Dear Sir/Madam,

In respect of the amendments to the Sustainability Appraisal, I would like to make the following comments.

On pp 41-42 in Table 5 – Summary of Site Option areas, you comment on Cullompton as an option for further housing resulting from the junction 27 development that it is unsuitable because of required infrastructure improvements.

Specifically it is stated:

“The required infrastructure improvements will be delivered in line with the phased delivery of the key strategic housing allocations planned for Cullompton. Any additional development on top of the current Local Plan allocations would therefore not be appropriate until longer-term strategic highway improvements have been delivered. Cullompton is therefore not considered as a reasonably appropriate location to meet the extra housing need.”

On the one hand most local residents would feel strongly that the recent delivery of additional housing around Cullompton has not been accompanied by adequate road infrastructure improvements.
The statement also calls into question again MDDC’s selection of Cullompton as a preferred focus of growth in the Plan. It is clear that it is an inferior site to the alternatives without infrastructure delivery, and there is considerable doubt as to whether the necessary infrastructure can be delivered.

In that regard it is also disappointing to see the repeated delay in releasing the Environment Agency report relating to flood risk around junction 28.

Yours faithfully,
Nicholas Allan