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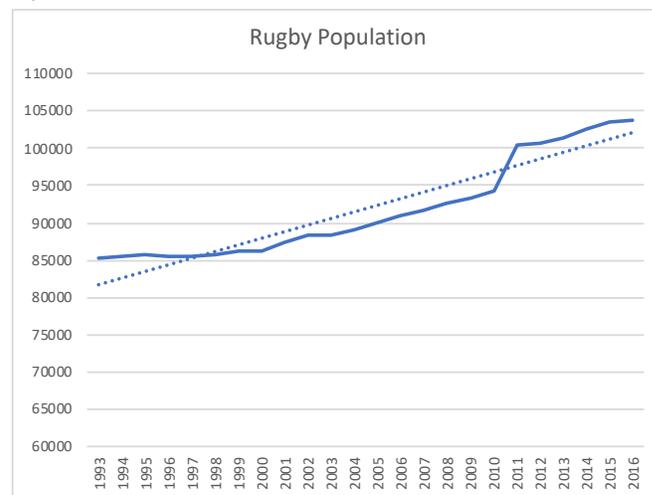


## RUGBY LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION - STAGE TWO HEARINGS

### Warwickshire County Council's Statement on Secondary Education Needs and Infrastructure

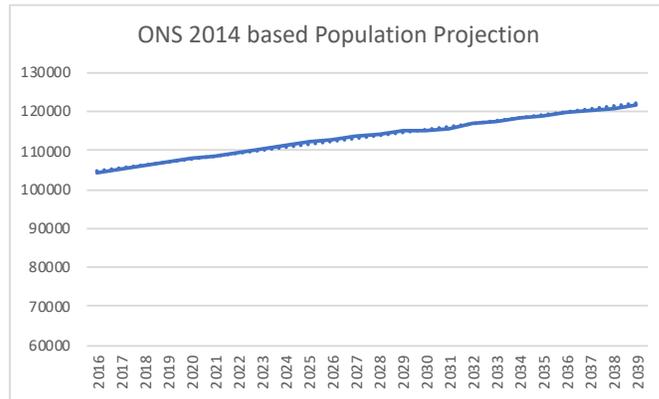
EFM has, independent of the County Council, analysed the relevant available data published by the Office for National Statistics and the Department of Education and has concluded that County Council Statement is robust.

In the period from 1993 to 2016, the population of Rugby Borough has grown by 16,536 from 87,279 to 103,815 (+22%).



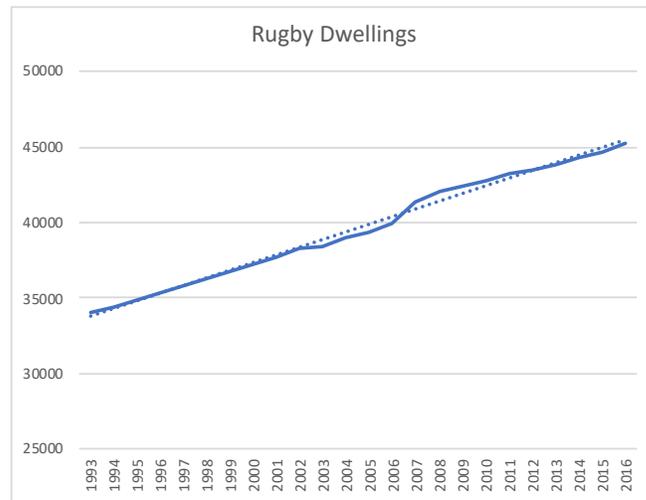
Graph 1. Rugby Borough Population (the up-step at 2011 is a revision at the 2011 census correcting under estimates in the previous years. The trendline is a better representation of the growth).

The ONS 2014 based 25 year trend projection anticipates the population rising by another 11,500 from 104,200 to 115,700 in the Plan Period 2016 to 2031. (The 385 person difference in the 2016 figure is attributable to when in 2016 the estimate is based)



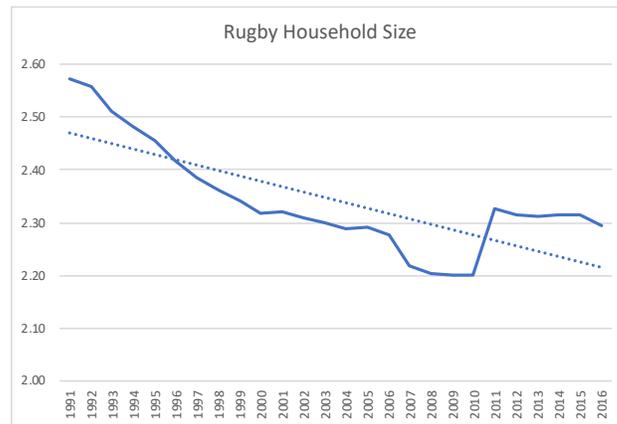
Graph 2. Rugby Borough ONS Population Forecast

To accommodate the population and household size changes (1993-2016), the number of dwellings to 2016 has grown by 11,238 units from 33,982 to 45,220 (+33%).



