

INSPECTOR’S NOTE

NEW (2014-based) HOUSEHOLD PROJECTIONS

On 12 July 2016 the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) published its 2014-based household projections (2014-2039) for England. These update the 2012-based household projections (2012-2037) that were released in February 2015. The new projections are based on the 2014-based sub-national population projections (SNPP) that were published by the Office for National Statistics in May 2016.

Participants at the examination will be aware that the Council’s Submission Sefton Local Plan was based on DCLG 2011-based Interim (2011-2021) household projections; these were the most up-to-date projections available when the Plan was published for consultation in January 2015. Following the release of the 2012-based projections, the Council produced an updated Housing Need report on 30 July 2015 (document HO.1) which informed much of the discussion during the examination hearings.

To assist participants, a comparison of the three DCLG projections for total household growth in Sefton over the Plan period is set out in the table below, together with the projected average annual household increase. The Council has confirmed that the figures are correct.

TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS	2012	2021	2030	Average pa
2011-based projections (to 2021)	118,251	121,881	n/a	403 (to 2021)
2012-based projections	118,576	124,109	128,948	576
2014-based projections	118,591	123,520	128,296	539

Clearly the new projections have come very late in the examination process. Government advice in Planning Practice Guidance is as follows:

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should be considered in this context, but this does not automatically mean that housing assessments are rendered outdated every time new projections are issued.

In deciding how best to proceed, I am mindful of the late stage reached in the examination, of the content of my Initial Findings issued in February 2016 (document EX.102), and of the Government’s expectation that all Councils should have an adopted Local Plan in place as soon as possible. In light of these considerations, my initial view is that the modest reduction in Sefton’s projected household growth by 2030 does not necessitate further Main Modification(s) being made to the Proposed

Sefton Local Plan Examination

Modifications version of the Sefton Local Plan (the version on which comments are currently being sought).

That said, I wish to seek the views of examination participants. If you would like to comment on the implications of the DCLG 2014-based household projections for the Proposed Modifications version of the Sefton Local Plan, please send your views (by e-mail or in writing) to the Programme Officer by 5pm on **Wednesday 17 August 2016**. Please ensure that responses to this consultation are separate from responses to the Proposed Modifications consultation that closes on 3 August 2016.

All responses to this consultation will be taken into account before I complete my report to the Council.

Martin Pike
INSPECTOR

20 July 2016