

Equality Impact Assessment

Before completing this EIA please ensure you have read the EIA guidance notes and other resources, available on the [intranet](#)



Version	1	Date Completed	January 2025
Description of what is being impact assessed			
<p>The East Devon Local Plan (Regulation 19 version) and the associated production process</p> <p>The local plan sets out policy to guide and regulate development. It will be the key East Devon District Council document that is used in respect of determining planning applications. In this respect it will be part of the Development Plan for East Devon, which will also include the Cranbrook Plan, any Made Neighbourhood Plans and the Devon County Council adopted minerals plan and waste plan. The new local plan, when adopted, is intended to supersede the existing adopted East Devon Local Plan which was adopted in 2016 and the East Devon Villages Plan which was adopted in 2018.</p> <p>There are two aspects to this impact assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Local Plan is based on very extensive public consultation. The stages it must pass through are set out in legislation and there is a requirement for the Council to produce (and consult on) a Statement of Community Involvement which the Local Plan must comply with, however there is scope to choose the methods that will be used within this framework. As there is potential for the methods of consultation to disadvantage certain people/groups of people impact assessment is required. • The Local Plan contains a number of policies which will be used in the determination of planning applications in East Devon. As there is potential for these to affect people in different ways the policies will need to be impact assessed. 			
Evidence			
What data/information have you used to assess how this policy/service might impact on protected groups?			
<p><i>Further information is available at Equality data and will be added to. Figures are based on the 2021 Census unless otherwise indicated.</i></p>			
Population			

East Devon is of average size for Districts in the South West, however it has one of the higher District population levels (150,800 Census 2021). The Eastern and Northern boundaries of East Devon abut rural parts of Devon, Dorset and Somerset. The Southern boundary of the District is formed by the English Channel. The Western boundary of East Devon abuts the commercially vibrant city of Exeter and the environmentally sensitive Exe estuary.

In East Devon District approximately 8% of households are lone parents, 25% of households have a child under 16 and around 30% of households are made up of adults living alone.

Indices of Deprivation

The unemployment rate in East Devon is 1.9%. 57.4% of the population are regarded as economically active and 45.7% are economically inactive, including retired.

Household is not deprived in any dimension 50.7%

Household is deprived in one dimension 35.4%

Household is deprived in two dimensions 11.7%

Household is deprived in three dimensions 2.1%

Household is deprived in four dimensions 0.1%

Sex

Of East Devon's population:

48.1% are male and

51.9% are female.

Race

Of East Devon's population:

Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh 1.0%

Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African 0.2%

Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups 1.1%

White 97.4%

Other ethnic group 0.3% of which 147 people are Irish/white Travellers and 46 are Roma

Disability

Of East Devon's population:

Disabled under the Equality Act 19.5%

Not disabled under the Equality Act 80.5%

In terms of general health in the population:

Very good health 46.4%

Good health 35.1%

Fair health 13.7%

Bad health 3.8%

Very bad health 1.0%

Age

East Devon is estimated to have a total population of 150,800 – an increase of 13.8% since the previous census in 2011:

- 26,527 children aged between 0 and 16, equating to circa 17% of the population
- 79,068 people aged between 18 and 64, equating to circa 52% of the population
- 45,226 people aged 65 and over, reflecting around 30% of the population

Religion/ Belief

Of East Devon's population:

No religion 41.9%

Christian 50.1%

Buddhist 0.3%

Hindu 0.1%

Jewish 0.1%

Muslim 0.3%

Sikh 0.0%

Other religion 0.5%

Not answered 6.5%

Sexual Orientation

90.56% of people aged 16 years and over in East Devon are straight or heterosexual.

1.14% are gay or lesbian

0.9% are bisexual

0.13% are other sexual orientation

7.18% didn't answer

Who have you consulted with to assess possible impact on protected groups and what have they told you? If you have not consulted other people, please explain why?

Local Plan Consultation

Issues and Options

Our work on new Local Plan production began with a public consultation on an Issues and Options document <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/2c878e2028554dd4b5508cbe335fda1a> that summarised some key issues facing East Devon looking forward and some options for how we might address these. The Issues and Options consultation was undertaken in respect of support of the requirements of Regulation 18 of 'The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012' and ran from January 18th to March 15th 2021. The feedback report can be read here <https://democracy.eastdevon.gov.uk/documents/s12816/2a.%20Consultation%20feedback%20report%20Ver%2003.pdf> . The full responses can be read at [Issues and Options - Representations on the Issues and Options consultation - East Devon](#) . The Communications plan, setting out how the consultation was run, is here [local-plan-comms-doc-final-25-march-2021.pdf \(eastdevon.gov.uk\)](#)

Alongside the Issues and Options consultation we also ran:

Call for Sites (as part of a Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment) which allowed people to identify land that they consider suitable for development. This was open to anyone with an interest in land and was publicised online and in through press releases. These sites were sifted against a methodology and suitable sites progressed to more detailed, technical assessment. The most appropriate sites were identified by Officers, most were also appraised by a panel of industry experts, and then progressed to the next stages of local plan consultation. See the HELAA and appendices [Evidence Base and Supporting Documents - Spatial Strategy, Housing and Economy - East Devon](#)

