



Rural Housing Needs Survey 2013

Brereton Parish

Summary of Results

23rd September 2013

Research & Consultation

Cheshire East Council

www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/randc

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Executive Summary

Introduction

In July and August 2013 a rural housing needs survey was sent out to all residential households within Brereton Parish, the purpose of the survey being to assess the affordable housing needs within the parish. 486 surveys were sent out and 189 returned, giving an overall response rate of 39%.

The fieldwork for the survey was conducted by Brereton Parish Council, under guidance from Cheshire East Council's Strategic Housing Team. The Council's Research and Consultation Team then received (via return addressed envelopes) and processed the completed questionnaires, prior to analysing the results and writing this report. The survey was undertaken to inform the Brereton Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Key findings

Affordable housing – In favour or not

46% of Brereton respondents were in favour of a small development of affordable housing being built within the parish, with 34% against it and 20% unsure either way.

Those respondents who were in favour of a small (limited) development of affordable housing felt it would ensure that a sense of community within the parish was maintained, that housing is too expensive for young people and that everyone deserves a chance to get a foot on the housing ladder.

However, there were concerns by those against development of this kind that enough affordable housing was already available or being built elsewhere, that affordable housing shouldn't be built on "greenfield" sites and that Brereton did not have the infrastructure to cope with extra demand.

Brereton respondents made a total of 27 suggestions when invited to provide potential new sites for development and the majority of these, 16, were for the old Arclid hospital site.

Housing needs within Brereton

The survey highlighted several types of resident that have a housing need within Brereton, including:

- 8 respondents requiring alternative housing within the parish
- 17 current Brereton residents who wish to form a new household within Brereton within the next 5 years
- 15 ex-Brereton residents who would move back into the parish if affordable housing were available.

Of these, at least 12 identified that they had an affordable housing need, in that they

would wish to purchase either though subsidised ownership or social renting.

Of these 12 households:

- 9 would be subsidised ownership, 3 would be social rented
- 2 would be required within 1 year, 2 between 1 to 2 years, 2 between 2 to 3 years and 5 between 3 and 5 years (1 respondent did not answer the question).

Conclusions

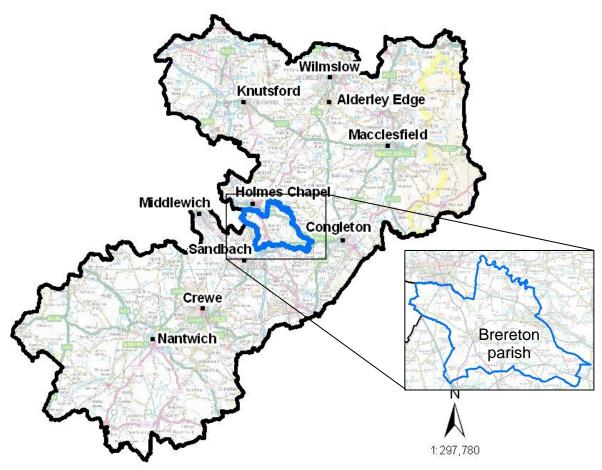
Results from the survey indicate an affordable housing need within Brereton Parish of 12 households.

Findings would suggest that this figure of 12 should perhaps be treated as a minimum affordable housing requirement, rather than a maximum one, for various reasons, including the survey response rate of 39% and that a number of respondents chose not to answer some questions.

Results to this survey will be taken into consideration, alongside other information, when assessing potential future housing developments in the area.

Introduction

In July and August 2013 a rural housing needs survey was sent out to all residential households within Brereton Parish – the area highlighted on the following map:



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486 surveys were sent out and 189 were returned, giving a response rate of 39%. The fieldwork for the survey was conducted by Brereton Parish Council, under guidance from Cheshire East Council's Strategic Housing Team. The Council's Research and Consultation Team then received (via return addressed envelopes) and processed the completed questionnaires, prior to analysing the results and writing this report.

The purpose of this survey was to assess the housing needs of Brereton in respect of affordable housing, with findings being used to inform the Brereton Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan. Similar surveys have been carried out in previous years in other rural areas across Cheshire East. These can be viewed on the Cheshire East website

(www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/housing/affordable_housing/rural_housing.aspx).

