



**Adopted Mid Devon Local Plan 2013-2033**  
**Sustainability Appraisal Post-Adoption Statement**  
**July 2020**

## Contents

	<b>Page</b>
1 Introduction	3
2 How environmental and sustainability considerations have been integrated into the Mid Devon Local Plan	7
3 How the Environmental/SA Report has been taken into account	10
4 How opinions of consultation bodies and the public have been taken into account	12
5 Why the adopted Local Plan was chosen in light of reasonable alternatives	14
6 How will the environmental and sustainability effects of the Local Plan be monitored?	16
Appendix 1: Signposting Table of how the SA composite meets the SEA Directive Requirements	23

## 1 Introduction

1.1 Mid Devon District Council adopted the Mid Devon Local Plan on 29 July 2020.

1.2 During the preparation of the Mid Devon Local Plan the Council was required by law (Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 ["the SEA Regulations"]) to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the plan as it developed. This legal requirement is an important element of testing the "soundness" of local plans that is required by National Planning Policy Framework 2012 paragraph 182. Both the SA and SEA requirements were met through a single integrated process (referred to as SA), the method and findings of which were described in a number of SA reports published alongside the different versions of the Mid Devon Local Plan during its development.

1.3 Regulation 26 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations (2012) requires the Council to make the final SA Report available alongside the Adopted Local Plan. The SA Report for the Mid Devon Local Plan is set out in several documents which reflects the evolving ('iterative') process of Local Plans and with them their SA's. These are:

- SA Scoping Report (2013)
- SA Interim Report (2014)
- SA Proposed Submission Consultation Report (2015)
- SA Update (2017)
- SA Update (2018)
- SA Implications in relation to the Council's proposed draft Main Modifications in relation to the housing trajectory and the remedies suggested by the Inspector (2019)
- SA Addendum (2019)

1.4 The SA Scoping Report (2013) was the first stage in the preparation of an SA for the new Local Plan and was published alongside the initial consultation on the scope of the Local Plan held July-August 2013. The SA Scoping Report set out the baseline information about Mid Devon and a framework to assess sustainability as part of the SA.

1.5 The SA Interim Report (2014) was published alongside the Local Plan Review Options Consultation January-March 2014. The SA Interim Report built on the initial findings of the SA and took an initial assessment of the effects of the Local Plan against the framework of indicators proposed within the scoping report. It included a number of initial recommendations against each option policy or site in order to mitigate their negative effects.

1.6 The SA Proposed Submission Consultation Report (2015) was published alongside the Local Plan Review Proposed Submission Consultation February-April 2015. The SA Proposed Submission Consultation Report (2015) took into account representations

received regarding significant effects of the plan during the consultation period of the SA Scoping Report (2013) and SA Interim Report (2014) and amendments were made to the Local Plan and SA accordingly. The SA Proposed Submission Consultation Report (2015) set out a summary of the findings of the Scoping Report and Interim Report, it assessed the sustainability of the options and reasonable alternatives considered in the preparation of the Local Plan. It identified potential significant effects resulting from the implementation of the Local Plan and outlined a proposed monitoring strategy to measure the effects of implementing the Local Plan.

- 1.7 The SA Update (2017) was published alongside the Local Plan Review Proposed Submission (incorporating proposed modifications) Consultation January-February 2017. The SA Update (2017) presented further SA work that was undertaken since the 2015 Proposed Submission consultation and addressed proposed modifications to the Local Plan Review. Specifically it included information about SA related consultation comments received in 2015, further reasonable alternative options, new information sources and SA related consultation comments where relevant. Detailed SA matrices for new and revised options and reasons for selecting or rejecting alternatives based on the information presented was set out.
- 1.8 The SA Update (2018) was published alongside an independent Review of Sustainability Appraisal Update in relation to the main Modifications made to the Mid Devon Local Plan Review: Review of Legal Compliance Consultation February-April 2018. The amendments add greater clarity to the SA but do not amend the content of the Mid Devon Local Plan Review (incorporating proposed modifications) submitted to the Inspector in 2017.
- 1.9 The SA Implications in relation to the Council's proposed draft Main Modifications in relation to the housing trajectory and the remedies suggested by the Inspector (2019) was published alongside the Draft Housing Land Supply Update (2019) during the examination of the Local Plan in July 2019. This assessed the SA implications of the proposed draft Main Modifications in relation to the housing trajectory and the remedies suggested by the Inspector. It summarises that the findings of this SA show that the proposed drafted Main Modifications will not have a material change on the previous assessments of sites in the SA and the assessment of further 'reasonable alternatives' is not necessary.
- 1.10 The SA Addendum (2019) was published alongside a Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications to the Plan which was prepared in response to the Main Modifications the Planning Inspector deemed necessary to make the plan sound as set out in his Post-Hearings advice note in May 2019. The SA Addendum presents an appraisal of the Proposed Main Modifications and considers their implications for the SA findings reported previously. It builds on and supersedes the appraisal work previously presented in the SA Implications in relation to the Council's proposed draft Modifications in relation to the housing trajectory and remedies suggested by the Inspector (2019).
- 1.11 On the 26 June 2020 Mid Devon District Council received the Inspector's Report on the Examination of the Mid Devon Local Plan Review 2013-2033. Following consultation on the Main Modifications and SA Addendum (2019), the Inspector amended detailed

wording and/or consequential modifications where necessary. The Inspector clearly notes that none of the amendments significantly alter the content of the modifications as published for consultation or undermines the participatory processes and SA that has been undertaken. As such, the Sustainability Appraisal undertaken on the Main Modifications previously, and consulted on, remains adequate. The amendments from the Inspector on the Main Modifications are summarised as follows:

- MMs to establish a proper link between the development of housing and related infrastructure and to provide for a trajectory that should ensure a rolling five-year supply of deliverable housing sites;
- A group of MMs necessary to allow the Plan to properly provide for the needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Show-People;
- MMs to ensure the major development proposed at Junction 27 of the M5 is brought forward in an acceptable way;
- MMs to deal with constraints relating to the allocation under Policy SP2; and
- Various MMs to ensure that development management policies are effective and consistent with national policy.

### ***Requirement for the Adoption Statement***

1.12 In addition to the requirement in Regulation 26 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations (2012) for publishing the final SA Report alongside the Adopted Local Plan, the SEA Regulations<sup>1</sup> also requires steps to be taken upon adoption of a Local Plan (in this case the Mid Devon Local Plan). Specifically, SEA Regulation 16 sets out the post-adoption procedures for the SEA and requires that as soon as reasonably practicable after the adoption of a plan for which an SA/SEA has been carried out, the planning authority must make a copy of the plan publicly available alongside a copy of the SA report and an 'SEA adoption statement', and consultation bodies, persons who in relation to the plan were public consultees and the Secretary of State about the availability of these documents. The consultation bodies are Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency. The SEA post-adoption statement must set out:

- How environmental (and sustainability) considerations have been integrated into the plan.
- How the Environmental Report (contained within the SA Report) has been taken into account during preparation of the plan.
- How the opinions expressed by the public, consultation bodies and (where appropriate) other European Member States during consultation on the plan and the Environmental/SA Report have been taken into account.

---

<sup>1</sup> The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 - SI No. 1633.

- The reasons for choosing the plan as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives considered.
- The measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental and sustainability effects of the implementation of the plan.

1.13 As the SEA process was incorporated into the SA process, this document constitutes the SEA Post-Adoption Statement for the Mid Devon Local Plan and given that the SEA was incorporated into the SA process it is titled the “Adopted Mid Devon Local Plan 2013-2033: SA Post-Adoption Statement July 2020”. The document is structured according to the SEA Regulation requirements listed above:

- **Section 2** summarises how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan by explaining who carried out the SA/SEA and what assessment framework was used.
- **Section 3** summarises how the Environmental/SA report has been taken into account by demonstrating its role in decision making.
- **Section 4** summarises how the opinions of consultation bodies and the public have been taken into account throughout the SA process
- **Section 5** summarises why the adopted Local Plan was chosen in light of reasonable alternatives and sets out where the Environmental/SA report outlines the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with.
- **Section 6** describes how the environmental and sustainability effects of the Local Plan will be monitored.

