and facilities (e.g. libraries, museums, cinemas); and
  - Access to high speed broadband.
- 3.99 Separate assessment work is being undertaken to look at access to facility considerations.

## Key economic baseline data

### Availability of and promoting jobs in East Devon

- 3.100 This section covers issues relating to economic aspects of East Devon - including economic performance, business and enterprise, labour market and skills and qualifications. By way of broad overview East Devon has low unemployment levels but wages are comparatively low and there are a comparatively high number of smaller employer organisations and businesses in the District. There are high out-commuting levels of residents, primarily travelling to jobs in the city of Exeter where wage levels are on average higher. East Devon has something of a divide between a number of bigger businesses and more technology based activities on the western fringes of East Devon, close to Exeter, and a more traditional business make-up across much of the rest of the District.

### Skills and qualifications

- 3.101 The workforce in East Devon shows a good level of education with a mix of academic and vocational skills. The proportion of the working age resident population with no qualifications in East Devon is low. In 2017, 5.93% of the working age population had no qualifications, compared with 7.57% nationally.<sup>23</sup> However, the resident workforce of East Devon with higher level qualifications falls below regional and national average levels.
- 3.102 The proportion of 15 years olds achieving 5 or more GCSE's at grades A\*-C including English and Maths in East Devon in 2017 was 60.7% and the proportion of students gaining 5+ GCSEs (A\*-C) in East Devon has been improving since 2002 following the national trend. East Devon has seen big improvements in numbers gaining 5+ GCSEs and is catching up with the best performing districts in Devon.<sup>24</sup>
- 3.103 The proportion of the working age resident population qualified to NVQ level 4 and above in East Devon in 2018 was 35.8%, compared with 38.7% in the South West and 39.3% nationally.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> Office for National Statistics: Annual Population Survey 2018

<sup>24</sup> Department for Education

<sup>25</sup> Office for National Statistics: Annual Population Survey 2018

**Figure 16 - NVQ's of the working age population, 2018<sup>26</sup>**



### Income and earnings

- 3.104 Having a good income provides a measure of security and ability to buy goods and services to meet needs.
- 3.105 The median gross weekly earnings of those working in East Devon (i.e. with jobs that are based in the District) are comparatively low, with the district ranking in the bottom 40% of districts nationally. Average gross weekly earnings in East Devon are £476.10, compared with £570.90 nationally. However, in comparison with all of the Devon districts East Devon fares better having the fourth highest weekly wage, exceeded by Exeter at £564.10, South Hams at £510.20 and Mid Devon at £478.9.<sup>27</sup>
- 3.106 The low wages may help to explain the large out flow of commuters to areas such as Exeter, South Somerset and Taunton Deane who all have higher workplace wages than East Devon. However, to some degree there may also be a case that some people earning higher wages working in Exeter and other urban areas enjoy the flexibility to live in the attractive rural setting of East Devon. By working in higher wage areas this helps to raise the residence based earnings of East Devon to £486.30 with the Devon average at £496.5, although it is still some way below the National average of £571.1.<sup>28</sup>
- 3.107 In contrast to just wages levels as a measure of wealth the average income for all households in East Devon in 2016/17 is comparatively high. This higher level of income is accounted for by the comparative wealth of retired people in the District. The overall average income of East Devon

<sup>26</sup> Office for National Statistics: Annual Population Survey 2018

<sup>27</sup> Office National Statistics: ASHE 2019

<sup>28</sup> Office National Statistics: ASHE 2019

residents was £29,300 which was just above the Devon average of £28,800 but below the national average of £34,300. The South Hams has the highest income levels of the Devon districts at £32,100<sup>11</sup>.

- 3.108 With average income levels for people in employment falling below national averages it suggests a local economy that is under- performing. However, information on distribution of wages is not available.
- 3.109 The average pension income for those paying tax in 2016/17 was £19,400 which is one of the highest pension incomes in Devon. The Devon average was £18,100 and the England average was £17,700. East Devon is in the top 20% of districts for pension income across England.<sup>29</sup> This indicates a disparity between the wealth levels of the retired compared to the working population.

**Figure 17 - Average household and pension incomes 2016/17<sup>11</sup>**

	Self-employment income	Employment income	Pension income	Total income
<b>East Devon</b>	<b>16,700</b>	<b>23,700</b>	<b>19,400</b>	<b>29,300</b>
Exeter	17,200	25,600	16,600	28,300
Mid Devon	17,400	24,200	17,300	29,500
North Devon	14,900	23,000	18,000	27,000
South Hams	17,300	25,600	19,500	32,100
Teignbridge	17,200	24,400	17,900	28,400
Torridge	14,200	24,000	16,400	25,900
West Devon	16,200	24,900	18,600	29,700
Devon	16,500	24,400	18,100	28,800
England	24,500	31,300	17,700	34,300

- 3.110 The Pension Credit raises the minimum income for people aged over 60 with disability, caring responsibilities or housing costs, the number receiving this per 1,000 of the population in East Devon is 87.65 this is very low by national standards (national average is 140.59) and is the lowest of all of the Devon districts. The wards with the highest number of claimants for pension credit are Exmouth Town at 344.8 per 1,000 and Exmouth Withycombe Raleigh at 284.8 per 1,000. The ward with the lowest claimant rate is Sidmouth Rural at 55.62 per 1,000.<sup>30</sup>
- 3.111 Attendance allowance is also paid to those aged over 65 years and who require assistance with day to day care of themselves. The number receiving this per 1,000 of the population in East Devon is 128.46 which is below the national average of 130.51 but above the Devon and Cornwall figure of 124.12. The wards with the highest number of claimants for pension credit are Exmouth Littleham at 199.2 per 1,000 and Exmouth Town at 194.8 per 1,000. The ward with the lowest claimant rate is Whimple at 72.5 per 1,000.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>29</sup> HMRC

<sup>30</sup> Department for Work and Pensions

<sup>31</sup> Department for Work and Pensions

- 3.112 The average weekly pay for those living in East Devon is £486.30 with the Devon average at £496.50, the National average is £571.10.<sup>6</sup>
- 3.113 Despite the lower than average wages in East Devon the District has a low rate of claimants for Income Support which assists those on low incomes, with a rate of 9.91 per 1,000 population with the national average being 17.03 per 1,000 population. The ward with the highest claimant rate is Exmouth Town at 40.6 and the lowest is Trinity at 3.8 per 1,000.<sup>12</sup>

### Economic Performance

- 3.114 Gross Value Added (GVA) is the value of goods and services produced by an area giving an indication of the productivity of that area. The level of GVA per person in East Devon is low but growing, with the area ranking in the bottom 40% of districts nationally. GVA per head in East Devon is £47,109, compared with £60,119 in Exeter and £55,658 nationally. The share of national GVA in East Devon is also low by national standards, with the area ranking in the bottom 40% of districts nationally. It accounted for 0.14% of all GVA in Great Britain, Exeter accounted for 0.24%.<sup>32</sup>
- 3.115 Throughout the global economy, the critical structural trend is the growth of the knowledge economy which typically supports higher wages and more secure employment. Knowledge-based industries include aerospace, electrical machinery manufacture, printing and publishing, and chemicals and energy, telecommunications, computing, research and development, finance and business services, and recreational and cultural services. These industrial groupings are based on European Commission and OECD definitions, where individual industries are classified as knowledge-based if graduates make up at least 25 per cent of their workforce. Knowledge intensive business in East Devon accounted for 11.51% of total employment in 2017. This is very low with East Devon in the bottom 20% of districts nationally. By comparison, the Exeter figure was 22.41%, and the national figure was 20.83%.<sup>33</sup> However the western edges of East Devon, close to the City of Exeter, are seeing increases in knowledge based employment opportunities.
- 3.116 The main types of employment are in the services industry which accounts for 86% of the employment in East Devon with a large section of this being in the retail, hospitality and health sectors all of which are predominantly lower paid sectors and often offering part-time jobs. The percentage rate of people full time jobs is 61.4% which is below the national average of 67.5%.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> Office for National Statistics: GVA by NUTS 3 2014

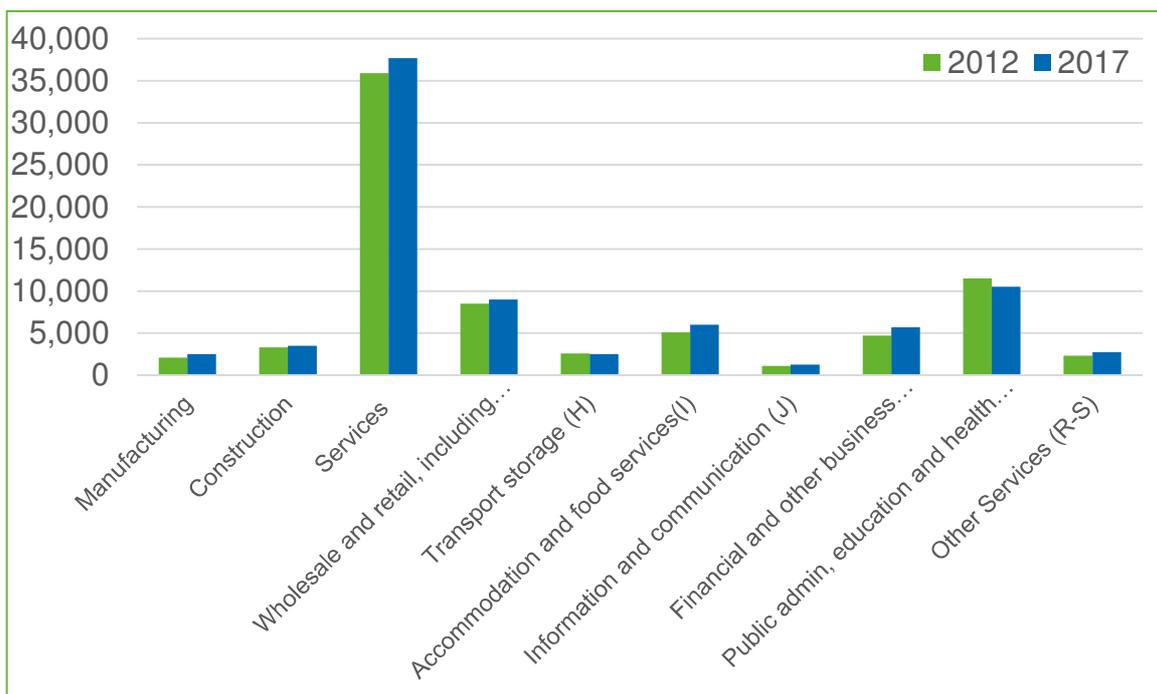
<sup>33</sup> Office for National Statistics: The Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) 2017

