

HOUSEHOLD ANALYSIS REVIEW GROUP:

Minutes for the meeting of 12 April 2011
Room 1/G/8, Ladywell House, 10:30 – 12:30 pm

Present:

Thomas Robertson (chair)	National Records of Scotland (NRS): Household statistics
Adele Trainer	North Lanarkshire Council
Alison Hurd	Scottish Government (SG): Planning
Alistair Harvey	Edinburgh Council
Allison Craig	North Ayrshire Council
Charles Brown	SG centre for housing analysis
David Campbell	NRS: Household statistics
Debbie Amabile	NRS: Household statistics
Dorothy Watson	NRS: Household statistics
Eilidh MacDonald	SG: Finance & Sustainable Growth
Esta Clark	NRS: Population and Migration Statistics
Jan Freeke	Glasgow Council
Jon Hunter	Communities Analytical Services Division (ASD)
Keira Murray	NRS: Population and Migration Statistics
Paul McNamara	Stirling Council
Tom Snowling	Aberdeen Council
Valerie Hale	SG: Environment Economics

Apologies:

Lisa Bullen	SG: Housing Supply Unit
Kirsty MacLachlan	NRS: Demography
Ashley McCormick	Liverpool University
Paul Williamson	Liverpool University

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Introductions

- 1.1 Thomas welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

Agenda Item 2: Minutes of last meeting

- 2.1 The actions of the previous meeting were checked and it was agreed that all had been completed.

Agenda Item 3: Household Estimates and Dwelling Counts publication, 2010

- 3.1 Debbie commented that the Household Estimates and Dwelling Counts publication for 2010 will be published on 19th May 2011. The format and content will be similar to previous publications but there will be an expanded section on the uses of these statistics with more examples given.
- 3.2 Following feedback at a previous Population and Migration Statistics (PAMS) Committee meeting, it is intended that there will be no extended pre-release access to this publication as in previous years. Previously HARG members were given early access to the publication for quality assurance and so that there was an opportunity for comment. Only very rarely were changes made as a result of comments made, and some people had felt frustrated that they were not able to use the statistics or share them their colleagues before publication. It was suggested that pre-release will now be limited to one day early access for those who need to be able to make informed comment about the statistics on the day of release.

Note: HARG members agreed that they were happy with this change in pre-release timing.

Agenda Item 4: UK Statistics Authority Assessment

- 4.1 Thomas reported that the Written Evidence for Assessment (WEFA) had been submitted to the UK Statistics Authority (UKSA) and that household outputs had been discussed. Thomas added that he was grateful for feedback that HARG members gave to the UKSA.
- 4.2 There are a small number of requirements that we have to fulfil but the outcome of assessment so far has been very positive. One of the requirements is to document more clearly some of the uses of our statistics.

Agenda Item 5: Adjustments to household estimates following 2001 Census

- 5.1 This item refers to HARG paper (2) 'Adjustments to the local authority area household estimates, following the 2001 Census'. Jan commented that it was good to have this paper and that in Glasgow & Clyde Valley (GCV) they have prepared their own household estimates. He added that he would like to see a break down by tenure in the NRS estimates, as these are crucial for Housing Need & Demand Assessments (HNDAs). Jan stated that GCV obtain their estimates for total housing stock from the Council Tax Register. For the

breakdown by tenure and vacancies, GCV use the Annual Performance and Statistical Return (APSR), as well as (private sector) vacancy rates from the Post Census Vacant Property Survey. Jon commented that SG: Housing Statistics carry out a similar exercise with APSR data. Thomas added that previously NRS had used a stock based approach to calculate household estimates but there had been concerns with the quality of the data in the past. However, it was agreed that information on tenure would be useful and that this would need to be a joint venture between NRS and SG Housing Statistics. It was also agreed that it would be useful to compare household estimates with 2011 Census data.

- 5.2** It was noted that Forth Valley continue to run the One Scotland Gazetteer and that all Local Authorities are moving towards using the Corporate Address Gazetteer (CAG). The CAG gives better linkage to the One Scotland Gazetteer.
- 5.3** Thomas also commented that recent political manifestos had concentrated on freezing Council Tax and that it looks as if there are no immediate plans to move to a local income tax. Therefore we will still have council tax data available as a source of data for household estimates for the near future.

Action 1: Household Estimates & Projections (HEP) branch to compare household estimates with 2011 Census data when it becomes available.

Action 2: HEP and SG Housing Statistics branches to investigate the possibility of including housing tenure information in the housing estimates publication.

Note: HARG members agreed that it would be useful to validate household estimates with 2011 Census data and that it would be worthwhile investigating if information on tenure could be included in NRS household estimates.

