

Upottery Parish Council Response to Regulation 19 Consultation on East Devon District Council Local Plan 2020-2040

28 March 2025

Thank you for the invitation to respond to the Regulation 19 consultation on the draft EDDC Local Plan. We recognise that the consultation response is restricted to specific aspects. We have previously made representations in writing and at Planning Committee meetings regarding the process by which the plan was developed, and in particular the application of the spatial strategy to Upottery.

The Parish Council's position is that we see a need for modest, sustainable growth in housing of up to 20 new homes over the period of the Local Plan. Upottery has, however, been classified as an 'unsustainable' settlement and therefore the Plan makes no provision for such growth. We have previously stated our concerns about the process involved in coming to this conclusion, which attaches significance to outdated facilities such as libraries while ignoring modern amenities such as superfast broadband; as a result we feel our thriving and vibrant community with a busy pub and popular school has been judged unfairly. The binary choice between 'unsustainable' and 'sustainable' seems to equate to a dilemma between being foisted with the possibility of large developments and the denial of the modest growth our community needs. Judging all settlements against a single comparatively simple scale does not reflect the diversity and qualities of communities in this area.

For these reasons, we are raising a question over the **soundness** of the plan, in that by failing to meet our Parish's housing needs it is not **positively prepared**, and in that we do not think the process of determining the status of settlements is sound, that it is not fully **justified**.

Paul Kendall,
Chair, Upottery Parish Council