<sup>34</sup> 19 Office for National Statistics: The Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) 2017

**Figure 18 - Employee jobs by industry 2017<sup>35</sup>**

	<b>East Devon (employee jobs)</b>	<b>East Devon (%)</b>	South West (%)	Great Britain (%)
Manufacturing	<b>2,500</b>	<b>5.7</b>	8.6	8.2
Construction	<b>3,500</b>	<b>8.0</b>	5.3	4.8
Services	<b>37,700</b>	<b>86</b>		
Wholesale and retail, including motor trades (G)	<b>9,000</b>	<b>20.5</b>	16.0	15.2
Transport storage (H)	<b>2,500</b>	<b>5.7</b>	3.6	4.7
Accommodation and food services(I)	<b>6,000</b>	<b>13.6</b>	9.8	7.5
Information and communication (J)	<b>1,250</b>	<b>2.8</b>	3.6	4.4
Financial and other business services(K-N)	<b>5,700</b>	<b>12.9</b>	19.7	22.7
Public admin, education and health (O-Q)	<b>10,500</b>	<b>23.9</b>	27.3	26.5
Other Services (R-S)	<b>2,750</b>	<b>6.2</b>	4.4	4.6

**Figure 19 - Jobs by industry 2012 to 2017<sup>36</sup>**



<sup>35</sup> Office for National Statistics: The Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) 2017

<sup>36</sup> Office for National Statistics: The Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) 2017

## Business and Enterprise

- 3.117 A dynamic local enterprise culture is vital for the long-term competitiveness and overall success of any local economy. The measures that Place Analytics uses to assess the extent of an enterprise culture is composed of the new business formation rate, business size, business turnover, business stock and the business survival rate.
- 3.118 The new business formation rate in East Devon is low compared with national figures, with the area ranking in the bottom 20% of districts nationally. In 2017 the business formation rate was 10.04% of all businesses, this is below the national rate of 13.15% but is one of the top for all the Devon districts just behind Exeter’s 10.8% and Teignbridge at 10.42%.<sup>37</sup>
- 3.119 Between 2010 and 2018, the total business stock in East Devon grew from 5,680 to 6,385, this puts East Devon ahead of the other Devon districts excluding Exeter and nationally ranks the District 135 out of 326 districts.<sup>38</sup> The new business formation rate and the business stock change measures however do exclude very small businesses and the self-employed which in East Devon make up the vast majority of business types so growth in these areas is not shown.
- 3.120 In 2018 there were 7,295 VAT registered businesses (which includes the small businesses that might be excluded in the business stock figures) were listed in East Devon this is the highest number of businesses of all the Devon districts including Exeter<sup>39</sup>. There has been a steady rise in the numbers of VAT registered businesses in East Devon with over 700 more businesses registered in 2018 than in 2012.

**Figure 20 - Numbers of VAT registered businesses 2018<sup>40</sup>**

	2012	2018
East Devon	6,590	7,295
Exeter	5,045	5,680
Mid Devon	4,575	4,955
North Devon	5,295	5,710
South Hams	5,265	5,815
Teignbridge	5,820	6,545
Torridge	3,695	4,030
West Devon	3,320	3,540

- 3.121 East Devon has a high number of micro and small businesses as well as a high level of self-employment. The proportion of all businesses in East Devon that are classed as micro, with 9 or less employees is 85.5% this places the area in the top 30% of districts nationally for the number of micro

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<sup>37</sup> Office for National Statistics: Inter Departmental Business Register (IDBR) 20117

<sup>38</sup> DEFRA: Emissions of carbon dioxide for local authority areas 2016

<sup>39</sup> Office for National Statistics: UK business: activity, size and location 2018

<sup>40</sup> Office for National Statistics: UK business: activity, size and location 2018

businesses. The average business size is 6.39 employees which is below the Devon and Cornwall average of 8.13 and the national average of 9.89 employees.<sup>41</sup>

**Figure 21 - Business size 2018 by employee numbers**

	% of micro business (employing 9 or less)	% of small business (employing 10-49)	% of medium business (employing 50-249)	% of large business (employing 250+)
<b>East Devon</b>	<b>85.5</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Exeter	74.6	20.2	4.4	0.7
Mid Devon	89.2	9.3	1.4	0.1
North Devon	85.3	12.3	2.2	0.3
South Hams	85.4	13.1	1.4	0.2
Teignbridge	84.8	12.9	2.1	0.2
Torridge	88.6	9.8	1.6	0.0
West Devon	89.0	9.7	1.1	0.1
National Average	89.3	8.7	1.6	0.4

3.122 The self-employment rate in East Devon is also very high by national standards, with the district ranking in the top 20% of districts nationally. In 2018, the self-employment rate was 20.58%, compared with 10.15% in Exeter and 10.16% nationally.<sup>42</sup>

**Figure 22 - Business turnover (%) 2018 – by employee numbers in the business**

Location	Business Turnover: 0-49 (£000s) (%)	Business Turnover: 50-99 (£000s) (%)	Business Turnover: 100-249 (£000s) (%)	Business Turnover: 250-499 (£000s) (%)	Business Turnover: 500-99 (£000s) (%)	Business Turnover: 1,000-4,999 (£000s) (%)	Business Turnover: 5,000+ (£000s) (%)
<b>East Devon</b>	<b>19.25</b>	<b>21.83</b>	<b>31.46</b>	<b>13.07</b>	<b>7.51</b>	<b>5.56</b>	<b>1.33</b>
Exeter	14.13	20.58	31.06	13.76	8.77	8.77	2.92
Mid Devon	24.89	19.8	29.42	12.28	6.64	6.08	0.88
North Devon	21.24	20.12	31.71	13.31	7.11	5.28	1.22
South Hams	20.04	20.43	31.57	13.59	7.23	5.96	1.17
Teignbridge	19.29	20.42	32.06	13.38	6.6	6.52	1.74
Torridge	25.59	21.16	28.22	12.86	6.5	4.56	1.11
West Devon	26.58	20.25	29.43	12.97	6.33	3.8	0.63
South west	18.47	23.09	30.81	12.69	7.04	6.27	1.63
National	16.53	23.97	31.26	12.05	7.05	6.86	2.27

<sup>41</sup> Office for National Statistics: UK business: activity, size and location 2018

<sup>42</sup> Office for National Statistics: Annual Population Survey 2018

3.123 The business closure rate for 2017 stood at 9.28% for East Devon which is one of the lowest closure rates nationally with the national average being 12.59%.<sup>43</sup>

### Labour market

3.124 The labour market in East Devon is good with low levels of unemployment and good qualification levels. However we have to remain aware of the impact that the aging population will have on the labour market and the levels of those who are economically active. East Devon has a small working age population with only 54% of the population aged 16-64, nationally the figure is 63% of the population.<sup>44</sup> By 2037 that figure is predicted to drop to 49.8% of the population.<sup>45</sup>

3.125 However the proportion of the resident working age population who are in employment in East Devon is high, with the area ranking in the top 10% of districts nationally. In East Devon, 83.3% of the resident working age population are in employment, compared with 78.5% nationally.<sup>46</sup>

3.126 In terms of our population aged 65+ we have seen a big rise of those who are economically active. In 2005 just 5% of the 65+ population were economically active this has gone up to 13% in 2018 who are now working.<sup>47</sup>

3.127 In East Devon there is a job ratio density of 0.79 which is below the national figure of 0.86 but has been rising since 2010 when it was at 0.75. The density figures represent the ratio of total jobs to population aged 16-64. Total jobs includes employees, self-employed, government-supported trainees and HM Forces.

**Figure 23 - Job density and number of jobs 2017<sup>48</sup>**

	Number of jobs*	Job density
<b>East Devon</b>	<b>61,000</b>	<b>0.79</b>
Exeter	105,000	1.19
Mid Devon	37,000	0.78
North Devon	61,000	1.11
South Hams	48,000	0.99
Teignbridge	59,000	0.78
Torrige	26,000	0.68
West Devon	24,000	0.77
National Average		0.86

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<sup>43</sup> Office for National Statistics: UK business: activity, size and location 2018

<sup>44</sup> Office for National Statistics: Mid year population estimates 2017

<sup>45</sup> Office for National Statistics: Population Projections 2017

<sup>46</sup> Office for National Statistics: Annual Population Survey 2018

<sup>47</sup> Office for National Statistics: Annual Population Survey 2018

<sup>48</sup> Office for National Statistics: The Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) 2017

- 3.128 The proportion of the working age population who are claiming Job Seekers Allowance in East Devon is very low, with the district ranking in the bottom 20% of districts nationally. In East Devon, 1.3% of people were claiming Job Seekers Allowance in March 2019, compared with 2.7% nationally.<sup>49</sup> Due to the changes in benefits moving to Universal Credit the out of work benefits figures are experimental at this stage.
- 3.129 In terms of Labour Market, unemployment is low and from an employer perspective this can present problems in terms of available labour. Employers are struggling to recruit and retain and this is an issue for potential inward investors or growing existing local businesses.

