

1. Could the Council provide clarity as to whether it is the HLA or SG completions figures that were referenced in the response template.

Our understanding is that these figures relate to the HLA figures, unless specifically referenced otherwise.

2. Could the Council explain why they added in a net-migration figure of 700 when the NRS high migration projections already factor in net-migration? Is this resulting in double-counting? If not, could the Council explain how this isn't double-counting?

This was explained in our submission. Paragraph 2 on page 2 outlined the rationale behind this.

The calculations provided by the Scottish Government have not considered figures for inward migration. Orkney has had a positive net inward migration figure for the last two decades. In Orkney, we consider that we have a demographic balance to address and require to attract and retain more young people. Again, this policy position has not been considered within this consultation.

Further our strategic planning around areas such as the development of the Local Housing Strategy and school roll forecasting, assumes inward migration in excess of the NRS figures. It is expected that strong, continued inward migration will continue given that this has been the position over the last 17 years and this position continues currently.

Our Local Housing Strategy (2017 – 2023), which was reviewed at the mid-point during 2020 contains significant levels of demographic detail. Orkney's population increase over the last 17 years has been driven by significant levels of net inward migration, and we expect that this will continue.

The NRS projections estimate that Orkney's population will drop to around 21,400 by 2041. However, our projections for the same period show potential increases to 23,975 based on births, deaths and migration figures. This assumes 3,951 people moving into the islands. A more modest figure was contributed to NPF4 in recognition that additional housing development is a necessary part of the equation in order to ensure inward migration beyond a given level. More detail is available in our Local Housing Strategy which is available from www.orkney.gov.uk/Council/C/local-housing-strategy-2017-2022.htm

3. Can the Council outline what the waiting list data covers?

This is the waiting list for social housing in Orkney. We have a common housing register so the figures refer generally to those who are applying for housing both with the Council and / or Orkney Housing Association Ltd.

Currently we have around 900 households on the waiting list, of these 300 have an evidenced housing need for housing whether that be due to statutory issues such as homelessness, overcrowding, their current property being below appropriate standards or for policy reasons including that they can evidence a need to live in a given community in order to give or receive support, supply the local labour market etc.

4. Could the Council provide a paragraph or two outlining what engagement was carried out in reaching the Minimum All-tenure Housing Land Requirement?

Our Housing Market Partnership shares membership with our Housing Forum / House Build group. This has representatives from Council Services including Housing, Planning, Finance, Education. It also includes representatives from Orkney Housing Association Ltd, the Scottish Government and Scottish Water.

The National Planning Framework was discussed on 29 April 2021 and in more detail at our next meeting on 27 May 2021.

In addition it was discussed at our Senior Management Team on 20 May 2021 which includes senior management representatives from across the Council.

The Local Development Plan process ensures local developers have the opportunity to interrogate housing land supply figures and therefore calculations within the Housing Need and Demand Assessment. We work closely with local builders such as Orkney Builders Ltd re Help to Buy and Mid Market Rent for instance.