## 2 How environmental and sustainability considerations have been integrated into the Mid Devon Local Plan

2.1 The purpose of the SA is to promote sustainable development by assessing the extent to which the emerging plan, when judged against reasonable alternatives, will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives. The process was an opportunity to consider ways by which the plan could contribute to improvements in environmental, social and economic conditions, as well as a means of identifying and mitigating any potential adverse effects that the plan might otherwise have. In doing so, it helped make sure that the proposals in the plan are appropriate given the reasonable alternatives.

2.2 The way in which the environmental and sustainability effects of the Local Plan were described, analysed and compared was through the use of a set of SA objectives. The SA objectives for the Local Plan were developed by the Council during the Scoping stage of the SA process, drawing on a review of relevant European, national and regional policies, plans and programmes and the objectives they contained. This was originally presented in the Council's 2013 SA Scoping Report and resulted in a SA 'framework' comprised of 9 SA objectives which covered all the SEA topics listed in Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations.

2.3 This SA framework was the main tool used at each stage of the SA for assessing the likely effects of the options and policies for the Local Plan. Using the same SA framework ensured that alternatives were assessed in a comparable way to the options previously considered as part of developing the Mid Devon Local Plan. This framework is set out in Table 1 below:

<b>Sustainability objective</b>	<b>Elements covered</b>
A) Protection of the natural environment	Habitats and biodiversity; flora and fauna; protected species; landscape
B) Protection and promotion of a quality built environment	Heritage assets, including listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled ancient monuments, registered parks and gardens, locally listed assets, archaeology; design and quality of development
C) Mitigating the effects of climate change	Reduced flood risk; promotion of low carbon or renewable energy; reductions in carbon emissions; walking and cycling provision; low carbon buildings
D) Safeguarding and minimising resource use	Quality of soils, including contaminated land; water quality, including consideration of water framework directive objectives;

	minimisation of waste; impact on best and most versatile agricultural land
E) Promoting economic growth and employment	Increasing jobs; reducing out-commuting; skills training; growth of rural businesses; tourism provision
F) Supporting retail	Safeguarding the vitality and viability of town centres; relationship between new development and town centres; supporting viability of shopping facilities in villages
G) Meeting housing needs	Supply of housing; housing mix; house size; housing affordability; appropriate housing density to location; proximity to services and facilities
H) Ensuring community health and wellbeing	Community support for proposals; access to open space and recreation; limiting air, noise and light pollution to levels that do not damage human health or natural systems; integrated and sustainable forms of travel including walking, cycling and public transport; social deprivation; safe and secure environments
I) Delivering the necessary infrastructure	Roads and transportation; schools; health services; community facilities; green infrastructure; telecommunications

2.4 The Local Plan was also required to be subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). The purpose of HRA is to assess the impacts of a land-use plan against the conservation objectives of a European designated site for nature conservation and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of that site. The HRA process for the Mid Devon Local Plan was undertaken separately from the SA but the findings of the HRA Reports informed the SA process.

2.5 In using the SA framework to assess the potential effects of the Local Plan objectives, environmental and sustainability considerations were integrated into site options and policies as they were drafted. This included SA matrices which indicated pre and post-mitigation measures, assessment of cumulative and secondary effects and suggested policy criterion and amendments to options which has led to the final composite of the Mid Devon Local Plan.

2.6 The SA (incorporating SEA) of the Mid Devon Local Plan was commenced by Mid Devon District Council with the publishing of the SA Scoping Report in July 2013 alongside the initial consultation on the scope of the Local Plan. Iterative stages of the SA were then



published by Mid Devon District Council alongside the relevant stages of the Local Plan Review process which were the 2014 SA Interim Report, 2015 SA Proposed Submission Consultation Report, 2017 SA Update, 2018 SA Update following an independent review of the 2017 SA Update, 2019 SA Implications in relation to the Council's proposed draft Main Modifications in relation to the housing trajectory and the remedies suggested by the Inspector and 2019 SA Addendum. All of the above documents with the exception of the 2019 SA Addendum were produced in-house by Mid Devon District Council. Mid Devon District Council has also prepared this SA Post-Adoption Statement. The Independent Review of the 2017 SA Update which led to the 2018 SA Update was undertaken by consultant LUC. LUC also completed the 2019 SA Addendum which presents an appraisal of Proposed Main Modifications consulted upon and considers their implications for the SA findings reported previously.

- 2.7 The Policies and site allocations in the Local Plan and the reasonable alternatives considered during its preparation were subject to a detailed appraisal against the SA objectives. The SA was undertaken iteratively informing the development of the plan, such that at each stage of the Local Plan's preparation an assessment of the sustainability and environmental effects of the options for the Local Plan and subsequently its policies were made. SA Reports were produced alongside each published stage of the Local Plan to describe the approach taken, identify the likely effects, and put forward recommendations to avoid or minimise negative effects identified or to enhance potential positive effects.
- 2.8 It is concluded that the SA has played an integral role in the development of the Local Plan Review and has been used to consider the various strategic options and inform the most sustainable approach for the District. The SA has led to the refinement of policies to minimise adverse impacts and has ensured that sustainability issues for the District are addressed. In general, the Local Plan is found to have a wide range of positive and significant positive effects on the SA objectives, both cumulatively and through individual policies. Recommendations made in previous iterations of the SA report and the proposed submission SA report have generally been thoroughly addressed, which has provided mitigation for potential adverse effects for both individual policies/proposals and the Local Plan as a whole. In this way, environmental and sustainability considerations were integrated into the Local Plan as it was developed.

### 3 How the Environmental/SA Report has been taken into account

3.1 As already stated, the SA process for the Mid Devon Local Plan was undertaken iteratively, such that an assessment of the sustainability and environmental effects was made at each stage of the Local Plan's development. Chapter 4 in the 2015 SA Proposed Submission set out the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, with much of the reasons setting out the findings of the Environmental/SA report in reaching a decision on preferred options at that time.

3.2 The 2017 SA Update responded to alternatives arising from the Local Plan Review Proposed Submission Consultation (2015) as well as new information presenting itself in which a number of modifications were made in response to this with Annex 2 of the 2017 SA Update setting out the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with again with much of the reasons setting out the findings of the Environmental/SA report in reaching a decision on preferred options. Annex 4 of the 2017 Update sets out the a summary of the revised SA of the Plan whereby a number of modifications to the proposed policies and supporting text were proposed and led to changes to the Local Plan before being submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in March 2017. Further to this the 2019 SA Addendum sets out reasonable alternatives and reasons for selecting the proposed Main Modifications as published during the time of examination.

3.3 In the SA Update 2018 a series of amendments were made to add clarity to the SA. This included a signposting table which set out the SEA Directive Requirements and how this is met by the Mid Devon Local Plan SA composite. An updated signposting table is provided in Appendix 1 to reflect how the SA Addendum 2019 and this document "Adopted Mid Devon local Plan 2013-2033: SA Post-Adoption Statement July 2020" adds to the SA composite in meeting the SEA directive requirements. Within this table how the environmental/SA report and the results of consultations were taken into account in decision making is detailed. In summary in relation to how the Environmental/SA Report has been taken into account this is as follows:

- **Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (2013)** – Consultation commenced on the Local Plan Review Scoping Report and the SA Scoping Report.
- **Interim Sustainability Appraisal Report (2014)** –The Local Plan Review Options Consultation was agreed at Cabinet on 9 July 2014. Consultation included the Interim Sustainability Appraisal Report (2014).
- **Sustainability Appraisal Proposed Submission Report (2015)** – The Local Plan Review Proposed Submission report was submitted to three Cabinet meetings for approval for publication and submission subject to confirmation by Full Council by area. Relevant extracts from the Sustainability Appraisal Proposed Submission Report was provided at each Cabinet meeting. The full Sustainability Appraisal was also made available to members on the Council's website to be considered alongside reports pack. Approval was also sought for the Sustainability Appraisal and other evidence produced in the process of the plan's preparation to be published for consultation alongside the Local Plan. Final approval by Full Council was made on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2014 for consultation in 2015. Comments received in previous

consultations and how the sustainability appraisal results were taken into account in decision-making are also demonstrated through the Local Plan Review Proposed Submission (February 2015) Consultation Summary Document.

