



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 18 Is Draft Policy DM20 (Agricultural development) properly defined and is it necessary.

- 18.1 Agricultural is an important part of Mid Devon’s economy, directly employing 8% of the Mid Devon workforce. An estimated 18.5% of Mid Devon businesses are dependent on agriculture.
- 18.2 The Council is, of course, aware that a wide range of agricultural development is permitted development under Part 6 of the General Permitted Development order (2015) as amended. A significant amount of non-agricultural development on farms is also permitted with “Prior Approval”. However, the Council receives a large number of applications for agricultural development. It is reasonable for the Local Plan to contain a policy setting out considerations for agricultural development that do require planning permission, particularly given its importance in the local economy.
- 18.3 Policy DM20 has been carried over unchanged from Policy DM21 of the Development Management Policies DPD (LDO03), which was previously examined under the NPPF. There were no objections to the Policy at either the 2015 or 2017 consultation stages, (Willand Parish Council (44) are coded as having made a generalised comment).
- 18.4 Policy DM20 recognises the need for a prosperous agricultural sector and the importance of wider environmental protection.