

# **Dartmoor Local Plan 2018-2036 Examination**

Matter 9: Site Allocations  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Devon County Council Position Statement  
(Respondent ref no. 0049)

Statement Prepared February 2021

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Purpose of this Statement

1.1.1. This statement has been prepared to answer question 1 in relation to matter 9, issue 2 (Site Allocations: all) and question 1 in relation to matter 9, proposal 7.22 (2) (Warren Rd, Mary Tavy) for the Dartmoor Local Plan Review 2018-2036 Examination. These questions are:

- Are the site allocations appropriate and justified in light of potential constraints, infrastructure requirements and adverse impacts? Are the sites viable and deliverable?
- In light of the acknowledged lack of funding for a school on this site, would the site be likely to be developed within the Plan period and if not would its safeguarding be justified?

1.1.2. It should be noted that this statement does not cover all of the questions raised by the Planning Inspector in relation to matter 9 but focuses upon those issues in which Devon County Council (DCC) has a specific interest in order to fulfil its statutory responsibilities (i.e. as the Education Authority).

## 2. Are the site allocations appropriate and justified in lights of potential constraints, infrastructure requirements and adverse impacts? Are the sites viable and deliverable?

2.1.1. The site proposals in Ashburton (proposal 7.3 and 7.4) would allocate housing in an area where the local primary school has no capacity for the additional pupils generated by the developments.

2.1.2. Ashburton Primary School currently has a net capacity of 189, although the current number of children on roll is 193. Furthermore, the forecast number on roll is 200 pupils (Spring 2023). Noting that the school is both at and forecast to be over its capacity, it does not have spare capacity to accommodate pupils generated by the proposals identified.

2.1.3. The site is constrained, undersized for its planned admission number and no expansion is possible on site. There is no funding currently available to relocate the school to a larger premises. DCC only receives funding for additional capacity, either through increased demographics or funding from development.

2.1.4. DCC does not object to these sites. If the developments were to come forward in Ashburton, options would be available to utilise spare capacity at another school (if it is available) or deliver additional provision at another school. Transportation to this school may be required. The county council has had positive discussions with the sponsor for the primary and secondary school regarding potential solutions. Therefore, the sites are deemed viable

in terms of education, subject to S.106 contributions from developments in Ashburton to facilitate the options above.

**3. In light of the acknowledged lack of funding for a school on this site, would the site be likely to be developed within the Plan period and if not would its safeguarding be justified?**

- 3.1.1. Devon County Council acknowledges the local aspiration to relocate Mary Tavy and Brentor Community Primary School. However, the county council does not consider the relocation to be based on a lack of capacity at the current site and therefore the project is not a priority in order to meet the county council's statutory responsibility of ensuring sufficient school places for the area.
- 3.1.2. DCC does not receive funding towards the relocation of school places, only to provide additional places where required. Due to this, the county council currently does not have access to a funding stream to support the identified relocation project. Furthermore, DCC cannot request S.106 contributions towards the project as it would not meet the CIL tests set out in Regulation 122. As such, funding would need to come from a third party, most likely a national funding programme. Due to the reasons above, the county council cannot be certain whether the site is likely to be developed within the Plan period.
- 3.1.3. It should be noted that the site is in the county council's ownership and therefore may still be available for the relocation of the school if the site was not safeguarded. Safeguarding the land in the Plan would mean that the site is suitable in planning policy for a new school, thereby providing additional support for its deliverability if funding becomes available.

**3.2. Summary of DCC position**

- 3.2.1. Devon County Council are broadly supportive of the proposals set out in the Local Plan. The information provided above seeks to address the questions raised as well as providing further clarity.