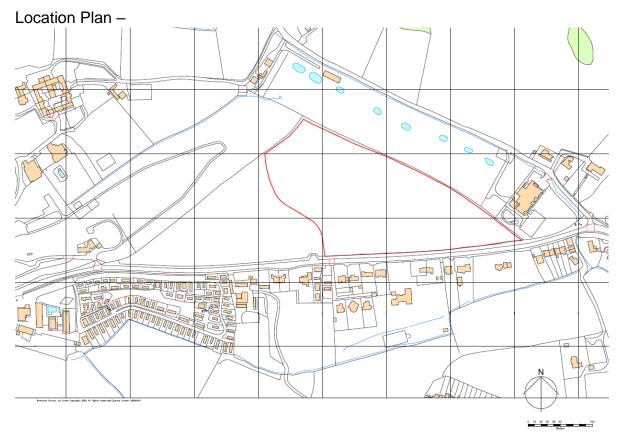


Application Site Address Proposal	Land To The North Of Totnes Road, Collaton St Mary, Paignton Outline application for up to 73 dwellings with all matters reserved except access, new access onto the Totnes Road
Application Number	P/2020/0405
Applicant	Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd
Agent	Stantec
Date Application Valid	29.04.2020
Decision Due date	29.07.2020
Extension of Time Date	
Recommendation	Approval: Subject to;
	<ol> <li>The conditions outlined below, with the final drafting of conditions delegated to the Assistant Director of Planning, Housing and Climate Change, and;</li> <li>The completion of a S106 Legal Agreement to secure the heads of terms above, in accordance with the adopted Planning Contributions and Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document, on terms acceptable to Officers.</li> </ol>
	The resolution of any new material considerations that may come to light following Planning Committee to be delegated to the Assistant Director of Planning, Housing and Climate Change, including the addition of any necessary further planning conditions or obligations.
Reason for Referral to Planning Committee	Major Development
Planning Case Officer	Scott Jones



## Site Details

The application site is part (approximately half) of a triangular field adjacent to the Totnes Road (A385) close to Collaton St Mary on the western outskirts of Paignton. The site has historically been known locally as the "Car Boot Field". The eastern half of the field which the application relates to is the lower half, where the land drops from west to east. The field measures approximately 7.2 hectares in area and the application site is 4.5 hectares.

The northern and eastern boundaries of the site are clearly defined by existing hedges. The southern boundary that runs along the edge of the Totnes Road is a mixture of rural estate railings, scrub hedging and intermittent trees adjacent to a linear grass verge, which permits public views across the field to the rising rural landscape to the north and east. The western boundary of the application site dissects the open field.

There is currently no vehicular access to the application site as the sole access point to the wider field is to the west within the upper part of the wider field. There is a pavement along the southern side of the Totnes Road however the northern side, along the site boundary, is a grass verge with no pavement.

On the opposite side of Totnes Road there is existing residential development in a predominantly linear ribbon form. These dwellings are generally set back from the road and the street form is broken up by large trees and landscaping, to the extent that the run of properties does not overtly read in close or distant views as an urban edge. To the west of the site there is a camping and caravan park. To the north and east there is open countryside land.

There are a number of heritage assets nearby. To the east off Bladgon Road there is

the Grade 2\* listed Church of St Mary, and Grade 2 Old School House and Old Vicarage. Again to the east on the south side of Totnes Road close to the junction of Blagdon Road there are a further four Grade 2 listed properties, 391-397 Totnes Road. 300 metres to the west of the site is another Grade 2\* listed building, the 15<sup>th</sup> Century Bladgon Manor.

In the Torbay Local Plan the site is identified as part of the wider Collaton St Mary (Paignton North and West Area) Future Growth Area. It is also a site identified for housing within the Collaton St Mary Masterplan, which is an Adopted Supplementary Planning Document for the area (adopted February 2016). In terms of other relevant context the valley floor to the north/east of the site (close to the Blagdon Road) is a linear area with an identified risk of flooding.

## **Description of Development**

The application seeks outline planning permission for up to 73 dwellings (including affordable housing) with all matters reserved except for access.

The proposal includes the creation of a single vehicular access off the Totnes Road (A385) with proposed highway works to re-align the Paignton-bound carriageway in order to facilitate a designated right hand turn lane into the site. Pedestrian access is proposed at three points adjacent to the Totnes Road. There is an access towards the western corner close to a proposed play area within the site and adjacent to existing bus stops on the A385. There is also an access to the east close to the nearby school on to the highway verge. These two access points supplement a central pedestrian access that sits aside the proposed vehicular entrance. A linear pedestrian route is proposed within the site along the length of the border adjacent to the A385 that also links these access points.

The indicative detail submitted to support the proposal for 73 dwellings seeks to show that the level of development proposal could be appropriately achieved on the site, and this includes a masterplan layout. This shows a potential residential layout set around a loop-type arrangement with small clusters of units within short off-shoots to the north and south of the site. The submitted masterplan shows what appears to be a mix of detached, semi-detached and short terraces, with off-road and courtyard parking facilities appearing to show designated parking for all properties. Garden divisions that provide private space for all properties are also shown.

In terms of wider detail, the indicative layout also includes a Locally Equipped Area of Play (LEAP) in the south west corner of the site adjacent to the Totnes Road, an informal green area to the south-east corner that is proposed to provide attenuation ponds and some informal space, and further pockets of what appears to be public green space within the layout. The proposed highway works also include the provision of a pull-in bus stop on the A385 in place of the current bus stop within the main carriageway.

The provision of 30% Affordable Housing would secure 22 affordable homes.

The application mirrors that considered by the Authority under planning reference P/2019/0604, refused 21<sup>st</sup> October 2019 on grounds of flood risk, where there is an appeal currently in progress.

## **Pre-Application Enquiry**

N/A.

## **Relevant Planning Policy Context**

Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 places a duty on local planning authorities to determine proposals in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The following development plan policies and material considerations are relevant to this application:

Development Plan

- The Adopted Torbay Local Plan 2012-2030 ("The Local Plan")
- The Paignton Neighbourhood Plan

Material Considerations

- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
- Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)
- Published Standing Advice

- Planning matters relevant to the case under consideration, including the following advice and representations, planning history, and other matters referred to in this report.

#### **Relevant Planning History**

#### **Pre-Applications**

*DE/2015/0454*: Development of 95 dwellings including associated access, car parking, landscaping and drainage infrastructure. Decision: Split decision, principle of residential accepted, design and other concerns raised.

#### Applications

*P/2019/0604:* Outline application for up to 73 dwellings with all matters reserved except access, new access onto the Totnes Road. Refused on grounds of flood risk, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2019. Appeal in progress.

Reason for Refusal:

"The site is in an area that has been subject to flooding from foul and surface water sewers and the information submitted in support of the application fails to provide sufficient detail to demonstrate that the development will not contribute to further flooding, contrary to Policy PNP1 (iv) of The Paignton Neighbourhood Plan, which seeks detail on foul and surface water drainage and other key infrastructure being required when major development (as defined in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015) applications are first submitted, and not being dealt with subsequently by conditions."

*P/2017/1304:* Full application for 94 (reduced from 97) dwellings, with access, landscaping and infrastructure. Officer Recommendation: Refusal, for reasons of design, amenity, landscape impact, impact upon heritage assets, highway safety, and flood risk. Application withdrawn prior to committee and not considered by Members.

*P/2013/0572:* Outline application for proposed residential development (up to 175 units) and associated development including provision of open space, landscaping, ponds and other associated development. All matters reserved for further consideration except access. This is a departure from the Local Plan. Refused 14.08.2013. Appeal Withdrawn.

Refusal Reasons: (1) Principle, (2) Landscape Impact, (3) Protected Species (4) Flood Risk, (5) Lack of signed S106, (6) Highway Impact.

*P/2012/1037*: Full application for development to include 197 residential units, a local centre building (ground floor only) comprising Use Class A1 floor space of 460sqm new vehicular access to Totnes Road, internal road layout, car parking, open space, landscaping, ponds, services and infrastructure and all other associated development. Refused 12.12.2012.

Refusal Reasons: (1) Principle, (2) Design and Layout, (3) Landscape Impact, (4) Lack of signed S106.

#### **Design Review Panels**

March 2016 DRP (Pre-application DE/2015/0454):

Summary of key points:

There appears to be a gap between the analysis of the site and the vision projected for the development - the essential proposition needs to be rural rather than suburban.

The layout needs to be influenced and informed by a 'place-making' approach, rather than one led by the road layout. Roads need to become streets, parking needs sensitive handling and landscape design needs to reinforce the character of the development. If the form of the streets become less regular then their character becomes more rural and opportunities are created along them for parking, etc.

Once a more successful layout has been developed then clear parameter plans ought to be prepared and adopted through a condition in the planning permission which capture the essential strategies of the layout and ensure that there is no slippage between an outline consent and any reserved matters submissions.

The way in which the layout and individual house types respond to the slope should be assured and effortless - it ought to be an ambition of the development to achieve the least amount of earth-moving and levelling of the site in order to make a viable development.

The site continues to be in a sensitive location and accurate landscape and visual impact assessments should be used to test the revised ideas before submission.

The connections from this new community to the other parts of Collaton St Mary need to be more confidently attempted - in order that active modes of travel (walking and cycling) are firmly promoted.

See great potential in this residential development and believe that it could be a highly desirable and therefore high-value opportunity - providing that the design ambition captures all the opportunities of this potentially beautiful site.

September 2012 DRP (Application P/2012/1037):

Summary of key points:

The design does not make a good case for a major incursion into this relatively unspoilt valley setting.

Perceive the proposals to be a fairly standard suburban character is being imposed on a landscape setting which is essentially rural.

The architectural design is undistinguished.

The landscape strategy needs to integrate more successfully and could be used to sub-divide and reduce the scale.

Anticipate that the quantum of development would need to be reduced dramatically.

#### Summary of Representations

67 Objections. The following provides a summary of the main issues identified and where appropriate a summary response is provided by the planning officer. Where appropriate the issues raised are discussed further in the Key Issues / Material Considerations section of this report.

The concerns raised in the objections are as follows:

- Impact upon the sewer system
- Lack of detailed information on the existing sewer network
- Increased flood risk
- Inconsistent with the Local Plan
- Inconsistent with the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Inconsistent with the Collaton St Mary Masterplan
- Inconsistent with the NPPF
- Loss of farmland
- Highway safety concerns inadequate infrastructure in terms of vehicular
- Not in keeping with the local area
- Too many homes for the site
- Overdevelopment
- Too suburban
- Brownfield sites are available
- Doesn't respond to the rural context
- cycle and pedestrian movement in the area
- Impact upon the South Hams SAC (bats)
- Impact upon the setting of the church
- Light pollution
- Noise pollution
- Raises the same issues as previous schemes that have been rejected

- Unbalanced in terms of the need for jobs and homes
- Loss of habitat
- Indistinct housing sprawl that would ruin the character of Collaton St Mary
- Local school already over-subscribed
- Impact on healthcare

Objections include those from the Collaton St Mary Residents Association and NHS.

Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust:

S106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) allows the Local Planning Authority to request that a developer contribute towards the impact a development creates on the services. The contribution in the amount £32,595.00 sought will go towards the gap in the funding created by each potential patient from this development. The detailed explanation and calculations are provided within the attached document. Without the requested contribution, the access to adequate health services is rendered more vulnerable thereby undermining the sustainability credentials of the proposed development due to conflict with NPPF and Local Development Plan policies.

## NHS Devon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG):

The CCG's concern is that the GP surgeries that serve this area, namely Old Farm, Mayfield and Cornerplace are already over capacity at 106%; 141% and 239% respectively within their existing footprints. Therefore it follows that to have a sustainable development in human health terms, the whole local healthcare provision will require review. The Surgeries already have 44,296 patients registered between them and this new development will increase the local population by a further 150 to 160 persons. An obligation should be sought to the sum of £24,279 (£333 per dwelling) towards the cost mitigation of the pressures on the local healthcare facility to form part of any future s106 Agreement with the Developers.