### The vitality and viability of town centres

3.130 East Devon has nine towns:

- Axminster;
- Budleigh Salterton;
- Colyton
- Cranbrook;
- Honiton;
- Ottery St Mary;
- Honiton;
- Seaton; and
- Sidmouth.

Each of these towns supports a town centre though at Cranbrook the centre is very embryonic in nature with limited facilities at present, but there are plans for new shops and facilities to be built. At the time of drafting this scoping report there is a Supplementary Planning Document in production for Cranbrook town centre provision. Colyton is the smallest of the East Devon towns and it has the least facilities of the centres listed. The village of Beer, although a bit smaller than Colyton, actually supports more shops with a number of these most likely to be viable on account of the tourist trade that Beer attracts.

3.131 With the exception of Cranbrook, and to some degree Colyton and Budleigh Salterton, the town centre of East Devon provide facilities to meet most of the the needs of the resident populations of those towns and of surrounding rural hinterlands. A range of shops are found in these centres along with supermarkets and a diverse selection of social and community facilities. Independent shops are comparatively common in East Devon towns. For much larger sized shops and a bigger selection as well as major recreational and cultural venues and such destinations as major sporting facilities residents of East Devon would need to leave the District.

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<sup>49</sup> Office for National Statistics: Claimant count - age duration with proportions March 2019

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- 3.132 From a commercial operational perspective the towns of East Devon generally perform reasonably well when compared to many other centres across England. There is, however, a net flow of retail expenditure out of East Devon to shops in a number of bigger centres. The bigger longer term threat to town centre vitality and viability comes, however, from on-line retailing. There have been significant increases in people buying good online over recent years and the sales from this sector have increased markedly over the period of the Covid pandemic.

## Connectivity and transport in East Devon

### Connectivity and transport

- 3.133 Connectivity addresses the issue of connecting people and businesses digitally and physically through the provision of broadband, walking, cycling, public transport, road networks and other transport infrastructure both within and beyond East Devon
- 3.134 East Devon accommodates a north-south running length of the M5 Motorway and Junctions 29 and 30 fall partly within the District. The A30, which runs east-west through East Devon forms the next most significant highway with around half of the District length, running into Exeter, being duelled. In terms of the mains roads in East Devon, traffic has increased slightly on the M5 and A30 since 2005, but flows have remained relatively constant on the A375 and A3052<sup>50</sup>.
- 3.135 Outside of East Devon, the main road links in into the city centre of Exeter can suffer from some peak time congestion which can affects those living and travelling into the City and backing-up congestion impacts do also occur on some short lengths of East Devon roads. Road congestion elsewhere in East Devon is, however, rare and limited in extent.
- 3.136 East Devon has a large number of train stations for its size (nine in total), across two lines, and usage has increased significantly over the last 20 years. The Exeter-Waterloo line runs through a westerly part of the District but there are no stations on this line in the District. East Devon is also home to Exeter International Airport, which provides routes to a number of domestic and international locations.
- 3.137 Bus services in East Devon are of variable quality, within and between the main towns of the District, including links through to the City of Exeter, service frequency can be good. Many communities may be served by five or more buses a Day. However in countryside locations (in practice this means the vast bulk of the land mass of the District) away from main through routes bus services can be poor or non-existent and even where they do exist may not be timetable to allow for commuting for work or education purposes.

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<sup>50</sup> Exeter Transport Strategy – Transport Empirical Data Report, Devon County Council, Jan 2019:  
<https://www.gesp.org.uk/evidence/>

- 3.138 The countryside of East Devon is accessible by a number of footpaths and the South West Coast Path runs along the entire length of the Districts coastline. Paths in towns are generally good.
- 3.139 A variety of projects are already in the pipeline to improve transport connections and support development across East Devon.<sup>51</sup> These include a passing loop for the train line near Cranbrook/Whimple to improve reliability and increase train frequency; a cycle path linking Cranbrook to Exeter; and a 'park and change' site at Exeter Science Park.

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<sup>51</sup> East Devon Infrastructure Delivery Plan review, Nov 2017: [https://eastdevon.gov.uk/media/2270747/idp-review-2017\\_report.pdf](https://eastdevon.gov.uk/media/2270747/idp-review-2017_report.pdf) ; and Transport Infrastructure Plan, Devon County Council, March 2020: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/traffic-information/transport-planning/>

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## **4 Task A3 - Identifying key sustainability issues**

- 4.1 Undertaking tasks A1 and A2 has helped develop an understanding of key issues for the Local Plan. These issues can now be collated and summarised against key headings. The table over the page identifies the key issues, in the first column, and provides summary commentary in the second column. One of the tasks that needs to be undertaken in the SA work is a summary of the likely future trends in the absence of a new plan and relevant policy coverage. The final column provides a summary commentary and does so specifically in the context of possible outcomes of existing policy becoming increasingly dated and of less relevance and therefore a scenario of an inability to effectively manage future development.
- 4.2 It should be noted that the concerns raised in the final column, in the absence of a local plan, could come about as a consequence of more speculative and ad-hoc planning applications that the Council may be less able to resist.

**Figure 24 - Key sustainability issues and likely future trends in the absence of a plan**

<b>Sustainability issue</b>	<b>Summary commentary</b>	<b>Likely future trends in the absence of a new local plan</b>
Biodiversity	<p>Whilst East Devon has highly impressive biodiversity resources, they are under ongoing threats and there is an international recognition of the importance of protecting the natural world. Through the new local plan, specifically in respect of impacts that could arise from development, there is the scope to offer greater protection and through new legal requirements to secure biodiversity enhancements. Development can be directed to areas of lesser sensitivity and avoid areas of greater sensitivity.</p>	<p>Regardless of there being a new local plan there are still legal considerations that apply to protection of the higher ranking wildlife sites. However, these most important sites would not benefit from the comprehensive overview that a new local plan can provide. Sites of lesser importance may fair worse in the absence of a plan as may wildlife interest more generally without the controls that a plan and planning may put in place. The potential for biodiversity enhancement may also be lost or greatly prejudiced in the absence of a new local plan.</p>
Landscape	<p>With two thirds of the District falling in AONBs, and there being other important landscape assets, East Devon enjoys exceptional landscape qualities. A new local plan offers potential to afford these landscapes on-going protection whilst setting out policies to support sensitive and appropriate development. A new plan also offers scope for policy protection for local landscape features and areas that would not benefit from higher level statutory protection.</p>	<p>National guidance to protect the highest tier of landscape designation areas would remain in place and as such, for the AONB areas in particular, there would be national level protection. However, there is the danger that without local policy coverage there could be increased incremental damage and losses and lack of ability to take a strategic overview of concerns. Local landscape considerations may fair far less well under the absence of a new local plan as there would not be the means, or at least there would be much reduced means, to assess what is locally important and why and establish local controls.</p>

Sustainability issue	Summary commentary	Likely future trends in the absence of a new local plan
Historic and built environment	The built heritage of East Devon is important and varied. The buildings and structures of the District, and past human activities that have built them and helped shape the landscape, have defined much of the District we now live in. A new local plan adds specific scope to afford continued protection to heritage assets and their settings whilst offering potential for sympathetic reuse, for example through town centre regeneration.	The most important heritage features will continue to be afforded protection in the absence of a plan under national legislation. However, the same may not apply to locally important features as the potential for local and more detailed policy guidance that a new local plan could deliver would be lost. Furthermore a new local plan may offer potential for taking an overarching strategic view of heritage considerations that would be lost in its absence and as such incremental negative impacts could occur whilst opportunity to use heritage as a positive driver for change, that a new local plan could promote, may also be lost.
Quality of new development	The quality of new development has a significant impact on how spaces and places perform and function, how they look and how well they serve residents and visitor's needs. However, quality standards vary greatly in new development but concerted policy effort in a new local plan can seek to improve greatly on some of the less good past developments. Improved design standards, in particular, are being promoted by Government including through proposed changes to the planning system.	In the absence of strong policy promoting high quality development and design there is a very real risk that mediocrity (or worse) will be an accepted norm. There will, of course, not be a ban on people choosing to promote high quality development in their schemes but in the absence of policy it would be difficult to insist on this and as such it would make it easy for proposals to be implemented where care and attention to quality is not assured.
Climate change and carbon emissions	A changing warming climate is recognised as a fundamental challenge for the world. Adverse impacts will occur and will be worse in the absence of significant actions now. A new local plan provides the opportunities to promote high standards in building, support renewable energy generation projects and also to promote and identify locations for development where net emission levels, for example from transport use, are lower.	The absence of a robust and rigorous policy would lessen the ability to promote the highest development standards and as such could lead to higher levels of carbon emissions from buildings and development, though this to some degree might depend on how quickly and to what ways the Government move in respect of changing minimum building standards. Perhaps of greater relevance, however, is the loss of ability to actively plan for renewable energy generation technologies and to plan spatially, what is built where and why, to promote patterns of development that lead to lower carbon emissions. Without a plan carbon emissions could be higher.

