

Brennan, Charlotte

From: March, Jemma
Sent: 14 November 2018 12:20
To: Programme Officer
Subject: query regarding the implications of the 2016 household projections

For the attention of the Inspector,

With reference to the query regarding the implications of the 2016 household projections.

Thank you for the additional clarification. The Council have approached consultants ORS who produced the Central Norfolk SHMA with regard to the first part of your query, and as a result the Council seek to further clarify your request to ensure we address your query accurately. The consultant has asked whether you require the output to be based on the existing population projections and apply the 2016 headship rates to these. The consultant has confirmed this would be the most straightforward process and would result in an output within a few days. The alternative is that the 2016 based are underwritten by more up to date population projections than were used in the CNSHMA. This would result in all the population and household projections being up to date, however the consultant estimates this would take longer. As the Council is aware you have other commitments at present then I appreciate time may not be an issue, but as there are cost implications for the Council we would be grateful for clarification of your request in this regard, prior to the work being undertaken.

Notwithstanding the outcome of this further work, as referred to in your query, the Government's technical consultation on updates to national planning policy and guidance places a high degree of uncertainty of the application of the 2016-based household projections in determining the objectively assessed need for housing (OAN) in Local Plan making. It is clear from the consultation, which builds on previous statements made by the government regarding potential adjustments to the method consistent with ensuring 300,000 homes per year and built by the mid 2020's, that the Government seeks to amend planning practice guidance to specify that the 2014-based projections form the demographic starting point for calculation of housing need for a time limited period. The Central Norfolk SHMA uses the 2014-based household projections in the calculation of housing need, and has been robustly prepared in line with guidance produced to support the 2012 NPPF, for which the plan is assessed against under the transitional arrangements. The Council considers that the government's technical consultation should be a material consideration in your determination of whether the Breckland Local Plan is sound, as there is uncertainty as to whether the most recently derived household based projections should be used to calculate OAN.

Kind Regards,

Jemma

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