CC134 - Council Response to INS19 (Inspectors message re: issue regarding housing need)
14 April 2021

Sent by email, via the Programme Officer

Dear Inspector,

I am emailing further to your message received on 1 April 2021

The Plan was submitted during the transitional period and included a local housing need figure of 840 dpa using the standard method. However, the aforementioned figure was overtaken by jobs-led modelling undertaken in August 2019 (see CC21) and updated to reflect the 2018 based household projections in September 2020 (see CC63b). You will note that the first bullet point under paragraph 1.8 of CC21 states that "...the conclusions of the 2018 SHMA are introduced and updated where appropriate, to fully align with the selected plan period and take account of the latest available information...". So the Council considers that the outputs of CC21 and CC63b are updated SHMA rather than standard method figures. This approach is of course consistent with the transitional arrangements (see paragraph 214 of the NPPF). CC63b incorporates the most recent household projections and derives a figure of 999 dpa to support the Plan's full jobs-growth aspiration. 999 dpa is not materially different to the housing need and requirement figure of 997 dpa identified in the January 2020 consultation paper.

The Council recognises that it is very important that the Plan is clear about the figure and the fact that it is in accordance with the transitional arrangements, as opposed to being an out-of-date standard method figure. We will therefore draft a main modification to this effect for your consideration.

Yours sincerely Richard Seaman Corporate Lead – Planning