

East Cambridgeshire Local Plan Examination
Note from the Council to the Inspector - Household Projections
27 November 2018

The following note has been provided by the Council for the Inspector's reference:

The Council is aware that new household projections were published in late September 2018. Taken at face value, such forecasts indicate a significant drop in projected household growth for East Cambridgeshire (as it does for much of England). Similarly, in April 2018, ONS published updated affordability ratios, and these show a slight increase in the ratio for East Cambridgeshire (in line with a slight increase for much of England).

Both of the above latest statistical releases are post submission of the Plan, and therefore, of course, are not matters addressed in the Plan. Nevertheless, if a Local Housing Need figure was produced today, using the Local Housing Need method, it would result in a LHN figure of 434 dpa for East Cambridgeshire. This is clearly substantially lower than the LHN figure which formed the basis of the submitted Local Plan.

The Council is also aware of the ongoing government consultation which, in short, expresses considerable concerns over the use of the 2016-based forecasts and, as a consequence, is proposing (subject to consultation) that, for the present time at least, the 2016-based forecasts be put to one side and that the 2014-based projections remain the 'live' projections for the purpose of calculating Local Housing Need. As a reminder, it is the 2014-based projections which are used in the submitted Plan.

*Taking all of the above into account, and for the avoidance of doubt for the Inspector, the Council wishes to make it clear that it has **no intention** of seeking a modification of the plan to take into account any of the above. The Council remains content to proceed with LHN figure as derived at the point of submitting the Local Plan, which, of course, uses the 2014-based projections. Put another way, the Council **does not** intend to recommend to the Inspector that the LHN figure should be updated to take into account the much lower 2016-based projections.*

The Council hopes this note is a useful clarification for the Inspector as she continues to examine the submitted Plan.