A Sustainability Appraisal scoping report consultation, to ensure that potential social, environmental and economic considerations are taken into account. [Microsoft Word - Draft SA Scoping Report East Devon Local Plan Ver 02](#)

As this was the first stage in plan production, as many people were consulted as possible to ensure that anyone with an interest was able to participate in the process. As the consultation took place immediately after the pandemic, there was a strong focus on online engagement and this included a social media campaign of content and paid-for posts that targetted specific audiences and included attractive images and content, including questions, to promote engagement with residents alongside a media campaign, press releases, newsletters and the Council's website. The consultation document contained a series of topic based sections and included questions. We invited responses to the questions via an online questionnaire but also made a pdf version available for

those without internet access or who were facing technical or other problems with completing it on-line. Most responses (598) were received through the website but a substantial number (104) of emails and letters were also received.

Responses were monitored so that consultation techniques could target under represented groups and those who were otherwise hard to reach. The overwhelming majority of respondents to the I and O questionnaire were either in the 56-70 or 70+ age groups, and members advocated that more effort should be made to specifically seek the views of younger residents in the consultation on a draft version of the plan itself. Many of the topics covered in the Draft Local Plan affect the district's younger residents, specifically including future housing provision and the lack of affordable homes – cost and availability of housing have been suggested as a major cause of both younger people leaving the area and the increase in the average age of an East Devon resident.

Draft Plan

The consultation on the East Devon Draft Local Plan 2020-2040 ran from Monday, November 7th 2022 until Sunday, January 15th 2023. Details are available at [Draft Local Plan Consultation - East Devon](#)

Sustainability Appraisal The consultation on the [Sustainability Appraisal \(SA\) report](#), which accompanied the Draft Local Plan, ran from Monday, November 7th 2022 until Sunday, January 15th 2023. This assessed the policies and sites in the Draft Local Plan against a series of key environmental, social and economic objectives. It also assessed alternative policies and sites, where reasonable, and explained why the preferred policies and sites were chosen over the alternatives.

A report summarising the feedback is available <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/emerging-local-plan/comments-made-during-the-draft-local-plan-consultation-and-feedback-report/> and at <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/media/a2dftt10/accessible-reg-18-consultation-feedback-report-spring-2023.pdf>

The consultation was supported by exhibitions and the plan featured on an online portal, where comments could be made directly, as well as documents being available in pdf format and people could comment by sending in emails and letters. We received comments from around 2,500 people and organisations through online channels and around 1,000 through letters and emails, there were also some petitions received. All of the policies in the plan were available for comment as well as sites that we had assessed as offering potential for built development. Most people commenting on the plan were unhappy about one or more aspects of the plan, though there were some (limited) statements of outright or more typically qualified support. Proposed land allocations for development came in for the greatest level of criticism with nearly all sites proposed as allocations coming in for at least some objections.

A strategy was produced that focussed on increasing engagement with the District's under 50s and, in particular, the 18-24 age group who do not traditionally engage in planning consultations. We used the Council's social media accounts to better engage

with the younger demographic, including regular posts on Facebook and Twitter and the creation of topic-specific videos for YouTube. Videos focussing on the Local Plan, climate change and housing generated 400 views in total. Viewing figures were not as high as hoped.

Members of the Devon Youth Council and East Devon representatives in the UK Youth Parliament were contacted to help publicise the consultation.

Online newsletters/updates were published throughout the consultation period, along with regular press releases being issued to the local media, adverts on the EDDC web site and online webinars for parish and town councillors. There were, face-to-face engagement events with the public, held in Whimble, Ottery St Mary, Axminster, Clyst St Mary, Sidmouth, Honiton, Exmouth, Feniton and Seaton. Some parish council and local community groups also organised their own events, such as a paper-based questionnaire organised by the Axminster Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. A group proposing a new garden village at Greenhayes organised a separate online petition.

Press releases were issued throughout the consultation period on topics such as: 'Will the new East Devon Local Plan help meet your housing need?', 'Could more be done to make new developments more environmentally friendly in East Devon?' and 'What do you think of proposals for a second new town in East Devon?' Local media outlets to cover the Local Plan included the Midweek Herald newspaper and the Nub News series of websites.

Criticisms of our approach included not directly contacting people who live near a proposed allocated site (in the way the Council would contact people living near an area affected by an actual planning application) and using online consultation software that was complicated for some users.

Supplementary Draft Plan

Following feedback the Draft Plan consultation, we held a further consultation on eight specific topics which were not fully addressed in the original (Regulation 18 Draft Plan) consultation:

- New Housing and Mixed Use Site Allocations
- New Employment Site Allocations
- Designated Neighbourhood Area Housing Requirements
- Clyst Valley Regional Park
- Town Centre Retail Areas
- Coastal Preservation Area
- Green Wedges
- Sustainability Appraisal

This further Local Plan Consultation was also at the Regulation 18 stage and ran from Thursday 16th May 2024 until 27th June. The responses are available on our consultation platform, hosted by [Commonplace](#). All [responses received not via commonplace via email or post](#) are also available to view.

