

Christchurch & East Dorset Core Strategy Examination

Further statement by Dorset County Council

Matter 1 – Overall Strategy Issue 4.

Is the proposed quantum of housing development (KS3) justified by the evidence? Does it:

- **Take account of unmet need in adjacent districts?**
- **Take account of up to date population data?**
- **Allow for inward migration?**
- **Take account of economic/employment growth?**

1 Dorset County Council raised concern in respect of the proposed changes to the proposed housing figures for the Core Strategy area published by Christchurch and East Dorset Councils in November 2012. These concerns related to the variations that can occur between different population and household estimates and the need to use the most up to date available. Clarification was sought on the role that the Council's housing proposals played in the wider housing market area.

2 Since the publication of the proposed changes more information based on the 2011 census has been made available from the ONS¹ and has been assessed by the Councils. They have also undertaken an analysis of the relationship between their own housing proposals and those of neighbouring councils².

3 Dorset County Council is satisfied that the Councils have used the most up to date projections available (including the latest ONS projection (April 2013) which indicate that Christchurch and East Dorset will meet their housing needs with the housing proposals in their plan.

4 The County Council is also satisfied that the additional evidence supplied by the Councils shows that housing needs in adjacent districts are being met through the quantum of housing supplied across the Strategic Housing Market area and in areas beyond (such as the New Forest and Wiltshire.)

5 The projections make allowance for inward migration using the most up to date information available at the time they were produced.³

6 No further evidence has been produced by the Councils to show the relationship between projected household growth and projected job growth. Bearing in mind the projected decline of 5.8% in population of working age shown in East

¹ Christchurch and East Dorset Councils, Further Document 1 – Housing Supply (ONS Household projections 2011 – 2021 published April 2013). June 2013.

² Christchurch and East Dorset Councils Duty to Co-operate Statement March 2013.

³ Assumptions for migration in the 2011 census based projection prepared by DCC were based on the assumptions produced by ONS for the 2010-based sub national population projections.

Dorset⁴ and only modest growth of 5% in Christchurch, this could result in an increase in in-commuting if the economic proposals in the plan are realised. This is an area that will require close monitoring both in Christchurch and East Dorset and in neighbouring councils. Future work through Local Enterprise Partnership and Duty to Co-operate may provide an opportunity to address this issue.

7 Para 6 of this response also applies to matter 1.7 “Does the overall strategy take account of the balance and linkages between workforce projections and housing growth?”

⁴ Christchurch and East Dorset Councils ED 30 and 31. 2011 Census based Projections. August 2011.