

Comments of Heybridge Residents Association(0195)
To
PBA response regarding
Matter 2

Another fine display of statistics employed in an effort to prove an argument. The much laboured quote of Mark Twain (or was it more correctly Disraeli ?) “Lies, damned lies and statistics” springs to mind once again. We remain unconvinced by any of the statistical forecasts for future population, employment or migration. What are we to believe when so called experts cannot agree and the numbers being advanced are nothing more than a professional “best guess” ? It is very depressing to contemplate that the future of Maldon should be based on unreliable evidence that is anything but factual.

Whatever housing target is set it is ultimately likely to be market forces and MDC’s planning policies that dictate the actual “build level”. Growth in the District is in our view largely restricted by transport infrastructure. For example if substantial improvements were made to road links to Chelmsford then miraculously that would become a more attractive commute and we would probably be looking at a different HMA. Likewise a new settlement in the South of the district would become a commuter town serving London thus fulfilling the aim of the Mayor to enlarge London’s boundary.

We would urge the Inspector to view all statistical forecasts with caution as they are inherently unreliable and have a tendency to become a self-fulfilling prophecy. That aside the PBA response conclusion would seem sensible as we are where we are and so would concur with them that the BW study be ignored on the basis that it is flawed.

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For HRA