

Tiverton Neighbourhood Plan
SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT



Pre-Submission Stage (Regulation 14)

April 2021

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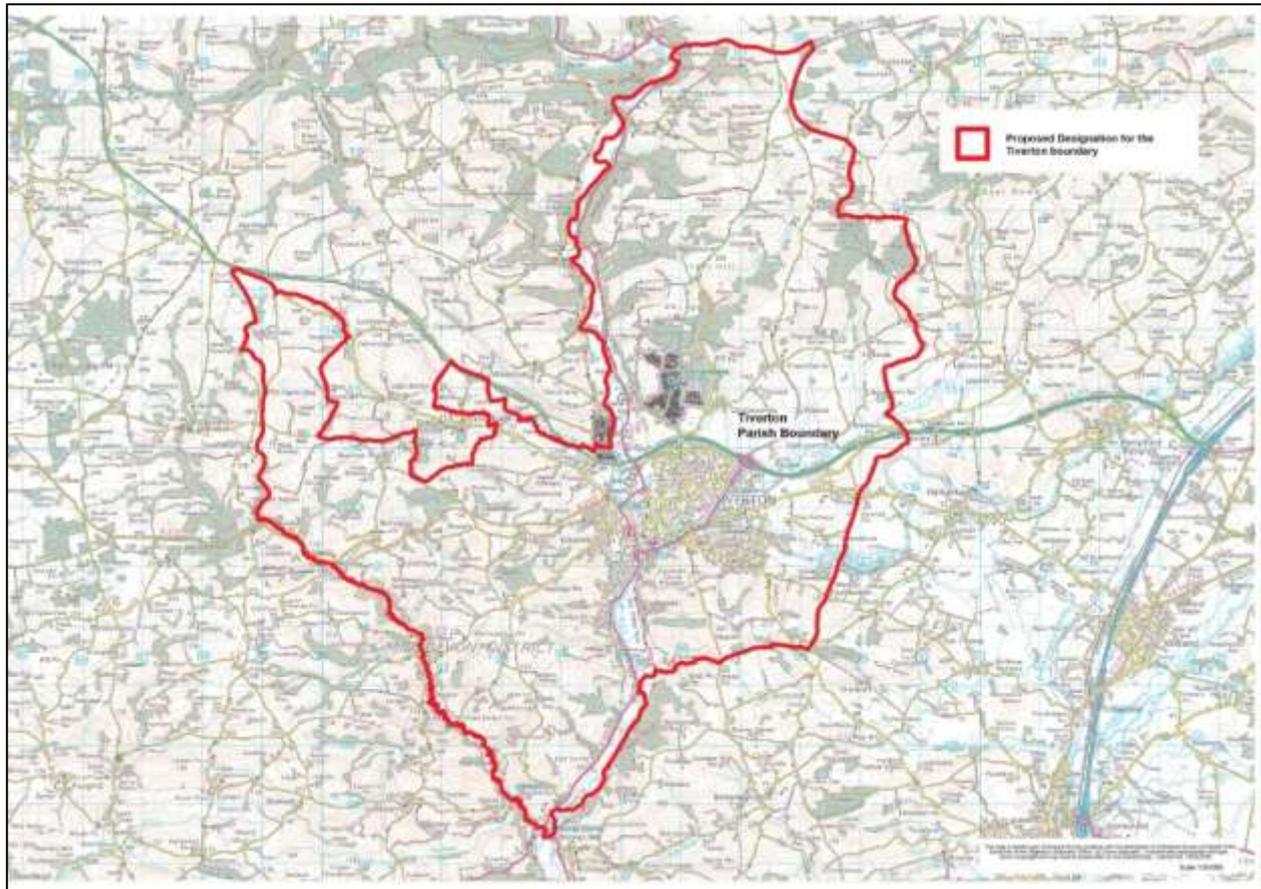
1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Sustainability Statement has been prepared to support the Tiverton Neighbourhood Plan ('the Plan'). It demonstrates how the Plan contributes towards the achievement of sustainable development.
- 1.2. Sustainable development is about ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come. It is about considering the long-term environmental, social and economic issues and impacts in an integrated and balanced way. The UK Government has set five guiding principles to achieve the sustainable development purpose. These principles form the basis for policy in the UK and are as follows:
 - Living within environmental limits
 - Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
 - Building a strong, stable and sustainable economy
 - Promoting good governance
 - Using sound science responsibly
- 1.3. One of the means by which sustainable development can be achieved is through the land-use planning process. The Neighbourhood Plan can help to achieve sustainable development as it aims to ensure that development meets the needs of people living and working in the Neighbourhood Area, while at the same time helping to ensure that adverse environmental, economic and social impacts are minimised.