The feedback report is available to view here [2a. Reg 18 Further Consultation feedback report Summer 2024.pdf \(eastdevon.gov.uk\)](#)

As in the previous Reg 18 consultation, we utilised the commonplace consultation software and asked people to provide background information on where they lived, their age and whether they were responding as a private individual or in some other capacity. Most responses received, where people provided information (noting there was no obligation to do so) were from people that live in East Devon though there were also responses from other parts of the country as well, though many of these were from agents representing clients or from other bodies or organisations. Of those respondents who answered the question 'What is your connection to the area?', 93.1% said they lived in East Devon with 18.66% stating that they worked in the district; other responses included that the respondent lived nearby or had a family connection to the area. The majority of respondents who provided details about their age were middle-aged or older, with 80.91% of respondents aged 45 or above; respondents aged 44 or under represented just 19.09% of those who took part in the consultation. A total of 23.33% of respondents did not state their age.

This consultation was undertaken online and did not utilise face to face exhibitions, although some of the directly affected town and parish councils held their own meetings and displayed the maps and policy text locally. A video promoting the consultation was featured on social media, online newsletters/updates were published throughout the consultation period, along with regular press releases being issued to the local media, adverts on the EDDC web site and online webinars for parish and town councillors.

Regulation 19 Plan Consultation

This is anticipated to take place in early 2025. It will be accompanied by a number of documents (including this one) that will also be subject to consultation. These have yet to be finalised but, as a minimum, will include:

Equalities Impact Assessment

Sustainability Appraisal

Habitats Regulation Assessment

Analysis of impact on protected groups- Local Plan Consultation

The Public Sector Equality Duty requires us to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations with protected groups. The Council also has a legal duty to have due regard to armed forces personnel when carrying out healthcare, housing and education functions. Consider how this policy/service will achieve these aims. In the table below, using the evidence outlined above and your own understanding, detail what considerations and potential impacts against each of the three aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty. Based on this information, assess the likely outcome, before you have implemented any mitigation.

Protected group	Summary of impact arising from the way in which we have consulted	Negative outcome	Neutral outcome	Positive outcome
Age	<p>A range of venues and consultation methods were used to ensure that consultation was available and accessible to all ages.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In person consultation events were undertaken at the Issues and Options and Draft Plan stages to ensure that face to face contact could take place. These were attended by a majority of older people. • Fully accessible venues were chosen to ensure that events were inclusive and those with mobility impairments or requiring pushchair/wheelchair/support dog access and facilities were accommodated. • Timings of events varied so that those of working age, or those who did not wish to venture out in the dark, could attend. • Responses were preferred through the online consultation website but paper copies of consultation material were available and responses by letter or email were also accepted. • Officers were available to read text and to scribe for those who required support. 	□	□	☒

<p>Disability</p>	<p>A range of venues and consultation methods were used to ensure that consultation was available and accessible to those with disabilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In person consultation events were undertaken at the Issues and Options and Draft Plan stages to ensure that face to face contact could take place. These were attended by a number of people with disabilities and Officers gave additional support, for example by assisting a wheelchair user with the lift, by opening earlier so that an attendee could view the material quietly, by reading text aloud and by scribing responses. • Fully accessible venues were chosen to ensure that events were inclusive and those with mobility impairments or requiring pushchair/wheelchair/support dog access and facilities were accommodated. • Timings of events varied so that those of working age, or those who did not wish to venture out in the dark, could attend. • Responses were preferred through the online consultation website but paper copies of consultation material were available (including large print on request) and responses by letter or email were also accepted. • Officers were available to read text and to scribe for those who required support. • Social media was utilised as a means to attract a wider audience but few people engaged with it. Young people, in particular, were under represented in consultation responses. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Gender reassignment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No specific measures were applied (or deemed necessary) in respect to this characteristic 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Marriage and civil partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No specific measures were applied (or deemed necessary) in respect to this characteristic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Protected group	Summary of impact	Negative outcome	Neutral outcome	Positive outcome
Pregnancy and maternity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific measures were applied (or deemed necessary) in respect to this characteristic 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race and ethnicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific measures were applied (or deemed necessary) generally in respect to this characteristic although a letter was sent to those living on known Gypsy and Traveller sites advising that a new Local Plan was being prepared and inviting them to participate. This was followed up by an accommodation needs survey which informed Gypsy and Traveller policies and sites in the Plan. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Religion or belief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific measures were applied (or deemed necessary) in respect to this characteristic 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific measures were applied (or deemed necessary) in respect to this characteristic 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific measures were applied (or deemed necessary) in respect to this characteristic 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Armed Forces (including serving personnel, families and veterans)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific measures were applied (or deemed necessary) in respect to this characteristic 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Protected group	Summary of impact	Negative outcome	Neutral outcome	Positive outcome
Other, e.g. carers, care leavers, low income, rurality/isolation, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific measures were applied (or deemed necessary) in respect to this characteristic however holding consultation events in a range of locations, accessible by public transport, across the District, online consultation and the ability to respond in a variety of ways has ensured that those living rurally could take part. As well, there is no charge to access, or participate or for copies of consultation materials, so that those on low incomes can fully participate. In addition to public consultation, a range of statutory consultees, organisations and interest groups, and town and parish councils have participated in the consultations and these bodies are representative of local communities. In this way a wide range of residents views and interests have been put forward without them necessarily having to participate individually. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Negative outcomes action plan

Where you have ascertained that there will potentially be negative outcomes, you are required to mitigate the impact of these. Please detail below the actions that you intend to take.