- **Request for a J27 implications Report (2016)** - A request by members was made in 2016 for a J27 implications Report which looked at the implications if members were minded to allocate J27 as part of the Local Plan Review Proposed Submission. This included the implication for an additional 260 dwellings if members were minded to make a modification to the plan to allocate land at J27. Alternative housing option sites were set out to members based on a selection criteria and the sustainability references in the report synergised with those in the Sustainability Appraisal (2015). Further to this Land at Junction 27 and associated additional housing was recommended to be allocated at Blundells Road, Tiverton and Higher Town, Sampford Peverell. The recommendations of Cabinet as set out above were taken to Council on 22 September 2016 and were approved. The plan as a whole was subsequently considered at the meetings of Cabinet on 21 November and Council 01 December 2016 where it was agreed that the Local Plan Review incorporating proposed modifications be publicised and consulted on.
- **Sustainability Appraisal Update (2017)** - The Local Plan Review Proposed Submission report (incorporating proposed modifications) was submitted to Cabinet on 21 November 2016 for a recommendation of approval for publication and consultation with its supporting documentation to full Council. A summary of the modifications proposed were summarised in the report pack with the full schedule of modifications appended to the report for viewing. The report references the Sustainability Appraisal and the findings of the Sustainability Appraisal process. The report also makes reference to the Planning Policy Advisory Group which considered all paperwork accompanying the report. The report summarises the considerations of the group and their recommendations to Cabinet. The recommendations to Cabinet on the 21 November 2016 were agreed and were submitted to full Council on 01 December 2016. The submission to full Council included the report pack presented to Cabinet which contained reference to the Sustainability Appraisal for approval and were agreed.
- **Sustainability Appraisal Addendum (2019)** – The Main Modifications report along with the SA Addendum (2019) was approved for consultation at Cabinet 21 November 2019 and Council 4 December 2019. The Cabinet report included a summary of the conclusions of the SA Addendum (2019) and included the full SA Addendum at Appendix 3 of the Cabinet report.

#### 4 How opinions of consultation bodies and the public have been taken into account

4.1 At each stage of the Local Plan's development, an SA Report was published alongside the Local Plan for consultation with the public and the consultation bodies specifically relating to the SEA Directive i.e. Historic England (formerly English Heritage), the Environment Agency and Natural England.

4.2 In the SA Update 2018 a series of amendments were made to add clarity to the SA. This included a signposting table which set out the SEA Directive Requirements and how this is met by the Mid Devon Local Plan SA composite. An updated signposting table is provided in Appendix 1 to reflect how the SA Addendum 2019 and this document "Adopted Mid Devon local Plan 2013-2033: SA Post-Adoption Statement [July 2020]" adds to the SA composite in meeting the SEA directive requirements. Within the table how the environmental/SA report and the results of consultations were taken into account in decision making is detailed. In summary in relation to how the opinions of consultation bodies and the public have been taken into account are as follows:

- **Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (2013)** - Consultation was undertaken on the Local Plan Review Scoping Report and the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.
- **Interim Sustainability Appraisal Report (2014)** - Chapter 3 'Sustainability appraisal methodology' of the Interim Sustainability Appraisal Report (2014) sets out a summary of the consultation responses received during 2013 consultation Local Plan Review Scoping Report and the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (2013) and noted that the SA would be updated following consultation to take account of the responses received during the consultation.
- **Sustainability Appraisal Proposed Submission Report (2015)** - Chapter 3 'Sustainability appraisal methodology' of the Sustainability Appraisal Proposed Submission Report (2015) sets out a summary of the consultation responses received during the two previous consultations on the Local Plan Review and Sustainability Appraisal and notes that the comments were incorporated into the Sustainability Appraisal Proposed Submission Report (2015). A statement of consultation before Local Plan publication was provided at the same time of consultation which set out the main issues raised during previous consultation and how these were responded to. Comments received in previous consultations and how the sustainability appraisal results were taken into account in decision-making are also demonstrated through the Local Plan Review Proposed Submission (February 2015) Consultation Summary Document.
- **Sustainability Appraisal Update (2017)** - Para 1 of the Sustainability Appraisal Update (2017) sets out that this update to the Sustainability Appraisal has been undertaken to take into account comments made at the 2015 Proposed Submission Stage consultation and proposed modification to the Local Plan Review. Consultation was undertaken on the Sustainability Appraisal Update (2017) and the Local Plan Review Proposed Submission (incorporating proposed modifications) (2017). A

statement of consultation was provided at the same time as this consultation which set out the main issues raised during previous three consultations and how these were responded to. Schedule of Proposed Modifications (Proposed Submission consultation) (November 2016) and the Sustainability Appraisal Update (2017) also demonstrate how the results of the consultations were taken into account.

- **Sustainability Appraisal Addendum (2019)** – The Mid Devon Local Plan Review: Proposed Main Modifications Sustainability Appraisal Addendum was subject to a six week public consultation between 6 January and 17 February 2020. Following this, all representations were submitted to the Planning Inspector responsible for examining the Plan in order to inform his final report. A consultation summary document was provided at the same time which set out any comments received on the Sustainability Appraisal Addendum of the Main Modifications.
- **Inspectors Report (2020)** – Further to the consultation on the Main Modifications together with the SA Addendum (2019) and other associated documents, the Inspectors Report on the Mid Devon Local Plan 2013-2033 was published on the 26th June 2020. Having regard to all representations received, the Inspector issued a revised schedule of Main Modifications and recommended their inclusion in the plan. This concluded that none of the amendments significantly alters the contents of the modifications as published for the consultation or undermines the participatory process and SA that has been undertaken. In response to this Mid Devon District Council proposed the further amendments to reflect the recommendations provided within the Inspectors Report and the Local Plan was adopted on the 29 July 2020.

## **5 Why the adopted Local Plan was chosen in light of reasonable alternatives**

- 5.1 The vision of the Plan is to bring benefits to local communities by promoting community well-being; supporting economic success; conserving and enhancing the area; and respecting environmental limits. In order to bring that vision to fruition, the intention through the Plan is to create a prosperous economy with increased inward investment; meet objectively assessed needs for development in locations best suited to accommodate it, with a suitable balance of housing, employment and other facilities within towns, smaller settlements, and rural areas; reduce the use of the private car and encourage more use of public transport, walking and cycling; reduce carbon emissions; and promote social inclusion and reduce inequality by providing better access to jobs, services, and housing. This is positive and consistent with national policy that seeks to marry economic growth with sustainable forms of development and environmental improvement.
- 5.2 The spatial strategy of the Plan is to make the market town of Cullompton the strategic focus of new development which reflects its existing status as one of the larger settlements in the District as well as its accessibility, economic potential and environmental capacity. The market towns of Tiverton and Crediton are treated as secondary focal points for development which is a reflection of their infrastructures, economies, characters, and constraints. Limited development is also envisaged for some of the larger and better-served villages commensurate with their scale while development in smaller settlements, lower in the hierarchy, and the countryside, will be limited to forms of development that bring benefit to the rural economy. In parallel with this a major development is proposed adjacent to J27 of the M5 motorway to bring a high-quality tourist, leisure and retail attraction to the District, attracting visitors to the District, thereby generating economic activity and jobs, and acting as a gateway to the South-West. The Plan uses its evidence base to identify the overall provision in the Plan for housing and commercial development and to meet this need a sequence of sites are allocated in line with the spatial strategy outlined above. A sequence of other strategic and development management policies with a view to meet the vision above are also provided.
- 5.3 The Policies and site allocations in the Local Plan and the reasonable alternatives considered during its preparation were subject to a detailed appraisal against the SA objectives which were developed at the scoping stage of the SA process. It is concluded that the SA has played an integral role in the development of the Local Plan Review and has been used to consider the various strategic options and inform the most sustainable approach for the District. The SA has led to the refinement of options and the subsequent adopted policies to minimise adverse impacts and has ensured that sustainability issues for the District are addressed. In general, the Local Plan is found to have a wide range of positive and significant positive effects on the SA objectives, both cumulatively and through individual policies. Recommendations made in previous iterations of the SA report and the proposed submission SA report have generally been thoroughly addressed, which has provided mitigation for potential adverse effects for both individual policies/proposals and the Local Plan as a whole.