The Plan

- 1.4. The designated Neighbourhood Plan Area, which shares its boundary with that of the parish, is shown in Figure 1.1.

Figure 1.1: Tiverton Neighbourhood Area



- 1.5. The Plan has been developed by members of the Plan Steering Group following an extensive programme of engagement with the local community. The Plan's vision for development of the area up to 2031 is as follows:

It's 2033, and the target of net zero carbon emissions set by Tiverton Town Council in 2019 has been achieved, with changes to transport, new building, energy production and efficiency, and agriculture.

Tiverton is a great place to live, set in beautiful countryside and with access to excellent employment opportunities, schools, shops, amenities and transport links. The rural part of the parish retains scattered hamlets among highly productive farmland supplying produce locally.

Frequent electric buses run from all parts of the parish to the centre, and to Parkway station and Exeter, and soon driverless taxis will be in place, summoned by an app. Charging points for vehicles (including e-bikes) are widely available.

There are easy off-road cycle and separate pedestrian routes into and around the town, with undercover cycle storage in the town centre, at the bus station and station, and key bus-stops. There are safe cycling routes into Exeter along the Exe Valley,

and to the station. There is one parcel delivery service, using electric vehicles or drones. Mobile and fast broadband connectivity are universal.

A network of local shops ensures that people do not have to drive to buy food and household items.

The town centre is thriving, with vital services such as banks and pharmacies, but also many innovative independent shops and businesses, which together with a lively café culture make visiting the centre a real pleasure. Jewel in the crown is the pannier market, and the centre of the town hosts community events and celebrations. Most of the old town centre buildings have been renovated, with more people living above shops, so that the centre remains a safe and living place in the evening.

New homes are designed in keeping with the local character, and built by low carbon, minimal waste methods, with sustainable heating and waste-water treatment. They range in size and tenure, with a significant proportion affordable by local people, accessible for wheelchairs, with space for homeworking and adequate storage, including for bicycles, buggies and recycling. There are green spaces for play and community growing, carbon capture and flood alleviation.

Existing homes, including those owned by the Council, have high standards of insulation and have been retrofitted with sustainable heating sources and other energy saving features.

Opportunities for employment have expanded in Tiverton, which has small starter business units, high quality light industrial and office premises and a well-educated population. Homes and energy are produced by private, public and community owned organisations. Heathcoat Fabrics remains an international innovator.

Many farms in the parish have adopted more sustainable methods of mixed farming, including an increase in growing for local markets. There are more community growing areas, both within and outside the town, building on the strong allotment heritage. Green corridors have been enhanced through the town, and areas both within and around have been carefully rewilded.

Tiverton celebrates its roots by protecting its built heritage and iconic views over the surrounding countryside. Signposted and attractive paths and cycle routes cross the town and lead into the country; the riverside walk is popular and the footbridge across the confluence of Exe and Lowman links to the Exe Valley Way. Sustainable tourism has increased, with visitors exploring local shops and historic places including the Canal, the Museum, Knightshayes Court and the surrounding area.

Residents benefit from a wide range of sports and recreation opportunities, and extensive participation in the arts completes the picture of a flourishing town and parish.

1.6. To deliver the vision, the Plan sets out six objectives:

OBJECTIVE 1: New development in the parish is located in sustainable locations and housing prioritises locally evidenced need.

OBJECTIVE 2: All new development is of high quality – in terms of use of local sustainable materials, maximising energy efficiency and reducing flood risk – and reflects local character in terms of building style and materials.

OBJECTIVE 3: Existing homes are improved in energy efficiency by supporting refurbishment. Changes required to bring empty homes back into use are allowed.