Action taken/to be taken	Date	Person responsible	How will it be monitored?	Action complete
Not applicable	Select date			<input type="checkbox"/>

If negative impacts remain, please provide an explanation below.

Young people have not actively engaged with the Local Plan process despite attempts to interest them through a social media campaign. They are represented as residents, through their local Councils, interest groups and statutory consultees. Previous local plan consultations (to inform the current, adopted plan) involved Officers proactively engaging with young people at schools and youth clubs but this didn't result in increased response rates.

Analysis of impact on protected groups- Local Plan Policies

The Public Sector Equality Duty requires us to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations with protected groups. The Council also has a legal duty to have due regard to armed forces personnel when carrying out healthcare, housing and education functions. Consider how this policy/service will achieve these aims. In the table below, using the evidence outlined above and your own understanding, detail what considerations and potential impacts against each of the three aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty. Based on this information, assess the likely outcome, before you have implemented any mitigation.

This is a summary of the main impacts of the Local Plan policies on those with protected characteristics. A full assessment of the impact of all policies on the 9 groups covered by the Equalities Act 2010 is contained in Table 1 below.

Protected group	Summary of impact	Negative outcome	Neutral outcome	Positive outcome
Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing policies (particularly HN01) will ensure that a mix of housing is provided to meet local needs. This will include specialist housing for older residents, housing suited for younger residents, families and first time buyers, adaptable homes and care homes as well as housing to buy and rent. Policy HN03 provides for housing to meet the needs of older people. It states that at least 1630 dwellings will be built specifically for older people, including residential care homes and nursing homes, Extra care housing or housing-with-care, Retirement living or sheltered housing and age-restricted general market housing. Policy HN04 sets requirements for all housing to be accessible and adaptable but a higher standard for older peoples housing to accommodate wheelchair users Policy HN05 permits self-build and custom build housing and this could meet age related needs 	□	□	☒

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy HN07 permits, among other things, annexes to main dwellings. These are commonly used by extended family members and age is a key reason for requiring the support or independence that an annexe can provide • Young people may benefit from the employment and training opportunities conveyed through Policy SE05. • On a more general point, policies which concentrate facilities and services close to peoples homes and public transport links will benefit older people by improving their accessibility and reducing isolation. 			
Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing policies (particularly HN01) will ensure that a mix of housing is provided to meet local needs. This will include specialist and custom built housing for disabled residents, dwellings for disabled people who want to retain independent living, adaptable and accessible housing and wheelchair user housing, care homes as well as housing to buy and rent. • Policy HN04 sets requirements for all housing to be accessible and adaptable but a higher standard for some types of housing to accommodate wheelchair users • Policy HN05 permits self-build and custom build housing and this could meet disability related needs • Policy HN07 permits, among other things, annexes to main dwellings. These are commonly used by extended family members and disability is a key reason for requiring the support or independence that an annexe can provide • The historic environment is likely to be problematic for those with mobility impairment. Policies in the local plan support the conservation of heritage assets and resist the change or loss of 	□	□	☒

	<p>historic features/material where this will be detrimental to the asset. Permanent disability adaptations could lead to structural harm and a balance between the disabled persons needs and harm to historic environment will need to be achieved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On a more general point, policies which concentrate facilities and services close to peoples homes and public transport links will benefit disabled people by improving their accessibility and reducing isolation. 			
Gender reassignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific policies apply (or deemed necessary) in respect to this characteristic 	□	⊗	□
Marriage and civil partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific policies apply (or deemed necessary) in respect to this characteristic 	□	⊗	□

Protected group	Summary of impact	Negative outcome	Neutral outcome	Positive outcome
Pregnancy and maternity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific policies apply (or deemed necessary) in respect to this characteristic although it should be noted that new accessible routes to services and open space may also increase accessibility to those with young children in pushchairs and, in the towns, concentrating housing close to services, will improve accessibility to health care during pregnancy. 	□	⊗	□
Race and ethnicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy HN09 sets out the level of need for Gypsy and Traveller pitches in the District and allocates sites to ensure that this need is adequately met. It also sets out criteria to determine planning applications on 'windfall' sites in case additional need arises during the plan period. This policy is based on extensive survey work and evidence https://eastdevon.gov.uk/media/gl0n5qkq/2024-09-30-east-devon-gtaa.pdf 	□	□	⊗
Religion or belief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific policies apply (or deemed necessary) in respect to this characteristic although it should be noted that, where religious buildings are proposed, the community facility policy is generally supportive. The new community will require provision of a shared-faith facility. 	□	⊗	□
Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific policies apply (or deemed necessary) in respect to this characteristic 	□	⊗	□
Sexual orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific policies apply (or deemed necessary) in respect to this characteristic 	□	⊗	□