5.4 In the SA Update 2018 a series of amendments were made to add clarity to the SA. This included a signposting table which set out the SEA Directive Requirements and how this is met by the Mid Devon Local Plan SA composite. An updated signposting table is provided in Appendix 1 to reflect how the SA Addendum 2019 and this document “Adopted Mid Devon local Plan 2013-2033: SA Post-Adoption Statement (July 2020)” adds to the SA composite in meeting the SEA directive requirements. Within the table an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information is detailed. In summary in relation to the outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with are as follows:

- **Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (2013)** - This appraisal first introduces the proposed framework to assess sustainability in Chapter 5 ‘A framework to assess sustainability’.
- **Interim Sustainability Appraisal (2014)** - Chapter 3 ‘Sustainability appraisal methodology’ sets out a description of the methodology use to undertake the assessment and the assessment of policy options is undertaken in Appendix 2. Alternatives were not selected at this stage as the report was based on policy options.
- **Sustainability Appraisal Proposed Submission (2015)** - Chapter 3 ‘Sustainability appraisal methodology’ sets out a description of the methodology use to undertake the assessment. Chapter 4 ‘Reasons for selecting/rejecting policy alternatives’ sets out an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with. Appendix 3 ‘Undeliverable site options’ sets out the sites which were not deemed deliverable by the SHLAA panel.
- **Sustainability Appraisal Update (2017)** - Paragraphs 2-9 of the SA Update describe the methodology that has been used throughout the SA process. The table following paragraph 9 sets out the assumptions that have been applied to the SA of potential site allocations. Information about the reasons for selecting additional reasonable options for appraisal is provided in Annex 2 of the SA Update.
- **Sustainability Addendum (2019)** – Following the Inspector’s Post-Hearings Advice Note of Main Modifications in May 2019 the Planning Inspector deemed necessary to make the plan sound Table 1 presents a summary of the SA implications of each of the Inspector’s four suggested remedies, including variations within them. Table 2 presents the schedule of Proposed Modifications and reasons for proposing each change along with the implications of each Main Modification for the SA conclusions reported previously. No further reasonable alternatives to the Proposed Main Modifications were identified, given that reasonable alternatives were appraised up to the submission of the Local Plan, and that preparation of the Proposed Main Modifications was led by the Inspector. Where the Inspector identified alternative options, these have been appraised.

## **6 How will the environmental and sustainability effects of the Local Plan be monitored?**

6.1 Chapter 5 'Monitoring' of the Sustainability Appraisal Proposed Submission (2015) sets out how the plan will be monitored and is replicated below:

### **Monitoring**

Monitoring is important to understand the characteristics of the local area, assess the impact of policies and determine whether the strategy is delivering sustainable development so that the policies can be reviewed as appropriate. The Local Plan Review contains local indicators and targets to measure the Council's performance against relevant policies and legislation as well as any significant environmental effects. The monitoring outcomes are reported annually in Mid Devon District Councils' Monitoring Report which provides information on the following matters:

- Progress of local plans including the timetable for completion, stage reached and reasons for any delay;
- Any local plans or supplementary planning documents that have been approved or adopted, including relevant dates;
- Decisions not to implement any Local Plan Review policy including reasons and steps to implement the policy in the future;
- The number of market and affordable dwellings built in the reporting period and since the relevant Local Plan Review policy target was introduced;
- Any neighbourhood plans or development orders made in the district;
- Progress on the implementation of the Community Infrastructure Levy, if any; and
- Actions taken to ensure cooperation with other local authorities and prescribed organisations under the 'duty to cooperate'.

For convenience the Local Plan Review monitoring indicators, relevant policies and targets are reproduced in the table below.



## Monitoring indicators

Indicator	Relevant Policies	Target	Implementation Agencies	Comments
<b>Housing</b>				
Housing trajectory showing net additional dwellings from 2013-2033	S2; S3; S4; S10; S11; S12; S13	Annual completions of 360 dwellings	Development industry, MDDC	
Affordable housing completions; number of dwellings	S1; S3	Annual average completions 100 per year.	MDDC, development industry, registered providers, Housing and Communities Agency	
Affordable housing on rural exception sites	S3; DM6	>50% affordable housing	MDDC, development industry, registered providers, Housing and Communities Agency	Proportion of market housing on rural exception sites should be lower than that of affordable housing.
Net additional gypsy and traveller pitches	S3; DM7		MDDC	
Self-build completions	S3	5% on sites of 20+ dwellings	MDDC, development industry	
Sizes and types of dwellings completed	S1; S3; DM13	No target	MDDC, development industry	
Net density of new residential development	S9; DM1	None	MDDC, development industry	Policies do not set minimum housing densities but promote the efficient and effective use of land.

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Relevant Policies</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Implementation Agencies</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Availability of land for housing	S3; S4	>105% housing supply against requirement	MDDC, development industry	Target applied to whole district. Target will be revised to >120% if persistent under-delivery of housing is proven.
Development of housing on allocated sites	S3 S4 All housing allocations	>50% of completions	MDDC, development industry	
Total amount and percentage of housing development (including conversions) on previously developed land.	S1	No target	MDDC, development industry	
Number of parking spaces provided in new residential developments	DM5	≥1.7 car parking spaces per dwelling	MDDC, development industry	
<b>Commercial</b>				
Total amount of additional commercial floorspace for the whole district and individually for Tiverton, Cullompton, Crediton and rural areas	S2; S6; S10; S11; S12; S13; DM14; DM15, DM18	Average annual completions (square metres) Mid Devon 7700 Tiverton 1540 Cullompton 3850 Crediton 770 Rural Areas 1540	MDDC, development industry	Monitoring reports will break down the provision of use classes A1-A5, B1-B8, C1-C2, D1-D2 and sui generis uses.
Development of employment on allocated sites	S6; All commercial allocations	>50% of completions	MDDC, development industry	

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Relevant Policies</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Implementation Agencies</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Losses of commercial land in local authority area	S6; DM14; DM15; DM19	No Target	Mid Devon District Council, development industry, businesses	Loss of commercial land will be broken down according to use class.
Number of active businesses	S1; S2; S6	Maintain or increase number of active businesses.	MDDC, Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership, private sector	
Job Seekers Allowance as a proportion of working age population each April	S1; S6	Remain below regional average	MDDC, development industry, business sector	Gives indicator for deprivation and employment.
Total amount of floorspace for town centre uses, in total and within town centres (Classes A1, A2, B1a and D2)	S6; S7	No target	MDDC, development industry, retail business sector, leisure industry.	
Total amount of floorspace for town centre uses out of town centres (Classes A1, A2, B1a and D2)	S6; DM14; DM15	No target	Mid Devon District Council, development industry, retail business sector, leisure industry.	To monitor edge-of-centre and out-of-centre development, mainly retail.
A1 shops in primary shopping frontages.	S7; DM14	>65%	Mid Devon District Council, development industry, retailers	
Total amount and percentage of commercial floorspace on previously developed land.	S1	No target	MDDC, development industry	

