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Exeter Plan 2021-2041

Publication Stage (Regulation 19)

Representation Form

Ref:**(For official
use only)**

Name of the Local Plan to which this representation relates: Exeter Plan 2021-2041

Please return to Exeter City Council, Local Plans Team, Paris Street, Exeter, EX1 1JN, upload onto our consultation portal at <https://exeterplanpublication.commonplace.is/> or email to planning.policy@exeter.gov.uk by **11:59 pm** on **6 February 2025**.

This form has two parts:

Part A – Personal Details: Needs to be completed only once.

Part B – Your representation(s). Please fill in a separate sheet for each representation you wish to make.

Part A: Personal details

1. Personal details*

*If an agent is appointed, please complete only the Title, Name and Organisation (if application) boxes below but complete the full contact details of the agent in section 2.

Title	Councillor
First Name	Diana
Last Name	Moore
Job Title (where relevant)	Leader of Green Group. Submissions on behalf of Cllrs Banyard, Read, Rees, Bennet, Wetenhall, Ketchin.
Organisation (where relevant)	Exeter City Council
Address Line 1	% Civic Centre
Line 2	Paris St
Line 3	Exeter

Line 4

Post Code

Telephone number

E-mail address

2. Agent's details if applicable

Title

First Name

Last Name

Job Title (where relevant)

Organisation (where relevant)

Address Line 1

Line 2

Line 3

Line 4

Post Code

Telephone number

E-mail address

Part B – Representation

Please use a separate sheet for each representation

3. To which part of the Exeter Plan does this representation relate?

Paragraph

Policy

H1 & H2

Policies Map

Biodiversity
linkages mpa

4. Do you consider that this part of the Exeter Plan is legally compliant?

Yes

No

4 (a). If yes, and you wish to support the legal compliance of this part of the Exeter Plan, please use this box to set out your comments.

(Continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

4 (b). If no, please give details of why you consider this part of the Exeter Plan is not legally compliant. Please be as precise as possible.

(Continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

4 (c). Please set out the modification(s) you consider necessary to make this part of the Exeter Plan legally compliant, in respect of any legal compliance matters you have identified at 4(b) above. You will need to say why each modification will make this part of the Exeter Plan legally compliant. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording for the relevant policy or paragraph. Please be as precise as possible.

(Continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

5. Do you consider that this part of the Exeter Plan is Sound?

Yes

No

☒

5 (a). If yes, and you wish to support the soundness of this part of the Exeter Plan, please use this box to set out your comments.

(Continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

5 (b). If no, please give details of why you consider this part of the Exeter Plan is unsound. Please be as precise as possible.

(Continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

Para 6.3 states that the housing requirement for Exeter is 12,840 homes between 2021 and 2041. Existing permissions provide for 5289 homes. Policy H1 states that approximately 1006 homes will be provided on as yet unspecified windfall sites.

Policy H2 then covers the sites allocated for new housing development, to fulfill the remaining requirement. These sites include sites identified for minor development (31 homes); sites identified for major development (823 homes), plus other large scale sites (1321 homes) and strategic mixed use sites (3194 homes).

Exeter City Council estimates that these sites, together with the 2021-2024 completions, existing permissions, and windfall sites, provide an availability for 13975 homes (see Policy H1). This is 1495 homes in excess of the housing requirement. Exeter CC explains this headroom as *'...allow(ing) for choice and competition in the housing market and means that the Exeter Plan will be resilient to uncertainties such as a delay in developing a particular site or changes to housing needs or Government policy...'*

However, we consider that **the Policies do not take account of NPPF (Dec 2023) paragraphs 103 to 106** (retention of open space, enhancing rights of way, community identification of Local Green Spaces which are demonstrably special to a local community and holding particular local significance), **para 124a** (new habitat creation), **para 124b** (recognition that some undeveloped land can perform functions for wildlife, recreation, flood risk mitigation, cooling/shading, carbon storage or food production); **para 124c** (supporting opportunities to remediate despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated land), and para 136 (tree provision), in respect of the smaller allocated sites and windfall sites.

Some of these, if they weren't developed for housing, but instead were enhanced with green infrastructure, could meet the following needs identified in the NPPF:

- provide physical and mental health benefits to the local population,
- enhance urban wildlife and biodiversity, and
- counter the urban heat effect associated with climate change.

Such sites can also act as important wildlife and biodiversity corridors as part of the biodiversity network.

While Policy NE6 allows for some green infrastructure to be provided on some of the allocated sites, that policy applies only to major development (10+ homes), and not to minor development and windfall sites, some of which could be removed from the housing allocations list where local circumstances are in support of this. Removal of some of the major development sites themselves should also be considered where local circumstances favour this, without compromising the ability to meet the housing requirement.

5 (c). Please set out the modification(s) you consider necessary to make this part of the Exeter Plan sound, in respect of any soundness matters you have identified at 5(b) above.

You will need to say why each modification will make this part of the Exeter Plan sound. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording for the relevant policy or paragraph. Please be as precise as possible.

(Continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

The Policies or the supporting text should contain words to the effect that Sites included for residential development will be those with no demonstrable local significance or no potential for improving adaptation or resilience to tackle climate change.

6. Do you consider that this part of the Exeter Plan complies with the Duty to Co-operate?

Yes

No

6 (a). If yes, and you wish to support this part of the Exeter Plan's compliance with the duty to co-operate, please use this box to set out your comments.

(Continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

6 (b). If no, please give details of why you consider this part of the Exeter Plan fails to comply with the duty to co-operate. Please be as precise as possible.

(Continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

Please note that non-compliance with the duty to co-operate is incapable of modification at examination.

7. If you would like to make representations on the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) please provide your comments here, stating to which part of the SA your comments relate.

(Continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

8. If you would like to make representations on the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) please provide your comments here, stating to which part of the HRA your comments relate.
(Continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

Please note In your representation you should provide succinctly all the evidence and supporting information necessary to support your representation and your suggested modification(s). You should not assume that you will have a further opportunity to make submissions.

After this stage, further submissions may only be made if invited by the Inspector, based on the matters and issues he or she identifies for examination.

9. If your representation is seeking a modification to the plan, do you consider it necessary to participate in examination hearing session(s)?

No, I do not wish to participate in hearing session(s)

Yes, I wish to participate in hearing session(s)

✓

Please note that while this will provide an initial indication of your wish to participate in hearing session(s), you may be asked at a later point to confirm your request to participate.

10. If you wish to participate in the hearing session(s), please outline why you consider this to be necessary:
(Continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

As councillors (some of whom have sat on the planning committee) we have experience of trying to work with planning policy in practice and how planning decisions are taken within the Council.

As ward Councillors we have experience of how planning policy affects the community and local environment and the extent to which it may or may not be effective in achieving the stated policy

outcomes. We are also advocates for our communities and have identified where planning policies are not effective in terms of meeting positive planning outcomes for our communities and local environment.

The issues we have commented on in these representations are ones which concern us most (having made previous representations). However, it should be noted that, there has been no opportunity for formal Scrutiny (as set out in the Local Government Act) of the local plan policies, despite our numerous formal requests. While the strategic direction was set by the administration and approved by Council it should be noted that the emerging plan policies have not subject to any formal political oversight, for example in a council strategic planning committee. Our group has objected to the process. We are therefore having to make a number of representations to the Inspector on the matters that will have the most impact on our communities and environment.

Please note the Inspector will determine the most appropriate procedure to adopt to hear those who have indicated that they wish to participate in hearing session(s). You may be asked to confirm your wish to participate when the Inspector has identified the matters and issues for examination.

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