## Officer response on the NHS comment.

The Development Plan only seeks S106 obligations for health care from specialist accommodation for the elderly (as per Policy H6) or where development gives rise to a specific need (such as a new surgery). The obligations sought by the NHS are not considered to meet the necessary tests for obligations and cannot be sought. The obligations seek to respond to an increase in pressure upon services from additional housing, however expectations for housing growth within Torbay has been publically established for some time within the Development Plan. The site is identified for housing and it is also important to consider that the Council cannot currently demonstrate the expected 5 year housing land supply, which suggests housing growth will be lower than that projected within the Development Plan. In this particular instance in the absence of a particular policy to support the notion of health obligations it is not considered justifiable to seek the obligations on an identified housing site where growth levels are below the levels expected within the Development Plan.

# Summary of Consultation Responses

## Paignton Neighbourhood Forum:

The Forum objects to the application. It appears to be little changed from the previous application P/2019/0604, so many of our objections from that previous application still apply.

We note that this proposal conflicts with the Torbay Local Plan and the Paignton Neighbourhood Plan in several respects:

1. This area is identified in the Paignton Neighbourhood Plan (Table 8.1) as appropriate for the development of 40 units during the period from 2027/2030. It is not identified as suitable for 73 units and not in the immediate future.

2. Both the Local Plan and the Paignton Neighbourhood Plan call for "in tandem" development of housing and jobs. Housing development has continued without development of jobs, therefore housing development should be paused or slowed considerably while jobs development is prioritized.

3. Flooding and sewerage concerns do not appear to have been fully addressed. This area is known to be challenged in this respect and the Paignton Neighbourhood Plan (PNP24) specifically requires that new development should "not cause any risk of flooding to existing properties."

4. PNP24 also requires that the use of existing brownfield sites must be prioritized.

5. The development proposal does not appear to provide any of the additional infrastructure that is needed for such growth, including, but not limited to, schools, medical services, and dental services.

6. Although the addition of an east-bound bus lay-by is an improvement, there are no other strategic improvements to the A385 Totnes Road. This road already has serious traffic and safety problems. These will be substantially exacerbated by the additional housing and therefore additional travel required. Sustainable travel options are poor: a. Travel by bus is unsafe because there is no safe way for pedestrians to cross the road.

b. Travel by cycle is unsafe because the traffic volume and narrow lanes, lacking cycle lanes, make cycling a risky proposition.

c. Pedestrian travel may be problematic in wet weather, with grass verges that are likely to be sodden and along with spray from passing vehicles.

7. The proposed development does not contribute to the village identity (PNP24).

We urge you to refuse the application based on the Torbay Local Plan and the Paignton Neighbourhood Plan.

# Torbay Council Strategic Planning (Policy): Pending comment.

Previous comments on P/2019/0604: The Development Plan for the area comprises of the Adopted Torbay Local Plan 2012-30 (December 2015), and the Adopted Paignton Neighbourhood Plan (June 2019). The Collaton St Mary Masterplan was adopted as SPD in 2016 and is a material consideration, along with the explanatory and justification text in the Local Plan and Paignton Neighbourhood Plan policy documents.

The site is part of a wider strategic allocation within the Local Plan and Policy PNP24 of the Paignton Neighbourhood Plan sets out that development is "supported where the proposals are in accordance with the adopted Masterplan for the area". There are

additional caveats and requirements across the Development Plan policies to consider, particularly in relation to the detail.

The current proposal does appear to be fairly consistent with the adopted Masterplan proposal. Although a larger number of dwellings are proposed, the layout and number shown within the Masterplan are indicative. The indicative layouts in the Masterplan are highly schematic and should not be taken as a ceiling on the number of dwellings that can be achieved so long as access, sustainable drainage, landscaping etc. matters can be satisfactorily addressed.

In regard to objections on the grounds of need it is argued within representations that the Local Plan's level of growth is not justified. Such matters would need to be considered through the upcoming review of the Local Plan and it is not appropriate to consider these through a planning application on a strategically allocated site such as this. The Neighbourhood Plan has been through independent examination and Council approval process very recently which confirmed that it met the Basic Conditions including not revising strategic growth figures or undermining strategic policies. As set out above, the Neighbourhood Plan supports the growth set out in the Local Plan. If the Local Plan was considered to be out of date (as argued in the representations), then the Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development in paragraph 14 of the NPPF is triggered.

In regard to objections re phasing it is not considered that the phasing in part 8 (and Table 8.1) of the Paignton Neighbourhood Plan can be taken as a phasing policy as it is not upper case policy. It is therefore to be considered as a material consideration. Treating it as a "phasing lock" policy would be tantamount to promoting less development than the Local Plan, contrary to the basic conditions governing neighbourhood plans and the guidance on Neighbourhood Plans in the NPPF which, by virtue of being adopted, the Neighbourhood Plan has been agreed by the Council not to do.

With regards to housing supply, we recently published our initial assessment that showed there was currently less than 5 years' housing supply in Torbay, which does trigger the presumption in favour of sustainable development, particularly against the Local Plan policies. A consultation has been undertaken and a range of responses received. It is not likely that the final outcome will increase the housing supply above 5 years but I am not able to confirm the precise outcome at this time.

Objectors have raised a number of concerns about details of the applications, but the level of conflict would need to be "significant and demonstrable" given the tilted balance in favour of granting planning permission. As discussed the site is allocated for development in the Development Plan, and can therefore be considered broadly in accordance with the Development Plan taken as a whole. As stated, Policies SS2 and SDP3 are strategic policies, and Policy PNP24 seeks to tie in development with the Masterplan principles.

Residents have reasonably been very concerned about surface water flooding and sewer overflows arising from storm water. The proposals will need to ensure that they do not worsen the situation either through surface water run off or placing additional pressure on the shared sewer but this will be for the drainage lead to comment on.

Similarly there are a number of detailed design, access, ecology, heritage etc. issues that need to be considered. However, as set out above, both sites are allocated in the adopted Local Plan for residential development, and the presumption in favour of sustainable development applies to them.

In summary the presumption in favour of sustainable development applies to proposals in the Future Growth Area. This does not mean that poor quality developments or those that divert significantly from the Masterplan should be approved. However, the bar to resist proposals is much higher, because the principle of development has been established.

# Torbay Council Strategic Planning (Transport) - Incorporating the views of the Highway Authority: Pending Comment.

Previous comments on P/2019/0604: The revised access has responded to concerns on having a visibility of 2.4x70m and now accords with the Torbay Council Highways Design Guide (page 24) in that for strategic routes with a speed of around 35-41mph the visibility should be 90m as a minimum. The resubmitted access plan has resolved this initial concern and the main vehicular access arrangement is now considered acceptable.

In regard to wider access and movement matters the NPPF is clear that any proposal should ensure that: appropriate opportunities to promote sustainable transport modes can be – or have been – taken up; safe and suitable access can be achieved for all users; and any significant impacts on the transport network, or on highway safety, can be mitigated (Para 108 NPPF 2019). In this case the wider pedestrian, cycle and bus access opportunities require improvement. It is therefore herein highlighted that improved access across that A385 should be achieved towards the top of the site in the area of the bus stops by with an extended footway and crossing point. In addition pedestrian access should be secured towards Blagdon Road (and school and church) through the provision of a foot/cycle path within the highway verge as there is no current footpath in this location. These works should be achieved through condition or similar.

In terms of other matters Torbay Local Plan Policy SS7 and the Planning Contributions and Affordable Housing SPD will also apply (to the non affordable dwellings). In the case of Sustainable transport it is indicated as "trip rate x £171" per dwelling. In this case the trip rate is equal to 4.854 (Appendix F of the Transport Assessment – TRICS output page 5) per dwelling, multiplied by £171 equals £830 per non affordable dwelling built following any reserved matters or full planning consent. Alternatively the SPD also makes an assumption on a trip rate specific to different sized dwellings. This method could be used but can only be calculated following the detail planning application. This funding would support strategic connectivity from Collaton St Mary to employment areas along the Western Corridor and into Paignton Town Centre. An obligation should be secured via a S106.

In addition Torbay Local Plan Policy SS6.2 and SDP3, indicates that development along the Totnes Road area (SDP3.3) will require infrastructure improvement works to the A385 Totnes Road. As noted in the Planning Contributions and Affordable Housing SPD, this is estimated at £1m (para 4.2.7) and it is appropriate to divide that amongst the properties proposed, using the numbers as set out in the Adopted

Masterplan. In total, the Adopted Masterplan supports approximately 460 homes ( $\pounds$ 2,174 per dwelling). That same Adopted Masterplan estimates 55 dwellings on this site. Therefore £119,500 towards the development and implementation of the scheme.

Finally in order to relocate the 30/40mph speed limit a contribution is required as this cannot be delivered under S278. The estimate to undertake this work is £8,000. These matters should be secured within the decision making process.

## Torbay Council Drainage Engineer:

Further to your letter dated 13th May 2020 regarding the above planning application I can confirm that the site specific flood risk assessment submitted with this planning application is the same as that submitted in support of planning application P/2019/1604. My comments regarding the surface water drainage for this development are therefore the same as those I attached to my memorandum dated 23rd August 2029. These comments are reproduced below:

1. The submitted flood risk assessment identifies that infiltration testing has been undertaken on the development site and the proposed surface water drainage strategy for the development incorporates an infiltration basin with a controlled discharge to the Yalberton watercourse.

2. The discharge rate proposed to the watercourse is 7.3l/sec which complies with the requirements of the Torbay Critical Drainage Area.

3. Within the flood risk assessment there are hydraulic designs for the surface water system including drawings highlighting the drainage network used within this hydraulic design. These designs are based on the current masterplan layout for the site and these demonstrate that there is no risk of flooding for the critical 1 in 100 year storm event plus 40% for climate change.

4. As stated in the site specific flood risk assessment the final layout for the development and hence design for the surface water drainage system may change between the current outline and detailed design. Any changes to the surface water drainage during detailed design must be submitted to the planning authority for approval prior to construction works commencing on site.

5. It should be noted that Torbay Council have identified a flood alleviation scheme immediately downstream of this development on the Yalberton watercourse. The scheme is currently identified on the Environment Agency's six year financial plan. As the surface water run-off from the proposed development is likely to impact on this watercourse upstream of the flood alleviation scheme a contribution to the funding for the flood alleviation scheme should be secured from the developer through S106 funding. In accordance with previous correspondence relating to a section 106 contribution a previously agreed figure of £915 per dwelling has been identified. As a result the S106 contribution from this development to the flood alleviation scheme should be in the sum of £66,795 (73 x £915).

Based on the above comments, I have no objections to planning permission being granted for the above development subject to a condition requiring the developer to submit their final drainage design for approval.

Torbay Council Interim Heritage Officer: No comment.

Previous comments on P/2019/0604: Of the heritage assets potentially affected the Church of St Mary is of high significance, reflected by its designation at Grade II\* listed. In relation to the impact upon the setting of this building, the proposed development will introduce new built form into a part of the Church's wider setting and will extend the built area of Collaton St Mary. The western part of the Site currently has some limited, partial views of the Church. The heritage assessment fairly acknowledges that the proposed development and associated landscaping will block localised experience of the asset's significance from within the application site, although some views of the Church will still be maintained from within the site between new housing units and over those units set at a lower level.

The submitted heritage assessment suggests that the proposed development is considered to cause a minor level of harm within the spectrum of less than substantial harm to the significance of the Church of St Mary. In my view this is a reasonable conclusion, nevertheless the conclusion remains that some harm will still result. The latest proposal is a clear improvement over that previously withdrawn however there remains some adverse impact upon the setting of the Church of St. Mary, by virtue of the erosion of the rural context, which will be replaced by a more suburban development, although the Design and Access statement illustrates how the form of development has been planned to better respect the village character. However, it is accepted that the degree of impact is limited in terms of the wider context of the Church. The layout now proposed also includes a designed 'framed view of the church' and is more respectful of importance of the building and more akin to a traditional pattern of development where the status of church would have apparent.

The current outline layout has taken into consideration the heritage sensitivity (and other issues) placed on the site due to its contribution to the setting of the church. The Design and Access statement submitted with the application illustrates how such factors have been considered and as a consequence how the scheme has evolved considerable and now acknowledges the importance of the constraints and seeks to respond to them. Whilst in outline form the design and access statement provides a degree of confidence that the importance of responding to the special character of the locality has been recognised.

Paragraph 196 of the National Planning Policy Framework NPPF) provides for 'where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal'. Thus the decision process will need to weigh the benefits of the proposal against the harm arising, which in this case are considered to fall in the less than substantial category.