Indicator	Relevant Policies	Target	Implementation Agencies	Comments
<b>Infrastructure</b>				
Community Infrastructure Levy. Monitor annual receipt of CIL.	S8	No target.	MDDC, development industry	
Public open space provision and accessibility. Applications complying/failing to comply with quantity and access standards in Policy S5	S1; S5; S8	No target	MDDC, development industry, town and parish councils, Sport England, private and voluntary organisations.	Policy S5 sets out standards for open space provision. Smaller sites may provide financial contributions in lieu of onsite open space, with these funds being directed to the provision or improvement of public open space elsewhere.
Strategic Housing and Commercial Land Availability Assessment	S3; S4; S6	To review SHLAA/SCLAA when the Local Plan is reviewed	MDDC, development industry, infrastructure providers	
Services available in towns and rural areas	S8; S10; S11, S12; S13; S14	No reduction in services	MDDC, Devon County Council, other organisations	Services include: Public transport, educational facilities, convenience stores, community halls
Loss of community facilities	S1; DM23	No total loss in settlement	MDDC, development industry	
<b>Environment</b>				

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Relevant Policies</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Implementation Agencies</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Number of Conservation Area Appraisals and Conservation Area Management Plans	S9	1 new or updated CAA/MP per year	MDDC	
Habitat surveys (where applicable) for consented developments demonstrate no loss in biodiversity.	S1; S9	100%	Natural England, MDDC, development industry	No loss may be achieved through avoidance, mitigation and compensation of impacts.
Developments permitted on protected sites (habitats)	S1; S9; DM28	No target	MDDC, Natural England, development industry	Policy directs development away from protected sites subject to criteria, so the number of consents should be low.
Ecological status of water bodies	S1; S9; DM4	No target	MDDC, development industry, Environment Agency.	Target in South West River Basin Management Plan is to achieve good ecological status for water bodies and protected areas by 2015. The Environment Agency monitors water quality.
Consented renewable energy development by type and megawatts.	S1; S9 DM2	No target	Mid Devon District Council, development industry.	

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Relevant Policies</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Implementation Agencies</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Number of heritage assets added to the local register	DM25	No target	Mid Devon District Council, development industry, English Heritage	
Air Quality Management Areas	S1; S11; S12; DM3; DM4	Reduction in air pollutants within AQMAs	MDDC, development industry, Devon County Council, Highways Agency	
<b>Enforcement</b>				
Number of planning enforcement cases, notices and prosecutions	DM29	No target	MDDC	

**Appendix 1: Signposting Table of how the SA composite meets the SEA Directive requirements**

Signposting Table	
SEA Directive Requirements	Covered in SA
<b>Information to be included in the Environmental Report – Article 5 and Annex 1 of SEA Directive</b>	
a) an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;	<p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (2013):</b></p> <p>‘Chapter 1 Introduction’ of this report sets out the contents and main objectives of the plan.</p> <p>‘Chapter 2 Relevant plans and programmes’ of this report sets out the relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.</p> <p>‘Chapter 7 Appendix: Reviewed plans and programmes (full list)’ provides a full list of reviewed plans and programmes.</p> <p><b>Interim Sustainability Appraisal (2014):</b></p> <p>‘Chapter 1 Background’ of this report sets out an outline of the contents and main objectives of the Local Plan. This chapter also identifies the compliance of report at the time of publication with the SEA Directive and Regulations.</p> <p>‘Chapter 2 Sustainability Context’. This chapter sets out the conclusions from the review of relevant plans and programmes.</p> <p>‘Appendix 1: Full review of plans and programmes’. This appendix provides a full review of plans and programmes.</p> <p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Proposed Submission Report (2015):</b></p> <p>‘Chapter 1 Background’ of this report sets out the contents and main objectives of the Local plan. This chapter also identifies the compliance of the report at the time of publication with the SEA Directive and Regulations.</p>

## Signposting Table

SEA Directive Requirements	Covered in SA
	<p>‘Chapter 2 Sustainability Context’. This chapter sets out the conclusions from the review of relevant plans and programmes.</p> <p>‘Appendix 1: Full review of plans and programmes’. This appendix provides a full review of plans and programmes.</p> <p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Addendum (2019)</b></p> <p>Appendix 2 provides updates Baseline and Evidence Base including a review of plans and programmes.</p>
<p>b) the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan;</p>	<p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (2013):</b></p> <p>‘Chapter 3 Baseline information about Mid Devon’ of this report considers the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and considers trends that are likely to continue without the implementation of the plan e.g. likely historic trends of biodiversity expected to continue and the trend for the delivery of sustainable homes based on existing relevant plans and programmes.</p> <p><b>Interim Sustainability Appraisal (2014):</b></p> <p>‘Chapter 2 Sustainability Context’ looks at the relevant aspects of the state of the environment and considers trends that are likely to continue without the implementation of the plan.</p> <p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Proposed Modifications Report (2015):</b></p> <p>‘Chapter 2 Sustainability Context’ looks at the relevant aspects of the state of the environment and considers trends that are likely to continue without the implementation of the plan. The likely Evolution of the State of the Environment without Implementation of the Local Plan Review is set out in full at para 2.60 and accompanying table.</p>
<p>c) the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;</p>	<p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (2013):</b></p> <p>‘Chapter 2 Relevant plans and programmes’ of this report sets out the relationship with other relevant</p>



## Signposting Table

SEA Directive Requirements	Covered in SA
	<p>plans and programmes which have been grouped into themed areas. This first picks up on the potential impact of the Plan, in particular how the promotion of new development may impact on these themes.</p> <p>‘Chapter 3 Baseline information about Mid Devon’ of this report considers the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment, it provides some identification of existing environmental characteristics that could be affected by the Plan e.g. Natural England has advised that any development that encourages through-traffic through the A361 may impact on the Culm Grasslands SAC.</p> <p>‘Chapter 4 Sustainability issues and problems’ of this report summarises the sustainability issues within Mid Devon identified by the Sustainability Appraisal scoping report.</p> <p>‘Chapter 7 Appendix: Reviewed plans and programmes (full list)’ provides a full list of reviewed plans and programmes and provides greater detail on environmental characteristics likely to be affected and therefore which should be considered as part of the Local Plan Review.</p> <p><b>Interim Sustainability Appraisal (2014):</b></p> <p>‘Chapter 2 Sustainability context’ looks at the relevant aspects of the state of the environment including the consideration of environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.</p> <p>‘Appendix 1: Full review of plans and programmes’ provides a full list of reviewed plans and programmes and provides greater detail on environmental characteristics likely to be affected and therefore which should be considered as part of the Local Plan Review.</p> <p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Proposed Submission Report (2015):</b></p>

## Signposting Table

SEA Directive Requirements	Covered in SA
	<p>‘Chapter 2 Sustainability context’ looks at the relevant aspects of the state of the environment including the consideration of environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.</p> <p>‘Appendix 1: Full review of plans and programmes’ provides a full list of reviewed plans and programmes and provides greater detail on environmental characteristics likely to be affected and therefore which should be considered as part of the Local Plan Review.</p> <p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Update (2017)</b></p> <p>The SA Update is an addendum to the SA work undertaken to date. As such the context and methodology previously set out in the SA still applies. The SA framework objectives borne out of previous iterations of the SA are repeated in the SA Update for clarity.</p> <p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Addendum (2019)</b></p> <p>The SA Update is an addendum to the SA work undertaken to date. As such the context and methodology previously set out in the SA still applies. The SA framework objectives borne out of previous iterations of the SA are repeated at Appendix 1 for clarity.</p>
<p>d) any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC;</p>	<p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (2013):</b></p> <p>‘Chapter 3 Baseline information about Mid Devon’ of this report considers the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment, it provides some identification of existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including advice from Natural England on the impact of through-traffic on the A361 on the Culm Grasslands SAC.</p> <p><b>Interim Sustainability Appraisal (2014):</b></p> <p>‘Chapter 2 Sustainability Context’ looks at the relevant aspects of the state of the environment it</p>

