



MID DEVON LOCAL PLAN REVIEW 2013 – 2033

Proposed Submission (incorporating proposed modifications) Examination

Inspector: Paul Griffiths BSc (Hons) BArch IHBC

Main Hearings - Hearing 4: Tuesday 19th February 2019

Matters and Issues

Development Management Policies

Statement of Mid Devon District Council

ISSUE 16 Is Draft Policy DM18 (Rural Employment Development) appropriate?

- 16.1 The rural economy is an important part of Mid Devon’s overall economy. Paragraph 28 of the NPPF requires Plans to support economic growth in rural areas. Policy DM18 is unchanged from Policy DM20 of the Development Management Policies DPD, which was adopted in November 2013 and previously examined for soundness according to the 2012 version of the NPPF.
- 16.2 The Council carried out a Farm Diversification Study Update in 2012 (Document ECO06). This found that farm diversification was a significant part of Mid Devon’s rural economy and recommended that the Development management Polices DPD (then in preparation) should contain specific policies to support and guide rural diversification. The Development Management Policies DPD followed these recommendations.
- 16.3 There were no objections to the policy at the 2017 or 2015 consultations (Willand Parish Council is coded as having made a general comment and Savilles for the Caravan Club (5789) cite it but do not object).
- 16.4 The criteria set out in Policy DM18 regarding highway network, avoiding harmful countryside impact and prioritising the reuse of buildings where possible, are all reasonable policy considerations, supported by the NPPF.