## Torbay Council Planning/Ecology Advisor:

#### South Hams Special Area of Conservation

The site is within the Landscape Connectivity Zone for the South Hams SAC with respect to Greater Horseshoe Bats and the south-east corner of the site is within the sustenance zone associated with Berry Head and Sharkham Point GHB roost. The proposals will lead to a loss of commuting and foraging habitat (4.38ha species-poor semi improved grassland, 0.16ha dense and scattered scrub, 3m species-rich hedgerow and 148m defunct, species-poor hedgerow), which has been confirmed through survey to support small numbers of commuting Greater Horseshoe bats. It is

believed that this scheme will cause damage or disturbance at a landscape scale to GHB commuting routes, and without appropriate mitigation the application would have an adverse effect on the integrity of South Hams Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

In order to the development acceptable, all mitigation and enhancement measures to address potential impacts upon greater horseshoe bats associated with the South Hams SAC with the EcIA will need to be conditioned. The mitigation designed for GHBs using the 2016 survey data remains valid and no updated survey is deemed necessary to support this application.

The details for reserved matters should include:

- the submission of a Construction Ecological Management Plan (CEcoMP) and Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) which will detail the proposed delivery of the mitigation and management measures set out in the EcIA report.

- the submission of a Lighting Assessment, including a lux contour plan, for both publicrealm and domestic lighting to demonstrate compliance with the submitted external lighting plan.

- the provision of the construction phase and operation phase ecological mitigation measures detailed in the EAD ecology Shadow HRA report.

- details of the post-construction monitoring of the dark bat corridor to ensure that light levels below 0.5 lux are being achieved.

- the applicant should also undertake monitoring of the bat dark corridor during the construction phase which is not included within the current proposed mitigation/monitoring measures. This, along with the post construction monitoring should also include the use of automated bat surveys rather than purely lux level monitoring so that the success of the proposed mitigation can be reviewed.

## Priority Habitats

The development will present a loss of 3m species-rich hedgerow and 148m defunct, species-poor hedgerow. An overview of the mitigation is the planting of 1475m of species-rich hedgerow as indicated within final site Masterplan. The details for reserved matters should include the submission of a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan which will include details relating to habitat creation, species specification and management. This will need to be agreed with the LPA.

## Other Habitats

The development presents a loss of 4.38ha of poor semi-improved grassland and 0.16ha of dense and scattered scrub. The proposed mitigation is the provisions of wildflower grassland (0.33 ha), Tussock grassland (0.09 ha), Wetland through proposed Sustainable Urban Drainage System (1.91 ha) including wet grassland and aquatic planting including wetland in the south east of the site and scrub planting (0.14 ha). The details for reserved matters should include the submission of a biodiversity metric calculation which use the most up-to-date metric and associated guidance documents. This calculation will secure a net gain in biodiversity.

## European Protected Species

Bat roosts: Ground based tree roost assessments undertaken April 2016 identified one oak tree with high bat roost suitability and two ash trees with moderate bat roost suitability. These trees are to be retained in the schemes Masterplan and no further survey was, therefore, undertaken or required. Proposed mitigation is for roosting provisions provided within integrated bat boxes within new buildings onsite. The details of reserved matters shall include bird nesting/bat roosting boxes in the design of the buildings. Prior to the commencement of any vegetation clearance or site works, a repeat ground based bat roost assessment of all trees to be impacted by the proposals, with associated mitigation/compensation measures, shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the LPA.

Hazel Dormouse: Surveys undertaken in 2016. No evidence of dormice found during these surveys. Ecological walkover surveys undertaken by EAD Ecology in May 2019 state that the site remains unchanged from 2016, but there remains the possibility that dormice may have moved into the habitats on site from 2016, from other areas of suitable habitat in the locality. The presence of dormice onsite is not deemed likely to influence the final design of the scheme or location of green infrastructure, as the habitats deemed of highest importance to dormice are being retained. However, there may well be legal implications for the development should dormice now be present onsite. Therefore, dormouse surveys should be updated and the results submitted with any future reserved matters application on site, secured by condition.

Cirl Bunting: The site falls within a Cirl Bunting consultation Zone. Cirl Bunting surveys were undertaken in 2016 and no evidence of Cirl Bunting breeding was found during these surveys. Ecological walkover surveys undertaken by EAD Ecology in May 2019 state that the site remains unchanged from 2016, but there remains the possibility that Cirl Bunting may have moved into the habitats on site since the 2016 surveys, from other areas of suitable habitat in the locality. The presence of Cirl Bunting onsite is not deemed likely to influence the final design of the scheme, given the site is becoming unsuitable for Cirl Bunting due to the loss of potential foraging habitat. However, there may well implications for the development should breeding Cirl Bunting now be present onsite with regards to payments for offsite compensatory Cirl Bunting habitat. Therefore, Cirl bunting surveys should be updated and the results submitted with any future reserved matters application on site along with associated mitigation/compensation measures.

Badgers: All of the badger setts are located along the northern boundary and within the proposed wildlife corridor. This corridor would provide cover and screening from the development and limit public access to the badger setts. Losses to foraging habitat will be off set through the proposed new habitats which include hedgerow and wildflower meadow. Proposed that prior to the commencement of any vegetation clearance or site works, a repeat survey for the presence of badgers on the site and surrounding suitable habitat, with associated mitigation/compensation measures, shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the LPA. The Construction Ecological Management Plan (CEcoMP) to be submitted at reserved matters is to include details of protection of badgers throughout construction.

Nesting Birds: Proposed that vegetation removal is during winter and for roost provision in new buildings. The details of reserved matters shall include bird nesting/bat roosting boxes in the design of the buildings. No vegetation clearance shall take place during the bird nesting season (01 March to 31 August, inclusive) unless the developer has been advised by a suitably qualified ecologist that the clearance will not disturb nesting birds and a record of this kept.

Reptiles: Reptile surveys were undertaken in 2013 and found the presence of slow worm and grass snake within rank poor semi-improved field margins, scrub and hedgerows. Updated ecological walkover surveys in May 2019 indicated the habitats within the survey area have remained unchanged since the previous reptile surveys were undertaken and therefore reptiles are assumed present in all suitable habitat onsite – no updated survey required at reserved matters.

#### Torbay Council Affordable Housing Team:

Housing Services are very pleased to see a policy complaint scheme being presented. Of the 73 units being provided on the scheme 22 of these will be for affordable housing and with over with over 1200 households currently on the waiting list these will go some way to providing the additional affordable housing needed for the local people of Torbay.

Dwelling types, size, tenure and location of the affordable units were discussed on the previous application (P/2017/1304) and further discussion around these areas will be need to be had moving forward on this new application. A reminder also that the size of the dwellings will need to be proportionate to the mix as a whole and we would also expect to see one of the affordable units to be built as a wheelchair adapted unit.

Providing the above areas are agreed satisfactorily which I am sure they will then Housing Services would be supportive of the application.

#### Torbay Council Education Team: Pending comment.

Previous comments on P/2019/0604: The latest published position statements reiterate that the need and demand for school places in Paignton remains high and particularly now in the secondary sector.

S106 contributions should be sought in-line with the Adopted SPD for education particularly to address the shortfall in the older year groups in primary and across the whole of the secondary sector.

## Torbay Council Natural Environment Services Team:

As an overview there are no significant arboricultural issues that are demonstrated by the masterplan. The spatial arrangement between the trees and properties is adequate and is unlikely to cause future issues/concerns with the trees. The loss of the trees from the along the road to accommodate the visibility splay will need to be mitigated for within the landscape proposals or, if not sufficiently adequate, they should be mitigated for as per a CAVAT assessment of the trees. The trees around the periphery of the site will have sufficient room to be protected throughout the development with the primary buffer along the hedge and tree line being the bat/ecology corridor. There is sufficient room for significant landscaping to take place with a mixture of planting already indicated within the submitted scheme.

In essence the scheme appears to be sustainable form an arboricultural perspective but it may be that we will require further documentation such as drainage and utility plans. This may well further to the need for the developer to reference back to the project arboriculturist to provide advice/method statements as necessary. Detailed landscape design will also be required.

## Torbay Council Community Safety Officer:

Further to your recent consultation regarding the above application I would confirm that I have reviewed the acoustic consultant's report and can confirm that I have no objections. However, I would suggest the inclusion of a condition requiring a construction management plan being submitted to the Local Authority for approval prior to any works commencing on site. This report should address issues relating to the control of construction noise, and dust. Should you have any further queries please let me know.

## **Natural England:**

Summary of Natural England's advice; no objection - subject to appropriate mitigation being secured, to avoid having an adverse effect on the integrity of South Hams Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

Natural England notes that the Authority, as competent authority, has undertaken an appropriate assessment of the proposal in accordance with Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Species and Habitats Regulations 2017 (as amended). Your appropriate assessment concludes that your authority is able to ascertain that the proposal will not result in adverse effects on the integrity of any of the sites in question. Having considered the assessment, and the measures proposed to mitigate for all identified adverse effects that could potentially occur as a result of the proposal, Natural England advises that we concur with the assessment conclusions, providing that all mitigation measures are appropriately secured in any permission given.

In order to mitigate adverse effects and make the development acceptable, the mitigation measures are required (from Shadow HRA, EAD Ecology, May 2019).

Further matters include that the proposed development is within an area that Natural England considers could benefit from enhanced green infrastructure (GI) provision. Multi-functional green infrastructure can perform a range of functions including improved flood risk management, provision of accessible green space, climate change adaptation and biodiversity enhancement. As part of Torbay Council's commitment towards Green Infrastructure, we are keen to see the integration of this important element into the proposals. This will facilitate a holistic approach and ensure that the development proposals are capable of delivering an environmentally sustainable package. If you have not already done so, we would encourage you to liaise with Torbay Council's green infrastructure officer, to explore opportunities to strengthen Green Infrastructure.

## South West Water:

South West Water has no objection. A public water main lies within the site (running parallel to the A385), this must be retained either in the new road layout or areas of public open space. Its retention in private garden areas or beneath the potential surface water attenuation ponds shown on the master plan will not be permitted.

Further to your e mail of 27 July 2020 regarding the above application & our subsequent telephone conversation I would firstly re-confirm the earlier comment that South West Water has no objection and would add that we have reviewed the impact

of the development upon the public sewerage network and capacity is available to support it.

It is noted that in response to the earlier application P/2019/0604 we provided further more detailed comments in relation to how South West Water will if required deliver the necessary improvements to our infrastructure should it be deemed necessary which will clearly apply to the current application and indeed any development proposals within your Council area.

We did touch briefly upon the public water main within the site and that we have already been dealing directly with the applicant over its diversion and that this need not be considered by yourselves in term of determining the application.

#### Previous comments on P/2019/0604:

We have carried out a review for the above proposed development and I am pleased to provide reassurance that South West Water can provide foul sewerage services for the site.

With regard to the specific area of Collaton St Mary, this has also been reviewed by our Supply and Team Strategy Team using information we have received at preplanning stage and the Local Planning Authority. We use this information, along with growth forecasts and enquiries from developers to update our planning process. We then assess whether there may be a need to increase the capacity of the clean and waste water assets to receive the increase in flow. Any work that is required is usually planned into our 5 year business planning cycle, unless circumstances indicate otherwise.

With this in mind, our aim is to ensure that:

- Customers who are connected downstream of a development do not experience a lower level of service as a result of the extra demand from the development.
- There is no deterioration of the environment as a result of the increase in flows from a development.

The change in how we charge developers within the 'New Connections and Developer Services Charging Arrangements' are also set in such a way to recover monies from developers through the infrastructure charge to fund off-site reinforcement where there is a need to increase capacity of networks in consequence of growth.

# Post October 2019 Planning Committee comments on the general Collaton St Mary capacity concerns:

I am pleased to provide comments on the points raised to give reassurance to the LPA, Councillors and residents as to how we will manage our clean and waste water services for new developments.

Prior to 1 April 2018, each new development site would be reviewed on a case by case basis and should there be a need for off-site reinforcement to support the development, the activities would be funded by the individual developments if this was not recognised in the South West Water business plan.

This was formalised with the developer by either using a Section 106 contribution, or in more recent years, via a planning condition. However, the significant change in the Developer Services Charging Arrangements on 1 April 2018 which was brought forward by Ofwat, moved the off-site reinforcement to be funded by the infrastructure charge (authorised by Section 146(2) of the Water Industry Act 1991 which is applied to each new property (or commercial property based on loading) to recover the costs of network reinforcement involving new development.