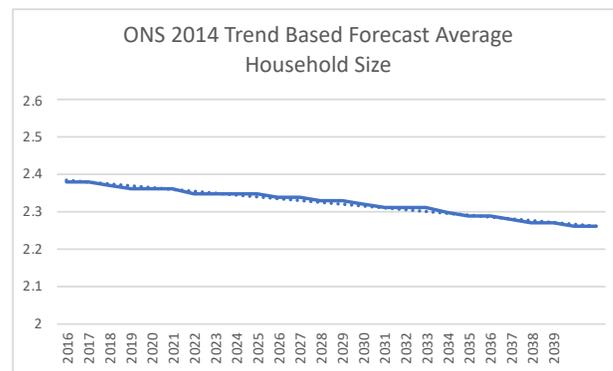
Graph 3. Rugby Borough Dwelling Numbers

A portion of the need for additional housing in this period has been as a result of falling household size.



Graph 4. Rugby Borough Average Household Size (the up-step at 2011 is a revision at the 2011 census correcting the under-estimates in the previous years. The trendline is a better representation of the decrease).

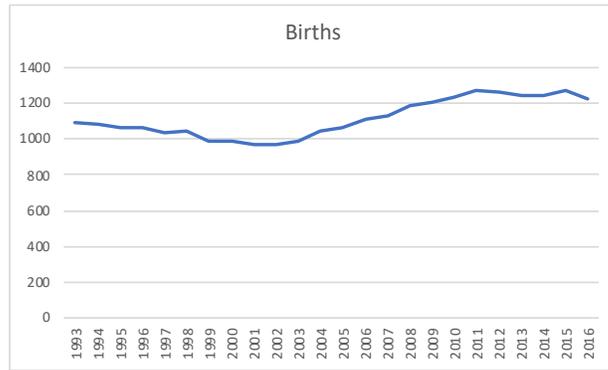
The ONS 2014 based 25 year trend projection indicates the average household size continuing to fall from 2.37 persons per dwelling to 2.3 at the end of the Plan Period and to 2.26 by 2039.



Graph 5. Rugby Borough ONS Forecast for Average Household Size

Births, on the other hand, have not followed the same trajectory as population and dwellings. Although higher than any in the past 30 years, births in 2016 were just 133 above the 1993 figure. This is in the context that the period 2001 to 2011 saw the longest period of year on year increase in births since records began in 1831.

Since 2011, Rugby Borough has experienced a fall in the number of births from 1,273 to 1,224. Rugby reflects the national picture of falling birth numbers in this recent period. Births in Rugby in 2016 were just 12.2% above the 1993 figure.

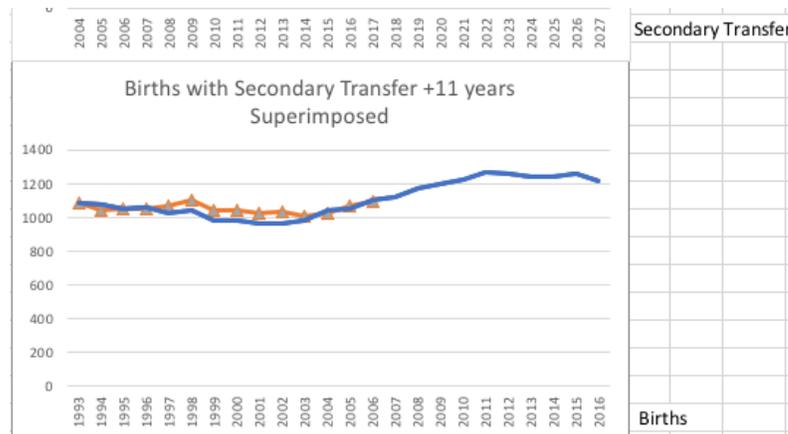


Graph 6. Rugby Borough Births

In summary, for the period 1993 to 2016 the increases are:

- Dwellings +33%
- Population +22%
- Births +12%

In the context of the County Council’s response, Graph 7 is of significant importance because ‘births’ are, after adjustment for migration, ‘transfer to secondary school’ eleven years later. This becomes clear when secondary transfer data (net of cross-border school enrolment) is superimposed on birth data.



Graph 7. Rugby Borough Births (Blue) with Secondary Transfer (Orange) Eleven Years Later

The projection (Graph 7) and the County Council’s response both anticipate rising numbers at secondary transfer during the Plan Period and beginning to fall in the final years of the Plan.



As a consequence, I agree with the County Council that, apart from at the margins and year on year minor deviations in pupil numbers, any additional secondary schools are best reasonably associated with the strategic site dwelling numbers in the Plan. The major proposals: Rugby Radio Station and South West Rugby are designed to meet their forecast needs (with SWR providing for Lodge Farm) as if their populations were accommodated in isolation. This is appropriate on the grounds of the sustainability of the large strategic sites. The evidence is, however, from the last 25 years or more, that the need for new housing is, in a significant part, associated with falling household size and not directly linked to increased population. Thus, there is a margin in the County Council's projections of school place need to provide comfort that all reasonable demand can be met. In addition, I note that the County Council believes it prudent to reserve land, at Coton Park East, as an additional potential resilience capacity but very unlikely to be required.

In my opinion, the historical evidence indicates that this additional potential provision at Coton Park East will not prove necessary. In particular because the scale of development at Coton Park East will not generate a local secondary school population to justify it.