OBJECTIVE 4: The historic and architecturally significant built environment is conserved and enhanced for future generations, taking opportunities to enable it to be better understood and appreciated.

OBJECTIVE 5: The biodiversity of the rural environment and open spaces within the parish are conserved and enhanced, giving opportunities for sustainable rural employment, recreational enjoyment and carbon sequestration. Tree planting, food production for the local market and rural crafts are actively encouraged and supported. Land based activities are carbon neutral by 2030.

OBJECTIVE 6: The provision of community infrastructure and local facilities is adequate to address the needs and aspirations of existing and future residents in the transition to a zero-carbon economy.

Policy context

1.7. The Plan has been prepared having regard to national policy and to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the local development plan. At the national level, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) establishes the scope and purpose of neighbourhood plans. At the local level, the development plan comprises Mid Devon Local Plan Review 2013-2033.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

1.8. Mid Devon District Council (MDDC) is the lead authority for Tiverton's Neighbourhood Plan. It undertook a screening of the need for an SEA and HRA in 2020/21, which was subject to consultation with Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency. This determined that the Tiverton Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have significant environmental impacts, nor would it likely have a significant effect on European sites. Therefore, neither an SEA nor an HRA is required. A copy of the Screening Determination is contained in Appendix A.

2. Planning for sustainable development

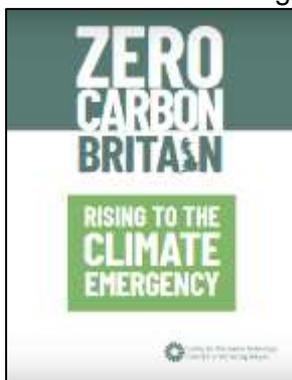
2.1 Whilst an SEA is not required, it is helpful to demonstrate the way in which the Plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.

2.2 The potential impact of development on climate change is an issue that has been at the forefront of the development of the Plan. In October 2018 the scientific community of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) advised that carbon emissions must reduce globally by at least 45% by 2030 from 2017 levels and be carbon neutral (net-zero) by 2050 or earlier to give the world its best chance to avoid the worst effects of climate change by keeping warming below 1.5 degrees. They warn that unless we make radical changes to the way we live we will face catastrophic climate breakdown, food shortages and societal collapse by the end of the century.



2.3 On 26 June 2019 MDDC declared a climate emergency¹ and agreed to work to the Devon-wide target of Zero carbon emissions by 2050 but will aim for 2030 in the light of the climate crisis. MDDC became a signatory to the Devon Carbon Plan² and is a member of the Devon Emergency Response Group which includes a range of public, private and voluntary organisations from across Devon.

2.4 Zero Carbon Britain: Rising to the Climate Emergency, published by the Centre for Alternative Technology in 2019, sets out an evidence-based blueprint for achieving net zero carbon (NZC) in Britain by 2030. By making changes to our buildings, transport systems, land use and behaviour, and by investing in a variety of renewable energy technologies, we can achieve a zero-carbon transition while building in a wide range of additional benefits. The basis to their approach is 'powering down' by 60% by using energy more efficiently particularly in buildings and transport and at the same time 'powering up' with renewable and carbon-neutral energy sources and land use changes. The use of land explored in the Zero Carbon Britain model will offer a healthier mix of food, backup energy supply, and natural carbon capture, which allows the UK to be truly net zero carbon.



2.5 The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is keen to ensure that decisions taken regarding planning and land-use within the parish contribute to the delivery of the zero-carbon strategy. Part of the work on the emerging Neighbourhood Plan included a dedicated workshop on the Informal draft Plan using the Centre for Sustainability Energy's How Green is my Plan? Toolkit³, the outcome of which is contained in Appendix B. This led to a policies

¹ <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/mid-devon-commits-to-climate-change-target/>

² [Home – Devon Climate Emergency](#)

³ [how-green-is-my-plan-rural \(cse.org.uk\)](#)

being fine-tuned, where greater sustainability outcomes could be achieved, as well as the inclusion of a new policy on local flooding.