Protected group	Summary of impact	Negative outcome	Neutral outcome	Positive outcome
Armed Forces (including serving personnel, families and veterans)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific policies apply (or deemed necessary) in respect to this characteristic although it should be noted that strategic policy HN1 provides for a range of housing types to meet local needs including housing to rent (which may be more applicable to those whose job means they may be deployed at short notice) and buy. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other, e.g. carers, care leavers, low income, rurality/isolation, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing Policy HN1 provides for a range of housing to meet local needs, including affordable housing. Policy HN08 provides for hostels and houses in multiple occupation. These could help to meet a need for vulnerable people who require particular consideration under the equality legislation. Policy HN10 provides for affordable housing to meet the needs of rural communities Housing to meet the needs of rural workers is permitted under policy HN11 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Negative outcomes action plan Where you have ascertained that there will potentially be negative outcomes, you are required to mitigate the impact of these. Please detail below the actions that you intend to take.</p>				
Action taken/to be taken	Date	Person responsible	How will it be monitored?	Action complete
Not applicable	Select date			<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>If negative impacts remain, please provide an explanation below.</p>				

Protected group	Summary of impact	Negative outcome	Neutral outcome	Positive outcome
	<p>None have been identified. The Equalities Impact Assessment indicates that East Devon District Councils Local Plan policies are supportive of equality groups. The plan aims to develop balanced, integrated communities that advance equality of opportunity, eliminate discrimination and foster good relations between people. Equality considerations are fundamental to strategic planning and the Plan is designed to respond to local needs.</p>			

Table 1 Likely effects of the policies in the East Devon Local Plan on the nine protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010

Policy	Age	Disability	Gender Reassignment	Marriage and Civil Partnership	Pregnancy and maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual Orientation
Note Chapters 1 and 2 do not contain policies requiring assessment Chapter 3 The Spatial Strategy									
SP 01: Spatial Strategy	+	+	0	0	+/-	0	+/-	0	0
SP 02 : Levels of future housing development	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SP 03 : Housing Requirement by DNA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SP04: Employment Provision and Distribution Strategy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SP 05: Development inside Settlement Boundaries	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SP06: Development beyond Settlement Boundaries	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SP07: Delivery of infrastructure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The local plan strategy directs the majority of new growth to settlements with a range of facilities and services and that are readily accessible by a range of modes of transport. This ensures that everyone's basic needs have the highest likelihood of being met, irrespective of their protected characteristics.

The Local Plan promotes a sustainable pattern of development that seeks to align growth and infrastructure; and strategic policies set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and design quality of places. Significant development is focused on locations which are or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes. This helps to reduce congestion and carbon dioxide emissions, and improve air quality and public health.

In rural areas, which form large parts of East Devon, national policy states that housing should be located where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities; and policies should identify opportunities for villages to grow and thrive, especially where this will support local services. Where there are groups of smaller settlements, development in one village may support services in a village nearby.

A key part of the spatial strategy is in identifying the settlement hierarchy, grouping settlements together where they share similar characteristics and placing them in different tiers. Settlements with a higher population and a greater range of jobs, community facilities and services serving a wide area are placed at the top of the settlement hierarchy; whilst smaller settlements that have fewer jobs and facilities perform a more local, but still important, role are grouped lower down the hierarchy. This could result in a positive effect in relation to the provision of services relevant to faith, pregnancy and maternity, the ageing population and sexual orientation as it reduces the potential for isolation and increases the likelihood of meeting others, and having facilities targeted at supporting, these groups. However, a negative effect may also result as development in the countryside and outside of the main built-up areas of settlements, where there is reduced access to services and facilities, which might otherwise benefit these protected groups is unlikely to be supported.

Exmouth has a significantly higher population, number of jobs, and level of community services and facilities that distinguish it as the 'principal centre' in East Devon. The six 'main centres' benefit from a range of jobs along with strategic and local facilities, serving both the settlement and wider surrounding area – in Cranbrook's case some of these facilities are planned to be delivered in the coming years. Whilst the strategy for "significant development" at the Principal Centre and Main Centres cannot be defined precisely, these settlements are allocated large amounts of development consistent with them being among the most sustainable locations for growth in the district. As explained elsewhere, the recently adopted Cranbrook Plan provides for future development at the settlement, so this Local Plan is not allocating further development within or adjoining the Cranbrook Plan area.

The five 'local centres' perform an important local role, with reasonable levels of population and jobs; and a smaller selection of strategic facilities alongside all or most local facilities. A further 23 settlements have a relatively good range of local facilities either in the settlement or nearby and are 'service villages' for both the settlement and immediate surrounding rural area. The strategy for development that meets "local needs" in these locations implies a lower scale of growth, reflecting the more limited range of jobs, services and facilities at these settlements.

For the purposes of the Local Plan, all other settlements are considered to be 'open countryside' where more restrictive planning policies apply. Nevertheless, development can come forward in these places in certain circumstances, such as rural exception sites, community-led development (for example through a neighbourhood plan).