Sustainability issue	Summary commentary	Likely future trends in the absence of a new local plan
Climate change adaption	With a warmer and wetter East Devon there will be a need to adapt to climate change. A new local plan provides scope to take into account flooding concerns as well as potential increasing patterns of land loss to the sea through coastal erosion. There will also be impacts on habitats and species that a new local plan can actively plan for and around through habitat creation and setting standards for new planting,	Flooding considerations, specifically at the planning application stage, can still be expected to be addressed on the strength of national policy. However a strategic approach to development in the realms of flooding and habitat planning may be lost or greatly eroded, as will opportunities to set local standards applicable and bespoke to East Devon, as opposed to national standards that could lack local relevance.
Land resources	Land resources (soil, minerals, previously developed land and waste) form a basis to support life and a new local plan can actively take account of these resources. Opportunities to minimise adverse impacts can be planned for whilst potential, for example in respect to building on previously developed land, can be realised through plan policy.	The absence of a new local plan would diminish the opportunities to take land resources into account. Possible impacts in the absence of a plan could include loss to development of higher quality land and development that does not appropriately utilise previously developed land. Safeguard mineral resources could also be vulnerable to loss through inappropriately sited developments and patters of development may not fully support outcomes that are beneficial for waste objectives.
Water quality	Water quality in East Devon is varied with some water courses, in particular, suffering from pollution that is detrimental to nature conservation objectives. A new plan provides the opportunity to restore and improve water quality outcomes and also to protect water supplies for domestic and other uses.	In the absence of a new plan it may be that it will not be possible, or at least not easy, to pro-actively plan for water quality improvements or it might be that it is not possible to accommodate development, building work may stop, on account of there not being acceptable means to secure mitigation. Likewise scope to spatially plan for patterns of development that protect water supplies would not be possible, however, through national policy, at least on a case by case basis, impacts from specific developments would be taken into account.

Sustainability issue	Summary commentary	Likely future trends in the absence of a new local plan
Homes	Having a decent home to live in should be seen as a fundamental need for all people. Critical considerations include, however, that differing people have differing needs and can have variable funds to pay for housing. Availability of affordable housing is a particular concern in East Devon. A local plan provides the means to establish policy designed around providing the right homes in the right places.	In the absence of a local plan there is far less control over the types of homes that may be built and where and of what type. Without robust policy in place the development industry is likely to build the types of homes, at the quantities that suits them, around the objective of maximising profits. This could well meet many consumers needs and wants but is unlikely to meet all, especially in respect of some specialist needs to include adapted houses and affordable homes. Development would be expected to carry on in the absence of a plan but it may be more likely to result from appeals or at least come forward in an unpredictable manner.
Health	Key planning concerns around health are centred on promoting the ability and opportunity for people to be able to be physically active and to enjoy high quality open space areas. Robust policy allows for relevant standards to be set.	The absence of a plan would reduce the scope to actively plan in a coordinated way for open space provision and to coordinate what is built with the best accessible existing provision.
Wellbeing	Generally people in East Devon live in a safe and healthy environment with limited levels of pollution. Crime levels are also comparatively low though there is a fear of crime.	In the absence of a plan it would be less possible to actively plan to minimise possible adverse impacts and if relevant to secure relevant mitigation.
Access to services	Generally speaking the towns of East Devon are well served with facilities, but peripheral parts of some East Devon towns may be some distance from key services. Service provision in villages is more sporadic and even more so in many rural areas.	Robust policy provides positive opportunities to plan for services and facilities alongside new development, especially housing development. The absence of a plan would provide less scope and less overview to ensure that services are accessible either through new provision alongside development or through directing development to locations that are already well served. A consequence of not having a plan could be a more ad-hoc pattern of development that may not be well related to or not served by facilities.

Sustainability issue	Summary commentary	Likely future trends in the absence of a new local plan
Jobs and employment	Having a job for individuals and securing better employment opportunities is likely to be key for a local plan to promote. Pre Covid East Devon had low unemployment levels but also low wage levels. There is an emerging high technology base in the western part of the District but lower skilled jobs, many seasonal in nature, are a prevalent characteristic of the District.	There will continue to be jobs and employment in East Devon in the absence of a plan. But not having a plan reduces scope to seek to identify appropriate sites and take other measures to support and encourage inward investment and business start-ups and expansions. As such an absence of a new local plan could reduce the scope to encourage more and better paid and more secure jobs. In a post Covid world supporting new jobs in new emerging sectors could be very important.
Town centres	Town centres form a vital resource and area that support retail as well as social and wider commercial activities. They form a critical location to actively plan for where people congregate and come together. On-line retailing, with impacts exacerbated by Covid, however casts a fundamental challenge to future town centre vitality and viability.	In the absence of a plan, and active policy to promote town centre activity, opportunities may be lost to protect commercial premises, to plan for new ones and to promote activities that could encourage town centre vitality. This is not to say that town centre will cease to function in the absence of a plan, most of what happens in them is not plan dependent, but opportunities to be more proactive would be lost in the absence of a plan.
Connectivity and transport	The quality and availability of broadband connections and infrastructure for walking and cycling, and access to public transport in East Devon varies greatly. Public transport is of variable quality, generally reasonable or good in towns and on some through routes connecting urban together, within and beyond East Devon. However, in rural areas coverage can be patchy and in places poor or non-existent. East Devon has limited road congestion though routes into the City of Exeter can be busy and tailbacks do occur.	One of the key policy areas that a plan can address is to direct development to locations that are served by or can or will be served by good transport links and especially public transport. Other connectivity issues can, as well, be taken into account. In the absence of a plan there is the potential for a more ad-hoc pattern of development that does not, in a coordinated manner, plan for issues around connecting places in an efficient and effective manner.

## Areas of particular environmental importance

- 4.3 The regulations advise that the Environmental Report must include: “Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 74/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC” SEA Directive Requirement (Annex 1).
- 4.4 There are a number of European Sites, designated for their core breeding, feeding and resting habitats for rare and threatened species whose boundaries fall wholly or partly within a 20km radius of the East Devon boundary. European sites are the ‘top tier’ of protected nature conservation sites, and subject to strict legal protection. These sites comprise Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar Sites. They are afforded the highest level of protection and any development proposals within or affecting these must satisfy the requirements of the EU Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (74/409/EEC) and the EU Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats (92/43/EEC).
- 4.5 The Council will be producing an assessment under the Habitat Regulations that will be considering these designated sites, threats upon them and potential mitigation in greater detail.
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## 5 Task A4 - Defining sustainability objectives

5.1 By completing tasks A1 – A3 we have developed a key understanding of the key sustainability issues for the new East Devon Local Plan. Task A4, in the table below, first column, identifies a series of sustainability objectives, derived from the earlier assessment. In the second column key sustainability factors are listed and in the third column reference is made to SEA topic matters covered.

**Figure 25 - Table of sustainability effects**

Sustainability objective	Factors	SEA Topics covered
<p><b>1. Biodiversity</b></p> <p>To conserve and enhance the habitat and wildlife of our natural environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural habitats and biodiversity; flora and fauna</li> <li>• Landscapes and landscape character</li> <li>• Recreational and leisure opportunities compatible with conservation, and creation of multi-functional green infrastructure</li> <li>• Coast</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity, fauna, flora.</li> <li>• Population/ human health (recreation).</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Landscape</b></p> <p>To conserve and enhance the landscapes/ seascapes of our natural environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscapes - including AONBs and landscape character.</li> <li>• Coast.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscape.</li> <li>• Water (coast).</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Historic and built environment</b></p> <p>To conserve and enhance our built and historic assets and promote high quality architecture, design and accessibility in new build development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation of heritage assets within their setting, including Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Archaeological sites and Scheduled Monuments</li> <li>• Safeguard cultural heritage and local character by conserving, enhancing and creating new high quality settlements, built environment and public realm.</li> <li>• Urban design, build quality and detailing of new buildings, streets, and spaces.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural heritage.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Climate change and carbon emissions</b></p> <p>To minimise greenhouse gas emissions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development that minimises the need to travel by providing access to public transport, cycle and walking links to help reduce use of private car</li> <li>• Energy efficient developments and buildings, which make the best use of renewable and low carbon energy generation.</li> <li>• Multi-use green infrastructure which supports or creates transport networks.</li> <li>• Soil and water quality</li> <li>• Flood risk and the threat to people and property, and coastal change and adaptation.</li> <li>• Safeguard mineral resources</li> <li>• Reuse of previously developed land</li> <li>• Minimise waste (reuse, recycle, recover)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air.</li> <li>• Climatic factors.</li> </ul>

Sustainability objective	Factors	SEA Topics covered
<p><b>5. Climate change adaption</b></p> <p>To adapt to the possible effects of climate change.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flood risk and the threat to people and property and coastal change and adaptation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climatic factors.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Land resources</b></p> <p>To utilise our land resources efficiently and minimise their loss or degradation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soil quality.</li> <li>Safeguard mineral resources.</li> <li>Reuse of previously developed land.</li> <li>Minimise waste (reuse, recycle, recover).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soil.</li> <li>Material assets (land, minerals).</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Water resources</b></p> <p>To utilise our water resources efficiently and minimise their loss or degradation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water quality and quantity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water.</li> </ul>
<p><b>8. Homes</b></p> <p>To provide and maintain a sufficient supply of good quality, financially accessible homes of mixed type and tenure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supply of housing (accommodating population growth and changes in household composition).</li> <li>Housing mix (tenure and size).</li> <li>Housing delivery and diversity of supply (e.g. Housing Association affordable, volume builder and small builder open market, custom and self-build).</li> <li>Housing affordability.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Population.</li> </ul>
<p><b>9. Health and activity</b></p> <p>To support healthy and active communities where people have access to attractive and functional recreation spaces.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cycle and walking networks.</li> <li>Open space and green infrastructure in new developments and existing settlements.</li> <li>Public recreational, play and leisure opportunities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Population.</li> <li>Human health.</li> </ul>
<p><b>10. Wellbeing</b></p> <p>To support safe communities where people are not exposed to pollution.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social deprivation.</li> <li>Air quality, noise and light pollution.</li> <li>Safe and secure environment with reduced fear of crime.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Population.</li> <li>Air.</li> </ul>
<p><b>11. Access to services</b></p> <p>To provide accessible and attractive services and community facilities for all ages and interests.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to area wide services (nursery and pre-school, primary, secondary, further and higher education; healthcare; etc.).</li> <li>Community facilities (local shops, meeting venues, public houses, places of worship).</li> <li>Cultural buildings and facilities (e.g. libraries, museums, cinemas).</li> <li>Access to high speed broadband.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Population.</li> <li>Human health.</li> </ul>