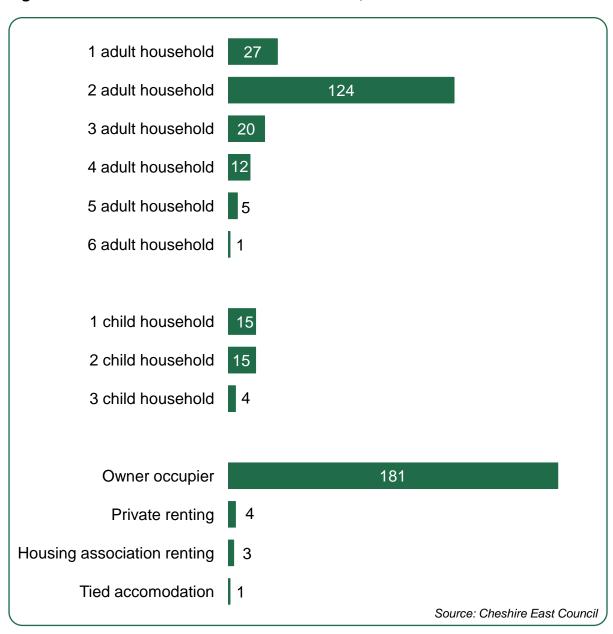
Current accommodation

Section 1 of the questionnaire asked respondents about their current accommodation.

The first question asked respondents how many years they had lived within their parish - the majority, 85% (160 respondents), had lived there for over 5 years, with the remaining 15% (29 respondents) having lived there for less than 5 years.

Questions 2 and 3 asked about the number of people living in each household, and about household tenure. The majority of households (124 out of 189, 66%) were 2 adult households, with few having 3 or more children. The vast majority of households were owner occupied (181 out of 189, 96%), see Figure 1.

Figure 1 – The number of household members, and household tenure

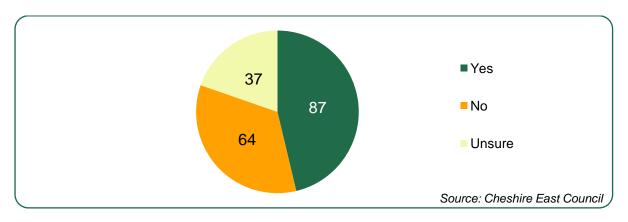


Affordable housing

In favour of affordable housing or not?

Question 6 asked respondents if they would be in favour of a small development of affordable housing being built in their parish to meet the needs of those having a local connection to the parish. Of the 188 Brereton respondents answering the question, 87 (46%) were in favour, 64 (34%) were against and 37 (20%) were unsure - see Figure 2.

Figure 2 – Would you be in favour of a small development of affordable housing being built in your parish to meet the needs of those having a local connection to the parish?



Reasons for being in favour of affordable housing or not

Within question 6 respondents were asked if they would like to give a reason for why they were, or were not, in favour of a small development of affordable housing being built in their parish.

A total of 86 Brereton respondents gave a reason(s) for their decision, making a total of 102 different comments between them.

A summary of the comments made by those in favour of affordable housing

35 of the 86 (41%) respondents making comments were in favour of affordable housing, and they made a total of 37 comments between them.

The majority of these comments, 15 of the 37 (41%), advocated the building of affordable housing so that younger and older residents, and families, would be able to stay in the parish, which would in turn **ensure that a sense of community within the parish was maintained**:

"(A) varied population benefits the whole community."

"Help young people stay in the area if they wish to, otherwise the area will be populated by older people alone - not a good mix for any area."

"(It would help) maintain a vibrant community with mixed population."

Another 10 of these 37 (27%) comments by those for affordable housing expressed the view that housing is too expensive for young people and that everyone deserves a chance to get a foot on the housing ladder:

"All private housing is too expensive in the area for young people."

"Everyone deserves a chance in life."

"It's important for there to be affordable housing in any community. Housing is too expensive for younger members of society and they should be provided with opportunities to become homeowners."

The remaining 12 comments by those in favour of affordable housing stated that they would be in favour as long as the new housing met certain conditions – mainly that it would be for local people only, but also that it would be small, suitably located, that amenities, utilities and transport issues would be addressed, that it would be sympathetic to the local area and not be built on "greenfield" sites.

