

Date: 10 April 2018  
Our ref: 240182  
Your ref:



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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

**Planning consultation: Mid Devon Local Plan – Sustainability Appraisal update**

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 27 February 2018.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

We understand that this consultation is mostly about the process of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and the update on the SA as undertaken for the proposed modifications to the Mid Devon Local Plan Review. Based on the materials provided, we are satisfied that the SA process as carried out is fit for purpose.

There are a number of issues which we identified in our response to the previous Mid Devon Local Plan review consultation which are not yet reflected in this latest update on the SA. We have discussed this matter with you and we have agreed that all further changes that may be required to the Local Plan and its SA will be dealt with through a Statement of Common Ground between Mid Devon District Council and Natural England, to be published and submitted prior to the Local Plan hearings.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Corine Dyke on 02080 268177 or [corine.dyke@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:corine.dyke@naturalengland.org.uk). For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

Corine Dyke  
Lead Adviser  
Sustainable Development Team – Devon, Cornwall & Isles of Scilly

## **Planning Consultation (DPD)**

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**From:** Dyke, Corine (NE)  
**Sent:** 10 April 2018 09:22  
**To:** Planning Consultation (DPD)

**Subject:** Mid Devon DC SA Update Consultation  
**Attachments:** 240182 Mid Devon Local Plan – Sustainability Appraisal update.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Please find attached Natural England's response to the SA update consultation. Please note that I have added a paragraph about a Statement of Common Ground as discussed with Poie yesterday. I will send an example of a recent SoCG separately for your information; you may wish to use the same format for a SoCG between us. It would be useful to then have another meeting or telecall to discuss the next steps.

Kind regards  
Corine

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**From:** Planning Consultation (DPD) [<mailto:planningconsultations@middevon.gov.uk>]  
**Sent:** 27 February 2018 12:45  
**Subject:** MDDC SA Update Consultation

Dear Sir/ Madam

### **Consultation on the Schedule of amendments made to the Sustainability Appraisal Update 2017**

I am writing to let you know about a six week consultation the Council is holding. This is in relation to the Sustainability Appraisal work undertaken for proposed modifications made to the Mid Devon Local Plan Review.

The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a process that must be undertaken to look at the economic, social and environmental effects of the Local Plan. This background evidence has been used by the Council to help the make sure the Local Plan will achieve sustainable development.

The Mid Devon Local Plan Review (incorporating proposed modifications) was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in March 2017 for its examination. However, the Council requested an adjournment of the examination hearings due to take place in September 2017. This was so that an independent assessment of the Sustainability Appraisal work for the proposed modifications could be undertaken.

The independent assessment by consultant LUC is now complete. LUC has made recommendations to the Council which has required further work to the Sustainability Appraisal to make it clearer and easier to understand. LUC has found the Sustainability Appraisal work in relation to the proposed modifications made to the Mid Devon Local Plan Review to be 'proportionate and appropriate' to meet the legal requirements.

The Council has now published an updated Sustainability Appraisal report (2018), a schedule of amendments made to the previous Sustainability Appraisal Update report (2017), LUC

consultant's report, and an Executive Summary of the SA Review process. These documents are available to see at the Council's offices at Phoenix House, Tiverton, and public libraries in Mid Devon. They can also be seen on our website at <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/residents/planning-policy/local-plan-review/>.

Planning officers will be available at Mid Devon District Council, Phoenix House in Tiverton during the consultation at the following times to answer queries on the schedule of amendments made to the Sustainability Appraisal Update Report:

- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March 10am – 1pm
- Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March 10am – 1pm
- Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 1pm – 4pm

Formal representations are now invited on the schedule of amendments made to the Sustainability Appraisal Update (2017). These must be made in writing (by post to Forward Planning, Mid Devon District Council, Phoenix House, Phoenix Lane EX16 6PP or by email to [planningconsultations@middevon.gov.uk](mailto:planningconsultations@middevon.gov.uk)) and be received on or before **11 April 2018 (midnight)**. When making a representation you must include your name and full postal address, otherwise your comments cannot be registered. Your comments will be published on our website, including your name and address. Addresses will only be used by the Council to inform people about the new Local Plan and other planning matters.

**Please note that this consultation invites representations on the schedule of amendments made to the Sustainability Appraisal Update (2017) only and not the Local Plan Review (which remains unchanged) or its accompanying Community Infrastructure (CIL) Draft Charging Schedule.**

All representations received on the schedule will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, where they can be considered together with all other consultation responses previously made on the Local Plan. It is anticipated the examination hearings can then be reconvened later this year at a date that is set by the Planning Inspectorate.

Yours sincerely,

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