2.6 The remainder of this report, therefore, considers how each policy has been formulated to ensure that its contribution to sustainable development has been maximised. MDDC prepared a Sustainability Framework⁴ for use in its Sustainability Appraisal at the strategic level and this has been used as the basis against which to assess the likely social, economic and environmental effects of the Plan's policies. The framework is shown in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1: Sustainability objectives and criteria for the Tiverton Neighbourhood Plan

Sustainability objective	Elements covered	Impact
A) Protection of the natural environment	Habitats and biodiversity; flora and fauna; protected species; landscape, geodiversity	
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; resilience to climate change; 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; water resources; 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	

2.1 The qualitative scoring system used to assess the likely effects is shown below (Figure 2.1):

⁴ <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/media/103500/sustainability-appraisal-proposed-submission-report-2014.pdf> (p.28)

++	The policy is likely to contribute significantly towards the sustainability objective
+	The policy is likely to contribute positively towards the sustainability objective, although not significantly
0	The policy is considered to have no significant positive or negative effect
-	The policy is likely to detract from the achievement of the sustainability objective, although not significantly
--	The policy is likely to detract significantly from the achievement of the sustainability objective
?	The policy has an uncertain relationship to the sustainability objective. Alternatively, insufficient information may be available to enable an assessment to be made.

Figure 2.1: Scoring system

2.2 Furthermore, each policy has also been considered in terms of how it contributes to the One Planet Living sustainability framework⁵ – shown in Figure 2.2 - comprising ten simple principles and detailed goals and guidance as shown below. The assessment seeks to avoid adverse environmental and socio-economic effects resulting from the Neighbourhood Plan, and identify opportunities to improve the environmental quality of the area covered by the Neighbourhood Plan and the quality of life of residents.

⁵ <https://www.bioregional.com/one-planet-living>

 Health and happiness	Encouraging active, social, meaningful lives to promote good health and wellbeing
 Equity and local economy	Creating safe, equitable places to live and work which support local prosperity and international fair trade
 Culture and community	Nurturing local identity and heritage, empowering communities and promoting a culture of sustainable living
 Land and nature	Protecting and restoring land for the benefit of people and wildlife
 Sustainable water	Using water efficiently, protecting local water resources and reducing flooding and drought
 Local and sustainable food	Promoting sustainable humane farming and healthy diets high in local, seasonal organic food and vegetable protein
 Travel and transport	Reducing the need to travel, encouraging walking, cycling and low carbon transport
 Materials and products	Using materials from sustainable sources and promoting products which help people reduce consumption
 Zero waste	Reducing consumption, reusing and recycling to achieve zero waste and zero pollution
 Zero carbon energy	Making buildings and manufacturing energy efficient and supplying all energy with renewables

Figure 2.2: One Planet Living sustainability framework

2.3 A commentary of each policy is provided below, with an explanation of where an alternative approach has been considered.

Policy T1: Location and scale of development in Tiverton

The policy reinforces the existing settlement envelop (incorporating the Eastern Urban Extension strategic allocation), which will ensure that development continues to be directed to the most sustainable parts of the parish, i.e. those areas where potential negative impacts on factors including landscape, character and biodiversity, are least. The nature of the Parish beyond the town itself is extremely rural, therefore would potentially require additional reliance on the car to reach the main facilities, as well as impacting on the extensive green infrastructure network. Directing development to the within the settlement boundary also minimises the risk of coalescence between settlements, particularly the smaller hamlets.

Alternatives: An alternative would have been to seek to extend the settlement boundary and/or allocate sites. This was considered unnecessary at this time given the recent adoption of the Mid Devon District Local Plan, which has considered local housing needs for Tiverton and housing needs at the strategic

level – this has resulted in the allocation of the Eastern Urban Extension which, in combination with other strategic allocations, is considered to meet the housing numbers required for Tiverton.

A future review of the Plan could explore whether there is a deficit in housing numbers that might need to be addressed.

One Planet criteria addressed:



Policy T2: Meeting local housing needs

The policy supports the provision of housing that reflects the housing needs revealed within the most recent Local Housing Needs Assessment for Tiverton.