A summary of the comments made by those against affordable housing

34 of the 86 (40%) respondents making comments were against affordable housing, and they made a total of 46 comments between them.

18 of the 46 (39%) comments made by those against a development of affordable housing stated that enough affordable housing was already available or being built elsewhere, or that affordable housing shouldn't be built on "greenfield" sites:

"There is sufficient affordable housing in Congleton, Holmes Chapel and Sandbach already..."

"We have already too many housing developers taking over we don't need any more."

"There is already affordable housing in the village. We have just bought here and found it more affordable than much of the surrounding area."

"...(Brereton) is also surrounded by areas undergoing development, and a green gap needs to be maintained."

"If I'd wanted to live in a town I would have lived in Sandbach or Holmes Chapel."

15 of the 46 (33%) comments made by those against affordable housing were concerned that **Brereton parish does not have the existing infrastructure to cope with such a development**:

"The parish lacks the facilities and infrastructure to cope with additional development."

"There are no suitable amenities to support an increase in the population of Brereton. The rural village life is what attracted us to the village and any development in the area would spoil this."

"Brereton Heath has no facilities - No shops, post office, school, poor public transport, dangerous access to the A54 serving Congleton and Holmes Chapel, no local medical facilities. It is a small hamlet totally dependent on the limited facilities in Holmes Chapel. Poor broadband service. (It) cannot support more dwellings."

The remaining 13 comments made by those against affordable housing included reasons such as: because the rurality of Cheshire East is slowly being destroyed, because they wanted Brereton to remain as a quiet parish and not become a larger settlement/town, because they felt such a development may devalue current local house prices, because they did not want any "undesirables" living within the area, because they were sceptical that 'affordable' houses would remain affordable, and because they felt there were not enough employment opportunities in the area to justify it.

A summary of the comments made by those who were unsure

17 of the 86 (20%) respondents making comments were unsure as to whether they were in favour of an affordable housing development or not, and they made a total of 19 comments between them.

The majority of these respondents felt they would need to see the plans of any potential development – location, size, style etc – before they would be able to agree or disagree either way. Others felt that they would require clarity on what 'affordable' and 'local' was, again before they would be able to agree or disagree either way. The remaining comments echoed many of the comments made by those in favour and against any affordable housing development.

Suggested potential sites for affordable housing

Question 7 of the survey asked respondents if they were aware of any sites that might be suitable in their local area for affordable housing, and, if so, what the details were. A total of 27 Brereton respondents made suggestions, the majority of which, 16 (59%), were for the old Arclid hospital site.

The remainder included:

- On the new development by Belway Homes in Holmes Chapel (X2)
- Cheshire East/Congleton disused depot next to Arclid Household Waste site
- On the derelict land by 'Zest' restaurant, junction of A50/A534
- On the empty industrial buildings in Congleton
- On the old brick works
- Several applications for building already made on the A54. If passed some affordable housing should be included in these plans
- On the site under appeal opposite Rose Cottages on Holmes Chapel Road
- Why not look at farm buildings/barns and develop them for affordable housing instead of destroying more green land?
- Build on land that is derelict, such as old factories, there are plenty of places in Sandbach and Holmes Chapel
- Anywhere on the periphery of the existing village boundary.

Unoccupied properties

Question 24 of the survey asked respondents if they knew of any residential properties close to them that had been unoccupied for over 12 months.

Of the 183 respondents that answered the question, 13 (7%) said yes, 49 (27%) were unsure and the remaining 121 (66%) said no.

Of the 13 that said yes, 12 also took the opportunity to give the location details.

