

Filtered Data Export

Full name: Jo Wilkins

Organisation (where relevant): Somerset Council

Other party name (if relevant): -

Proposal: 1. Introduction

1. To which part of the Introduction chapter does your representation relate?:

Paragraph

1(a). Please write down the paragraph, policy or figure number that your representation relates to.: 1.1

4. Do you consider that this part of the Introduction chapter complies with the duty to cooperate?: Yes

4(a). If yes, and you wish to support this part of the Introduction chapter's compliance with the duty to co-operate, please use this box to set out your comments.: The comments in this response focus on matters relating to strategic cross-boundary issues. They should be read in conjunction with the submissions on behalf of the former South Somerset District Council in January 2023 in response to the Consultation Draft Plan (Regulation 18) and those submitted on behalf of Somerset Council in response to the Further Consultation in June 2024.

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Proposal: 3. The Spatial Strategy

1. To which part of the Spatial Strategy chapter does your representation relate?:

Policy

1(a). Please write down the paragraph, policy or figure number that your representation relates to.: SP02

3. Do you consider that this part of the Spatial Strategy chapter is sound?: Yes

3(a). If yes, and you wish to support the soundness of this part of the Spatial Strategy chapter, please use this box to set out your comments.: Somerset Council agrees that Annex 1, para 234 of the NPPF, December 2024 applies to this Local Plan consultation and notes that the LPA is seeking to meet their housing and employment needs within their own district boundary. On a general point it is noted that the Housing Delivery Technical paper mistakenly refers to an annual local housing need figure of 1,146 homes instead of the 1,188 homes referred to in the publication Plan.

8.

Somerset Council confirms that it raises no issues regarding the soundness of the East Devon Local Plan 2020 to 2042.

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Proposal: 5. Development in the Towns and Villages

1. To which part of the Development in the Towns and Villages chapter does your representation relate?: Policy

1(a). Please write down the paragraph, policy or figure number that your representation relates to.: SD02

3. Do you consider that this part of the Development in the Towns and Villages chapter is sound?: Yes

3(a). If yes, and you wish to support the soundness of this part of the Development in the Towns and Villages chapter, please use this box to set out your comments.:

Proposed Growth at Axminster

3.

It is noted that at least 1,409 dwellings and 4.8 ha of employment land is proposed at Axminster across a number of allocations (Policies SP03 and SD02). Axminster is located to the west of the border between Somerset and East Devon. The Primary Market Town of Chard is located within Somerset approximately 11 km east of Axminster. The former South Somerset District Council previously commented on the potential impact of additional traffic generation to employment areas at Chard because of planned growth at Axminster.

4.

Submitted evidence base document East Devon Local Plan 2020 – 2042 Forecast Impact on the Strategic Road Network Honiton and Axminster, January 2025 has assessed the impact of proposed allocations on the junctions with the strategic road network (SRN) at Honiton and Axminster and has confirmed that there is capacity on the SRN for the proposed growth, this is welcomed. The allocation of employment land providing job opportunities along with housing should help to increase the self-containment of Axminster. No objections are raised.

4. Do you consider that this part of the Development in the Towns and Villages chapter complies with the duty to cooperate?: Yes

4(a). If yes, and you wish to support this part of the Development in the Towns and Villages chapter's compliance with the duty to co-operate, please use this box to set out your comments.: Nutrient Neutrality – River Axe Special Area of Conservation

5.

Somerset Council has been working with the Lead Authority, East Devon DC to address the issues relating to nutrient neutrality in the River Axe Special Area of Conservation. The East Devon Local Plan Key Supporting Document KSD – 02 Duty to Co-operate Regulation 19 Consultation identifies that this matter is ongoing. Somerset Council confirm that they will continue to work with East Devon Council to address this issue and will contribute to any subsequent Statement of Common Ground. The inclusion of Strategic Policy PB04: Habitats Regulation Assessment, particularly the section on nutrient neutrality in the River Axe SAC catchment is welcomed.