## Signposting Table

SEA Directive Requirements	Covered in SA
	<p>provides some identification of existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including advice from Natural England on the impact of through-traffic on the A361 on the Culm Grasslands SAC.</p> <p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Proposed Submission Report (2015):</b></p> <p>‘Chapter 2 Sustainability Context’ looks at the relevant aspects of the state of the environment it provides some identification of existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including advice from Natural England on the impact of through-traffic on the A361 on the Culm Grasslands SAC.</p>
<p>e) the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;</p>	<p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (2013):</b></p> <p>‘Chapter 2 Relevant plans and programmes’ of this report sets out the relationship with other relevant plans and programmes which have been grouped into themed areas. This chapter identifies factors and policy defined by EU or UK legislation, national policies and other plans and strategies at a local level which are relevant to the plan, including environmental considerations to be taken into account during the Plan preparation.</p> <p>‘Chapter 7 Appendix: Reviewed plans and programmes (full list)’ provides a full list of reviewed plans and programmes which is summarised in Chapter 2. The chapter provides sustainability conclusions under each theme which include environmental considerations to be taken into account in the Plan’s preparation.</p> <p><b>Interim Sustainability Appraisal (2014):</b></p> <p>‘Chapter 2 Sustainability Context’ of this report sets out the relationship with other relevant plans and programmes which have been grouped into themed areas. This chapter identifies factors and policy defined by EU or UK legislation, national policies and</p>

## Signposting Table

SEA Directive Requirements	Covered in SA
	<p>other plans and strategies at a local level which are relevant to the plan, including environmental considerations to be taken into account during the Plan preparation.</p> <p>‘Appendix 1 Full review of plans and programmes’ provides the full list of reviewed plans and programmes which is summarised in Chapter 2. The chapter provides sustainability conclusions under each theme which include environmental considerations to be taken into account in the Plan’s preparation.</p> <p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Proposed Submission Report (2015):</b></p> <p>‘Chapter 2 Sustainability Context’ of this report sets out the relationship with other relevant plans and programmes which have been grouped into themed areas. This chapter identifies factors and policy defined by EU or UK legislation, national policies and other plans and strategies at a local level which are relevant to the plan, including environmental considerations to be taken into account during the Plan preparation.</p> <p>‘Appendix 1 Full review of plans and programmes’ provides the full list of reviewed plans and programmes which is summarised in Chapter 2. The chapter provides sustainability conclusions under each theme which include environmental considerations to be taken into account in the Plan’s preparation.</p> <p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Addendum (2019)</b></p> <p>Appendix 2 provides updates Baseline and Evidence Base including a review of plans and programmes.</p>
<p>f) the likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic</p>	<p><b>Interim Sustainability Appraisal (2014):</b></p> <p>‘Appendix 2 Sustainability appraisal of policies and site options’ presents the findings of appraisal work that has been carried out. The effects are illustrated</p>

## Signposting Table

SEA Directive Requirements	Covered in SA
<p>factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors (these effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative impacts);</p>	<p>using matrices and scoring system set out in ‘Chapter 3 Sustainability appraisal methodology’. The likely significant positive and negative effects are shown by applying the scores +3 and -3 respectively. The SA objectives used throughout the SA process address all the required SEA topics. Appendix 2 also includes secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary impacts.</p> <p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Proposed Submission Report (2015):</b></p> <p>‘Appendix 2 Sustainability appraisal of policies and site options’ presents the findings of appraisal work that has been carried out. The effects are illustrated using matrices and scoring system set out in ‘Chapter 3 Sustainability appraisal methodology’. The likely significant positive and negative effects are shown by applying the scores +3 and -3 respectively. The SA objectives used throughout the SA process address all the required SEA topics. Appendix 2 also includes secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary impacts.</p> <p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Update (2017)</b></p> <p>Annex 1 ‘Sustainability Appraisal text, methodology and cumulative impact comments’ updates the cumulative effects noted in appendix 2 of the Sustainability Appraisal Proposed Submission Report (2015)</p> <p>Annexes 2 and 3 in the SA Update present the findings of the additional appraisal work that has been carried out. Effects are illustrated using the same matrices and scoring system that was used earlier in the SA process and that is described in paragraphs 2-9 of the SA Update. As described in paragraph 6, likely significant positive and significant negative effects are shown by applying the scores +3 and -3 respectively. The SA objectives used</p>

## Signposting Table

SEA Directive Requirements	Covered in SA
	<p>throughout the SA process address all of the required SEA topics.</p> <p>Annex 4 in the SA Update summarises the updated cumulative sustainability effects of the Local Plan review as a whole, taking into account the changes proposed to the Plan.</p> <p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Addendum (2019)</b></p> <p>Table 1 and Table 2 within the addendum assesses the likely significant effects of the options presented. Table 3 summarises these effects and the conclusions in the SA Addendum assesses cumulative effects.</p>
<p>g) the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan;</p>	<p><b>Interim Sustainability Appraisal (2014):</b></p> <p>‘Appendix 2 Sustainability appraisal of policies and site options’ presents the findings of appraisal work that has been carried out. Under each appraisal a summary of recommendations are made to prevent, reduce or as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan.</p> <p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Proposed Submission Report (2015):</b></p> <p>‘Appendix 2 Sustainability appraisal of policies and site options’ presents the findings of the appraisal work that has been carried out. This updated version of the SA introduces a column considering potential mitigation measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan. The revised scores in the final column of the SA matrices illustrate how the proposed mitigation would affect the SA scores. In a number of places this results in potential significant effects being reduced.</p> <p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Update (2017)</b></p> <p>Annex 2 considers further reasonable alternatives, new information and comments on the sustainability</p>

## Signposting Table

SEA Directive Requirements	Covered in SA
	<p>appraisal of policies and site. Where appropriate measures are recommended as ‘Changes to the Plan’ to prevent, reduce and as fully possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan.</p> <p>The detailed SA matrices in Annex 3 include a column considering potential mitigation measures, and the revised scores in the final column of the SA matrices illustrate how the proposed mitigation would affect the SA scores. In a number of places this results in potential significant negative effects being reduced.</p> <p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Addendum (2019)</b></p> <p>A number of the Main Modifications assessed identify a positive effect.</p>
<p>h) an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information;</p>	<p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (2013)</b></p> <p>This appraisal first introduces the proposed framework to assess sustainability in Chapter 5 ‘A framework to assess sustainability’.</p> <p><b>Interim Sustainability Appraisal (2014)</b></p> <p>Chapter 3 ‘Sustainability appraisal methodology’ sets out a description of the methodology use to undertake the assessment and the assessment of policy options is undertaken in Appendix 2. Alternatives were not selected at this stage as the report was based on policy options.</p> <p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Proposed Submission (2015)</b></p> <p>Chapter 3 ‘Sustainability appraisal methodology’ sets out a description of the methodology use to undertake the assessment. This chapter also sets out where there were technical deficiencies in which specific data was not available at the time of the SA assessments an uncertain effect was identified in the full appraisals.</p>

## Signposting Table

SEA Directive Requirements	Covered in SA
	<p>Chapter 4 'Reasons for selecting/rejecting policy alternatives' sets out an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with.</p> <p>Appendix 2 'Sustainability appraisal of policies and site options' provides the full appraisal of policy and site options. The appraisal applies the sustainability appraisal methodology including identifying any difficulties encountered in compiling the required information, where there were technical deficiencies in which specific data was not available at the time of the SA assessments, an uncertain effect was identified in the full appraisals. Page 192 sets out the appraisal guidance followed when applying the pre-mitigation scoring system to potential allocation sites. It's noted that in some cases the scoring could differ from the guidance due to site specific context and a cumulative approach was taken when assessing allocation sites within each objective.</p> <p>Appendix 3 'Undeliverable site options' sets out the sites which were not deemed deliverable by the SHLAA panel.</p> <p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Update (2017)</b></p> <p>Paragraphs 2-9 of the SA Update describe the methodology that has been used throughout the SA process including where there were technical deficiencies in which specific data was not available at the time of the SA assessments an uncertain effect was identified in the full appraisals. The table following paragraph 9 sets out the assumptions that have been applied to the SA of potential site allocations.</p> <p>Information about the reasons for selecting additional reasonable options for appraisal is provided in Annex 2 of the SA Update.</p> <p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Addendum (2019)</b></p> <p>The reasonable alternatives and reasons for selecting the proposed Main Modifications is set out in the SA</p>