Alternatives: An alternative would have been to rely on the MDDC policy relating to housing mix. The benefit of having a localised policy for Tiverton is that the Local Housing Needs Assessment drills down to a more local level, to demonstrate the specific and unique circumstances and need facing Tiverton.

This policy is therefore considered helpful in addressing social sustainability.

One Planet criteria addressed:



Policy T3: Providing lifetime affordable housing

Affordability of housing is a demonstrable concern for those living in Tiverton. House prices are beyond the reach of many, in comparison to the average incomes of those living in the town and wider parish. The policy seeks to address this imbalance by ensuring that development proposals meet affordable housing needs – in types of size and tenure – as demonstrated in the most recent Local Housing Needs Assessment.

Alternatives: An alternative would have been to rely on the MDDC policy relating to affordability. The benefit of having a localised policy for Tiverton is that the Local Housing Needs Assessment drills down to a more local level, to demonstrate the specific and unique circumstances and need facing Tiverton.

This policy is therefore considered helpful in addressing social sustainability.

One Planet criteria addressed:



Policy T4: Character of development

In a rural parish such as Tiverton, which has a rich natural and built landscape and heritage, it is important that development is designed in a way that is in-keeping with and contributes to the prevailing local character. This policy supports the implementation of the Design Guidance for Tiverton, which has been prepared as part of the Neighbourhood Plan and which provides localised detail on how development proposals should consider local context.

Alternatives: Whilst the policies within the Mid Devon Local Plan Review provide a broad context for supporting and responding to local character, the policy enables Tiverton to set this out what this means in practice at a local level, with greater detail of the different character areas that exist in the parish and how development should respond to this.

This policy is therefore considered helpful in addressing social sustainability – considering the way in which the town and wider parish has evolved socially, and responding sympathetically to this – and also from an environmental perspective in terms of the visual impact of development, and minimising its impact on local heritage and landscape.

One Planet criteria  **Culture and community** **addressed:**

Policy T5: Design of development

The policy provides locally specific detail on design of development, that has been determined in response to the local needs of the parish.

Alternatives: An alternative would have been to rely on the Mid Devon Local Plan Review policies about design. Whilst helpful at a strategic level, the inclusion of this neighbourhood-level policy will support the delivery of the principles set out in the Tiverton Design Guidance, helping to deliver a sustainable parish.

Having a local policy emphasises that good design is key in achieving social, environmental and economic aims.

One Planet criteria addressed:

 **Materials and products**  **Zero waste**

 **Zero carbon energy**

Policy T6: Energy efficiency and design

Including a specific policy on energy efficiency reflects the Plan's objectives to secure energy efficient and sustainable developments within the Plan area. It actively encourages developments of all scales to maximise energy efficiency through a range of actions in respect of zero carbon technologies. It also encourages development to minimise waste through the development of more energy efficient buildings, for instance incorporating grey water systems and solar panels. The policy also makes reference to the potential to retrofit historic buildings, which is particularly relevant in Tiverton.

Alternatives: The alternative would have been to rely on existing policy, however the importance of sustainable design is of paramount importance and the Plan policy reflects national policy and guidance in seeking to achieve reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and is in general conformity with Local Plan Review policy.

The policy provides a clear set of requirements and support for developments to incorporate measures that will secure energy efficiency and sustainability in line with national and local objectives.

One Planet criteria addressed:

 **Materials and products**  **Zero waste**

 **Zero carbon energy**

Policy T7: Minimising the risk of flooding

This policy was added following the How Green if Your Plan? Workshop on the neighbourhood plan, which revealed a lack of consideration of flooding issues locally. It recognises the localised flooding issues that have occurred in Tiverton and seeks to support the provision of SuDs, in particular where these can be delivered in a way that will support biodiversity.

The policy supports environmental sustainability.