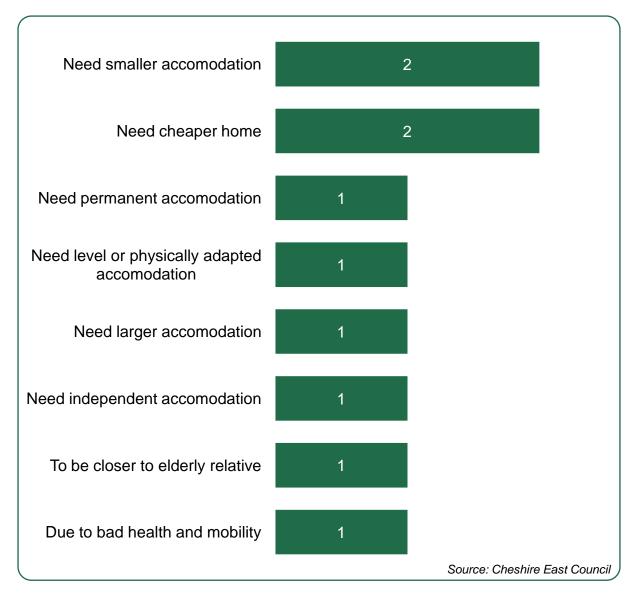
Alternative accommodation

Question 4 asked respondents if they, as the householder, currently needed alternative accommodation in their local area. 189 Brereton householders answered the question, of which 8 (4%) said yes, with the remainder answering no.

The 8 who said they required alternative accommodation were then asked why. They were presented with a list of 9 possible options, from which they could select as many as they wished – the 8 respondents who said they required alternative accommodation selected 10 reasons between them.

The only options selected by more than one respondent were "Need smaller accommodation", or "Need a cheaper home", otherwise there were a wide variety of reasons for requiring alternative accommodation - see Figure 3.

Figure 3 – Why alternative accommodation is needed in Brereton Parish



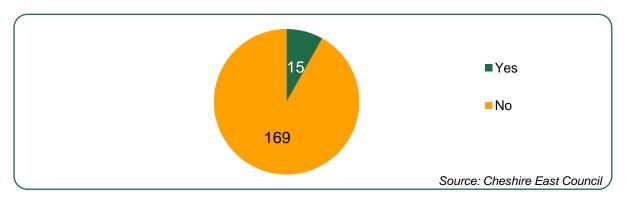
The number of potential new households required in Brereton

For current Brereton residents

Question 8 asked if any household members, apart from the person completing the survey, wished to form a new household inside Brereton parish within the next 5 years, for which they would need their own accommodation.

184 Brereton respondents answered the question, of which 15 (8%) answered yes, with the remaining 169 (92%) answering no, see Figure 4.

Figure 4 – Do any other household members, apart from yourself, wish to form a new household inside Brereton parish within the next five years, for which they will need their own accommodation?



Of the 15 Brereton respondents that answered yes, 13 said that just 1 member of their household wished to form a new household, and 2 said two members of their household did.

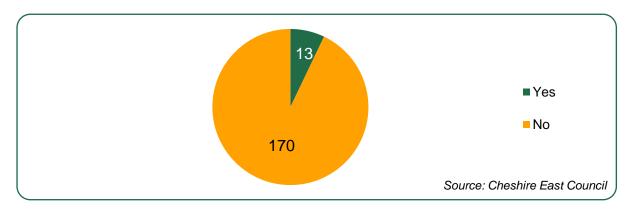
Therefore, of those that answered the survey, a minimum total of 17 Brereton residents (13x1) + (2x2) wish to form a new household inside Brereton parish within the next five years.

For ex-Brereton residents

Question 9 asked respondents if they had any ex-household members who had moved out of the parish who would wish to return to the parish within five years if affordable housing were available.

183 Brereton respondents answered the question, of which 12 (7%) answered yes, with the remaining 171 (93%) answering no - see Figure 6.

Figure 6 – Do you have any ex-household members who have moved out of Brereton parish, who would wish to return within five years if affordable housing were available?



Of the 13 Brereton respondents that answered yes, 11 said that they had 1 exhousehold member who would move back if affordable housing were available, and 2 said they had 2 ex-household members who would move back if affordable housing were available.

Therefore, for those respondents that answered the survey, there were a minimum total of 15 respondents (11x1) + (2x2) ex-household members who would return to the parish if affordable housing were available.

Total number of potential new households in Brereton

Overall, responses to the survey indicate that the total number of potential new households that might be required within Brereton parish is 32.

This figure comprises 17 for current Brereton residents and for 15 ex-Brereton residents, who would want to form a new household within the parish within the next 5 years if affordable housing were available.

The remainder of this report looks at the details of these potential new households.

Details of the 32 potential new households required in Brereton

Questions 11 to 15 of the survey then asked about the details of these potential 32 new households.