Signposting Table	
SEA Directive Requirements	Covered in SA
	Addendum. Uncertainties are identified in the assessment of options.
i) a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring;	<p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Proposed Submission (2015)</b></p> <p>Chapter 5 'Monitoring' of the report sets out a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring.</p> <p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Addendum (2019)</b></p> <p>The SA Addendum references the monitoring indicators set out in the 2015 SA report. Following the review and appraisal of all of the Proposed Main Modifications to the Local Plan, it is considered that the same monitoring indicators remain appropriate and no changes to the SA monitoring framework are proposed.</p>
j) a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	<p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Proposed Submission (2015)</b></p> <p>A non-technical summary was published with the full Sustainability Appraisal Proposed Submission Report (2015).</p>
The report must include the information that may reasonably be required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme, its stage in the decision-making process and the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process to avoid duplication of the assessment (Article 5.2)	<p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (2013)</b></p> <p>Provided an introduction and context of Mid Devon District and the proposed Plan. The Report considered relevant plans and programmes, baseline information about Mid Devon, Sustainability issues and problems and set out a framework to assess sustainability for consultation.</p> <p><b>Interim Sustainability Appraisal (2014)</b></p> <p>Provided the same provisions as the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (2013) and was updated to demonstrate the latest information available at the time of publication and in response to the initial consultation the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (2013). This report also first introduces the findings of appraisal work on the policies proposed in</p>

## Signposting Table

SEA Directive Requirements	Covered in SA
	<p>the Local Plan Review and the likely significant effects. It provides a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties encountered in compiling the required information. It also makes recommendations for mitigation measures. However decisions for preferred alternatives were not taken at this stage as the Plan was out for consultation on the options for the Local Plan Review. Chapter 1 set out the compliance with the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive and Regulations which identifies three areas that would be more appropriately addressed at a later stage of the SA process; the outline of the reasons for selecting alternatives dealt with, a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring and the non-technical summary.</p> <p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Proposed Submission (2015)</b></p> <p>Provided the same provisions of the Interim Sustainability Appraisal (2014) and was updated to demonstrate the latest information available at the time of publication. The update also responded to the consultation on the Interim Sustainability Appraisal (2014). This report introduces a mitigation column in the appraisals which sets out revised scores demonstrating how the mitigation proposed could affect the SA scores. The Sustainability Appraisal Proposed Submission (2015) also sets out an outline of reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring and provides a non-technical summary. The SA Proposed Submission incorporates all of the information reasonably required.</p> <p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Update (2017)</b></p> <p>As noted in paragraph 1 of the update report, the update to the Sustainability Appraisal has been undertaken to take into account comments made at the 2015 Proposed Submission Stage consultation</p>

**Signposting Table**

SEA Directive Requirements	Covered in SA
	<p>and proposed modifications to the Local Plan Review. The requirements not met in the SA Update are met in previous iterations of the Sustainability Appraisal.</p> <p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Addendum (2019)</b></p> <p>Appendix 2 provides updates to the Baseline and Evidence Base.</p>
Who should be consulted during SEA/SA process	
<p>Authorities with environmental responsibility, when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the environmental report (Article 5.4)</p>	<p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (2013):</b></p> <p>Chapter 6 ‘Consultation’ identifies that the Council provided the opportunity to the three statutory environmental consultation bodies at the time of the scoping report which were Natural England, the Environment Agency and English Heritage (now Historic England). The opportunity to comment on the scope and level of detail of the information contained within the scoping report was also provided to local communities and other bodies on 8 July 2013 for 6 weeks. Every person and organisation including statutory consultees that appeared on the Mid Devon Local Development Framework database at the time of publication was informed of the opportunity to comment on the Local Plan Review Scoping Report and associated documents including the Sustainability Appraisal.</p>
<p>Authorities with environmental responsibility and the public, shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan or programme (Article 6.1, 6.2)</p>	<p><b>Interim Sustainability Appraisal (2014):</b></p> <p>Chapter 4 ‘Next steps’ invites representations on the contents of the Local Plan Review and this accompanying Sustainability Appraisal. Consultation was held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2014 for 8 weeks. Every person and organisation including statutory consultees that appeared on the Mid Devon Local Development Framework database at the time of publication was informed of the opportunity to comment on the Local Plan Review Options</p>

## Signposting Table

SEA Directive Requirements	Covered in SA
	<p>Consultation Report and associated documents including the Sustainability Appraisal.</p> <p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Proposed Submission (2015)</b></p> <p>Consultation was held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2015 for 11 weeks. Every person and organisation including statutory consultees that appeared on the Mid Devon Local Development Framework database at the time of publication was informed of the opportunity to comment on the Local Plan Review Proposed Submission Report and associated documents including the Sustainability Appraisal.</p> <p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Update (2017)</b></p> <p>Consultation was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017 for 6 weeks. Every person and organisation including statutory consultees that appeared on the Mid Devon Local Development Framework database at the time of publication was informed of the opportunity to comment on the Local Plan Review Proposed Submission Report (incorporating proposed modifications) and associated documents including the Sustainability Appraisal.</p> <p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Addendum (2019)</b></p> <p>Consultation was held on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 for 6 weeks. Every person and organisation including statutory consultees that appeared on the Mid Devon Local Development Framework database at the time of publication was informed of the opportunity to comment on Proposed Main Modifications to the Plan and associated documents including the Sustainability Appraisal.</p>
Other EU Member States, where the implementation of the plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the	Not relevant to the SA of the Mid Devon Local Plan.

Signposting Table	
SEA Directive Requirements	Covered in SA
environment of that country (Article 7)	
Decision-making	
The environmental report and the results of the consultations must be taken into account in decision-making (Article 8)	<p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (2013)</b></p> <p>Consultation was undertaken on the Local Plan Review Scoping Report and the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.</p> <p><b>Interim Sustainability Appraisal Report (2014)</b></p> <p>The Local Plan Review Options Consultation report was submitted to Cabinet on 9 January 2014 and was agreed for approval for public consultation and authority to be given to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning, to make minor editorial changes to the text and maps.</p> <p>Chapter 3 ‘Sustainability appraisal methodology’ of the Interim Sustainability Appraisal Report (2014) sets out a summary of the consultation responses received during 2013 consultation Local Plan Review Scoping Report and the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (2013) and noted that the SA would be updated following consultation to take account of the responses received during the consultation.</p> <p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Proposed Submission Report (2015)</b></p> <p>The Local Plan Review Proposed Submission report was submitted to three Cabinet meetings for approval for publication and submission subject to confirmation by Full Council by area (West, Central and East) on 27 November, 4 December and 11 December 2014. Relevant extracts from the Sustainability Appraisal Proposed Submission Report was provided at each Cabinet meeting. The full Sustainability Appraisal was also made available to members on the Council’s website to be considered alongside reports pack. Approval was also sought for the Sustainability Appraisal incorporating the</p>