One Planet criteria addressed:

 Sustainable water  Land and nature
<p>Policy T8: Local buildings and structures of merit</p> <p>This policy identifies three buildings/collections of buildings that, whilst not nationally listed, are considered to contribute significantly to the local heritage offering of Tiverton. Their identification as non-designated heritage assets demonstrates this importance.</p> <p>Alternatives: Not including this policy would appear to neglect the significance of Tiverton’s rich, notably industrial, heritage.</p> <p>The policy supports environmental sustainability by safeguarding – and enabling the celebration and understanding of – Tiverton’s rich heritage.</p> <p>One Planet criteria  Culture and community addressed:</p>
<p>Policy T9: Network of green infrastructure</p> <p>The National Planning Policy Framework encourages plans to map out the green infrastructure that contributes positively to biodiversity and geodiversity. The policy does this, mapping out the natural assets within Tiverton parish, to encourage their retention and improved connectivity. It will assist in ensuring that development delivers a net gain in biodiversity, by illustrating important corridors of green space to conserve, as well as opportunities for improvements and an indication of the sorts of landscapes and flora that could be supported within Tiverton that would contribute positively to this network.</p> <p>In this way, the policy contributes to environmental sustainability.</p> <p>One Planet criteria  Land and nature addressed:</p>
<p>Policy T10: Local Green Spaces</p> <p>The policy seeks to safeguard a number of locally valued spaces, by designating them as Local Green Spaces. Each has been assessed against the requirements of the NPPF and are demonstrably special for a variety of reasons; some offer recreational opportunities, some provide special habitats for flora and fauna, while others are noted for their historical significance. These spaces would not otherwise be protected from inappropriate development and their loss would be greatly felt by the community.</p> <p>Alternatives: Not including such a policy would neglect the importance attached by the local community to these spaces. The Mid Devon Local Plan Review does not drill down to the level of detail required to nominate such spaces at a local level.</p> <p>The policy contributes to social sustainability as well as environmental sustainability, as the green spaces form an important part of Tiverton’s wider green infrastructure network.</p> <p>One Planet criteria addressed:</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">  Land and nature  Health and happiness </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">  Culture and community </div>
<p>Policy T11: Locally significant views</p> <p>The policy identifies 15 specific views, the ‘green horizons’ of the main town, and the views previously identified at the Knightshayes Estate, that are considered to contribute to local character, and consequently should be safeguarded from inappropriate development. They incorporate a mix of landscape and heritage aspects.</p>

Alternatives: The Mid Devon Local Plan does not drill down to the level of detail to identify specific, locally important views, therefore this policy is considered to provide additional local detail to strategic policy.

The policy supports environmental sustainability by safeguarding views that incorporate aspects that reflect the built and natural heritage of Tiverton, each of which has played an important role in the social evolution of the parish. These are also important from a social perspective, as such views form an important part of what makes Tiverton a special place to live.

One Planet criteria addressed:



Policy T12: Supporting sustainably friendly agriculture and opportunities for diversification

The policy recognises the importance of farming and agriculture to Tiverton's past and present, including its contribution to the landscape pattern that has become intrinsic to Tiverton's rural character and identity. Supporting diversification encourages the continuation of this, where viability of farms can be assisted. A supporting action is to explore ways to encourage sustainable farming methods, a concept which is likely to gain ground in the emerging Environment Bill, and which will contribute positively to the safeguarding of Tiverton's green infrastructure network.

One Planet criteria **addressed:**

Policy T13: Sports and leisure provision

Whilst the strategic policies contained in the Local Plan Review encourage the retention of sporting and leisure facilities, as well as the expansion or development of new ones, this policy seeks to add additional local detail, by nominating specific facilities.

The policy contributes to the social sustainability of the parish.

One Planet criteria **addressed:**

Policy T14: Protecting cultural and community venues

Whilst the strategic policies contained in the Local Plan Review encourage the retention of sporting and leisure facilities, as well as the expansion or development of new ones, this policy seeks to add additional local detail.

The policy contributes to the social sustainability of the parish.

One Planet criteria **addressed:**

Policy T15: Allotments and growing spaces

The policy recognises the particular benefits that allotments bring:

- Socially – as spaces to encourage interaction, exercise, positive mental health, and exercise.
- Environmentally – recognising the value of allotments that have evolved over time to enrich the soil and provide a habitat for a range of wildlife. They promote self-sufficiency, which in turn can assist in reducing pollution, for instance by reducing food miles.

The policy contributes to the achievement of sustainable development, from both an environmental and social perspective. It adds additional local detail I do not recommend any modifications to this section of the Plan.