The infrastructure charge will allow new development to progress without any adverse impact upon the levels of serves experienced by our existing customers as a consequence of new development. Our Asset Management Team will be carrying out an evaluation of the waste water assets in Collaton St Mary and this information will allow us to review if there is a need to carry out off-site reinforcement to support the developments in the area. The review will be based on the overall master plan of this area to ensure we look at the holistic view of development in this area.

I trust this provides the clarity required from SWW as to how we will review the area and how this also is to be funded should there be a requirement to reinforce the network to support these developments

Environment Agency: No comment supplied.

**RSPB:** No comment supplied.

Devon Wildlife Trust: No comment supplied

## **Police Designing Out Crime Officer:**

Thank you for requesting consultation on the above outline application for access only to be determined at this stage. For ease of reference and to avoid much duplication please find attached copies of my previous responses for the above scheme as the content of each remain valid, where relevant, and should be considered in the decision making process for the above, particularly with regard to the physical security elements of dwellings and parking provision and parking design.

From a designing out crime, fear of crime, antisocial behaviour and conflict perspective please find the following few additional points for consideration should a more detailed application evolve:-

There should be specific reference to Designing out Crime and/or Crime Prevention per se, either as an addendum to the current Design and Access Statement (DAS) or as a standalone document, as without any detail there is no way of knowing if these key matters have been considered for the scheme.

However having reviewed the illustrative masterplan it is considered that there are many positive aspects such as back to back gardens, active frontages and good levels of overlooking of public open spaces and play areas.

I would really appreciate being consulted as and when more detailed designs evolve especially with regard to the proposed cycle and pedestrian link to the existing school.

## Key Issues/Material Considerations

## Planning Officer Assessment

- 1. Principle of Residential Development
- 2. Design and Visual Impact
- 3. Impact on Heritage Assets
- 4. Impact on Residential Amenity.
- 5. Impact on Highway Safety.
- 6. Ecology and Biodiversity
- 7. Drainage and Flood Risk
- 8. Other Considerations

## 1. Principle of Residential Development

1.1 The application site is located within a wider Strategic Delivery Area (SDA), as designated in the Torbay Local Plan under Policy SS1, which identifies areas for the delivery of growth and change in Torbay for the period of the Local Plan. In addition to the above the site is also part of a wider Future Growth Area as identified within Policy SS2 of the Torbay Local Plan, where it sits in the identified *Paignton North and West Area, including Collaton St Mary* (Policy SS2.2). The site forms part of the Paignton North and Western Area SDA and Policy SDP3 of the Torbay Local Plan identifies that 460 houses could be provided within the Totnes Road / Collaton St Mary Future Growth Area are areas within SDAs that show broad locations where the Council will seek to work with landowners and the community, through neighbourhood planning and/or master-planning, to identify in more detail the sites, scale of growth, infrastructure etc that is required to help deliver the aspirations of the Local Plan.

1.2 The site is also subject to an adopted masterplan for the wider Future Growth Area (adopted February 2016). The Collaton St Mary Masterplan identifies the application site for residential development with some areas of green space to the south of the site near to the A385. The Masterplan identifies the site as being phase 4, the final phase of the wider Collaton St Mary Masterplan area. However the Masterplan also states that these elements of the Masterplan can be delivered earlier without negatively impacting upon other phases should the need or desire to develop these areas arise sooner.

1.3 The Paignton Neighbourhood Plan does not identify housing sites however Policy PNP24 (*Collaton St Mary Village*) does outline that any further development beyond the currently developed areas will only be supported where the proposals are in accordance with the adopted masterplan for the area. As the application site is

identified as a potential site for housing within the adopted masterplan the Neighbourhood Plan is considered to support the principle of housing development on this site. The current proposal is considered to be generally consistent with the Masterplan proposal, as although a larger number of dwellings are proposed, the layout and number shown on the masterplan are indicative and the indicative layouts in the Masterplan are highly schematic and should not be taken as a ceiling on the number of dwellings that can be achieved.

1.4 As a material consideration the previous proposal under planning reference P/2019/0604 was not refused on grounds of principle.

1.5 Due to the reasons stated above the principle of residential development on this site is accepted, when considering strategic policies SS1, SS2, SS5 and SS12 of the Torbay Local Plan and Policies PNP1 and PNP24 of the Paignton Neighbourhood Plan, and the Development Plan as a whole, subject to other material considerations, which will be discussed in more detail below.

# 2. Design and Visual Impact

2.1 Whilst the proposal only seeks detailed consent for the proposed access, being in outline with all matters reserved for future consideration, the submitted information does include an indication of a proposed site layout and further detail on the likely character and appearance of the development. It is necessary to consider whether the submitted detail indicates and ultimately provides sufficient comfort that the amount of development (up to 73 dwellings) could be appropriately achieved in terms of its layout, design and character, without undue visual impact.

2.2 Achieving good design is a central thread within government guidance and Part 12 of the NPPF "Achieving well-designed places" offers key guidance. Paras 124, 127, 129 and 130 are particularly relevant and accumulatively inform that the creation of high quality buildings and places is fundamental to what the planning and development process should achieve, that good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, and the importance of design being sympathetic to local character (built environment and landscape setting). Para 130 offers that that permission should be refused for development of poor design that fails to take the opportunities available for improving the character and quality of an area and the way it functions.

2.3 In regard to the Local Plan Policy SS2 (TLP) states that development delivered within each of the Future Growth Areas must be integrated with existing communities, and reflect the landscape character of the area as informed by Torbay's Landscape Character Assessment (2010). Policy SS8 (TLP) states that development proposals outside of the AONB designation (the site is not within the AONB) will be supported where they conserve or enhance the distinctive character of Torbay, or where the impact is commensurate with the landscape importance. Policy SS11 (TLP) states in part that development should be of an appropriate type, scale, quality, mix and density in relation to its location. In terms of non-strategic policies Policy DE1 (TLP) outlines a number of factors towards securing development that is well-designed and that respects Torbay's special qualities. Further to these Local Plan policies Policy PNP1 (c ) and (d) of the Paignton Neighbourhood Plan sets out local design criteria, whilst PNP24 seeks development to be designed in such a way that it re-establishes the

village character (of Collaton St Mary) and respects prominent landscape and other features.

2.4 Consultee comments received from the Paignton Neighbourhood Forum cite a concern that the proposal presents a higher number of dwellings to the indicative lower number of dwellings within the adopted Masterplan, which aligns with broader comments that the proposal will create a dense urban development out of keeping with the setting of the village.

2.5 In terms of the proposal the application is supported by an indicative masterplan that presents how the amount of development could be laid out within the site, together with a design and access statement that seeks to recognise the local character and suggest design strategies to resolve an acceptable form of development that could form part of a future reserved matters application. There is also a supporting landscape and visual impact assessment which concludes on the suggested developments' likely visual impact. This concludes that the character of the current proposals will ensure that the scheme is well related to its edge-of-settlement character, and will provide an appropriate rural – urban interface, and that the proposed development will not give rise to any significant landscape or visual effects, and will be well related to the surrounding landscape and townscape.

2.6 It is considered that the indicative masterplan submitted within the application presents a broadly similar layout to that shown for the site within the adopted Masterplan, with a single access point and a circular road arrangement that loops to the far northern edge of the site. The most observable divergence that the indicative layout has with the adopted Masterplan layout is the greater extent of development adjacent to the Totnes Road, where rather than a continuous green edge there is proposed development within the central section of the frontage, separating a proposed play space to the west and a proposed open space (including attenuation pond) to the east along this frontage. The accompanying design and access statement explores the design process that has informed the indicative masterplan and suggests how the layout and future form of development could reflect South Devon village vernacular, with 'village mews', 'village street', 'village edge' and 'rural courtyard' forming four concepts for character areas within the development.

2.7 The indicative layout and supporting information seeks to tackle the various design concerns that Officers held on the previous application for 94 (reduced from 97), which was ultimately withdrawn by the applicant prior to a decision being made on the application. Previous concerns in terms of design and visual impact centred on the development presenting an incongruous suburban form development that related poorly to the rural context, together with it presenting a poor residential environment for future occupiers due to the close proximity of properties and resultant potential levels of overlooking and loss of privacy.

2.8 The number of units sought within this current application has been reduced to upto 73, which in terms of the layout has principally removed a linear street from the development, returning it broadly to a singular loop towards the north edge akin to the adopted masterplan layout. The removal of a road and the provision of 21 less dwellings presents a less dense form of development with more public open space, larger gardens, and greater separation distances between buildings, which in turn

presents greater internal planting potential than previously shown. On balance the reduced density and additional potential for substantive planting of trees, and for larger areas of public open space, will help to break up the built form and soften views of the development both internally and externally. The proposal would provide a basis for the form and character of a future reserved matters scheme to be well related to its edge-of-settlement location, and thus provide an appropriate rural – urban interface as concluded within the submitted landscape assessment.

2.9 In regard to design and residential environment the proposal seeks to respond to Officers previous concerns (on the scheme for 94 dwelling) regarding overdevelopment and a cramped form of development, which was considered to present a poor residential environment for future occupiers due to the close proximity of properties and resultant potential levels of overlooking and loss of privacy.

2.10 The indicative masterplan appears to present a more appropriately resolved layout with a demonstrable easing of the previous pressure upon space. The layout suggests that garden space could be adequately resolved to meet the standard expected within the Development Plan of 55sqm whilst also reflecting the more spacious character of the rural edge development. The more specious layout also largely resolves previous concerns on the inter-relationships between properties and plots and the potential impact of proximity on the privacy afforded future occupiers. The suggested distances between properties are largely in excess of the 20m guide for back-to-back plus an allowance for likely level changes, which indicates that the 20m guide should be increased to secure suitable levels of privacy. The suggestion of planting within areas of the development has further potential to remove direct sightlines, which is welcomed in principle. It should be noted however that these distances are illustrative only, but serve to demonstrate what could be achieved. A detailed layout and residential relationships would be considered in detail at the reserved matters stage.

2.11 In terms of other matters the indicative masterplan appears to contain adequate parking to meet the expected levels of 2 spaces per dwelling. Further details will be required as part of a reserved matters submission to enable the precise parking arrangement to be properly scrutinised, but it appears, based on the space available, that an adequate parking arrangement could be provided for the proposed number of units without needing to significantly compromise on other important aspects of the scheme, such as dwelling sizes, the availability of landscaping and amenity space etc.

2.12 In the absence of more detailed information relating to building levels, the siting of openings within the proposed buildings, and other information concerning the proposal's layout, appearance and scale, it is not possible at this time to ultimately determine the acceptability of the proposal in these respects. These matters will need to be addressed at the reserved matters stage, and a range of conditions are recommended to ensure that adequate details are submitted for the Council's consideration. These include details such as boundary treatment, refuse storage, landscaping, and so on. However, based on the indicative information submitted, it appears that a development of up to 73 dwellings could, in principle, be achieved at the site in terms of its layout, appearance, scale, and the associated impacts on visual and residential amenity, based on the indicative masterplan and supporting information currently available.

2.13 As a material consideration the previous proposal under planning reference P/2019/0604 was not refused on grounds of design or visual impact.

2.14 It is considered that the proposed access arrangements would not result in unacceptable harm to the character of the area. Based on the indicative information provided, the proposed development is, for the reasons above, considered to demonstrate the potential to provide a satisfactory form of development in terms of layout, in accordance with Policies SS2, SS3, H1 and DE1 of the Torbay Local Plan, Policies PNP1 and PNP24 of the Paignton Neighbourhood Plan, the adopted Masterplan for Collaton St Mary, and the NPPF.

# 3. Impact on Heritage Assets

3.1 As an outline proposal with all other matters reserved for future consideration except for the access, it is necessary to consider the likely impact upon heritage assets of the expected scheme, informed by the submitted supporting information.

3.2 The NPPF guides that when considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, that great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance (Para 193). The NPPF further states that any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification (Para 194). It guides that where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use (Para 196).

3.3 In terms of the local Development Plan it is guided that development proposals should have special regard to the desirability of preserving any listed building and its setting (Policy HE1 of the TLP). This is aligned with the duties for decisions as laid out within the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 c.9 para 66, where decisions shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving a listed building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.

