

Mrs Andrea Copsey,
Programme Officer,
Examination Office,
PO Box 12607,
Clacton-on-Sea CO15 9GN

Dear Mrs Copsey,

Response to consultation on 2018-based household projections.

My comments refer just to the Braintree District.

1 Change in the housing situation

I note from the numbers quoted in the above letter that the household projections for Braintree have regularly been reduced as time has passed. The 2033 household projections 2014-based (DCLG, July 2016) of 75,000 has become 69,000 for the 2018-based (ONS, June 2020). The projected growth 2013-33 has almost halved from 13,000 to 7,000.

We now live under circumstances that it was impossible to forecast even just a few months ago and the resulting recession and job losses must surely affect people's confidence and financial resources in the housing market. Future incomes of many families must suffer for many years as the government moves to rebalance the nation's finances after all that covid-19 has cost and continues to cost.

In the light of this, I consider that even the lowest projection of 69,000 may be too high.

2 Soundness of housing requirement figures

From my comments above, I consider the latest housing requirement figures may be too high.

The various projections indicate household projections of between 350 and 650 per year on average for the 20 year period 2013-2033 yet Braintree District Council's housing trajectory, as of April 2020, anticipates much higher figures. For the next 5 years the annual average is 1364 and for the following 8 years to 2033 the annual average is 963.

How can Braintree's plans be so massively misaligned with all of the projections and other letters to which Mr Clews refers in his letter ?

Yours sincerely,

A.J.M. Bloomfield