

Lynette,

Having digested the latest letter from Mr Hollox (29th April, Reference ID/12) we still have a few points of clarification. Subject to these being dealt with we aim to advertise the main modifications hopefully from about 20th May. Can you please forward this to Mr Hollox.

Mr Hollox indicates that we should "consult" on the latest demographic projections, but then later he says an "alternative and more pragmatic" approach would be to treat the projections as a minor mod, which of course we would not have to consult on. He concludes with "it would be useful to make people aware of the ONS figures".

Proposed way forward:

On the basis of the advice we think we should no longer include draft Main Modifications 3 & 4 and deal with them later as minor mods.

In order to make everyone aware of the latest demographic projections, we would cover with this by having a 3rd section to the consultation, which whilst making it clear we do not think the latest projections go to the heart of the plan, will nevertheless, be an issue that the Inspector will be prepared to consider at a further hearing session. The following suggested text sets out the basic position in terms of what new demographic projections are available. However we are unclear as to how to frame a question here presuming that one is required? We would be grateful for some guidance on this point.

"3 Trend-based demographic projections

Background

3.1 At the time of preparing the Planning Strategy the latest available trend-based population and household projections indicated a requirement for some 7,493 (insert source footnote) new homes. The Planning Strategy housing target, which is to provide for a minimum of 3,400 or 200 net new homes per annum between 2011 and 2028, is less than this because taking trend-based population figures in isolation ignores such factors as the physical limits to outward growth and the environmental constraints that apply within the Borough.

What can I comment on

3.2 Since the Planning Strategy was submitted to the Secretary of State for independent inspection, new demographic projections have been published by the Dept Communities & Local Government (DCLG insert weblink www.gov.uk) - interim household projections which run to 2021 imply the provision of **300 households** per annum (p.a.) in Hastings. The Planning Inspector has also drawn the Council's attention to the www.howmanyhomes.org website which provides Office for National Statistics (ONS) and DCLG statistics and 2008 trend-based projections which imply provision for **363 households** p.a."

A footnote explaining the difference between dwellings and households will be added. Please note that we are checking the figures in the above para with demographic modelling colleagues at East Sussex CC.

Regards

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