Sustainability objective	Factors	SEA Topics covered
<p><b>12. Jobs and employment</b></p> <p>To foster a strong and entrepreneurial economy and increased access to high quality skills training to support improved job opportunities and greater productivity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employment land supply to cater for businesses of all sizes.</li> <li>• Mix of employment offer.</li> <li>• Productivity of local economy and access to labour supply.</li> <li>• Access to education and skills training.</li> <li>• Protect existing tourism businesses and offer.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population.</li> <li>• Material assets.</li> </ul>
<p><b>13. Town centres</b></p> <p>To safeguard and strengthen the vitality and viability of town centres.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diverse city and town centre economy.</li> <li>• Strengthen and safeguard the vitality and viability of centres.</li> <li>• Impact of new development on existing centres.</li> <li>• Access to existing centres.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population.</li> </ul>
<p><b>14. Connectivity and transport</b></p> <p>To connect people and businesses digitally and physically through the provision of broadband, walking, cycling, public transport, road networks and other transport infrastructure both within and beyond East Devon.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to services – links between homes, services and businesses by active modes of transport (e.g. cycling and walking).</li> <li>• Access to public transport (e.g. distance to and frequency of bus and rail services).</li> <li>• Car reliance and use.</li> <li>• Access to local road network.</li> <li>• Impact on Strategic Road Network.</li> <li>• Reduction in congestion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air.</li> <li>• Climatic factors.</li> <li>• Population/material assets (in terms of benefits for economy).</li> </ul>

### Using the framework for assessment of the local plan

- 5.2 In order to assess the sustainability of the emerging strategy, policies and proposal of the local plan, it is appropriate to establish a mechanism against which to assess potential impacts and implications. By applying this methodology to the assessment it will be possible to provide a snapshot of the relative sustainability of a plan, proposal or policy and indeed compare them against one another.
- 5.3 Due to the interplay among factors in any given objective, and the unpredictability of detail in some outcomes, the assessment will provide summary comment on the factors affecting each objective.
- 5.4 It is proposed that for each objective, based on the likely net performance of contributing factors, we will use the schedule table below. It should be noted that numbers below will not constitute numbers that can or should be applied in a mathematical manner, or in formulas, to be collectively added up or taken away to allow for comparative formulaic comparison of options. Rather they give an indication off the potential scale of impact that may arise for any scale of sustainability impacts for any specific objective.

**Figure 26 – Table of sustainability impacts**

The proposal is likely to...	
<b>+3</b>	have a major and overriding positive impact in contributing towards the achievement of the objective.
<b>+2</b>	have a moderate net positive impact overall in contributing towards the achievement of the objective.
<b>+1</b>	have a minor net positive impact in contributing towards the achievement of the objective.
<b>0</b>	have no impact (+ or -) in contributing towards the achievement of the objective <b>or</b> have some positive and some negative impacts thus the balance overall is neutral
<b>-1</b>	have a minor net negative impact in contributing towards the achievement of the objective.
<b>-2</b>	have a moderate net negative impact overall in contributing towards the achievement of the objective.
<b>-3</b>	have a major and overriding negative impact in contributing towards the achievement of the objective.
<b>?</b>	It is not possible to predict the impact of the proposal on achievement of the objective. A question mark may also be added to any of the above if there is a clear element of uncertainty.

### Suitability of potential development sites for walking and cycling

- 5.5 In addition to the use of the above a further level of assessment will apply to potential development sites based on walking distance to a range of services and to regular public transport in the form of frequent bus services or a railway station.
- 5.6 The SA objectives:
- 4. Climate change and carbon emissions;
  - 9. Health;
  - 11. Access to services; and
  - 14. Connectivity and transport
- all encourage physically active lifestyles highlighting ease of access for pedestrians and cyclists to a range of services and public transport and thereby reducing the importance that may be attached to the private car. Also of great importance is seeking to ensure that goods and services are accessible to those that do not have access to a private car and are dependent on walking directly to facilities or using public transport to access them.
- 5.7 On the basis of proximity to facilities, as shown in the table below/over the page, sites are to be awarded a score. For ease of assessment work the distances used are measured in a straight line distance from a central point of any development site. However, where a more fined grained assessment shows walking distances will be considerably longer than straight line distances then scores may be adjusted. Commentary will be provided in such cases and also in respect to matters such as the quality of the access, for example whether there are good safe surfaces that are lit, have

surveillance and that are reasonably level and without steps, or conversely if access might involve walking on busy roads or along muddy tracks.

5.8 A range of services will include a least four of:

- a primary school;
- a secondary school;
- a place of worship;
- a shop selling food;
- a community meeting hall;
- a doctors surgery providing National Health Service care;
- a public house, restaurant or similar;
- accessible open space;
- a children’s play area.

5.9 The choice of access to a least four of the above is a pragmatic scoring that it is proposed should be used in assessment work.

5.10 A regular bus service is defined as at least five buses per day going in each direction (or at least five services where on a one way circular route or at a terminal point). Account through commentary, and potential score adjustment, will however be made where services unsuitable for meeting typical needs for traveling to work or school, for example if services do not start until late in the morning or finish very early in the afternoon.

**Figure 27 – Assessment of potential development sites**

Scores identified will be attributed where a proposed development sites falls.....	
<b>+2</b>	Within 800 metres of basic services <b>and</b> a regular bus service or railway station.
<b>+1</b>	Within 800 metres of <b>either</b> a range of services or a regular bus service or railway station.
<b>-1</b>	Over 800 metres but less than 1,600 metres of either a range of services or a regular bus service or railway station.
<b>-2</b>	Over 1,600 metres from either a range of services or a regular bus service or railway station.
<b>?</b>	Where it is not possible to make a measurement or information is not available. A question mark may also be added to any of the above if there is a clear element of uncertainty.

5.11 The 800 metre walking distance is advocated in a Sport England publication, Active Design - Planning for health and wellbeing through sport and physical activity<sup>52</sup>. The 1,600 metres figure is more pragmatically based though it does coincide with conclusions on proximity to facilities in a report

<sup>52</sup> See: [https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/spe003-active-design-published-october-2015-high-quality-for-web-2.pdf?uCz\\_r6UyApzAZlaiEVaNt69DAaOCmkIQ](https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/spe003-active-design-published-october-2015-high-quality-for-web-2.pdf?uCz_r6UyApzAZlaiEVaNt69DAaOCmkIQ)

produced by WYG called How far do people walk?<sup>53</sup> Five bus services a day is seen as a reasonable level of basic bus service provision and is defined as a category by Devon County Council at Travel Devon<sup>54</sup>.

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<sup>53</sup> See: [https://www.wyg.com/uploads/files/news/WYG\\_how-far-do-people-walk.pdf](https://www.wyg.com/uploads/files/news/WYG_how-far-do-people-walk.pdf)

<sup>54</sup> See: <https://www.traveldevon.info/bus/interactive-bus-map/>

## **6 Task A5 - Consulting on the scope of the sustainability appraisal**

- 6.1 As In order to satisfy the requirements of the SEA Directive, we must seek the views of the statutory environmental consultation bodies designated in the SEA Regulations. These are the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England. We will, however, also consult more widely and encourage any interested organisation or individual to comment.
- 6.2 All comments received will be recorded, considered and made publically available. They will inform any subsequent redrafting of the Scoping Report if this is deemed necessary.

## **7 Next steps and future work**

- 7.1 Running in parallel with consultation on this scoping report will be consultation on a local plan issues and options report. The intent is that comments received on the issues and options report will help in the writing of a draft local plan for East Devon. The intent is that the draft local plan will then go out for public consultation with comments received and additional evidence or Government policy or new legislation being used to refine the draft plan to help inform the Publication draft of the plan. The Publication draft of the plan, along with representations received from its consultation, and supported papers and evidence documents will all form part of the submission that goes to the Planning Inspectorate for Examination.
- 7.2 A SA report, covering Stages B to D of appraisal (but also including text on this Stage A work), as noted earlier in this report, will be produced and consulted on at the stage of draft plan consultation. This will then be updated and amended, as appropriate, to form an SA report at the Publication stage of local plan making. The SA report will form one of the supporting documents to the local plan that is submitted for the local plan Examination.

