

Kirklees Council response to the Inspector's question in relation to household projections

The latest household projections (2016-based) were published by ONS on 20th September 2018. What is the Council's view on the implications of these projections for the Kirklees Local Plan, taking into account the advanced stage that the examination has reached?

The Kirklees Local Plan used the 2014-based household projections as a starting point as the most up to date evidence at that time. The council approach included consideration of the economic ambitions for Kirklees (as articulated in the Kirklees Economic Strategy) and this resulted in a housing requirement of 1,730 new homes per annum.

The recent government "Technical consultation on updates to national planning policy and guidance" (October 2018) states that the 2014-based household projections (rather than the 2016-based projections) should be used to calculate Local Housing Need in the short-term. Although the transitional arrangements mean the standard Local Housing Need methodology does not apply to Kirklees Local Plan, the government clarification that 2014-based projections should be used supports the use of such projections as part of the Kirklees Local Plan evidence base. In any case, the household projections are a starting point for the calculation of the Local Plan housing requirement which is informed by a range of other factors including economic ambitions. As Kirklees Council have the same economic ambitions which informed the Local Plan evidence base, the evidence still supports a Kirklees Local Plan housing requirement of 1,730 new homes per annum.