

**MEETING OUR OBJECTIVELY ASSESSED NEED FOR HOUSING: MEMORANDUM OF  
CO-OPERATION – SUPPORTING THE SPATIAL APPROACH 2011-2031  
(Report by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being))**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 At its meeting held on 11th June 2013, the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) considered a report by the Assistant Director for Environment, Growth and Planning on the joint work that has taken place which has enabled the Council appropriately to assess the District's future housing needs.

**2. THE PANEL'S DISCUSSIONS**

2.1 The Memorandum of Co-operation refers to the Council's joint working with other Partner authorities in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to assess each authority's future housing needs. The Council can now set its own future housing targets, which is a requirement of the National Planning Policy Framework. This work has been undertaken to comply with the Duty to Co-operate contained in the Localism Act 2011.

2.2 There will be a need for 93,000 homes across the Cambridge Sub-Region Housing Market Area between 2011 and 2031. Peterborough's housing market area overlaps into Cambridgeshire, and as Peterborough has already accommodated a proportion of the housing need, its contribution is assumed to amount to approximately 2,500 homes. This means that 90,500 dwellings are required in the Cambridge Sub-Region Housing Market Area, with Huntingdonshire contributing 17,000 homes by 2031 and 21,000 homes by 2036. In Huntingdonshire 10,000 of these homes will roll forward from the former Core Strategy and there are currently planning applications for around 11,000 dwellings within the planning system. It is, therefore, expected that the 21,000 homes allocation for Huntingdonshire will be achieved by 2036.

2.3 The Planning Service Manager (Policy) has confirmed that the housing need assumptions which underpin the future growth proposals contained within the emerging Local Plan are in accordance with the Memorandum of Co-operation.

2.4 Huntingdonshire is the only authority to identify housing allocations up to 2036 because it already had a Local Plan in place to 2026 and there is a requirement that the new Plan will last for at least a further 15 years. The District's housing needs have, therefore, been forecast for the period to 2036.

2.5 Having been advised of the methodology employed to determine allocations across each local authority area and of the factors that are likely to produce an increase in demand for housing including fluctuations in birth rates, the ageing population and local economic pressures, the Panel has noted that the Council collaborates with Partner authorities on other infrastructure issues such as local bus services and the rail network.

2.6 The Panel has endorsed the recommendations contained within the report by the Assistant Director for Environment, Growth and Planning.

### **3. RECOMMENDATION**

3.1 The Cabinet is invited to take into account the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) as part of its deliberations on the report by the Assistant Director for Environment, Growth and Planning.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Minutes and Reports of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) held on 11th June 2013.

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