## Appendix 1 - Relevant plans, policies and programmes

Figure 28 – International plans, policies and programmes

International plans/guidance	Implications for the local plan	Implications for SA
EU Directive 2001/42/EC (the SEA Directive)	A high level of environmental protection. To promote sustainable development by integrating environmental considerations into plan preparation and adoption; sets out detailed requirements of environmental assessment required for plans	The Directive has been translated into UK law and plan-making requirements and requires that a SA (incorporating SEA) is undertaken for all development plan documents.
EU Ambient Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC) & Directive 2004/107/EC	Limits & targets for pollutants in outdoor air set by the Air Quality (standards) Regulations 2010.	The SA framework sets objectives to minimise the adverse environmental, social and economic effects of air pollution through specific objectives.
EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	It provides an opportunity to plan and deliver a better water environment, focusing on ecology. It provides an opportunity to plan and deliver a better water environment through river basin management planning.	The Directive highlights the need to protect ground and surface water from incidental, as well as accidental pollution.
EU Nitrates Directive	<p>Aims to protect water quality across Europe by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• preventing nitrates from agricultural sources polluting ground and surface waters; and</li> <li>• promoting the use of good farming practices.</li> </ul> <p>The Directive states that Nitrate Vulnerable Zones must be designated where nitrate pollution is found or appears likely, and an Action Plan produced to ensure that these areas are protected.</p>	Water pollution needs to be addressed through the SA Framework.
EU Directive (revised) on Bathing Water (2006/7/EC)	The overall objective is the protection of public health, but it also offers an opportunity to improve management practices at bathing waters.	Water pollution needs to be addressed through the SA Framework.

International plans/guidance	Implications for the local plan	Implications for SA
Drinking Water Directive (revision of technical annexes – II & III, (Oct 2015))	The amendments will provide an opportunity to monitor drinking water parameters at more appropriate frequencies. The new Annex II provides an option to perform the drinking water monitoring in around 100,000 water supply zones in Europe in a more flexible way, provided a risk assessment is performed ensuring full protection of public health. It follows the principle of ‘hazard analysis and critical control point’ (HACCP) used already in food legislation, and the water safety plan approach laid down in the WHO Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality. These amendments will allow a better and more problem-oriented monitoring of small water supplies.	SA Framework should consider water quality implications.
EU Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (Birds Directive – 2009/147/EC)	To protect all naturally occurring wild bird species and their habitats with particular protection of rare species.	SA Framework should consider objectives to protect and enhance biodiversity including wild birds.
EU Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC)	Sets the basic concepts and definitions related to waste management, such as definitions of waste, recycling, recovery.	The Framework requirements should be incorporated into the Sustainability Appraisal.
EU Directive on Landfill (1999/31/EC)	Focuses on waste minimisation and increasing levels of recycling and recovery.	Ensure the implications of this directive are met through the SA.
EU Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)	Concerns noise from the road, rail and air traffic and from industry; sets standards for noise emissions from specific sources.	Noise pollution needs to be addressed through the SA Framework.
EU Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)	Aims to reduce and manage risks that floods pose to human health, environment, cultural heritage & economic activity; requires assessment of all water courses for flood risk, map flood extent and assets & people at risk, and take adequate and co-ordinated measures to reduce flood risk.	The SA Framework will include objectives to ensure that flood risk/climate change has been taken account of.

International plans/guidance	Implications for the local plan	Implications for SA
EU Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC)	Encourages energy efficiency consumption from renewable sources and improvement of energy supplies; places requirement on UK to source 15% energy needs from renewable sources by 2020.	The SA must contain an objective to promote renewable energy whenever this is possible.
EU Directive on Energy Performance of Buildings (2010)	The main objective of the Directive is to promote the improvement of the energy performance of buildings within the community, taking into account outdoor climatic and local conditions, as well as indoor climate requirements and cost effectiveness.	Energy matters need to be addressed through the SA Framework.
EU 7 <sup>th</sup> Environment Action Programme (Jan 2014)	<p>Will be guiding European environment policy until 2020 and sets out a vision beyond that to 2050.</p> <p>It identifies three key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to protect, conserve and enhance the Union’s natural capital</li> <li>• to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy</li> <li>• to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing</li> </ul>	Priorities for Sustainable Development and priority areas for action are set out in the Environmental Action Plan.
Ramsar Convention on Wetland of International Importance (1971)	Wetlands of international importance are designated as Ramsar Sites. Ramsar sites in England are protected as European sites. The majority are also classified as SPAs and all terrestrial Ramsar sites in England are notified as SSSIs.	Consider inclusion of objectives which aim to promote conservation and wise use of wetland areas.

**Figure 29 – National plans, policies and programmes**

National Plans/Guidance	Implications for the local plan	Implications for SA
Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland – Vol 2 (DEFRA, 2011)	The Air Quality Strategy points to certain pollutants where national objectives are in some cases being met, and others not. Pollutants described include: lead, benzene, 1,3-butadiene, carbon monoxide, particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, sulphur dioxide and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. Levels for many of these emissions are closely related to transport use, which planning policies will need to consider means to reduce those reaching unacceptable levels.	Potential impacts on air quality, noise and light pollution and congestion.
Air Quality (Standards) Regulations 2010.	It sets air quality standards for key pollutants and requires the UK to demonstrate how the standards will be achieved and maintained when compliance is breached. Particular attention is given to reducing particulate matter, a pollutant associated with transport emissions, exposure to which can exacerbate existing respiratory conditions.	Consider sustainability objectives to reduce pollution and protect and improve air quality.
The Groundwater (Water Framework Directive) (England) Direction 2016	This document sets out instructions on obligations to protect groundwater (water found below the surface). It updates requirements including: the monitoring and setting of thresholds for pollutants in groundwater; adding new pollutants to the list of pollutants to be monitored and changing the information to be reported to the European Commission.	The SA framework will include relevant objectives for water environment.
Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006	The act places a duty on public authorities to have regard to biodiversity as far as is consistent with the proper exercise of their functions. The act also requires the government to publish, review and revise lists of living organisms and types of habitats in England that are of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity.	Ensure the implications of this Act are met through the SA.
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000	Places a duty on relevant authorities in exercising their functions, to have regard to the effect on land in an AONB, and to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB.	SA objectives should seek to protect areas of landscape and wildlife importance.
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	The act sets in place protective measures for wildlife, including wild birds and plants. The act requires local authorities to take steps to bring the protection of wildlife to the attention of the public and schoolchildren. The act (though subsequently amended) allows designation of Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSIs) setting their management and protection measures, and also allows the designation of national nature reserves.	The implications of this Act have to be met through the SA.

National Plans/Guidance	Implications for the local plan	Implications for SA
Climate Change Act 2008	Act aims to improve carbon management and help the transition towards a low carbon economy. It sets out legally binding targets for greenhouse gas emission reductions through action in the UK and abroad of at least 80% by 2050.	Take full account of the requirement to ensure greenhouse gases are reduced or minimised and that energy use comes increasingly from renewable sources.
Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (and Amendment 2012)	The regulations require land use plans that are likely to have a significant effect on a European site to make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. The local authority may only give effect to the land use plan after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the European site.	Relevant habitats need to be identified in the Sustainability Appraisal and appropriate assessment is required to ensure the protection of species and habitats.
UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework. (DEFRA, 2012)	A framework of priorities for UK-level work for the Convention on Biological Diversity covers the period from 2011 to 2020.	An objective protecting biodiversity should be included in the SA framework.
England Biodiversity Strategy – Climate Change Adaptation Principles (DEFRA, 2008)	The principles include conserving existing biodiversity, conserving protected areas and all other high quality habitats, conserving the range and ecological variability of habitats and species, maintaining existing ecological networks, creating buffer zones and high quality habitats, understand change is inevitable, make space for the natural development of rivers and coasts and raise awareness of the benefits of the natural environment to society.	SA framework will include an objective relating to biodiversity and consider impacts on biodiversity in accordance with existing guidance.
DCLG: Waste Priorities (2014)	Objectives of government waste policy include: preparation of planning strategies by local authorities in which communities take more responsibility for their own waste; handling waste safely, without endangering human health and without harming the environment, and disposing of waste on one of the nearest appropriate places; assessing the suitability of waste sites, including the physical and environmental constraints on development and the cumulative effect of previous waste disposal facilities on the well-being of the local community.	Include the relevant objectives within the SA framework.
DCLG: National Planning Policy for Waste (2014)	Sets out detailed waste planning policies for local authorities. The policy stresses the importance of close co-operation between waste planning authorities, encourages the use of heat as an energy source where energy from waste development is being considered.	The SA framework should consider objectives which relate to re-use, recycle and reduce.

National Plans/Guidance	Implications for the local plan	Implications for SA
Safeguarding Our Soils: A Strategy for England (DEFRA, 2009)	Soils perform valuable functions including nutrient cycling, water regulation, carbon storage, support for biodiversity and wildlife, and providing a platform for food and fibre production and infrastructure. Planning decisions must take sufficient account of soil quality, particularly when significant areas of the best and most versatile agricultural land are involved. The document also considers the need for local authority officers to make proportionate and robust decisions regarding the remediation of contaminated land.	The SA Framework should include an objective or guide relating to the effects of policies/proposals on soils.
National Character Areas (Natural England)	National Character Areas (NCAs) divide England into 159 distinct natural areas. Each is defined by a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and cultural and economic activity. Their boundaries follow natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries, making them a good decision making framework for the natural environment.	The SA will need to address landscape, geodiversity & economy considerations contained in the guide.
UK Renewable Energy Roadmap (DECC, 2013)	The UK has made very good progress against the 15% target introduced in the 2009 EU Renewable Energy Directive. This, alongside a healthy set of deployment pipelines, demonstrates the progress that is being made to decarbonise the economy and secure future electricity supply.	The Roadmap establishes a process of monitoring and evaluation that will enable the SA to be adjusted when appropriate.
Planning Practice Guidance – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy (DCLG, March 2014)	The guidance assists local councils in developing policies for renewable energy in their local plans, and identifies the planning considerations for a range of renewable sources such as hydropower, active solar technology, solar farms and wind turbines.	The SA framework will include objectives to ensure that renewable energy has been taken account of.
National Heritage Protection Plan (English Heritage, 2012)	The plan seeks to ensure that England’s historic environment is not needlessly at risk of damage, erosion or loss; is experienced, understood and enjoyed by local communities; contributes to sustainable and distinctive places to live and work; and helps deliver positive and sustainable economic growth.	The SA framework will include an objective relating to the historic environment and will consider impacts on this in accordance with existing guidance.
The Historic Environment in Local Plans (Historic England, July 2015)	Provides information on good practice to assist local authorities, planning and other consultants, owners, applicants and other interested parties in implementing historic environment policy in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the related guidance given in the National Planning Practice Guide (PPG).	The SA/SEA should investigate if and how the historic environment can add social, economic and environmental value to people and communities.