## Signposting Table

SEA Directive Requirements	Covered in SA
	<p>Strategic Environmental Assessment, the Draft Habitats Regulations Assessment and other evidence produced in the process of the plan's preparation to be published for consultation alongside the Local Plan. Thirdly approval was sought for authority given to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning, to make minor changes to the text and maps. Final approval by Full Council was made on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2014 for consultation in 2015.</p> <p>Chapter 3 'Sustainability appraisal methodology' of the Sustainability Appraisal Proposed Submission Report (2015) sets out a summary of the consultation responses received during the two previous consultations on the Local Plan Review and Sustainability Appraisal and notes that the comments were incorporated into the Sustainability Appraisal Proposed Submission Report (2015).</p> <p>Chapter 4 'Reasons for selecting/rejecting policy alternatives' sets out a summary of the reasons for selecting/rejecting the strategic, allocation and development management policy alternatives.</p> <p>A statement of consultation before Local Plan publication was provided at the same time of consultation which set out the main issues raised during previous consultation and how these were responded to. Comments received in previous consultations and how the sustainability appraisal results were taken into account in decision-making are also demonstrated through the Local Plan Review Proposed Submission (February 2015) Consultation Summary Document.</p> <p><b>Request for a J27 implications Report (2016)</b></p> <p>A request by members was made in 2016 for a J27 implications Report which looked at the implications if members were minded to allocate J27 as part of the Local Plan Review Proposed Submission. This report was taken to Cabinet on the 15 September</p>

## Signposting Table

SEA Directive Requirements	Covered in SA
	<p>2016 which set out the history of the J27 proposal and decisions previously made by members and the implications of allocating J27. The report also identified that if members were minded to make a modification to the plan to allocate land at J27, sites for an additional 260 dwellings will also need to be allocated in the Local Plan. Alternative housing option sites were set out to members based on a selection criteria as follows: sites previously consulted on as part of the Local Plan Review Options consultation (January 2014) or received as a local plan representation; sites considered by the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Panel; compliance with the Local Plan Review Distribution Strategy; and proximate to the development proposal at Junction 27.</p> <p>The 2015 SA was publically available at the time the Implications Report was presented to members in 2016 and the draft 2015 SA was presented to members previously in the 2014 Cabinet (27 November, 4 December, 11 December) and Council meetings (17 December 2014). The Sustainability Appraisal was not mentioned in the Implications Report; however there is an apparent synergy in the reasons set out in the Implications Report and the Sustainability Appraisal (2015).</p> <p>Cabinet proposed a recommendation to Council that a 6 week consultation period take place prior to the submission of the Local Plan, Land at Junction 27 of the M5 be allocated for leisure retail and tourism development and associated additional housing sites giving the extra provision of 260 additional homes be allocated at Blundells Road, Tiverton and Higher Town, Sampford Peverell. The recommendations of Cabinet as set out above were taken to Council on 22 September 2016 and were approved. The plan as a whole was subsequently considered at the meetings of Cabinet on 21 November and Council 01 December 2016 where it was agreed that the Local</p>

## Signposting Table

SEA Directive Requirements	Covered in SA
	<p>Plan Review incorporating proposed modifications be publicised and consulted on for 6 weeks, and that delegated authority be given to the Head of Planning and Regeneration in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning for the plan’s subsequent submission to the Planning Inspectorate for examination together with its supporting documentation. After consultation, the plan was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate together with supporting documentation on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 under the delegated authority.</p> <p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Update (2017)</b></p> <p>The Local Plan Review Proposed Submission report (incorporating proposed modifications) was submitted to Cabinet on 21 November 2016 for a recommendation of approval for publication and consultation, and that delegated authority be given to the Head of Planning and Regeneration in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning for the plan’s subsequent submission to the Planning Inspectorate for examination together with its supporting documentation to full Council. The amended Local Plan Review incorporated the recommendations made at Council on 22 September 2016. A summary of the modifications proposed were summarised in the report pack with the full schedule of modifications appended to the report for viewing.</p> <p>The report references the Sustainability Appraisal and the findings of the Sustainability Appraisal process. The report notes that the Local Plan Review has been subject to Sustainability Appraisal during its preparation. The appraisal is an iterative process informing the development of the Local Plan Review and has been published alongside each stage of consultation. The Sustainability Appraisal assesses the likely significant effects of the Local Plan, focussing on the environmental, economic and social impacts. The latest version was updated to consider</p>



## Signposting Table

SEA Directive Requirements	Covered in SA
	<p>the latest available evidence including reasonable alternatives proposed through consultation responses. The Sustainability Appraisal Update concludes that the proposals set out in the Local Plan Review together with the schedule of modifications are the most appropriate given the reasonable alternatives available. The report identifies that the Sustainability Appraisal and other updated evidence produced in the process of the plan's preparation will be made available for comment during the Local Plan Review proposed modifications consultation.</p> <p>The report also makes reference to the Planning Policy Advisory Group which considered all paperwork accompanying the report. The report summarises the considerations of the group and their recommendations to Cabinet. The recommendations to Cabinet on the 21 November 2016 were agreed and were submitted to full Council on 01 December 2016. The submission to full Council included the report pack presented to Cabinet which contained reference to the Sustainability Appraisal for approval and were agreed.</p> <p>Para 1 of the Sustainability Appraisal Update (2017) sets out that this update to the Sustainability Appraisal has been undertaken to take into account comments made at the 2015 Proposed Submission Stage consultation and proposed modification to the Local Plan Review. The summary matrices in Annex 2 relating to the additional reasonable alternative options considered for each policy topic include a final row which states which option has been taken forward as a proposed change to the Plan if relevant, or if no changes are proposed to the Plan policies, why this is.</p> <p>Consultation was undertaken on the Sustainability Appraisal Update (2017) and the Local Plan Review Proposed Submission (incorporating proposed modifications) (2017). A statement of consultation was provided at the same time as this consultation</p>

## Signposting Table

SEA Directive Requirements	Covered in SA
	<p>which set out the main issues raised during previous three consultations and how these were responded to. Schedule of Proposed Modifications (Proposed Submission consultation) (November 2016) and and the Sustainability Appraisal Update (2017) also demonstrate how the results of the consultations were taken into account.</p> <p>Comments received during this consultation including how the sustainability appraisal results were taken into account in decision-making are demonstrated through the Local Plan Review Proposed Submission (January 2017) Consultation Summary Document and the schedule of Proposed Minor Modifications (2017).</p> <p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Addendum (2019)</b></p> <p>The Main Modifications report along with the SA Addendum (2019) was approved for consultation at Cabinet 21 November 2019 and Council 4 December 2019. The Cabinet report summarised the conclusions of the SA Addendum (2019) and included the full SA Addendum at Appendix 3 of the Cabinet report.</p>
Provision of information on the decision	
<p>When the plan or programme is adopted, the public and any countries consulted under Article 7 must be informed and the following made available to those so informed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the plan or programme as adopted</li> <li>• a statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme and how the environmental report of Article 5, the opinions expressed pursuant to Article 6</li> </ul>	<p><b>Adopted Mid Devon Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal Post-Adoption Statement – July 2020</b></p> <p>This document is published alongside the adoption of the Local Plan and sets out a statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan, how the Environmental Report (contained within the SA Report) has been taken into account during the preparation of the plan, how the options expressed by the public and consultation bodies on the plan and the Environmental/SA report have been taken into account, the reasons for choosing the plan as adopted in light of the other reasonable alternatives considered and measures that are to be taken to</p>

## Signposting Table

SEA Directive Requirements	Covered in SA
<p>and the results of consultations entered into pursuant to Article 7 have been taken into account in accordance with Article 8, and the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the measures decided concerning monitoring (Article 9)</li> </ul>	<p>monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan.</p>
<b>Monitoring</b>	
<p>Monitoring of the significant environmental effects of the plan's or programme's implementation must be undertaken (Article 10)</p>	<p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Proposed Submission (2015)</b></p> <p>Chapter 5 'Monitoring' sets out how the Plan will be monitored.</p> <p><b>Sustainability Appraisal Addendum (2019)</b></p> <p>The SA Addendum references the monitoring indicators set out in the 2015 SA report. Following the review and appraisal of all of the Proposed Main Modifications to the Local Plan, it is considered that the same monitoring indicators remain appropriate and no changes to the SA monitoring framework are proposed.</p>