Details for these potential 32 new households are summarised in Table 2 below. In the table "NA" stands for "Not answered". In summary:

- 10 of the 14 (71%) new households that answered the question would have a total annual income of less than £20,000
- 26 (81%) new households would be for a son or daughter of a respondent
- 11 (34%) of the new households would be required within 2 years
- 12 (38%) of the new households would be subsidised ownership or social rented.

Table 1: Details of the 32 potential new households required in Brereton								
Are the households required for current Brereton residents or ex-Brereton residents?								
17 x For current Brereton residents				nts 15 x For ex-Brereton residents				
Total annual income of the new households:								
6 x Less than £15	than £15k 1 x £20k - £2			£25k		1 x	£35k plus	
4 x £15k - £20k		2 x £2	2 x £25k - £30k			7 x Prefer not to say		11 x NA
Who would the no	Who would the new households be for?							
26 x Son or daughter					6 x NA			
When is the move	e require	ed?						
6 x Within 1	5 x Bet	5 x Between 1 & 2 x B			etween 2	2 &	13 x Between 3 &	6 x NA
year	2 years 3 year			rs		5 years	UXINA	
What type of tenu	ıre?							
15 x Buy on the c	pen ma	rket	12 x Subsidised ownership or social			5 x NA		
or rent privately			rented			JAMA		

Source: Cheshire East Council

Further details of the 12 new households in Brereton that might be subsidised ownership or social rented

The 12 respondents who indicated the new households would either be subsidised ownership or social rented (i.e. not bought on the open market, not private rented or not NA) were then asked some further questions (questions 16 to 23).

Details for these 12 new households that would be subsidised ownership or social rented have been summarised in Table 2 that follows. In the table "NA" stands for "Not answered".

Table 2: Further details of the 12 potential new households in Brereton that would be subsidised ownership or social rented									
	Of the 12 that wouldn't consider only buying on an open market:								
9 x Subsidised ownership					3 x S	ocial rent	ted		
What mortgage or amount of rent?									
For those who would consider subsidised				For th	ose who	would soc	ial rent	(amount	
ownership:					oer week	•			
2 would pay < £60k					1 wou	ıld pay £	.65 to £79		
4 would pay £85k to £100k					1 wou	ıld pay £	:80 to £99		
1 would pay £100k - £150k					1 wou	ıld pay £	100 to £11	9	
2 NA									
Type of acco			uired?						
11 would pre					1 would prefer supported housing				
When is the	nove								
2 x Within 1 y	/ear	2 x With years	in 1 to 2	2 x \ year	Within 2 to 3 5 x Within 3 to 5 years 1 x N			1 x NA	
Minimum nur	nber	of bedroo	ms requir	ed?					
12 x Two bed									
How many a	dults a	and childr	en will be	in the	e new l				
1 x 1 adult	6 x 2	2 adults	1 x 1 adı child	ult an	d 1 3 x 2 adults and 1 child			1 x 2 adults and 2 children	
Would any m	embe	er of the h	ousehold	be er	nploye	d within	Brereton?		
3 x Yes	9 x l	No							
Would the ne	w ho	usehold h	ave any s	pecifi	ic hous	ing need	ds?		
11 x No	1 x l	NA							

Source: Cheshire East Council

Conclusions

Results from the survey indicate a need for affordable housing within Brereton Parish. There were a potential 32 new households required, with 12 of these being required at an affordable level (tenure being either subsidised ownership or social rented).

Findings within the survey would suggest that this figure of 12 should perhaps be treated as a minimum affordable housing requirement, rather than a maximum requirement, due to the following reasons:

- The response rate of 39% indicates that there may be affordable housing requirements in the parish not captured within the survey
- Results to the question asking about income of the potential new households (Q13) suggests that there may be a greater need for affordable housing than indicated. 13 of the 32 (41%) potential new households indicated a household income of below £30,000, and a further 18 (56%) chose not to answer the question a number of those who chose not to respond could have household income levels below £30,000
- When asked what type of tenure was required by respondents who had indicated a housing need, 5 chose not to answer the question (Q15) – a number of these could potentially require affordable housing.

Results to this survey will be taken into consideration, alongside other information, when assessing potential future housing developments in the area.