Policy	Age	Disability	Gender Reassignment	Marriage and Civil Partnership	Pregnancy and maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual Orientation
Chapter 5 Future growth and development on the western side of East Devon									
WS 01: Development of a second new town east of Exeter	+	+	0	0	+	0	+	0	0
WS02: Development within the Enterprise Zone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WS03: Exeter Science Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WS04: Land north of the Science Park (Brcl_23)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WS05: Exeter International Airport and its future operation and development	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WS06: Employment land to the east of the airport buildings (Site GH/ED/43, GH/ED/45 and Rock_09a)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

WS 07: Employment land north of the Airport, adjoining Treasbeare (Clho_09)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WS08: Employment land opposite the airport buildings, south of the A30 (site Farr_01)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WS09: Clyst Valley Regional Park (Green and Blue Infrastructure)	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
WS 10: Development next to the M5 and north of Topsham	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WS 11: Gypsy and traveller site east of the M5 and south of the Exeter- Waterloo line	+	+	0	0	+	++	0	0	0
Ws12: Employment land at Sandygate, between the M5 and Clyst	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Road (site Clge_07)									
WS13: Employment land at Lodge Trading Estate, Station Road, Broadclyst (site Brcl_27a)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WS14: Employment land south of Langdon's Business Park, Clyst St Mary (site Sowt_15a)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WS15: Employment land at Darts Farm (site Clge_23a and Clge_25a)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Most of the policies in this Chapter do not include any direct or indirect references to any of the protected characteristics against which they have been assessed and are unlikely to result in any specific impacts. A negligible effect has therefore been recorded for all protected characteristics in these cases.

The new community and land next to the M5, north of Topsham, are intended to be developed as mixed use sites, with a range of housing, facilities and employment in close proximity. This will positively benefit the whole community but especially older and/or disabled residents due to increased accessibility. The new community will be expected to provide a multifaith building which will positively benefit those with religious or belief characteristics. The Clyst Valley Regional Park expansion will benefit the whole community but, increased accessibility arising from surfaced paths through sections of the park, will especially benefit older people, disabled people and those with pushchairs who otherwise would not be able to access the countryside using unmade footpaths.

The allocation of a Gypsy and Traveller site (WS11) will benefit elderly, young, disabled and pregnant Gypsies and Travellers in particular, as those groups tend to live on permanent sites for health, education and caring reasons. An allocated site scores particularly highly for the race criteria as occupancy is restricted to those with a demonstrated cultural need.

Policy	Age	Disability	Gender Reassignment	Marriage and Civil Partnership	Pregnancy and maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual Orientation
Chapter 6 Strategy for development at Principal Centre, Main Centres, Local Centres and Service Villages									
SD01-SD25 Site specific allocations at the tiered settlements.	+	+	0	0	+	0	+	0	+
<p>This chapter of the plan specifically sets out allocations of land for development at the Principal Centre of Exmouth, at the Main Centres, at Local Centres and at Service Villages in East Devon, noting that this settlement hierarchy is set out in separate policy in the plan. The policies in this chapter specify the levels of development that are expected on any given site and whether employment or site specific facilities are required on the site as part of a mixed use allocation.</p> <p>The policies in this chapter have not been assessed individually as they conform to the overall strategy, which is to allocate sites on a ‘tiered’ basis, with most development being located at the most sustainable settlements with the widest range of facilities and best accessibility by public transport. Not all facilities will be available in all of the tiered settlements but they are recognised as the most accessible locations in the District for many residents, the locations with the greatest concentration of facilities and services and where it is demonstrated that additional housing will enhance community services and facilities. This could result in a positive effect in relation to the provision of services relevant to those groups whose protected characteristics require facilities to be accessible and available, for example health care for pregnant women and religious buildings for those who wish to worship. There is potential for isolation amongst the ageing population, disabled people, parents and pregnant women to be reduced through increased provision of meetings, classes and activities in locations such as community halls. An increase in the provision of community services and facilities within the tiered settlements may also include places in which faith groups can meet and therefore a positive effect is identified for residents in the District in terms of support for religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation and age. However, a negative effect may also result as there is little development in smaller, countryside, settlements, where there is already limited access to services and no proposed additional ones.</p> <p>A further, positive effect of the site allocations in relation to age and disability, arises from the requirement for new development to be accessible and provide strong, legible connections. This approach to development may be particularly sympathetic to the needs of more elderly or disabled residents in the District, particularly where the connections between places make provisions for those in wheelchairs, the blind and deaf. The policy will also have a positive impact on pregnancy and maternity as improved pedestrian and cycle connections will be easier to navigate with a pram.</p>									
Policy	Age	Disability	Gender Reassignment	Marriage and Civil Partnership	Pregnancy and maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual Orientation
Chapter 7. Tackling the climate emergency and responding to climate change									

CC01: Climate Emergency	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CC02: Net-Zero Carbon Development	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CC03: Promoting low carbon and renewable energy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CC04: Energy Storage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CC05: Heat Networks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CC06: Embodied carbon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

These policies do not include any direct or indirect references to any of the protected characteristics against which they have been assessed. A negligible effect has therefore been recorded for all protected characteristics.