3.4 In terms of the heritage context for this proposal there are a number of heritage assets nearby. To the east off Bladgon Road there is the Grade 2\* Parish Church of St Mary, and Grade 2 Old School House and Old Vicarage buildings, in addition to a further four Grade 2 listed properties set off the Totnes Road (No.s 391-397). To the west (approximately 300 metres) of the site is another Grade 2\* listed building, which is the 15<sup>th</sup> Century Bladgon Manor.

3.5 In terms of context Historic England were consulted but have not provided comments. They were also consulted on the previous application for 73 dwellings and did not offer comment, but it is noted that they previously objected to the scheme for 94 dwellings due to the likely impact upon the setting of the Grade 2\* Church on grounds of the likely impact upon the rural setting of this building.

3.6 In terms of the church and the organic cluster of surrounding historic buildings the rural character and setting is largely retained, and notably the surrounding green fields reinforce the relationship between the church and the rural hinterland and ultimately how it is experienced as a rural village church.

3.7 The previous proposal for the development of the site submitted under planning reference P/2017/1304 (for up to 94 dwellings) attracted significant concerns regarding the impact upon heritage assets both from the Council's Conservation Officer and also Historic England. As mentioned above Historic England advised that they were not convinced that the previous proposal had taken into consideration the sensitivity placed on it through its contribution to the setting of the church and they suggested that further steps should be taken to understand what the contribution of the site is to the significance of the asset derived from its setting.

3.8 The current application is considered to resolve these previous concerns and notably the application proposes 21 less dwellings and has removed a road from the layout within an outline proposition for up to 73 dwellings, which presents a marked reduction from the previous scheme and a far less dense form of development. In addition additional planting has been introduced within the centre of the development in order to present a stronger landscape concept that will help break up and soften the form of development. In addition the current Design and Access Statement, also to present a concept for a less suburban form of development within a future reserved matters application.

3.9 In relation to the resulting impact upon the setting of the church although the proposal will still introduce development into a part of the Church's wider setting and will extend the built area of Collaton St Mary, the impact is considered to have lessened over that of the previous scheme considered under application reference P/2017/1304. The submitted heritage assessment acknowledges the relationship and concludes that the proposed development is likely to cause a minor level of harm within the spectrum of less than substantial harm to the significance of the Church of St Mary. This conclusion was not challenged by the Council's interim conservation advisor during the previous application and is considered a reasonable retained conclusion in the absence of any demonstrable change in the physical context of the area or planning guidance.

3.10 Considering the submitted detail and the advice received it is considered that, in terms of layout, the latest proposal is again aligned with the previous application which, itself presented a clear improvement over the previously withdrawn scheme, notwithstanding that there remains some adverse impact upon the setting of the Church of St. Mary (by virtue of the erosion of the rural context). Again it is accepted that the degree of impact is now limited in terms of the wider context of the church as the development parameters are more respectful to the rural context and the importance of the building and its setting, and thus presents a framework for a more appropriate pattern of development within a future reserved matters application.

3.11 Para 196 of the NPPF guides that where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, the harm

should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal. Thus the decision process should weigh the benefits of the proposal against the harm arising, which in this case are considered to fall in the less than substantial category. This balancing exercise also needs to consider further advice contained within the NPPF that where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should also consider an optimum viable use of a site (Para 196).

3.12 Considering the conclusions above in this instance the impact on the setting of the Grade 2\* Parish Church of St Mary and the other listed buildings needs to be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal. In this instance the public benefits being the provision of up to 73 dwellings, of which 30% will be affordable, in addition to the delivery of construction jobs and the resultant households and their expenditure within the local economy, the provision of public open space and enhanced public transport infrastructure. Officers are mindful that the site is identified for housing and the principle of housing is not objected to per-se. Officers are also mindful that the adopted masterplan for the area identifies the site for housing with a similar indicative form of development.

3.13 As a material consideration the previous proposal under planning reference P/2019/0604 was not refused on grounds of impact upon heritage assets.

3.14 On balance, with a less than substantial level of harm, when considering the Development Plan and the NPPF, the proposed access arrangements and indicative layout, in terms of heritage assets, are considered suitable for approval in accordance with Policy HE1 of the Torbay Local Plan and Paragraphs 193, 194 and 196 of the NPPF.

3.15 In reaching this conclusion Officers have duly considered the general duties as respects listed buildings under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 c.9 para 66.

# 4. Impact on Residential Amenity

4.1 Policy DE3 of the Torbay Local Plan states that development should not unduly impact upon the amenity of neighbouring and surrounding occupiers. The Paignton Neighbourhood Plan is largely silent on the matter of amenity but expectations aligned with elements of DE3 are stipulated within Policy PNP1.

4.2 The construction phase will naturally have some temporary impacts however such impacts are not unusual and can be limited through restricting hours of construction and agreeing processes to limit delivery and construction movement and parking impacts through the use of a planning condition. As the site lies across a busy road from the nearest residential properties the impact is likely to be limited, certainly towards the rear of these buildings and their plots, where quieter areas are more likely to exist away from the road.

4.3 In terms of the finished development the residential use aligns with the residential uses nearby and the additional dwellings would not result in undue noise or general disturbance for existing occupiers in the area or the school.

4.4 In terms of scale and appearance this will be established within a future reserved matters application, but there is unlikely to be any loss of outlook or light due to the modest scale of residential development and the fact that properties are expected to be set some distance away across a relatively wide public road. The school is also likely to be unaffected.

4.5 In terms of privacy, inter-visibility and overlooking, again when considering the distances involved, and taking into account the topography, the relationships across the Totnes Road are considered acceptable in terms of the likely impact of the development upon existing occupiers. The school is also likely to be unaffected.

4.6 As a material consideration the previous proposal under planning reference P/2019/0604 was not refused on grounds of residential amenity.

4.7 In summary the proposed access arrangements and indicative layout and supporting information are considered to demonstrate the potential to provide a satisfactory form of development in terms of protecting the amenities of adjacent occupiers or the school, in accordance with Policies DE1 and DE3 of the Torbay Local Plan, Policy PNP1 of the Paignton Neighbourhood Plan, the adopted Masterplan for Collaton St Mary, and the NPPF.

# 5. Impact on Highway Safety

5.1 The NPPF guides that in assessing sites that may be allocated for development in plans, or specific applications for development, it should be ensured that *a*) appropriate opportunities to promote sustainable transport modes can be – or have been – taken up, given the type of development and its location; *b*) safe and suitable access to the site can be achieved for all users; and *c*) any significant impacts from the development on the transport network (in terms of capacity and congestion), or on highway safety, can be cost effectively mitigated to an acceptable degree (Para 108). It also furthers (Para 109) that development should only be prevented or refused on highways grounds if there would be an unacceptable impact on highway safety, or the residual cumulative impacts on the road network would be severe.

5.2 Policy TA2 of the Torbay Local Plan states that all development should make appropriate provision for works and/or contributions to ensure an adequate level of accessibility and safety, and to satisfy the transport needs of the development. For major developments this means that a good standard of access for walking, cycling, public and private transport should be provided.

5.3 The Paignton Neighbourhood Plan is largely silent on access and highway matters beyond guiding that appropriate infrastructure should be in place for development, that sustainable modes should be encouraged and that suitable parking and cycle facilities should be provided within residential development.

5.4 Comments received have raised objections to the proposal on highway grounds. The Paignton Neighbourhood Forum have raised concern about the impact of additional traffic and poor sustainable travel options.

5.5 In regard to vehicular access the development would be served by a single new access junction which includes a right hand turn lane off the Totnes Road. The visibility standard of the junction accords with the Council's design criteria for the road speed, with 90m visibility in both directions. The Councils' Highway Engineers and Strategic Transport Officer have considered the junction detail and supporting transport information and has raised no objections in relation to the proposed vehicular access arrangements. It is considered that the proposal would not result in significant harm to highway safety or amenity and would accord with local and national guidance.

5.6 The proposed site layout is not being applied for at this time however indicative details have been provided, including the proposed pedestrian and cycle links. The layout details provided indicate a network of pedestrian and cycling links through the proposed public open space areas, with connections to the wider highway network at two further points along the Totnes Road to the eastern and western edges of the site frontage, together with a potential pedestrian/cycle link to the school grounds.

5.7 On the information provided the wider pedestrian, cycle and bus access opportunities shown are considered to require improvement. It is highlighted that improved access across the A385 should be achieved towards the top of the site in the area of the bus stops, with an extended footway and provision of a crossing point. In addition to this pedestrian access should be secured towards Blagdon Road (and school and church) through the provision of a foot/cycle path within the highway verge linking to the pedestrian exit route shown within the masterplan, as there is no current footpath in this location on the inbound side of the road. Although these details are not shown on the submitted plans these works can be secured through a planning condition and, should these be secured, the indicative layout does not raise any significant concerns at this stage. Ultimately further scrutiny will be given to the internal layout at reserved matters stage.

5.8 The proposal does include the provision of a pull-in bus stop in the general location of the current in-carriageway bus stop eastbound. This is a material benefit, along with the crossing refuge that is to be sought as outlined above, to the existing sustainable transport network.

5.9 In regard to other matters Torbay Local Plan Policy SS6.2 and SDP3 indicates that development along the Totnes Road area (SDP3.3) will require infrastructure improvement works to the A385 Totnes Road. As noted within the Councils previous combined highway and transport comments the Planning Contributions and Affordable Housing SPD estimates improvement works to circa £1m (para 4.2.7) and based on the scale of the development proposed a proportionate funding level of £119,500 towards the development and implementation of this scheme should be secured (via S106 legal agreement). These comments are still considered relevant and subject to confirmation the obligations should be sought in-line with previous levels suggested.

5.10 In terms of other matters funding to secure improved sustainable transport links should be secured in accordance with Torbay Local Plan Policy SS7 and the Planning Contributions and Affordable Housing SPD (to the open market dwellings). In this case the trip rate presented within the submitted Transport Assessment equals an obligation level of £830 per open market dwelling following any reserved matters approval. This funding would support strategic connectivity from Collaton St Mary to

employment areas along the Western Corridor and into Paignton Town Centre. Again this obligation should be secured via a S106 legal agreement in-line with previous transport comments unless otherwise confirmed.

5.11 Finally the proposal indicates that the 30/40mph speed limit boundary should be relocated. In order to relocate the 30/40mph speed limit a contribution is required as this cannot be delivered under S278 and should be secured via a S106 legal agreement. The estimate to undertake this work is £8,000 and this should again be sought unless transports comments are received that confirm otherwise.

5.12 As a material consideration the previous proposal under planning reference P/2019/0604 was not refused on grounds of highway safety.

5.13 Considering the points above, and having regard to guidance contained within the NPPF which states that development should only be prevented or refused on highways grounds if there would be an unacceptable impact on highway safety, or the residual cumulative impacts on the road network would be severe (Para 109), the proposal is, subject to securing the identified off-site sustainable transport links and financial transport obligations towards the western corridor improvements, sustainable travel and a local traffic order, considered acceptable on highway and movements grounds, and in accordance with the Policy TA2 of the Torbay Local Plan, The Paignton Neighbourhood Plan and the NPPF.

# 6. Ecology & Biodiversity

6.1 Policy NC1 of the Torbay Local Plan and guidance within the NPPF seeks for development to duly consider biodiversity and take opportunities for enhancement, proportionate to the context and development.

6.2 Policy PNP1 (Area Wide) of the Paignton Neighbourhood Plan states that development will not be supported where the development proposal would result in an adverse impact on a European protected site and Policy PNP1 (c) *Design Principles* includes a number of aspirations for development to secure, where possible and appropriate to the scale and size of development. PNP1 (c) includes reference to safeguarding biodiversity and geodiversity by ensuring that layout and design will protect existing features of biodiversity value on site and biodiversity connections with related sites, and ensure that features of geodiversity value are protected and wherever possible enhanced in their condition and future management. The policy furthers that hedgerow habitat should be provided on at least one development boundary wherever possible, and that bat and bird boxes should be featured.

6.3 In terms of the ecology context the site is an open grass field with tree lined borders and the application is supported by a number of ecology-based documents. These include a shadow Habitat Regulations Assessment as the site lies within a known flyway of the Greater Horseshoe Bat (GHB) associated with the South Hams Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

6.4 Considering the context the key ecological issues relate to the use of the site by GHBs and the consideration of the likelihood of a significant effect, along with broader ecology considerations regarding reptiles (principally slow worms), and foraging badgers (as there is a sett in the north-west corner), together with broader biodiversity enhancement aspirations.