National Plans/Guidance	Implications for the local plan	Implications for SA
Rural Statement (DEFRA,2012)	Rural areas are home to one-fifth of the English population, and 28% of England's businesses. The key priorities include wanting rural businesses to make a sustainable contribution to national growth; engaging directly with rural communities; wanting rural people to have fair access to public services and be actively engaged in shaping the places in which they live.	Include the relevant priorities within the SA framework.
Planning Practice Guidance – Rural Housing (DCLG, May 2016 update)	It is important to recognise the particular issues facing rural areas in terms of housing supply and affordability, and the role of housing in supporting the broader sustainability of villages and smaller settlements. Rural housing is essential to ensure viable use of local facilities.	Include the relevant objectives within the SA framework.
Planning Practice Guidance – Housing & Economic Development needs assessment (DCLG, 2014)	Provides a guide for councils on how to assess housing and economic development needs.	The guidance will help to inform the SA.
Planning policy for traveller sites (DCLG, August 2015)	Overarching aim is to ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional and nomadic way of life of travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community. There should be due regard to the protection of local amenity and local environment.	The aims of the document should be considered in policy making, which would help achieve the SA/SEA objectives
Lifetime neighbourhoods (DCLG, Dec 2011)	Guidance on the design of neighbourhoods to make them inclusive regardless of age or disability. The components that make up lifetime neighbourhoods include good access (enabling residents to get out and about in the area they live), services and amenities (neighbourhoods with a mix of residential, retail and employment uses and access to services including health, post office, banking facilities or cash machines).	The SA framework will need to formulate objectives that address the built environment and design of neighbourhoods.
Technical housing standards – nationally described space standard (DCLG, March 2015, & amends May 2016)	The nationally described space standard replaced the previous different space standards used by local authorities. It is not a building regulation and remains solely within the planning system as a new form of technical planning standard.	The standard highlights the need to consider levels of space for new development.

National Plans/Guidance	Implications for the local plan	Implications for SA
Department for Transport Priorities (2014)	DfT priorities include: continuing to develop the preparations for a high speed rail network; improving existing rail network and creating new capacity; tackling congestion on roads; continuing to improve road safety; encouraging sustainable local transport; promoting lower carbon transport, such as walking and cycling.	The SA framework will need to formulate objectives that address a number of the transport priorities, including encouraging sustainable local transport and promoting lower carbon transport.
Door to Door: A strategy for improving sustainable transport integration (DfT, 2013)	The government wants more journeys to be made by public transport, cycling and walking. The vision is for an inclusive, integrated and innovative transport system where the use of sustainable transport is made more attractive for the entire door-to-door journey.	The SA framework will need to formulate objectives that address requirements for sustainable transport and related actions.
Creating Growth, Cutting Carbon: making sustainable local transport happen (White paper, DfT, 2011)	Contains a vision for a transport system that is an engine for economic growth, but is also greener and safer and improves quality of life. It notes that investment on its own is not enough, as people will need to make transport choices that are good for society as a whole. The report highlighted key areas which needed to be addressed to encourage more people to use sustainable travel options including: making connections between different steps in the journey, and different modes of transport, easier; and providing better interchange facilities.	The SA framework will need to formulate objectives that address key areas, including encouraging sustainable travel options and promoting lower carbon transport.
Fixing the foundations: Creating a more prosperous nation (HM Treasury, July 2015)	Sets out a 15-point plan to boost the UK's productivity growth around two key pillars: encouraging long-term investment, and promoting a dynamic economy. There is a focus on building more homes that people can afford to buy and a zonal system for brown field land.	The plan will help to inform the SA.
National Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2016 to 2021 (HM Treasury, Infrastructure & Projects Authority, March 2016)	The Plan brings together the government's plans for economic infrastructure with those to support delivery of housing and social infrastructure. Investment will lead to economic benefits of supporting growth and creating jobs and raising the productive capacity of the economy.	The delivery plan will help to inform the SA.

National Plans/Guidance	Implications for the local plan	Implications for SA
Gas Generation Strategy (DECC, 2012)	The government expects gas will continue to play a major role in our electricity mix over the coming decades, alongside low-carbon technologies. Measures outlined in the plan are designed to ensure that: adequate gas generation capacity is available, including ensuring we maintain an appropriate capacity margin to maintain security of electricity supply; flexible plant is available to meet the intermittency associated with renewable sources.	The Strategy highlights the need to ensure gas and other energy supplies are properly planned for.
Localism Act 2011	The aim is to devolve more decision making powers from central government to local communities. The act contains more rights for communities, including the community right to bid for assets of community value, community right to build, and neighbourhood planning.	Duty to co-operate in relation to planning of sustainable development.
National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG, 2019)	Core planning principles include: Proactively drive and support sustainable economic development to deliver the homes, business and industrial units, infrastructure and thriving local places that the country needs. Every effort should be made objectively to identify and then meet the housing, business and other development needs of an area, and respond positively to wider opportunities for growth.	Ensure the priorities are the backbone of the SA: sustainable consumption and production, climate change and energy, protection of natural resources and sustainable communities.

**Figure 30 - Local plans, policies and programmes**

Local Plans/Guidance	Implications for the local plan	Implications for SA
Water Resources Strategy Regional Action Plan for the South West (Environment Agency 2009)	The action plan shows how the South West region will meet the challenges posed by pressures on water resources over a 50 year period. Actions include ensuring the water supply and demand is resilient to the effects of climate change, reducing carbon emissions associated with the supply of water, managing catchments better to protect water resources, enhancing biodiversity, reducing flood risk and improving the water efficiency of new housing and commercial developments.	The action plan highlights the need to manage supply of water and catchments and protect water resources.
South West River Basin Management Plan (Environment Agency, 2009)	Priorities for local government include ensuring that local planning documents take into account the objectives of the SWRBMP.	The management plan emphasizes the importance of mitigation for development that affects water bodies.
Shoreline Management Plan (South Devon and Dorset Coastal Advisory Group, Dec 2010)	The document is an assessment of shoreline and estuary processes. It outlines the approach to managing coastal change in the area. The objectives of SMPs are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve our understanding of coastal processes.</li> <li>• Work in partnership with all interested organisations and the public.</li> <li>• Prepare a setting for the long term planning of coastal defences.</li> <li>• Set out a plan over a 50 year timescale.</li> </ul>	The SA framework should consider impacts on coastal resources in the plan area.
Managing Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk for the Exe Estuary – Final Strategy (Environment Agency, May 2014)	The Strategy has reviewed the policies that are set out in the South Devon and Dorset Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) and covers a 100 year period. Key components are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ maintaining, improving and constructing new coastal defence schemes;</li> <li>○ providing flood warning systems;</li> <li>○ working with local authority planners to restrict development in flood risk areas;</li> <li>○ encouraging the use of flood resilience measures for existing properties in flood risk areas.</li> </ul>	The SA framework should consider impacts on coastal resources in the plan area, and consider objectives to ensure flood risk has been taken account of.
The Nature of Devon – A Biodiversity and Geodiversity Action Plan (DCC, 2009)	Objectives of the action plan include ensuring that planning policies recognise the importance of biodiversity and the geological features of Devon, to ensure consideration is given to nature conservation issues in the implementation of planning.	SA framework should ensure, as far as possible, biodiversity is supported and protected.

Local Plans/Guidance	Implications for the local plan	Implications for SA
Devon Landscape Character Assessment (Devon Landscape Policy Group)	Devon’s landscape character assessment describes the variations in character between different areas and types of landscape in the county. It provides an evidence base for local development frameworks and plans, articulating what people perceive as distinctive and special about all landscapes in Devon. It also set out strategies and guidelines for the protection, management and planning of the landscape.	SA framework should consider the impact on landscape.
Devon Landscape Policy Group Advice Note 2: Guidance on the siting, design & assessment of wind & solar PV developments in Devon. (DCC, June 2013)	Balancing the need to support the transition to a low carbon future and the need for energy security with the management of Devon’s unique and valued landscape is a key challenge. The landscape is also a major contributor to a strong tourism industry. The conservation of special landscape character is a core principle of the NPPF. Devon has good conditions to produce wind and solar electricity, but it is important that the characteristics of Devon’s landscape are not unacceptably harmed by poor design or inappropriate siting of renewable or low carbon technologies.	The advice note highlights the need to harness renewable energy development opportunities in landscape context.
Historic Seascape Characterisation South West Peninsula (English Heritage, Jan 2014)	The report allows an understanding of historic trends and processes to inform and frame the broader sustainable management of change through marine spatial planning, outreach and research projects. It is one of three projects commissioned to complete strategic-level HSC coverage of England’s coasts.	SA framework should consider the impact on marine environment.
Heritage at Risk 2015 / South West (Historic England)	The Register provides an annual snapshot of historic sites known to be at risk from neglect, decay or inappropriate development. It records relevant listed buildings, places of worship, scheduled monuments, industrial sites, conservation areas, parks and gardens, protected wrecks and battlefields.	The SA should contain an objective for and consideration of the protection and enhancement of the historic environment.
Devon Minerals Plan 2016	The plan contains the Council’s vision and objectives for minerals planning and policy framework and site proposals to maintain the supply of minerals and limit the impacts of their working.	The SA framework should consider recognised mineral areas and if possible avoid development of these areas.
Devon Waste Plan 2014	There are six Objectives that identify how sustainable waste management will be achieved, including targets for recycling and energy recovery and measures for the provision of waste management capacity, addressing climate change, supporting communities and businesses, conserving and enhancing Devon’s environment, and the transportation of waste.	SA framework should assess whether the Plan helps to minimise waste.