One Planet criteria addressed:

 Health and happiness  Land and nature
<p>Policy T16: Encouraging sustainable movement</p> <p>The inclusion of this policy enables the primary ‘practical’ routes, i.e. those that connect the main residential areas to the key facilities within Tiverton, to be mapped and to prioritise these for investment to ensure a safe environment for pedestrians and cyclists. The policy also makes reference to improvements to the movement network that could enhance opportunities for safer and more sustainable modes of transport, for instance the provision of electric charging points.</p> <p>Alternatives: Not including a policy would make it difficult for future investment in the movement route network to be prioritised.</p> <p>Overall, the policy contributes to environmental sustainability by identifying key routes to prioritise for investment to make them safe, accessible and pleasant. This in turn will encourage local journeys to be made in ways other than the car.</p> <p>One Planet criteria  Travel and transport addressed:</p>
<p>Policy T17: Flexible workspaces</p> <p>The policy recognises the changing nature of work and the desire among many to be located more locally to where they live. Tiverton has a strong manufacturing base and this policy supports that tradition by encouraging the provision of spaces that can be used for a range of different economic activities.</p> <p>One Planet criteria  Equity and local economy addressed:</p>
<p>Policy T18: Supporting a sustainable visitor economy</p> <p>The policy promotes and supports the development and expansion of tourism facilities, accommodation, attractions and activities in the Plan area. It is considered that Tiverton has a range of attractions – both natural and built – that would appeal to visitors. Encouraging tourism will bring additional income and jobs to the parish.</p> <p>Alternatives: Whilst the Mid Devon Local Plan Review contains support for tourism, the policy adds additional local detail to this.</p> <p>The policy supports economic sustainability.</p> <p>One Planet criteria  Equity and local economy addressed:</p>

2.4 The table below provides a breakdown of the relative contributions of each of the Tiverton Neighbourhood Plan policies to the sustainable development objectives.

Tiverton Neighbourhood Plan
For Formal Public Consultation (Regulation 14)
Sustainability Statement

Tiverton Neighbourhood Plan Policies																		
SO	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	T7	T8	T9	T10	T11	T12	T13	T14	T15	T16	T17	T18
A	+	0	0	++	++	++	+	0	++	++	++	+	0	0	+	+	0	0
B	+	0	0	++	++	++	0	++	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	0	0	0	+	++	++	0	++	++	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
D	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
E	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	+	0
F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+
G	++	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
H	0	+	+	+	+	++	+	+	+	++	++	+	+	+	++	+	+	0
I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	++	0	+

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 This report presents an assessment of the contribution to sustainability made by the Tiverton Neighbourhood Plan.
- 3.2 Whilst a formal SEA is not required, an important aim of the Steering Group has been to ensure that policies contribute positively to the mitigation of climate change, as well as the local economy and community.
- 3.3 Overall, the most sustainable policy options have been chosen for inclusion in the Plan when considered against reasonable alternatives.
- 3.4 None of the policies are likely to have any significant adverse effects, giving confidence that the Neighbourhood Plan will contribute to sustainable development.

Appendix A – SEA/HRA Screening Determination

Awaiting final content – 13 Apr 2021

Appendix B – How Green is Your Plan Workshop

Consultation on TNP (Tiverton Neighbourhood Plan) and Sustainability, 10 Feb 2021

