

Maldon District Council Local Plan Examination in Public

Inspector: David Vickery DipT&CP MRTPI

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5th June 2014

Dear Mr Lawrence,

Thank you for your letter of 2 June 2014 about my initial queries, one of which concerned the 2014 SHMA and the NPPF's requirement for an objective assessment of housing need. I am still considering that letter and the supporting new evidence that the Council has produced.

In the meantime, I have become aware that the Office for National Statistics has published on 29 May 2014 the 2012 Subnational Population Projections (SNPP) for England.

The 2012-based SNPP for England provide an indication of the possible size and structure of the future population, based on the continuation of recent demographic trends and are produced on a consistent basis across all local authorities in England. The Department for Communities and Local Government uses projections as an input into producing household projections.

The projections can be found here:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/snpp/sub-national-population-projections/2012-based-projections/stb-2012-based-snpp.html>

Summaries and details of the methodology can be found here:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nsc1=Population+Projections>

I note that the Council is relying on the 2010-based SNPP to justify the Plan's figure of 294 units per annum as meeting the District's objective housing need. Please would the Council tell me whether the new 2012 SNPP figures alter that assessment, giving reasons for its answer.

I would be very grateful if the Council could reply to this query within one week – that is, by close of play on Friday 13 June 2014. If this is not possible, please suggest an alternative reply date.

Please place a copy of this letter on the Examination web page.

Yours sincerely,

David Vickery

Inspector