

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

DISTRICT PLANNING EXECUTIVE PANEL – 21 FEBRUARY 2013
EXECUTIVE – 5 MARCH 2013

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR
STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TRANSPORT

GREATER ESSEX DEMOGRAPHIC FORECASTS PHASES 1 TO 4
(MARCH 2012 - JANUARY 2013)

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

Purpose/Summary of Report

- This report sets out the findings of the Greater Essex Demographic Forecasts Phases 1 to 4 (March 2012 - January 2013) technical work, that is intended will form part of the evidence base for generating an appropriate district-wide housing target for East Herts to 2031, and to inform the preparation of the District Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DISTRICT PLANNING EXECUTIVE
PANEL AND EXECUTIVE: That:

(A)	the Greater Essex Demographic Forecasts Phases 1 to 4 (March 2012 - January 2013) technical study, be supported as part of the evidence base to inform and support the East Herts District Plan.
------------	---

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNCIL: That:

(A)	the Greater Essex Demographic Forecasts Phases 1 to 4 (March 2012 - January 2013) technical study, be agreed as part of the evidence base to inform and support the East Herts District Plan.
------------	--

1.0 Background

- 1.1 In line with the Government's Localism agenda, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) March 2012, and the abolition of the East of England Plan on 3 January 2013, East Herts Council is now solely responsible for setting a district-wide housing target, based on objectively assessed needs for market and affordable housing.
- 1.2 Paragraph 47 of the NPPF states that '*local planning authorities should use their evidence base to ensure that their local plan meets the full objectively assessed needs for market and affordable housing...as far as is consistent with the policies set out in this framework....*In addition, Paragraph 159 of the NPPF states that local planning authorities should '*meet household and population projections, taking account of migration and demographic change [...and cater..] for housing demand and the scale of housing supply necessary to meet this demand*'.
- 1.3 In July 2011, East Herts Council joined with the Greater Essex grouping of local authorities to commission Edge Analytics Ltd to undertake technical work, in respect of population and household forecasting, to provide robust evidence to support setting its own district-wide housing target. This work is being undertaken in stages under the auspices of the Essex Planning Officers Association (EPOA). The preliminary results formed the basis of the Population and Household Topic Paper presented to the LDF Executive Panel on 29 March 2012.
- 1.4 In addition to the strategic demographic work, the Council engaged the same consultants, Edge Analytics Ltd, to undertake sub-district population and household forecasts, in order to provide benchmarking demographic information, to inform the preparation of the East Herts District Plan.
- 1.5 The Sub District Population and Household Forecasts were presented to the District Planning Executive Panel on 28 November 2012, and subsequently agreed as part of the District Plan evidence base, by the Executive and Full Council on 4 and 12 December 2012 respectively.
- 1.6 The Greater Essex final Phase 4 technical work is now complete, and it is proposed that all four phases of this work be agreed as part of the evidence base to inform and support the East Herts District Plan.

1.7 The Greater Essex forecasts for the District are consistent with the East Herts sub-district forecasts, already agreed by the Council, as the same information base was used for both purposes, by the same consultants, using the same demographic forecasting models.

1.8 This Panel report will, therefore, focus on the final Phase 4 Greater Essex work. The Greater Essex and East Herts sub-district studies are available on the Council's website. See Background Papers links at the end of this report.

2.0 Report

2.1 The Greater Essex Demographic Forecasts Phase 4 (January 2013) report is structured as follows:

- Section 1- Introduction, provides a context for the project and summarises the content of the four phases. This is reproduced as **Essential Reference Paper 'B'** to this report;
- Section 2- Updating the demographic intelligence, provides a short summary of how the demographic evidence has developed since 2006 and the expectation for new evidence during 2013;
- Section 3- Population estimates for 2011, focuses on population data published from the 2011 Census, specifically the latest 2011-based mid-year population estimates and how they have altered the demographic picture suggested by the mid-year totals estimated since 2001;
- Section 4- Population projections- 2010-based and 2011-based, examines how these new projections compare with the 2010-based alternatives, examined in Phase 3 of the Greater Essex analysis;
- Section 5- Area profiles, presents this new evidence for each local authority area covered by the Greater Essex study area, presenting an illustration of important changes to the age structure of local populations, plus the impact of the Office of National Statistics (ONS) 2011-based interim projection, relative to the suite of scenarios presented in the Phase 3 report; The East Herts Area Profile is reproduced at **Essential Reference Paper 'C'** to this report;

- Section 6- London influence, explores the important demographic relationship between the Greater Essex study area and the Greater London Boroughs;
- Section 7- Conclusions, concludes with a short commentary on the outcomes of the four phases of demographic analysis encompassed by the Greater Essex study, with recommendations for how local authorities might continue the review process during 2013 as new evidence becomes available.

2.2 Since 2001, local authorities have relied on successive, annual updates of 2001 Census data to produce mid-year population estimates, from which national and sub-national population and household projections have been derived. With the release of the latest 2011 Census population data, a new statistical base for demographic analysis and forecasting has become available.

2.3 In July 2012, ONS released the first results of the 2011 Census, providing a critical and definitive update on the demographic decade; a basis for the recalibration of previous mid-year estimates and for the development of new local area forecasts.

