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Case Study: East Lindsey District Council

Demographics & Flood Risk

Requirements

The Lincolnshire Coastal Study addressed coastal flooding issues and proposed a set of Principles and Options for spatial development in East Lindsey and its neighbouring areas of Boston and South Holland.

The Coastal Study included a strategic aim to provide only sufficient housing in the zones of the highest flood 'risk', and to hold the population 'broadly stable' over the plan period.

Within this context, East Lindsey requested a range of demographic evidence to support its Strategic Housing Market Assessment.

The evidence was required to inform the planning process for the district in total, whilst providing demographic intelligence on those geographical areas classified by the Environment Agency as having the highest flood risk.

Solution

Using Environment Agency digital map overlays, the extent of the flood hazard zone within East Lindsey was identified, classifying the district into 'Wet' and 'Dry' areas for analysis.

Distinctive differences between the historical growth profiles of the Wet and Dry areas was identified. The Wet area had experienced a consistent population decline since 2008, whilst the Dry area population has remained relatively stable, recovering sharply in the most recent years for which population estimates were available.

Using POPGROUP technology, a suite of trend scenarios (using variant migration assumptions) were derived for East Lindsey district, and for the Wet and Dry geographies, bench-marked against the latest ONS and MHCLG population and household projections. Housing-led scenarios provided a further comparison to the trend outcomes, with population change linked directly to defined housing growth trajectories for the Wet and Dry areas.

The evidence provided an important update to previous demographic analysis, taking account of the most recent evidence and informing the development of East Lindsey's Local Plan for housing.

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