Policy	Age	Disability	Gender Reassignment	Marriage and Civil Partnership	Pregnancy and maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual Orientation
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Chapter 8 Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change

AR01: Flooding	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AR02: Water Efficiency	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

AR03: Coastal Change Management Areas (CCMAs)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AR04: Relocation of uses affected by coastal change	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AR05: Development affecting coastal erosion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
These policies do not include any direct or indirect references to any of the protected characteristics against which they have been assessed. A negligible effect has therefore been recorded for all protected characteristics.									
Policy	Age	Disability	Gender Reassignment	Marriage and Civil Partnership	Pregnancy and maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual Orientation
Chapter 9 Meeting housing needs for all									
HN01: Housing to address needs	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
HN02: Affordable Housing	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
HN03: Housing to meet the needs of older people	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HN04: Accessible and Adaptable Housing	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

HN05: Self-Build and Custom Build Housing	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HN06: Residential Sub-division of Existing Dwellings and Buildings and Replacement of Existing Dwellings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HN07: Householder Annexes, Extensions, Alterations and Outbuildings	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HN08: Hostels and Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HN09: Provision for Gypsy and Travellers, and Travelling Showpeople Sites	+	+	0	0	+	++	0	0	0
HN10: Rural Exception Sites	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HN11: Housing for rural workers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Housing policies (particularly HN01) will ensure that a mix of housing is provided to meet local needs. This will include specialist housing for older and/or disabled residents, housing suited for younger residents, families and first time buyers, adaptable and accessible homes and care homes as well as housing to buy and rent.

Policy HN03 provides for housing to meet the needs of older people. It sets a minimum number of homes to be built specifically for older people, including residential care homes and nursing homes, Extra care housing or housing-with-care, Retirement living or sheltered housing and age-restricted general market housing.

Policy HN04 sets requirements for all housing to be accessible and adaptable but a higher standard for older peoples housing to accommodate wheelchair users. This will be a very positive requirement to benefit the elderly and disabled.

Policy HN05 permits self-build and custom build housing and this could meet age or disability related needs

Policy HN07 permits, among other things, annexes to main dwellings. These are commonly used by extended family members and age or disability is a key reason for requiring the support or independence that an annexe can provide

Policy HN09 sets out the level of need for Gypsy and Traveller pitches in the District and allocates sites to ensure that this need is adequately met. It also sets out criteria to determine planning applications on ‘windfall’ sites in case additional need arises during the plan period. This policy is based on extensive survey work and evidence <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/media/g10n5qkq/2024-09-30-east-devon-gtaa.pdf>. This policy is likely to benefit elderly, disabled and pregnant/maternity (caring responsibility) Gypsies and Travellers as the evidence suggests they are most likely to have ceased travelling and require a permanent pitch. This policy positively benefits those with a protected racial characteristic as the pitches are permitted in areas where housing would normally be refused, and pitches are permitted only for Gypsy or Traveller occupation in perpetuity.

Policy	Age	Disability	Gender Reassignment	Marriage and Civil Partnership	Pregnancy and maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual Orientation
Chapter 10. Supporting jobs and the economy and vibrant town centres									
SE01: Employment development within settlement boundaries	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SE02: Employment development in the countryside	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

SE03: Farm Diversification	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SE04: Resisting the loss of Employment sites	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SE05: Employment and Skills Statements	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SE06: Town centre hierarchy, sequential approach and impact assessment	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SE07: Town Centre development	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SE08: Local shops and services	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SE09: Rural shops	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SE10: Sustainable Tourism	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SE11: Holiday Accommodation Parks in designated landscapes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The employment and tourism policies in the plan will benefit everyone, so there are limited impacts on those with protected characteristics, although holiday accommodation is now required to be accessible to those with disabilities. Disabled residents should benefit from employment opportunities being located close to housing as it increases accessibility, and the requirement for employment and skills statements should be particularly beneficial to young people entering the workplace and disabled people who wish to retrain or have adapted roles.

The policies relating to town centre or rural shopping facilities will positively benefit the elderly and disabled due to the proximity of facilities to housing, making them more accessible to these groups who are less likely to have access to private motorised transport.

Policy	Age	Disability	Gender Reassignment	Marriage and Civil Partnership	Pregnancy and maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual Orientation
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Chapter 11. Designing beautiful and healthy spaces and buildings

DS01: Design and Local Distinctiveness	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DS02: Housing Density and Efficient Use of Land	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DS03: Display of Advertisements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DS04: Green & Blue Infrastructure	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

These policies are likely to benefit all residents to an extent. Improved legibility is likely to be particularly beneficial to those who are cognitively or sight impaired. Higher density housing and proximity to services will be particularly beneficial to elderly and disabled residents as it reduces reliance on private vehicles or walking long distances to access facilities and services; it also increases the population needed to make services and facilities viable. Access to green and blue infrastructure will benefit the health and wellbeing of all residents but evidence supports the particular benefits to mental wellbeing and improving depression.

These policies do not include any direct or indirect references to any of the protected characteristics against which they have been assessed. A negligible effect has therefore been recorded for the other protected characteristics.