Appendix 1 – The questionnaire





Rural Housing Needs Survey 2013

Whether you consider yourself to have a housing need or not, the information that you provide is important, so please spend a few minutes filling in this form. The more feedback that we receive, the more accurately we will be able to respond to the housing needs within your parish. Please note that all information provided will be treated in the strictest confidence. Data will be used by Cheshire East for Housing Development planning, and by Brereton Parish Council for Neighbourhood Planning.

To be completed by the householder (if a joint household can one person please complete). Please read each question carefully and tick in the box to indicate your answer - all instructions are given in *italics*.

		For office use only:
Cu	rrent accommodation	
Q1	How many years have you lived within Brereton Please tick one box only	parish?
	Five years or less	More than five years
Q2	Including yourself, how many people live in your Please write a number in the box e.g. 2	household?
	Adults (16 and over)	
	Children (under 16)	
Q3	In which of these ways does your household oc Please tick one box only	cupy your current accommodation?
	Tied accommodation	Owner occupier
	Private renting	Other (Please tick and specify below)
	Housing association renting	
Q4	Do you, the householder, currently need alterna Please tick one box only	tive accommodation in your local area?
	Yes Go to Q5	No Go to Q6
Alt	ernative accommodation	
Q5	Please indicate why you need alternative accom Please tick all that apply	modation:
	Need larger accommodation	Need cheaper home
	Need smaller accommodation	Need permanent accommodation (if
	Need independent accommodation	living in short term let)
	Need level or physically adapted accommodation	dependent
	Need to be closer to employment	Other reason (Please tick and specify
	Tioda to be discor to simpley mentioning.	below)

Δffc	rdable housin	na				
Q6	Would you be in	favour of a sma	all development of se having a local c			in your
	Yes		No		Unsure	
	If you wish to, please give a reason for this view:					
Q7		e for affordable	our local area, inc housing, please g			tes, that
	/ households - mbers	- Current hou	usehold memb	ers and Re	turning ex-ho	usehold
Q8		parish within the	bers, apart from yo e next five years (f ne box only			
			_			
Q9		the parish with	members who hav in five years if affo			
	Yes			No		
lf yo	u answered "No	" to BOTH que	stions 8 and 9 th	en please go	to question 24.	
	u answered "Yes	s" to EITHER q	uestion 8 OR 9 (or BOTH) the	n please continu	ie to
Q10	How many:					
			sehold wish to for ich they will need			eton parish
	b) Ex-members of affordable housing	f your househol ng were available	d would return to e?	Brereton paris	h within the next	five years if
	Please tick one bo	x only in each co	lumn			
		membe housel	nber of current hou ers who wish to form hold inside Breretor ithin the next 5 yea	n a new r i parish	b) Number of ex-h nembers who wou Brereton parish if housing were a	ld return to affordable
	One		\sqcup		\sqcup	
	Two		\sqcup			
	Three		\vdash		\vdash	
	Four or more					_

					-
The	remainder of the surve	v asks about the	dotails of those	now households	
THE	remainder of the surve	ey daka dbout the	details of these	new nousenous	-
	hin this survey it is pos				
	ou have more than four 70 685 890 or email ran			ra torni to compi	ete (telephone
	each question there is ut. If you have only on				
'Ne	w household 1' column.	. If you have two	new households	s, you should co	
	ails in the 'New househ		iousehold 2' colu	imns.	
Q11	Who is looking for accor Please tick one box only f		hold		
	•	New household	New household	New household	New household
	Davishton	1	2	3	4
	Daughter or son Other (please tick and	H	H	H	H
	specify below)				
Q12	For each new household wishes to form a new ho				
	Please tick one box only f			ember (who wishe	s to return).
		New household	New household	New household	New household
	For a current household	Ċ		Ö	_
	member				
	For an ex-household member				
Q13	What would be the total				
	(We understand you may rented and subsidised own				
	be assured that your answ	vers to this and all o	uestions will remain		
	Please tick one box only f	or each new house. New household	New household	New household	New household
		1	2	3	4
	Under £15,000				
	£15,000 to £19,999				
	£20,000 to £24,999	닏	닏	\vdash	\sqcup
	£25,000 to £29,999	\vdash	\vdash	\vdash	\vdash
	£30,000 to £34,999	H	H	H	H
	£35,000 and over Prefer not to say	H	H	H	H
	Trefer flot to say			Ш	

