

Filtered Data Export

Full name: Planning Policy Team

Organisation (where relevant): Somerset Council

Proposal: 13. Our Outstanding Biodiversity and Geodiversity

1. To which part of the Our Outstanding Biodiversity and Geodiversity chapter does your representation relate?: Policy

1(a). Please write down the paragraph, policy or figure number that your representation relates to.: PB04

1(b). Does your comment relate to one of the changes listed above?: No

2. Do you consider that this part of the Our Outstanding Biodiversity and Geodiversity chapter is legally compliant?: Yes

2(a). If yes, and you wish to support the legal compliance of this part of the Our Outstanding Biodiversity and Geodiversity chapter, please use this box to set out your comments.: Nutrient Neutrality – River Axe Special Area of Conservation

6. As previously noted, 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. This matter is ongoing. Somerset Council confirm that they will 16 January 2026 continue to work with East Devon Council to address this issue. As previously stated, the inclusion of Strategic Policy PB04: Habitats Regulation Assessment, particularly the section on nutrient neutrality in the River Axe SAC catchment is welcomed.

3. Do you consider that this part of the Our Outstanding Biodiversity and Geodiversity chapter is sound?: Yes

3(a). If yes, and you wish to support the soundness of this part of the Our Outstanding Biodiversity and Geodiversity chapter, please use this box to set out your comments.: Nutrient Neutrality – River Axe Special Area of Conservation

6. As previously noted, 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. This matter is ongoing. Somerset Council confirm that they will 16 January 2026 continue to work with East Devon Council to address this issue. As previously stated, the inclusion of Strategic Policy PB04: Habitats Regulation Assessment, particularly the section on nutrient neutrality in the River Axe SAC catchment is welcomed.

4. Do you consider that this part of the Our Outstanding Biodiversity and Geodiversity chapter complies with the duty to cooperate?: Yes

4(a). If yes, and you wish to support this part of the Our Outstanding Biodiversity and Geodiversity 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

6. As previously noted, 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. This matter is ongoing. Somerset Council confirm that they will 16 January 2026 continue to work with East Devon Council to address this issue. As previously stated, the inclusion of Strategic Policy PB04: Habitats Regulation Assessment, particularly the section on nutrient neutrality in the River Axe SAC catchment is welcomed.

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Organisation (where relevant): Somerset Council

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(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.: Yes

4(b). If no, please give details of why you consider this part of the Introduction chapter fails to comply with the duty to co-operate. Please be as precise as possible.: Duty to Cooperate

8. The Draft Statement of Compliance CSD-010a identifies housing – issues H01-H03, Employment - Issue E01, Climate Change – Issue C01 and Water Quality – Issue W01 as being strategic cross boundary issues with Somerset. It is agreed that these are relevant issues for cooperation.

9. Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) on Housing, Employment and Site Allocations, Environment and Infrastructure and Transport have been produced (CSD-010b-d). Signatures have not been sought at this stage, but the documents confirm that Somerset Council will be invited to sign the Housing, Employment and Site Allocations and the Environment and Infrastructure SoCGs at the Submission stage of the plan-making process. Somerset Council confirms that it looks forward to receiving the final versions of the relevant SoCGs for review and signing and that it will continue to engage with East Devon Council on strategic cross-boundary issues. 10. Paragraph 5.17 of CSD – 010b states the following: It is agreed between East Devon, Dorset, Somerset, Mid Devon, Exeter, Teignbridge and Torbay that, any consideration of meeting the housing requirements of other LPA's should be informed by a joint objective assessment, to an agreed and defined methodology, that runs across local authority boundaries to assess suitability for development of potential housing developments sites. It is suggested that this may require amendment given that Somerset and Dorset are now part of the Wessex Partnership. 11. East Devon will be aware that the statutory Duty to Cooperate (DtC) was abolished in primary legislation under the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023, which gained Royal Assent in October 2023. The Act removes the obligation for

local planning authorities to formally collaborate on strategic planning matters during local plan preparation and replaces it with a new "flexible alignment" requirement. However, these provisions have not taken effect yet and not in force until enabling regulations are published. The government has not yet specified a timetable for bringing those regulations into effect. 16 January 2026 General 12. Somerset Council confirms that it raises no issues regarding the soundness of the East Devon Local Plan 2020 to 2042.

Full name: Planning Policy Team

Organisation (where relevant): Somerset Council

Other party name (if relevant):

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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

1(b). Does your comment relate to one of the changes listed above?: No

2. Do you consider that this part of the Development in the Towns and Villages chapter is legally compliant?: Yes

2(a). If yes, and you wish to support the legal compliance 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 total of at least 1,391 dwellings (down from 1,409) and 2.8 ha of employment land plus an unspecified amount of employment land as part of the mixed-use allocations on Land at Axminster Carpets (Axmi_07) and Websters Garage (Axmi_17) is proposed at Axminster. The employment allocation on land west of Musbury Road is proposed to be deleted.

4. 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.

5. Submitted evidence base document East Devon Local Plan 2020 – 2042 Forecast Impact on the Strategic Road Network Honiton and Axminster, January 2025 (TRI-022) 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.

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

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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.: Proposed Growth at Axminster

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Proposal:

8. Meeting Housing Needs

1. To which part of the Meeting Housing Needs chapter does your representation relate?: Policy

1(a). Please write down the paragraph, policy or figure number that your representation relates to.: HN09

1(b). Does your comment relate to one of the changes listed above?: No

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

4(a). If yes, and you wish to support this part of the Meeting Housing Needs chapter's compliance with the duty to co-operate, please use this box to set out your comments.: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

7. It is noted that East Devon DC can accommodate the housing needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople within their own district boundary. As an adjoining LPA East Devon will be aware that Somerset Council have commissioned their own Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment which is now expected to be finalised in early 2026. This will remain an area for continued engagement.