Policy	Age	Disability	Gender Reassignment	Marriage and Civil Partnership	Pregnancy and maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual Orientation
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Chapter 12. Prioritising sustainable travel and providing the transport and communications facilities we need

TR01: Prioritising walking, wheeling, cycling, and public transport	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TR02: Protecting transport sites and routes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TR03: Travel Plans, Transport Statements, Transport Assessments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TR04: Parking standards	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TR05: Aerodrome Safeguarded Areas and Public Safety Zones	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TR06: Digital Connectivity	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TR07: Wireless connectivity and telecoms infrastructure	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

As with previous policies, all residents will benefit from these policies. Policies which improve accessibility, walking/wheelchair surfaces and access to public transport will particularly benefit disabled people and the elderly, as will ensuring adequate parking is available for every home (both for residents and to reduce inappropriate parking by others which can block pavements and reduce accessibility). Digital connectivity and telecoms infrastructure are particularly beneficial to those who are housebound or rely on internet based services.

Policy	Age	Disability	Gender Reassignment	Marriage and Civil Partnership	Pregnancy and maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual Orientation
Chapter 13. Caring for our outstanding landscape									
OL01: Landscape Features	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OL02: National Landscapes (Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OL03: Coastal Preservation Areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OL04: Areas of Strategic Visual Importance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OL05: Green wedges	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OL06: Land of Local Amenity Importance or Local Green Space	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OL07: Exmouth Valley Parks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OL08: Contaminated Land	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

OL09: Potentially Hazardous Developments and Notifiable Installations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy – OL10: Control of Pollution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OL11: Development on High Quality Agricultural Land	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
These policies do not include any direct or indirect references to any of the protected characteristics against which they have been assessed. A negligible effect has therefore been recorded for all protected characteristics.									
Policy	Age	Disability	Gender Reassignment	Marriage and Civil Partnership	Pregnancy and maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual Orientation
Chapter 14. Protecting and enhancing our outstanding biodiversity and geodiversity									
PB01: Protection of Internationally and Nationally important wildlife sites	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PB02: Protection of Regionally and Locally important wildlife sites	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

PB03: Protection of irreplaceable habitats and important features	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PB04: Habitats Regulations Assessment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PB05: Biodiversity Net Gain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PB06: Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Nature Recovery Network	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PB07: Ecological enhancement and biodiversity in the built environment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PB08: Tree, Hedges and Woodland on Development Sites	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PB09: Monitoring requirements for new planting schemes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PB10: Protection and Enhancement of	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

the Jurassic Coast World Heritage site									
PB11: Protection of designated geological sites	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PB12: Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

These policies do not include any direct or indirect references to any of the protected characteristics against which they have been assessed. A negligible effect has therefore been recorded for all protected characteristics.

Policy	Age	Disability	Gender Reassignment	Marriage and Civil Partnership	Pregnancy and maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual Orientation
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Chapter 15. Open space and sports and recreation facilities

OS01: Access to open space and recreation facilities	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OS02: Land and buildings for sport, recreation and open space areas in association with development	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OS03: Location of facilities for sport and recreation,	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

open spaces and allotments									
OS04: New allotments and avoiding the loss of existing ones	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OS05: Leisure and recreation developments in the countryside	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
As with previous policies, accessibility of open space and recreational facilities will be of particular benefit to disabled and elderly/children although they will have a positive impact on the whole community.									
Policy	Age	Disability	Gender Reassignment	Marriage and Civil Partnership	Pregnancy and maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual Orientation
Chapter 16. Our outstanding historic environment									
HE01: Historic Environment	?	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HE02: Listed buildings	?	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HE03: Conservation Areas	?	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HE04: Archaeology and Scheduled Monuments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HE05: Historic Landscapes,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Parks and Gardens									
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There is a particular need for elderly/disabled building adaptations to be sensitively undertaken in regard to the historic environment. The rarity of heritage assets must be balanced against user needs and it may not be possible to achieve a fully 'safe' standard of accommodation or access without irreparably damaging the asset. Examples would be where roads are cobbled and topping with accessible surfaces would destroy them, or staircases are narrow and steep and inaccessible to wheelchair users. In many cases temporary measures (such as portaloos or ramps) may address short-term user requirements for visitors but it may not be possible to make permanent changes so that historic buildings can be lived in by those with mobility impairment. For these reasons an unknown impact is identified as it will depend on site/case specific circumstances.

Policy	Age	Disability	Gender Reassignment	Marriage and Civil Partnership	Pregnancy and maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual Orientation
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Chapter 17. Ensuring we have community buildings and facilities

CF01: New or extended community facilities	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	0	0
CF02: Loss of community facilities	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	0	0

Access to community facilities is important to the whole community, irrespective of their protected characteristics. Some people will particularly benefit from using community facilities close to their homes and it is important that these are available and accessible to meet their needs, especially where this will reduce isolation which otherwise might arise from their protected characteristics. The policies will ensure that community facilities are available and that their loss is resisted as much as possible.

Completed by:	Claire Rodway, Senior Planning Officer
Date:	8.1.24
Approved by:	<i>Should be reviewed by the relevant Assistant Director/Director and signed off</i>
Date:	
To be reviewed by:	

Review date:	
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Ensure that a final copy of this impact assessment is sent to HR as per the equality impact assessment guidance.