6.5 In regard to the potential impact upon GHBs associated with the South Hams SAC the proposals include the creation of a 10m wide 'dark' wildlife corridor (<0.5 lux) along the northern and eastern boundaries, incorporating existing landscaping and further planting. In addition the supporting information details construction phase managing to limit impacts, and operation-phase mitigation through additional planting and ongoing management to principally limit light-spill. The Council's ecology advisor has undertaken a Habitat Regulations Assessment / Appropriate Assessment which concluded that subject to achieving the outlined mitigation through planning conditions the development would not have a likely significant effect on the South Hams SAC. The Council's HRA has been submitted to Natural England for comment and Natural England support the findings, that subject to achievable mitigation the proposal is considered acceptable with the conclusion of no likely significant effect.

6.6 In regard to wider ecology considerations the submitted information proposes a mitigation strategy that includes creating an exclusion zone around the badger sett, retaining and enhancing hedgerows, suitable habitat/ tree planting, installation of a range of bird and bat boxes on new residential builds, garden fence small mammal passes, and wetland planting in association with the sustainable urban drainage area.

6.7 The Council's ecology advisor has concluded that that there is no reason for refusal of the planning application on broader ecological grounds provided the proposals are implemented and maintained in accordance with the ecology documents that have been produced.

6.8 In terms of broader biodiversity aspirations in-line with advice from Natural England and the Council's ecology advisor future reserved matters should duly consider and propose measures to enhance biodiversity.

6.9 As a material consideration the previous proposal under planning reference P/2019/0604 was not refused on grounds of highway safety.

6.10 In-line with the conclusions above the proposal is considered acceptable on ecological and biodiversity grounds for the reasons stated above, in-line with the aspirations of Policies NC1 and C4 of the Local Plan, The Paignton Neighbourhood Plan, and advice contained within the NPPF.

# 7. Flood Risk and Drainage

7.1 National guidance contained within the NPPF cites that when determining any planning applications, local planning authorities should ensure that flood risk is not increased elsewhere (Para 163). It also guides that Major developments should incorporate sustainable drainage systems unless there is clear evidence that this would be inappropriate (Para 165).

7.2 Policy ER1 of the Local Plan states that proposals should maintain or enhance the prevailing water flow regime on-site, including an allowance for climate change, and ensure the risk of flooding is not increased elsewhere, which is aligned with guidance contained within the NPPF. In regard to foul waters Policy ER2 of the Local Plan includes reference that development proposals should provide appropriate sewage disposal systems with separate foul and surface water, which seek to use sustainable measures and reduce water being discharged into shared sewers.

7.3 The Paignton Neighbourhood Plan has two key policies relating to drainage and flood risk. Policy PNP1 (Area Wide) Section *(i)* Surface Water cites that developments will be required to comply with all relevant drainage and flood risk policy. It furthers that proposals which achieve more than sustainable drainage improvements and move beyond Sustainable Urban Drainage systems (SUDs) by keeping surface water out of the combined sewer network at source are encouraged. PNP24 (Collaton St Mary) cites that foul and surface water disposal have become a significant problem in the area and furthers that residential development proposals where appropriate will be required to demonstrate (i) that sufficient capacity exists to accommodate the additional development and not cause any risk of flooding to existing properties, and (ii) there is infrastructure in place to provide for, and service, such growth and development.

7.4 The site sits in an area with a low risk (Flood Zone 1) of flooding, however there is a linear area of heightened flood risk to the north that follows the valley floor from west to east. The site is also within a Critical Drainage Area as designated by the Environment Agency.

7.5 A flood risk assessment has been submitted with the development and there are accompanying surface water drainage plans that illustrate a drainage solution that utilises attenuation tanks and balancing ponds. These are situated in the eastern corner of the site and integrate into a wider area of public open space. The attenuation will discharge to a local watercourse at a rate equivalent to greenfield run-off. Foul sewerage is to be connected to the Public Sewer system that runs along Totnes Road.

7.6 The previous application (P/2019/0604) was refused for the following reason: "The site is in an area that has been subject to flooding from foul and surface water sewers and the information submitted in support of the application fails to provide sufficient detail to demonstrate that the development will not contribute to further flooding, contrary to Policy PNP1 (iv) of The Paignton Neighbourhood Plan, which seeks detail on foul and surface water drainage and other key infrastructure being required when major development (as defined in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015) applications are first submitted, and not being dealt with subsequently by conditions".

# Surface water

7.6 In regard to surface water management the Council's drainage engineer has reviewed the proposal and has concluded that the submitted detail demonstrates that there is no risk of flooding for the critical 1 in 100 year storm event plus 40% for climate change, subject to a final layout for the development and design being submitted to the planning authority for approval prior to construction works commencing on site. This can be achieved by a planning condition. This is considered to accord with Policy PNP(iv) as there is a detailed scheme that shows that an appropriate surface water management system can be achieved for the indicative layout. By necessity as this

is an outline scheme the layout may change and hence any future reserved matters would need to be accompanied by a detailed strategy that responds to the final proposed layout should outline consent be granted.

7.7 In terms of other matters there is an identified flood alleviation scheme immediately downstream of the development on the Yalberton watercourse and the council's drainage engineer has identified that as the surface water run-off from the proposed development is likely to impact on this watercourse a contribution to the funding for the flood alleviation scheme should be secured from the developer through S106 funding. In accordance with previous correspondence relating to a section 106 contribution a figure of £915 per dwelling has been identified, which would present an obligation from this development to the flood alleviation scheme to the sum of £66,795 (73 x £915).

# Foul water

7.8 As detailed within the submitted information the proposal is to connect to the Public Sewer adjacent to the site. South West Water do not object to this proposal and have re-confirmed that they have reviewed the impact of the development upon the public sewerage network and that capacity is available to support it. South West Water have also re-confirmed that South West Water will if required deliver the necessary improvements to our infrastructure should it be deemed necessary which will clearly apply to the current application and indeed any development proposals within the Council area.

7.9 It is noted that there is a high degree of public concern relating to the impact of foul sewerage and the inability of the local infrastructure to cope with the additional level of development proposed.

7.10 South West Water have previously carried out a review and provided reassurance that South West Water can provide foul sewerage services for the site. They also confirmed that with regard to the specific area of Collaton St Mary that this has also been reviewed by the Supply and Team Strategy Team using information received at pre-planning stage, by the Local Planning Authority, and growth forecasts and enquiries from developers. The strategic planning work that is subsequently required is usually planned into a 5 year business planning cycle, unless circumstances indicate otherwise, with the aim to ensure that:

- Customers who are connected downstream of a development do not experience a lower level of service as a result of the extra demand from the development.
- There is no deterioration of the environment as a result of the increase in flows from a development.

The change in how they charge developers within the 'New Connections and Developer Services Charging Arrangements' are also set in such a way to recover monies from developers through the infrastructure charge to fund off-site reinforcement where there is a need to increase capacity of networks in consequence of growth.

7.11 As a material consideration since the previous decision South West Water have

provided further comment on the strategic needs for Collaton St Mary due to the high level of local concern, in terms of how they seek to manage capacity and deal with growth, as below.

7.12 South West Water outlined in December 2019 that there has been a 'model shift' in how they operate following significant change in 2018 brought forward by Ofwat (The Water Services Regulation Authority), and they now no longer rely on the planning system to secure funding for changing needs in capacity. They confirmed that where they previously engaged with the planning process on a case-by-case assessment and sought necessary funding via conditions or S106 legal agreements, they now operate a model that is detached from and does not rely on the planning system. The 'new' system now secures infrastructure funding through developer connections charges (and strategic delivery plans), which they cite should allow new development to progress without any adverse impact upon the levels of service experienced by existing customers as a consequence of new development. The 'new' model of management outlined by SWW and summarised above clearly outlines that SWW no longer rely on the planning system to deliver necessary infrastructure and hence there would appear no sound planning reason not to support the proposal on flood risk and drainage grounds, where there is support from the Lead Local Flood Authority in terms of surface water and the statutory undertaker in terms of foul water.

7.13 As an anecdotal note SWW have confirmed that their Asset Management Team will be carrying out an evaluation of the waste water assets in Collaton St Mary and this information will allow them to review if there is a need to carry out off-site reinforcement to support the developments in the area. They have confirmed that this review will be based on the overall master plan of this area to ensure we look at the holistic view of development in this area.

7.14 The previous refusal for flood risk reasons is a material consideration however the comments above are also new and a material consideration. It is also a material consideration that development of upto 100 houses was resolved to be approved at the July Planning Committee with a similar proposal to connect to the existing Public Sewer for foul water disposal.

7.14 Based on the above comments there is no objection to planning permission being granted for the above development subject to a condition requiring the developer to submit their final surface water drainage design for approval, together with the funding above being secured. The proposal is considered, subject to the above, in accordance with Policies ER1, ER2, SS2 and SS7 of the Local Plan, the Paignton Neighbourhood Plan, and advice contained within the NPPF.

# 8. Other Considerations

# Housing Supply

8.1 The Council cannot currently demonstrate a 5 year housing land supply, as sought by Government, and the proposal will help with the delivery of housing with a form of development that is considered to accord with the Development Plan when considered as a whole. As stated within this report the site is allocated and the proposals are in broad accordance with the adopted masterplan for the area. 8.2 Paragraph 11 of the NPPF outlines that decisions should apply a presumption in favour of sustainable development, which means approving development proposals that accord with an up-to-date development plan without delay.

8.3 The provision of housing is a significant benefit within the planning balance, certainly in light of the current published position where the Authority can only demonstrate a 3 year supply, which is a significant shortfall. The provision of 22 affordable homes is also a significant material benefit.

8.4 It is concluded that the development accords with the Development Plan and hence there is support for the grant of permission, in-line with the guidance within the NPPF (Para 11). Were this judgment different and the proposal considered to conflict with the Development Plan it should be noted that the absence of a 5 year housing supply principally sets a higher benchmark to resist development as it triggers a tilted balance in favour of sustainable development. In such a circumstance development should only be refused where any adverse impacts of granting permission would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits. As stated the land is identified for housing and the development broadly accords with an adopted masterplan for the area, that is itself supported within the Neighbourhood Plan, the conclusion would in such a circumstance be that the adverse impacts are not significant and demonstrable in this context, and the tilted balance in favour of granting permission should apply.

## **Sustainability**

Policy SS3 of the Local Plan establishes the presumption in favour of sustainable development. The NPPF definition of sustainability has three aspects which are economic, social and environmental. Each of which shall be discussed in turn:

## The Economic Role

Housing development is recognised as an important driver of economic growth and there would be economic benefits to the construction industry from the proposed development.

Once the dwellings were occupied there would be an increase in the level of disposable income from the occupants some which would be likely to be spent in the local area and an increase in the demand for local goods and services.

There are no adverse economic impacts that would arise from this development

In respect of the economic element of sustainable development the balance is considered to be in favour of the development

# The Social Role

The principle social benefit of the proposed development would be the provision of additional housing, including 30% affordable housing. Given the NPPF priority to significantly boost the supply of housing the additional dwellings to be provided must carry significant weight in this balance.

The proposed development will provide a Local Area of Equipped Play as a social benefit to the village and financial contributions will be provided towards education infrastructure demands.

Impacts on neighbour amenity have been discussed above where it is concluded that it would possible to develop this site as proposed without significant harm to residential amenity.

NHS requests for financial contributions towards health care however cannot be accommodated within the current Development Plan framework as the development was anticipated within the Local Plan and no need for financial contributions was identified at that time.

On balance, the social impacts of the development weigh in favour of the development

## The Environmental role

With respect to the environmental role of sustainable development, the elements that are considered to be especially relevant to the proposed development are impacts on the landscape, ecology and bio-diversity and surface and foul water drainage. These matters have been considered in detail above.

The environmental benefits identified are either marginal in the case of any biodiversity net gain or essentially mitigation as in the case of any landscape/ecological measures to be applied to the development. Moreover, those 'benefits' have to be set against the loss of an area of open field, leading to a change in the local environment and landscape. These impacts are not considered to be significant however and it has to be appreciated that the site is identified for housing within the Development Plan.