2.4 The 2011 Census population estimates have been used as the basis for the latest ONS 2011 mid-year population estimates.

2.5 A comparison between a 'rolled forward' mid-year 2010-based population estimate and a mid-year 2011 population estimate, based on the results of the 2011 Census, shows little difference for East Herts.

EAST HERTS POPULATION			
2010 Rolled-forward Census-day estimate	Mid-year estimate 2011	Difference	% Difference
138,712	138,155	-557	-0.4%

2.6 Following publication of the 2011 mid-year population estimates, ONS has published its 'interim 2011-based sub national population projections (SNPP) for local authorities in England, to the year 2021. Further projections beyond 2021 will be published in due course.

2.7 A comparison between the 2010-based and 2011-based SNPP to

2021, shows little difference for East Herts.

EAST HERTS POPULATION			
Projected 2021 population 2010-based SNPP	Projected 2021 population 2011-based SNPP	Difference	% Difference
152,768	152,255	-513	-0.3%

- 2.8 For comparison purposes, the resultant District housing figures, taken from the Greater Essex study (see **Essential Reference Paper 'C'**), on the basis of 'Average Dwellings Per Year' and '20 Year Dwelling Total' for all forecast scenarios is set out below.

EAST HERTS DISTRICT HOUSING FIGURES		
Scenario	Annual Average	20 Year Total (2011-2031)
Approved RSS - R	1149	22,980
SNPP 2010 - R	803	16,060
SNPP 2010	811	16,220
Economic - R	765	15,300
Net-Nil Migration - R	414	8,280
AMR Dwelling Trajectory - R	258	5,160

(The 'R' suffix indicates that household headship rates have been re-scaled to meet 2010 household totals, by using more locally available information from Council Tax records)

- 2.9 The main conclusion to be drawn from these figures is that the Greater Essex forecasts, based as they are on the 2010-based SNPP, and taking account of the 2011 Census information published so far, together with the ONS resultant projection <http://online.eastherts.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s13981/Population%20Households%20Forecasts%20-%20ERP%20C.pdf>, are considered a sound and robust basis for forecasting population and household change, and consequently informing the resultant housing requirement for the District Plan over the period 2011 to 2031.

3.0 Implications/Consultations

- 3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

Background Papers

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF): March 2012: Department for Communities and Local Government.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

Report to LDF Panel 29 March 2012 Agenda item 7: Population and Household Forecasts and the East Herts Housing Requirement

<http://online.eastherts.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s13979/Population%20Households%20Forecasts.pdf>

<http://online.eastherts.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s13980/Population%20Households%20Forecasts%20-%20ERP%20B.pdf>

<http://online.eastherts.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s13981/Population%20Households%20Forecasts%20-%20ERP%20C.pdf>

Greater Essex Demographic Forecasts-Phase 2: Scenario Development incorporating Phase 1: Model Development (March 2012) Edge Analytics on behalf of Essex Planning Officers Association (EPOA) and East Herts and Welwyn Hatfield Council

<http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/index.jsp?articleid=25754>

Greater Essex Demographic Forecasts- Phase 3: Further Scenario Development (July 2012) Edge Analytics on behalf of Essex Planning Officers Association (EPOA) and East Herts and Welwyn Hatfield Council

<http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/index.jsp?articleid=25754>

Report to District Planning Executive Panel-26 July 2012 Agenda Item 5: Sub-District Population and household Forecasts-Parish Groupings and Towns: Phase 1 (May 2012)

<http://online.eastherts.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s15457/Sub-district%20Population%20and%20Household%20Forecasts.pdf>

<http://online.eastherts.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s15459/Sub-district%20Population%20and%20Household%20Forecasts%20-%20ERP%20B%20Housing%20Figures.pdf>

<http://online.eastherts.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s15460/Sub-District%20Population%20and%20Household%20Forecasts%20-%20ERP%20C%20Parish%20Groupings%20Towns.pdf>

Report to District Planning Executive Panel- 28 November 2012 Agenda Item 5: Sub-District Population and Household Forecasts-Parish Groupings and Towns: Phases 1 and 2 (October 2012)

<http://online.eastherts.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s17117/Sub-district%20Population%20Household%20Forecasts.pdf>

<http://online.eastherts.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s17119/Sub-district%20Population%20Household%20Forecasts%20-%20ERP%20B%20Parish%20Groupings%20and%20Towns.pdf>

<http://online.eastherts.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s17120/Sub-district%20Population%20Household%20Forecasts%20-%20ERP%20C%20Draft%20Scenarios.pdf>

Greater Essex Demographic Forecasts- Phase 4: Demographic Model Update, Scenario Analysis and Report Edge Analytics on behalf of Essex Planning Officers Association (EPOA) and East Herts and Welwyn Hatfield (to be published shortly)

<http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/index.jsp?articleid=25754>

Contact Member: Cllr Mike Carver – Executive Member for Strategic Planning and Transport
mike.carver@eastherts.gov.uk

Contact Officer: Kevin Steptoe – Head of Planning and Building Control
01992 531407
kevin.steptoe@eastherts.gov.uk

Report Author: Bryan Thomsett – Planning Policy Manager
bryan.thomsett@eastherts.gov.uk