

The Planning Practice Guidance states '*Wherever possible, local needs assessments should be informed by the latest available information. The National Planning Policy Framework is clear that Local Plans should be kept up-to-date. A meaningful change in the housing situation should be considered in this context, but this does not automatically mean that housing assessments are rendered outdated every time new projections are issued*'.

On this basis, please could I ask for the Council's view on the implications that the new household projections may have and how the Council would propose to deal with the matter as part of this examination.

The 2016 household projections provided a higher demographic starting point than the 2014 projections. This is on the basis that a rise in projected population was driving the growth in household numbers. This has occurred on the basis that the sub-national population projections for Breckland are higher in 2016 than in 2014. However it should be noted that taking the whole housing market area into account the demographic starting point for the five local planning authority has actually lowered.

Notwithstanding the above, the transitional arrangements within the NPPF requiring the use of previous planning practice guidance for Local Plans currently subject to examination. Paragraph 16 of the housing and economic needs assessment sets out that: *The 2012-2037 Household Projections were published on 27 February 2015, and are the most up-to-date estimate of future household growth*. On this basis, it is the Council opinion that the relevant starting point is the 2014 household projections.