The proposed development is in a sustainable location inasmuch as it is borders and forms part of the existing urban area and is located in close proximity to local amenities of West Paignton where there are also public transportation links.

It is concluded that the environmental impacts of the development weigh neutrally within the planning balance.

#### Sustainability Conclusion

Having regard to the above assessment the proposed development is considered to represent sustainable development.

#### Local Finance Considerations

#### S106:

The following are draft Heads of Terms for a legal agreement, which should be completed prior to a planning consent being issued. Triggers and instalments in relation to the proposed financial contributions are to be agreed as part of the detailed negotiation of the legal agreement. It is recommended that authority to progress and complete the legal agreement be delegated to officers.

#### **Highway works**

In-line with Torbay Local Plan Policy SS6.2 and SDP3 development along the Totnes Road area (SDP3.3) will require infrastructure improvement works to the A385 Totnes Road. Based on the scale of the development expected within the area and within this site a proportionate funding level of £119,500 towards the development and implementation of this scheme should be secured.

In order to relocate the 30/40mph speed limit a contribution is required. The estimate to undertake this work is £8,000.

## Flood Works

Strategic flood alleviation works are required to secure a flood alleviation scheme on the Yalberton watercourse. As there are proposed to be approximately 500 new properties constructed within the catchment drainage to the Yalberton Watercourse the contribution for each property should be secured. The level of funding should be secured based on a figure of £915 per dwelling. As a result the S106 contribution from this development to the flood alleviation scheme should be in the sum of £66,795 (73 x £915).

#### Affordable Housing

Affordable housing provision should be secured from this development in accordance with Policy H2 of the Torbay Local Plan, which states that for development of greenfield sites for schemes of 30+ dwellings that 30% should be affordable housing. At 30% the scheme is expected to secure 22 affordable units.

The provision should be secured via a S106 with elements of the provision, such as location and mix, being agreed through the reserved matters stage when the form and layout is progressed beyond the current indicative stage.

#### Sustainable Transport

In accordance with Torbay Local Plan Policy SS7 and the Planning Contributions and Affordable Housing SPD (to open marking housing only) Sustainable Transport obligations should be secured at a rate of £830 per eligible dwelling. Based on "trip rate x £171" per dwelling where the trip rate is equal to 4.854 (Appendix F of the Transport Assessment – TRICS output page 5) or other alternative method as agreed. This funding would support strategic connectivity from Collaton St Mary to employment areas along the Western Corridor and into Paignton Town Centre.

#### **Greenspace and Recreation**

No obligation request raised by Natural Environment Services. It is noted that the indicative masterplan includes a LEAP to provide local plan space together with more informal space. The provision of a LEAP is considered commensurate for the scale of development in the absence of further comment form the Councils Natural Environment Services Team. Legal agreement should secure adoption or management arrangements for the public open space secured in a future RM application commensurate with the indicative masterplan.

## Education

Obligations in-line with the adopted SPD should be sought to secure increased school capacity within Paignton, based on the provision of open market housing, the detail of

which will come forward at reserved matters stage.

#### Lifelong Learning Obligations

Obligations in-line with the adopted SPD should be sought to secure library improvements within the area, based on the provision of open market housing, the detail of which will come forward at reserved matters stage.

#### Waste and Recycling

Obligations in-line with the SPD should be secured to provide waste and recycling facilities for properties that will be served by the Local Authority waste collection provider.

#### Sustainable Urban Drainage System

Details pertaining to the ongoing management of the proposed SUDs within public areas, by a management company, shall be secured in order to secure certainty on future maintenance and effectiveness of the system.

#### CIL:

The CIL liability for this development is Nil.

# EIA/HRA

#### EIA:

Due to the scale, nature and location this development will not have significant effects on the environment and therefore is not considered to be EIA development.

#### HRA:

The application site is within a strategic flyway/sustenance zone associated with the South Hams SAC.

A Habitat Regulations Assessment / Appropriate Assessment has been carried out for this development. The proposed development is unlikely to have a significant effect on the South Hams SAC. Natural England have been consulted and concur with the Council's conclusions, subject to securing the proposed mitigation measures.

#### **Planning Balance**

The planning assessment considers the policy and material considerations in detail. It is considered that the scheme in terms of addressing the Development Plan aspiration to provide housing would produce a significantly positive impact overall and help with the supply of much needed housing. The provision of 22 affordable homes is also a significant material benefit.

The provision of a public play area is also a significant public benefit, certainly in light of the current absence of child's play facilities within the area. The nearest formal play area being at Claylands near the junction of Borough Road and Brixham Road.

The provision of enhanced public transport facilities is also a material benefit with the proposal including the provision of a pull-in bus stop on a strategic road, in place of the existing in-carriageway bus stop. It is also proposed to secure a central crossing

refuge, which will also improve the access to the eastbound bus stop where there is currently no crossing facilities to aid crossing a strategic road.

It is acknowledged that there are concerns about the potential impact upon setting of the listed church and broader landscape impact, however on the information available this is not unacceptable, subject to the planning conditions and obligations detailed in this report, and bearing in mind that a number of elements, including the layout, scale, appearance and landscaping for the development will need to be the subject of reserved matters applications and further scrutiny.

## **Statement on Human Rights and Equalities Issues**

Human Rights Act: The development has been assessed against the provisions of the Human Rights Act, and in particular Article 1 of the First Protocol and Article 8 of the Act itself. This Act gives further effect to the rights included in the European Convention on Human Rights. In arriving at this recommendation, due regard has been given to the applicant's reasonable development rights and expectations which have been balanced and weighed against the wider community interests, as expressed through third party interests / the Development Plan and Central Government Guidance

Equalities Act - In arriving at this recommendation, due regard has been given to the provisions of the Equalities Act 2010, particularly the Public Sector Equality Duty and Section 149. The Equality Act 2010 requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities. Protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race/ethnicity, religion or belief (or lack of), sex and sexual orientation.

#### **Proactive Working**

In accordance with the requirements of Article 35(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order, 2015, in determining this application, Torbay Council has worked positively with the applicant to ensure that all relevant planning concerns have been appropriately resolved. The Council has concluded that this application is acceptable for planning approval.

#### **Conclusions and Reasons for Decision**

The site is identified for housing within the Development Plan and the proposal does appear to be fairly consistent with the associated adopted Masterplan for the area.

Key public concerns regarding the impact upon the Greater Horseshoe Bats and flooding are resolved to the satisfaction of the statutory consultees on these matters, and the highway authority does not object to the access or impact upon the road network.

There is a degree of impact upon the landscape and setting of the nearby listed church, however these impacts are not considered significant and are outweighed by public benefits.

There is additional detail from SWW as the statutory undertaker in terms of strategic Public Sewer capacity which is considered to present more certainty that the proposal

would not present a risk of flooding.

In-line with the above conclusions, and the detail contained within this report, the proposals are considered to be in accordance with the provisions of the Development Plan. The NPPF states that development proposals that accord with an up-to-date development plan should be approved without delay.

Due to the level of accordance with the Development Plan and in the absence of material considerations that weigh sufficiently against the proposal, the Officer recommendation is one of approval, subject to suitable conditions, and securing a S106 Legal Agreement to secure the identified mitigation and affordable housing inline with adopted policy.

The proposal is ultimately considered a good use of an identified site that would provide much needed housing to help meet local need where the Council cannot demonstrate a 5 year housing land supply and is significantly below the level of housing growth expected.

## Officer Recommendation

Approval: Subject to;

- 1. The conditions outlined below, with the final drafting of conditions delegated to the Assistant Director of Planning, Housing and Climate Change, and;
- 2. The completion of a S106 Legal Agreement to secure the heads of terms above, in accordance with the adopted Planning Contributions and Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document, on terms acceptable to Officers.

The resolution of any new material considerations that may come to light following Planning Committee to be delegated to the Assistant Director of Planning, Housing and Climate Change, including the addition of any necessary further planning conditions or obligations.

## **Conditions**

## Standard time condition:

That in the case of any reserved matter, an application for approval must be made not later than the expiration of three years beginning with the date of the grant of outline planning permission; and

That the development to which this permission relates must be begun not later than two years from the date of the final approval of the reserved matters, or in the case of approval on different dates, the final approval of the last such matter to be approved.

Reason: To comply with Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1990.

## 1. Reserved Matters condition

An application for the following reserved matters shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority for its approval in writing:

- (i) layout,
- (ii) scale,
- (iii) appearance; and
- (iv) landscaping.

The details of the reserved matters shall be consistent with the details submitted and approved pursuant to the outline consent.

Approval of all reserved matters shall be obtained from the Local Planning Authority in writing before any development is commenced, and the development shall be undertaken in accordance with the approved reserved matters.

Reason: To enable the Local Planning Authority to control the development in detail and to comply with Section 92 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

# 2. Control of External Light Spill to Maintain Dark Areas on Site and in Surrounding Areas

All reserved matters applications for layout and/or external appearance shall include a Lighting Assessment, including lux contour plan, for both public-realm and domestic lighting in combination with any existing light sources in the locality to demonstrate compliance with the 0.5lux design parameter set out in the Shadow HRA (EAD Ecology, May 2019).

Reason: To secure a satisfactory form of development in accordance with Policies SS2, SS8 and NC1 of the Torbay Local Plan 2012-2030.

# 3. Construction Environmental Management Plan – Biodiversity

All reserved matters applications for layout shall include a Construction Environmental Management Plan (*CEMP: Biodiversity*), which shall have been prepared in accordance with specifications in BS42020; clause 10.2 and shall include the following.

- a) Risk assessment of potentially damaging construction activities.
- b) Identification of 'biodiversity protection zones'.
- c) Practical measures (both physical measures and sensitive working practices) to avoid or reduce impacts during construction (may be provided as a set of method statements).
- d) The location and timing of sensitive works to avoid harm to biodiversity features. This includes the use of protective fences, exclusion barriers and warning signs.
- e) The times during construction when specialist ecologists need to be present on site to monitor works to ensure compliance with the CEMP: Biodiversity, and the actions that will be undertaken.
- f) Responsible persons and lines of communication.
- g) The role and responsibilities on site of an ecological clerk of works (ECoW) or similarly competent person.

The approved CEMP shall be adhered to and implemented throughout the construction period strictly in accordance with the approved details unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To secure a satisfactory form of development in accordance with Policies SS2, SS8 and NC1 of the Torbay Local Plan 2012-2030.

## 4. Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) or equivalent

All reserved matters applications for layout and/or landscaping shall include a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP), prepared in accordance with the specifications in BS42020; clause 11.1, which shall be submitted and shall include, but not be limited to, the following.

- a) Description and evaluation of features to be managed, which shall include all of the mitigation measures set out in the assessment documents.
- b) Ecological trends and constraints on site that might influence management.
- c) A habitat phasing plan to ensure habitat is established and functional in advance of impacts.
- d) Aims and objectives of management.
- e) Appropriate management options for achieving aims and objectives. Noting the comments from Natural England with regards to preferred hedgerow management options.
- f) Prescriptions for management actions.
- g) Preparation of a work schedule (including an annual work plan capable of being rolled forward over a five year period).
- h) Details of the body or organisation responsible for implementation of the plan.
- i) On-going monitoring and remedial measures for biodiversity features included in the LEMP.

The LEMP shall also include details of the legal and funding mechanism(s) by which the long-term implementation of the plan will be secured by the developer with the management body(s) responsible for its delivery.

All post-construction site management shall be undertaken in accordance with the LEMP.

Reason: To secure a satisfactory form of development in accordance with Policies SS2, SS8 and NC1 of the Torbay Local Plan 2012-2030.

# 5. Ecological monitoring to provide early warning of threats to bat commuting routes

All reserved matters applications shall include a monitoring strategy which shall be prepared with the purpose 'provide early warning of any change in site conditions (such as those brought about by loss of suitable habitat features or adverse light spill) that are likely to impair or disturb greater horseshoe bats being able to commute through the site adjacent to the site boundary'. The strategy will be prepared in accordance with the specifications in BS42020; clause 11.2.3 and shall include the following.

a) Aims and objectives of monitoring to match the stated purpose;

- b) Identification of adequate baseline conditions prior to the start of development (including light levels within the dark areas);
- c) Appropriate success criteria, thresholds, triggers and targets against which the continued effectiveness of the bats' commuting routes can be judged;
- d) Methods for data gathering and analysis (to include appropriate bat surveys and light monitoring);
- e) Location of monitoring/sampling points;
- f) Timing and duration of monitoring;
- g) Responsible persons and lines of communication;
- h) Contingencies and remedial measures that will be triggered should monitoring detect a change in site conditions;
- i) Review, and where appropriate, publication of results and outcomes.

