

Ashford Borough Council comments

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The publication of the draft London Plan is welcomed and the timing of the publication is useful as it clearly sets out the GLAs approach to accommodating development. There is no specific mention of Ashford in the London Plan and the identified overall aim of the London Plan is to meet all their housing needs within their own area and protect the green belt.

This approach to accommodating its own development is welcomed and supported and it is clear that Ashford is not expected to accommodate any development from London. In any event, the overall Local Plan housing requirement has been increased by a modest 34 dwellings per year from 2017 to accommodate out-migration from London. The figure was derived from the SHMA work undertaken by consultants and in the absence of a clear position on the London Plan.

The London Plan's SHMA indicates that the overall requirement is for 66,000 homes over the initial 10 year period and they say that their SHELAA has identified capacity for 65,000 and that is predicated on no green belt release and higher densities Housing targets are only for the initial 10 year period and hence there would be a shortfall of 10,000 dwellings over this time period that does not appear to be accounted for in the draft Plan so there should be clarification provided about the scale of any shortfall and how that is to be accommodated.

(These comments are submitted in addition to the detailed submission made by the Kent Leaders)