



Paper Title: Sub-local authority population projections

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Security marking	Not sensitive
Can this be shared wider than PAMS?	Yes
Actions for PAMS members ahead of meeting	<p>Complete the following survey:</p> <p>Sub-council area population projections - PAMS Feedback</p> <p>Further information is provided in the paper. The survey will remain open after the meeting if this cannot be completed prior to the meeting.</p>
Aims for discussion	The Improvement Service is looking to understand the demand for an updated set of sub-council area population projections. This will be used consider whether the Improvement Service can commit to reproducing these projections.
Key questions for PAMS members	The Improvement Service is asking PAMS members to consider how they are currently using the sub-council area population projections and how they might make use of them in the future.
What is required from PAMS members	Complete the feedback survey noted above and share any further information at the meeting.

**NRS:
June 2024**

Population And Migration Statistics (PAMS) Committee (Scotland)

Introduction

1. In 2020 the Improvement Service published a standard set of sub-council area population projections for all 32 councils. These projections were produced to help fill an evidence gap and inform forward planning by councils and other partners. Multi-member wards were used as the default geography in all but 6 councils where alternative geographies were used. The projections cover mid-2018 to mid-2030 and are consistent with 2018 NRS population projections for council areas. The data and background information were published on the [Improvement Service website](#). The available information includes a national summary, individual council summaries, individual council detailed projections, a methodology note, a caveat booklet, as well as a [data visualisation tool](#).
2. At the last PAMS meeting, NRS highlighted that sub-national population projections were planned for early 2025. Once these projections are produced it would be possible to update the sub-council area population projections. The purpose of this paper is to understand what demand there is for doing so.

Improvement Service position

3. The IS will develop workplans for 2025/26 based on priorities identified within the local government sector, which could include updating the sub-council area population projections. The research team within the Improvement Service currently has limited capacity, therefore there needs to be a strong case made for committing any resource to the project. The team may also need to explore potential funding options prior to any commitment. If the Improvement Service does commit to updating the projections, further consultation with PAMS members will take place to understand requirements and potential changes from the previous iteration, but the current focus is understanding the value in doing so.

Ask of PAMS members

4. In order to inform internal discussions within the Improvement Service we need to have a clear picture of the demand for sub-council area population projections. The Improvement Service is asking PAMS members to consider how they are currently using the sub-council area population projections and how they might make use of them in the future.
5. A short survey has been created to collect feedback from PAMS members on how they are currently using the sub-council area population projections. You can access the survey [here](#). We would be grateful if you could take the time to complete this survey, even if you have not used the projections. The survey will close on the 20th of June.
6. This feedback is necessary to demonstrate the need for an updated set of projections, as such we will be looking for a high response rate in order to make the case for committing to the project.
7. The Improvement Service would welcome any further feedback from PAMS members during the next meeting or you can get in touch with us directly at research@improvementservice.org.uk.