A report describing the results of monitoring shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority at intervals as identified in the Strategy. The report shall also set out where the results from monitoring show that site conditions are changing and consequently how contingencies and/or remedial action will be identified, agreed with the local planning authority, and then implemented so that the development still delivers the fully functioning bat commuting routes associated with the originally approved scheme.

The monitoring strategy will be implemented in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: To secure a satisfactory form of development in accordance with Policies SS2, SS8 and NC1 of the Torbay Local Plan 2012-2030.

## 6. Highway Adoption

No dwelling shall be occupied until all estate roads required for access to that dwelling have been constructed to adoptable standards in accordance with the Torbay Highway Design Guide for New Developments in force at the time of commencement of the development and an agreement has been entered into between the developer and the Council as Highway Authority under Section 38 of the Highways Act 1980 for the adoption of the estate roads.

Reason: To ensure that the estate roads serving the development are completed to an acceptable standard and are available for use by the occupants and other users of the development, in the interests of amenity and highway safety, in accordance with Policies DE1, DE3 and TA2 of the Torbay Local Plan 2012-2030.

## 7. Highway Works

Prior to commencement of development, a S278 Agreement shall be entered into with the Highway Authority to secure the access works, the bus lay-by, the pedestrian crossing facilities adjacent to the existing bus stops to the west of the site within the vicinity of the proposed LEAP and crossing adjacent to the proposed vehicular junction, together with works to create a foot/cycle route that connects the eastern edge of the site to the junction/crossing of Blagdon Road. The agreed works shall be delivered in accordance with the Agreement.

Reason: To ensure highway safety is not impaired, in accordance with Policies TA1, TA2 and DE1 of the Torbay Local Plan 2012-2030, the Paignton Neighbourhood Plan and the NPPF.

This need to be a pre-commencement condition as it relates to works outside of the application site and engagement of third parties.

## 8. Flood risk

As part of any reserved matters application for layout a scheme for the treatment of surface water that demonstrates that the risk of flooding would not be increased, which is in-line with the design parameters outlined within the submitted and approved Flood Risk Assessment, shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved scheme shall be implemented in full prior to the first occupation of the development unless a phasing plan has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority, and shall be subsequently maintained thereafter.

Reason: To ensure that there are no increased flood risk, in accordance with Policies ER1 and ER2 of the Torbay Local Plan, the Paignton Neighbourhood Plan, and advice contained within the NPPF.

## 9. Biodiversity enhancement measures

The details for reserved matters of layout and landscaping shall include the submission of a biodiversity metric calculation which use the most up-to-date metric and associated guidance documents. This calculation will secure a net gain in biodiversity.

The approved measures shall be implemented in full prior to the first occupation of the development, unless a phasing strategy has otherwise been agreed in writing, and shall be permanently managed and maintained at all times thereafter in accordance with the approved detail.

Reason: in the interests of biodiversity, in accordance with Policies SS8 and NC1 of the Torbay local Plan 2012-2030, the Paignton Neighbourhood Plan and the NPPF.

## 10. Dormouse surveys

Unless otherwise agreed with the LPA the details for reserved matters of layout and/or landscaping will include the submission of a repeat hazel dormouse survey, along with associated mitigation/compensation measures, and this shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the LPA.

The development shall proceed in accordance with any approved detail.

Reason: in the interests of biodiversity, in accordance with Policies SS8 and NC1 of the Torbay local Plan 2012-2030, the Paignton Neighbourhood Plan and the NPPF.

## **11.Cirl Bunting surveys**

Unless otherwise agreed with the LPA the details for reserved matters of layout and/or landscaping will include the submission of repeat Cirl Bunting surveys, along with associated mitigation/compensation measures, and this shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the LPA.

The development shall proceed in accordance with any approved detail.

Reason: in the interests of biodiversity, in accordance with Policies SS8 and NC1 of the Torbay local Plan 2012-2030, the Paignton Neighbourhood Plan and the NPPF.

#### 12. Badger surveys

Prior to the commencement of any vegetation clearance or site works, a repeat survey for the presence of badgers on the site and surrounding suitable habitat, with associated mitigation/compensation measures, shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the LPA.

The development shall proceed in accordance with any approved detail.

Reason: in the interests of biodiversity, in accordance with Policies SS8 and NC1 of the Torbay local Plan 2012-2030, the Paignton Neighbourhood Plan and the NPPF.

#### 13. Nesting birds / bats

The details of reserved matters for layout and external appearance shall include bird nesting/bat roosting boxes in the design of the buildings.

No vegetation clearance shall take place during the bird nesting season (01 March to 31 August, inclusive) unless the developer has been advised by a suitably qualified ecologist that the clearance will not disturb nesting birds and a record of this kept.

The development shall proceed in accordance with any approved detail.

Reason: in the interests of biodiversity, in accordance with Policies SS8 and NC1 of the Torbay local Plan 2012-2030, the Paignton Neighbourhood Plan and the NPPF.

## 14. Reptiles

The Construction Ecological Management Plan (CEcoMP) to be submitted as part of the first reserved matters application and is to include details of protection of reptiles throughout construction.

The development shall proceed in accordance with any approved detail.

Reason: in the interests of biodiversity, in accordance with Policies SS8 and NC1 of the Torbay local Plan 2012-2030, the Paignton Neighbourhood Plan and the NPPF.

## **15.**Construction method statement

No development shall take place, including any works of demolition, until a Construction Method Statement has been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local planning authority. The approved Statement shall be adhered to throughout the construction period. The Statement shall provide for:

a) The parking of vehicles of site operatives and visitors.

b) Loading and unloading of plant and materials.

c) Storage of plant and materials used in constructing the development.

d) The erection and maintenance of security hoarding including decorative displays and facilities for public viewing, where appropriate.

e) Wheel washing facilities.

f) Measures to control the emission of dust and dirt during construction.

g) A scheme for recycling/disposing of waste resulting from demolition and construction works, with priority given to reuse of building materials on site wherever practicable.

h) Measures to minimise noise nuisance to neighbours from plant and machinery.

i) Construction working hours from 8:00 to 18:00 Monday to Friday, 8:00 to

13:00 on Saturdays and at no time on Sundays or Bank Holidays.

Reason: In the interests of highway safety and local neighbour amenity, in accordance with Policy TA2 and DE3 of the Torbay Local Plan 2012-2030.

This needs to be a pre-commencement condition to ensure impacts of development are mitigated from the very start of development.

#### 16. Travel plan

The Travel Plan hereby approved shall be implemented in full. Should the annual review show that the development is failing to secure a modal shift of 30% of potential users to sustainable modes of travel, additional measures, in discussion with the Local Planning Authority, shall be agreed and implemented.

Reason: To reduce the impact of the development upon the transport network, in accordance with Policy TA2 of the Torbay Local Plan 2012-2030.

#### 17. Energy

As part of any application for reserved matters relating to the proposal's layout, scale and appearance, details of energy efficiency measures shall be submitted for the approval in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The details shall include the provision of electric vehicle charging facilities to all dwellings.

The measures in relation to each residential unit shall be completed, in accordance with the approved details, prior to the first occupation of that unit.

Reason: In the interests of sustainable development and in accordance with Policy PNP1 of the Paignton Neighbourhood Plan, Policies SS14 and TA3 (and Appendix F) of the Torbay Local Plan 2012-2030.

#### 14. Phasing

A phasing plan shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority as part of the first application for reserved matters approval of layout. The plan shall demonstrate how the development will be implemented in relation to an agreed timetable of works, and shall include the provision of play space, open space, and allotments, landscaping and ecological enhancement, amenity footpaths, highway works and other ancillary infrastructure. The development shall then be implemented in accordance with the approved phasing plan.

Reason: To ensure that necessary elements of the scheme are implemented within acceptable parameters and at an appropriate stage, to comply with policies SS2, SS9, Page 116, SS10, NC1 and DE1 of the adopted Torbay Local Plan 2012-2030 and policies PNP1(a), PNP19 and PNP24 of the Paignton Neighbourhood Plan.

#### 15. Play Areas

The reserved matters for layout and landscaping shall include details of local play commensurate to a LEAP as detailed within the adopted Planning Contributions and Affordable Housing SPD that details the type and provision of play for a variety of ages of children. The detail shall include appropriate provision of impact absorbing surface treatments, means of enclosures and litter and seating facilities. The reserved matters shall seek to secure appropriate levels of natural surveillance to all play areas and an appropriate buffer distance from properties to ensure neighbour amenity is not unduly impacted. The approved play areas shall be provided prior to the first occupation of the 50th dwelling or in accordance with the phasing plan submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority pursuant to Condition 14 and maintained for public use at all times thereafter.

Reason: To ensure that the development provides a range of physical, social and green infrastructure, including local play spaces, in accordance with Policies SS7, SS9, SS11 and DE1 of the adopted Torbay Local Plan 2012-2030 and Policy PNP24 of the Paignton Neighbourhood Plan.

## 16. Parking Provision

The reserved matters shall include details for the parking of vehicles for all dwellings. The approved parking facilities shall be provided in full for each dwelling prior to its first occupation and shall be maintained for the purposes of parking at all times thereafter.

Reason: To ensure adequate parking is provided to support an adequate residential environment, protect the amenities of the area and maintain highway safety, in accordance with Policy TA3 of the adopted Torbay Local Plan 2012-2030.

## 17. Landscape provision and maintenance

All planting, seeding or turfing comprised in the approved details of landscaping reserved matters shall be carried out in the first planting and seeding season following the first occupation of the development unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority within a phasing plan pursuant to Condition 14. Any trees or plants which within a period of 10 years from the completion of the development die, are removed or become seriously damaged or diseased shall be replaced in the next planting season with others of a similar size and species, unless the Local Planning Authority gives written consent to any variation.

Reason: To secure an appropriate form of development in accordance with Policies NC1, C4 and DE1 of the adopted Torbay Local Plan 2012-2030 and PNP1(a), PNP1(c), PNP19 and PNP24 of the Paignton Neighbourhood Plan.

## **18.** Removal of PD – boundary treatments

Notwithstanding the provisions of Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 as amended (or any Order revoking, re-enacting, or further amending that Order), no development of the types describes in Schedule 2, Part 2, Classes A and B including gates, fences, walls or other means of enclosure and means of access shall be erected or constructed between the buildings and the estate roads unless permission is granted by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: In order to safeguard the character and visual amenities of the locality, in accordance with Polices DE1 of the Torbay Local Plan and PNP1(a), PNP1(c) and PNP24 of the Paignton Neighbourhood Plan.

## **19.** Removal of PD – roof extensions and hardstandings

Notwithstanding the provisions of Schedule 2, Part 1 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 as amended (or any Order revoking, re-enacting or further amending that Order), no development of the types described in Schedule 2, Part 1, Classes B, C and F of the Order, including the construction of dormers, roof alterations and provision of hardstandings, shall be carried out on the site, other than that hereby permitted, unless the permission in writing of the Local Planning Authority is obtained.

Reason: To protect the appearance of the area, to prevent the increased risk of flooding elsewhere and in the interests of amenity.

## **Development Plan Relevant Policies**

- SS1 Growth Strategy for a prosperous Torbay
- SS2 Future Growth Areas
- SS3 Presumption in favour of sustainable dev
- SS8 Natural Environment
- SS9 Green infrastructure
- SS10 Conservation and the historic environment
- SS11 Sustainable Communities Strategy
- SS12 Housing
- SS13 Five Year Housing Land Supply
- SDP3 Paignton North and Western Area
- TA1 Transport and accessibility
- TA2 Development access
- TA3 Parking requirements
- C4 Trees, hedgerows and natural landscape
- H1LFS Applications for new homes\_
- H2LFS Affordable Housing\_
- DE1 Design
- DE3 Development Amenity
- ER1 Flood Risk
- ER2 Water Management
- W1 Waste management facilities

PNP1 – Area Wide

PNP24 – Collaton St Mary Village