Summary of discussion

1. **Present via Zoom:** Members of the Steering Group, Mid Devon District Planning Officer, Members of Sustainable Tiverton, Heathcoats representative
2. **Introductions**
 1. The Chair advised that the meeting would be recorded, and everyone agreed to this.
 2. Members introduced themselves.
 3. Chair explained that the purpose of the meeting was to assess how well the Plan reflected the County/District/Town sustainability target of net zero by 2030. The Survey Monkey which participants had completed before the meeting was provided by the Centre for Sustainable Energy in its publication 'How Green is my Plan'.
3. **Renewable Energy**
 1. MDDC has just issued a Call for Sites for the next reiteration of the Local Plan, which would include sites for renewable energy generation. We agreed that the TNP could set out some broad parameters as to what would be acceptable.
 2. Noted that sources of renewable energy could be divided into
 1. Domestic solar panels – on residential property
 2. Commercial solar panels, including solar farms
 3. Wind farms (none currently in the parish; nearest is on the way to S Molton). Neil advised that there had been a proposal for a wind farm on the norther edge of the parish some time ago, which had been turned down
 4. Hydro – current plan for the Exe has met with opposition from fishing people and the Environment Agency
 3. Renewable energy sources at Heathcoats: includes over 2000 solar panels, a hydro-scheme on the Leat, and a combined heat and power system.
 4. The possibility of wood coppicing: agreed that tree planting should be a Non Policy Action in the Plan
 5. Agreed that the TNP could include stronger support for community renewable energy schemes, and explicitly support a hydro scheme
 6. MDDC advised that there had been a plan for a District Heating Scheme in the EUE, but this was not taken forward.
4. **Design of new buildings**
 1. Support for ground mounted solar, anaerobic digestion, district heating and onshore wind.

2. Support for mentioning space for domestic battery technology in parallel with solar panels.
3. It was agreed that air quality had not emerged as a high priority (unlike in Crediton) - advised that it was very difficult to provide evidence acceptable to the Inspector, without a significant log of the issue.
4. MDDC emphasised the importance of fabric efficiency – ie that buildings should be constructed with very high levels of insulation, as a precursor to energy generation. He will send info to Alison on this, who will incorporate a recommendation in the Plan.
5. Incorporate some findings from the new Devon Carbon Plan, though disappointed that the Plan had discounted zero carbon building altogether. MDDC said that the TNP might be able to encourage this.

5. Energy Efficiency

1. It was agreed that no alterations were needed to this section.
2. Issue of energy efficiency in the Town Hall raised. Suggested that the Town Council might undertake an ESOS (Energy Efficiency Opportunity Scheme) audit, and suggested putting solar panels on eg New Hall.

6. Transport

1. Advised that safe cycling and footpaths were the issues most raised by members of the public when discussing the Plan.
2. In particular the barrier formed by the dual carriageway to the north of the town, and the dangerous behaviour of tractor drivers on the narrow rural roads, including driving through villages (Withleigh in a particularly dangerous situation)
3. Noted that during the pandemic Exeter had put in place traffic calming schemes. It was agreed that we should contact Devon Highways, and possibly include a Non Policy Action
4. It was also agreed that we should look into whether Devon County is doing a LCWIP (Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan)
5. Enquiry about whether the pavement up Blundells Road to the EUE was due to be widened – suggestion to speak to MDDC.
6. Philip noted that separation of walkers, cyclists and car traffic is key; Ian mentioned that there is space for a separate cycle way beside the dual carriageway
7. In reply to a question from the group, advised that MDDC does not collect CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) and relies on Section 106 to access contributions from developers.

7. Wildlife and Biodiversity

1. All agreed to include native planting as a policy, both for wildlife and also for edible fruit
2. MDDC advised that there is scope to build on Local Plan Policy DM1 to increase requirements for nature-friendly schemes
3. Could tree planting could be a Non Policy Action, and also wild flower planting
4. Advised that there are some SUDS (Sustainable Urban Drainage Schemes) in Tiverton

8. Flooding

1. Noted that there have been sewage flooding issues in St Andrews Street (now improved) and flooding from the Lowman into Chapel Street. Agreed we should check the sewerage capacity of the town.
2. The MDDC Local Plan does not have a policy. The County is the local flood authority.
3. Advised that some recent housing has been built on a potential flood plain, and has issues as a result of this
4. Potential flooding was a big issue for Tiverton because of its location, and it was agreed that the plan could incorporate recommendations on flood mitigation measures such as tree planting, green roofs, rainwater recycling, porous driveways.

9. Climate change.

1. It was agreed that we should make reference to the Devon Carbon Plan
2. It was agreed that we should look at mitigating drought conditions, as well as flooding.

10. AOB

1. In reply to a question, MDDC agreed to circulate the latest iteration of the Town Centre Master Plan.
2. The Chair thanked everyone very much indeed for their participation and advised that summary notes would be circulated.

TB 11 Feb 21