Local Plans/Guidance	Implications for the local plan	Implications for SA
Devon Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 – 2018)	<p>The Devon Sustainable Community Strategy identifies 7 key priorities for the County:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economy,</li> <li>• Environment,</li> <li>• Health and Wellbeing,</li> <li>• Homes and Housing,</li> <li>• A Safer Devon</li> <li>• Strong and Inclusive Communities</li> <li>• Inspiring Young People.</li> </ul>	SA framework should ensure the strategy objectives related to land-use planning are considered.
Devon Education Infrastructure Plan (2016 – 2033) (DCC)	<p>The key aims of the plan are to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• schools with a clear understanding of how decisions are reached about</li> <li>• pupil planning, estate maintenance processes and capital investment;</li> <li>• Local Planning Authorities and housing developers with an understanding</li> <li>• of their role in supporting the future pattern of education provision;</li> <li>• the wider community with an understanding of how education provision will</li> <li>• be delivered to support the development of Devon over the next 20 years;</li> </ul>	SA should consider educational needs and identify any potential deficiencies.
Devon Partnership Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment Report 2015 (Devon Partnership of local & national park authorities)	<p>The purpose of the assessment is to quantify the accommodation and housing related support needs of Gypsies and Travellers (including Travelling Showpeople) in terms of residential and transit/emergency sites, and bricks and mortar accommodation for the period 2014/15-2034/35.</p>	The assessment will help to inform the SA.
Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Business Plan	<p>Objectives include promoting infrastructure to connect markets. Priorities include addressing existing and future constraints on business growth (emphasising the need for ongoing public and private investment to improve connections into and within the area where current connectivity is impacting on productivity and competitiveness), encouraging the roll out of future electronic communication technologies for the region, encourage a joined up approach to future housing development to secure economic prosperity (including social infrastructure and appropriate affordable housing), ensure an integrated approach to economic development recognising the constraints the planning system can place on business growth, particularly affecting rural businesses.</p>	The business plan will help to inform the SA.

Local Plans/Guidance	Implications for the local plan	Implications for SA
Heart of the South West LEP Strategic Economic Plan 2014 – 2030	This approach has been translated into three core aims. Creating the conditions for growth by Infrastructure and services to underpin growth (transport infrastructure, broadband and mobile connectivity, skills infrastructure), Maximising Productivity and Employment by stimulating jobs and growth across the whole economy to benefit all sectors (including tourism, agriculture and food and drink) and Capitalising on our Distinctive Assets.	SA framework should reflect the main land-use planning related measures of the strategic economic plan.
Local Transport Plan 3, Devon & Torbay Strategy 2011 – 2026 (DCC, 2011) and Implementation Plan (DCC, 2011)	The plan has five key objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver and support new development and economic growth</li> <li>• Make best use of the transport network and protect the existing transport asset by prioritising maintenance;</li> <li>• Work with communities to provide safe, sustainable and low carbon transport choices</li> <li>• Strengthen and improve the public transport network;</li> <li>• Make Devon the ‘place to be naturally active’</li> </ul>	SA should assess how the transport plan helps to deliver travel, transport and movement objectives.
State of Environment report (Devon Local Nature Partnership, updated March 2016)	The report considers trends which point to the future condition of the environment, as well as identifying current and likely future pressures that need to be considered in decision making. Such issues as Accessibility and Recreation, Land Use, Water Environment & Geology and Soil are covered.	The environment report will help to inform the SA.
SWW Water Resources Management Plan 2015 – 2040 (South West Water, June 2014)	The Plan presents supply demand projections to 2039/40 which have been completed in accordance with Environment Agency guidelines. The supply appraisal includes a full assessment of Water Available For Use (WAFU) in each of the three Water Resource Zones (WRZs).	The SA framework will consider relevant objectives for water resources/ environment.
Devon Energy Policy and Action Plan (DCC, Oct 2015)	Sets out responsible energy management through continuous improvement of energy performance in order to avoid unnecessary expenditure, reduce carbon emissions and protect the environment. Commits DCC to reduce its energy consumption from corporate buildings, street lighting and transport by at least 2% per year to achieve a 30% reduction from 2012/13 levels by 2030, together with providing 30% of remaining energy consumption from renewable sources by the same date. The total package will reduce carbon emissions by about 50%.	The SA framework will include objectives to ensure that renewable energy has been taken account of.

Local Plans/Guidance	Implications for the local plan	Implications for SA
Devon Green Infrastructure Strategy (DCC, 2012)	Nine guiding principles promote a joined-up approach to planning and delivery of green infrastructure across local authority boundaries as part of sustainable development delivery.	The SA framework will consider relevant objectives for biodiversity and green infrastructure.
Devon Local Flood Risk Management Strategy – 2014-2020 (DCC, June 2014)	It should act as a first point of call to provide guidance on any flood risk management issues in Devon and sets out principles that will balance the needs of communities, the economy and the environment through partnership working, with effective and sustainable risk management and prioritisation.	The SA framework will consider objectives to ensure flood risk has been taken fully into account.
Western Power Distribution Business Plan (R110-ED1) 2015-2023. (April 2014)	WPD is a Distribution Network Operator (DNO) and distributes electricity to 7.8 million customers across the Midlands, South Wales and the South West. The greatest challenge to be faced is adaptation of networks and business processes to the demand for a low carbon environment. The plan has used a 'best view' of the scale of low carbon technology and its impact on the network as informed by independent analysis. Alternative scenarios have been modelled to provide a range of potential outcomes.	The WPD business plan will help to inform the SA.
4 <sup>th</sup> Devon Local Aggregate Assessment 2005 – 2014. (DCC, Feb 2016)	Devon's diverse geology results in a wide range of land-won aggregate resources being available. The LAA is required to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• forecast the demand for aggregates based on average 10 year sales data and other relevant local information,</li> <li>• analyse all aggregate supply options and,</li> <li>• assess the balance between demand &amp; supply.</li> </ul>	The Devon Assessment will help to inform the SA.
Devon Rural Housing Enabler Business Plan 2014 -2018 (Devon RHE Team, April 2015)	The main aims are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to support delivery of affordable rural housing through partnership working,</li> <li>• Support partners in responding to changing external environment and developing new and innovative methods of delivering affordable rural housing,</li> <li>• Continue to evidence the need and make the case for affordable rural housing,</li> <li>• Build a long-term sustainable RHE programme along socially enterprising lines.</li> </ul>	SA should ensure affordable rural housing aims are taken into account.
East Devon Council Plan 2016 - 2020	The plan's identified priorities are for encouraging communities to be outstanding, developing an outstanding local economy and delivering and promoting an outstanding environment.	SA framework should be broadly compatible with the corporate priorities.

Local Plans/Guidance	Implications for the local plan	Implications for SA
East Devon Local Plan 2013- 2031	A vision for East Devon to: play its part in boosting the economy of the Exeter sub-region by encouraging significant growth within the West End of the district, provide for more balanced communities where homes and jobs are in better alignment by for example providing major employment, housing and community facilities in Exmouth.	SA/SEA of the Local Plan has been carried out.
East Devon Community Infrastructure Levy – Charging Schedule & Infrastructure List and funding statement	East Devon DC is the Charging Authority for the East Devon Local Plan Area. The CIL raised will be spent within communities on improving and providing new infrastructure services, including roads, education, recreation, public transport etc. The latest Regulation 123 List has thirteen projects or infrastructure, including Exmouth Regeneration Area Projects, Exe Estuary Mitigation and Clyst Valley Regional Park.	SA may consider the economic, social and environmental benefits or costs resulting from the CIL.
East Devon AONB Management Strategy 2014 – 2019.	The primary purpose of AONB status is to conserve and enhance natural beauty. The strategy has key purposes to: present an integrated vision for the future of the AONB, highlight its special qualities, set out key objectives and policies with key priorities to help secure these qualities.	SA framework should consider the impact on landscape and related objectives identified in the management strategy.
Cranbrook Plan DPD (Draft version)	Cranbrook is a new community in East Devon close to the city of Exeter. The DPD will help shape and direct future development. An Issues and Options Report was published in June 2016 for consultation purposes.	An SA of the document is being carried out.
Blackdown Hills AONB Management Plan 2014 – 2019	The plan describes the special qualities of the area and why the AONB is important, sets out an agreed vision for its future, identifies the challenges and opportunities for the area, and how these will be tackled. It sets out the objectives and policies for managing the AONB that will work towards achieving the longer term vision. There are three main themes divided into several topics; Landscape - topics related to the primary purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty, Sustainable Development – topics related to the secondary purposes of recognising the economic and social needs of the local community, promoting sustainability and recreation and finally Communication and Management – the core functions of AONB management.	SA framework should consider the impact on landscape and related objectives identified in the management plan.
Neighbourhood plans	Most of East Devon now has made neighbourhood plans.	The SA framework will need to consider objectives in neighbourhood plans.