Q14	When is the move requir		hold		
	Please tick one box only for	New household	New household	New household	New household
	Within 1 year				
	Between 1 & 2 years				
	Between 2 & 3 years				
	Between 3 & 5 years				
Q15	Taking into account the realistically be looking for				d they
		New household 1	New household 2	New household 3	New household 4
	Subsidised ownership to an affordable level (e.g. shared ownership)				
	Private renting				
	Social renting				
	Buying on the open market	et 🗌			
own have	ise only complete ques ership or rented (e.g. n e any new households	ot for those bein that would be su	ng bought on the obsidised owners	open market). If hip or rented go	you do not to question 24.
Q16	If the considered tenure would be affordable? (F pay). Please tick one box	lease take into acc	ount that with share		
	pay). Trease lick one box	New household	New household	New household	New household
		1	2	3	4
	Under £60,000	\sqcup	\sqcup	\sqcup	\sqcup
	£60,000 to £84,999	\sqcup	\vdash	\vdash	\vdash
	£85,000 to £99,999	\vdash	\vdash	\vdash	\vdash
	£100,000 to £149,999	\sqcup	\vdash	닏	닏
	£150,000 and over	\vdash	\vdash	\vdash	\vdash
	Not considering shared ownership				
Q17	If rented housing (privat Please tick one box only for			tweekly rentwoul	d be affordable?
	Trease lick one box only in	New household	New household	New household	New household
		1	2	3	4
	£65 to £79				
	£80 to £99				
	£100 to £119	\sqcup			Ц
	£120 to £149				Ц
	£150 and over				Ц
	Not considering renting				
					_

-					_
Q18	What type of accommod	dation is preferred	? Please tick all tha	at apply for each ne	w household
		New household	New household	_	New household
	House	<u> </u>	2	3	<u>+</u>
	Flat	H	H	H	H
	Bungalow	H	H	H	H
	Supported housing	H	H	H	H
	Any	Ħ	Ħ	Ħ	Ħ
Q19	What would be the mini			?	_
	Please tick one box only t			New bayashald	New bayeshald
		New household 1	New household 2	New household 3	New household 4
	One				
	Two				
	Three				
	Four or more				
Q20	How many adults over to Please tick one box only to	he age of 16 will the for each new house	nere be within the I hold	new household(s)1	?
		New household	New household	New household	New household
	0	1	2	3	4
	One Two	H	H	H	H
	Three	H	H	H	H
	Four or more	H	H	H	H
Q21	How many children und	er 16 will there be	in the new househ	nold(s)?	
	Please tick one box only t	for each new house	hold		
		New household 1	New household 2	New household 3	New household 4
	None				
	One				
	Two				
	Three				
	Four or more				
Q22	Would any member of the Please tick one box only to			ithin Brereton pari	sh?
		New household 1	New household 2	New household 3	New household 4
	Yes				
	No				
_					_

				_
				ility
,	New household	New household	New household	New household
Yes				
No				
stock back into u	use whenever possible.	Are there any resid	lential properties (
Yes			Don't know	
If yes, please giv the location details:	е			
il, so that we can o elopment plans for	contact you in future reg the parish. By complet	parding specific hou ing your details you	ising development are confirming y	s and any other ou are happy
ie:				
ress:				
il address:				
se confirm your il address:				
in the pre-pa This question require a cop	aid envelope prov nnaire is printed by in larger size fo	vided by Frida mainly in Aria ont, please co	ay 16th Augu al font size 1 ontact the the	st 2013. 1. If you surveys
	Yes No Cheshire East Co stock back into u have been unoco Yes If yes, please give the location details: ough it is not obliging, so that we can delopment plans for we can use your entire party. This question details: This question details:	requirements)? Please tick one box only for New household Yes No Cheshire East Council is actively involved stock back into use whenever possible. have been unoccupied for over twelve in Yes	New household New household Yes	Yes No Cheshire East Council is actively involved in working with owners to bring en stock back into use whenever possible. Are there any residential properties of have been unoccupied for over twelve months? Please tick one box only Yes