Agenda Item 6: Statistics Consultation

- 6.1** The recent statistics consultation led by the NRS: Population and Migration Statistics (PAMS) branch has given us a good picture of how our statistics are used and what could be done better. It was good to read that NRS household outputs are core to users needs for planning and research. The report was published on the NRS website on the 22nd March, 2011.
- 6.2** The consultation will help us take forward our statistics planning over the next few years, subject to budget constraints. Household projections are reliant on National population projections and there has been some suggestion that these outputs may move to a 3-year cycle instead of the current 2-year cycle. This decision has not been made yet but we should know by the next PAMS meeting. Jan felt that it was important to keep to a 2-year cycle otherwise data will become out of date. He added that it may save money centrally to move to a 3-year cycle, but extra cost would be incurred by Local Authorities(LA's) if they felt there was a need to prepare their own projections in order to use more up-to-date data.

Agenda Item 7: Incorporating Survey Data in Household Projections

- 7.1** It was felt that this analysis was a step in the right direction but that there needed to more investigation into the differences between Local Authorities. Although it may not be possible to constrain to Scottish Household Survey (SHS) proportions at Local Authority level, it may be possible to group authorities into urban/rural groups that have similar characteristics and so produce more targeted results.
- 7.2** It was noted that constraining to Scottish Household Survey (SHS) proportions had made little difference to the overall projected number of households. This was influenced by the weighting strategy that was chosen, that was based on those used in England. It was also noticed that SHS smoothed data may indicate a different trend from that suggested by projected 1991 and 2001 points. For example, SHS smoothed data for 1 adult female households suggests a flattening trend rather than a continuation of the upward one indicated by 1991 and 2001 Census points. It was suggested that the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Methodology Directorate may be able to provide a quality assurance role and review the methodology used.
- 7.3** Jan queried whether the micro-simulation model, presented at an earlier HARG meeting, could be used to improve household projections by household type, e.g. by examining the impact of an increase in the birth rate. Thomas replied that the microsimulation model, that Ashley McCormick from Liverpool University had been working on, would be able to model different scenarios and investigate the impact of various 'what if' scenarios. However, this work has not progressed to an appropriate stage yet.
- 7.4** Alistair noted that he would have expected there to be a bigger impact on the projected number of households in Edinburgh where there are a large number of lone adult households. Dorothy replied that this could be investigated.
- 7.5** It was noted that the household projections methodology would need to be reviewed once data on household composition became available from the 2011 Census.

Action 3: HEP branch to investigate more targeted results by grouping LAs into urban /rural groups and also to investigate why the impact on Edinburgh City was not greater.

Action 4: HEP branch to review household projections methodology once data on household composition becomes available from the 2011 Census.

Note: HARG members felt that a step had been made in the right direction to incorporate survey data into the household projections. However, this should be reviewed once data from the 2011 Census is available. Further investigation could also be done for Urban & Rural Local Authorities and to investigate modifications to trends in headship rates.

Agenda Item 8: New Variant Household projections

Agenda Item 9: Alternative Headship Rates for Household Projections

- 8.1 Items 8 and 9 were considered together. It was generally felt that high and low migration variants were the most helpful and that other variants were of more limited use. However it was noted that the effect of variants did vary from one LA to another and that the variants of interest to each user were likely to be dependant on local conditions.
- 8.2 It was noticed that alternative headship rates all reduced the projected number of households. Again it was noted that there would be much interest in the headship rates that are produced from the 2011 Census.
- 8.3 Charles commented that variants were very useful to planners when producing Housing Need and Demand Assessments (HNDAs).
- 8.4 It was felt that a standard set of outputs that everyone could use would be helpful and that we should consult more widely on this at the next PAMs meeting.

Action 5: HEP branch to seek opinions on which variants or alternative headship rates are the most useful at the next PAMs meeting.

Note: HARG members agreed that it would be useful to have a standard set of variant outputs for household projections.

Agenda Item 10: Format for sharing Communal Establishment Data

- 9.1 As part of the household projections process the Household Estimates and Projections (HEP) branch collect data on Communal Establishments (CEs). In order to validate the CE data, it is shared with Local Authorities. Dorothy commented that the HEP branch must sign data sharing agreements to get access to CE data. She then described how the HEP branch intends to share this data with local authorities in order to comply with these agreements.

Note: HARG members were content that CE data in this new format would be suitable for validation purposes.

- 9.2 It was thought that it may be useful to have CE data displayed more prominently in our household projections publication. There was also a request that Tables 1 and 2 as detailed in HARG paper were also published. Permission would have to be sought from data providers for this request. Esta noted however, that we do not have permission to share Armed Forces data in this way.

Action 6: HEP branch to seek permission to publish Tables 1 and 2 from relevant data providers when 2010 data is requested.

- 9.3 It was queried whether it would be possible to publish CE data by data zone. CE Census data can be aggregated to give data zone level details. However, Thomas noted that there was a difference between Census data and HEP branch CE data which is more up to date and collected from a variety of administrative sources. Census data has been disclosure proofed with a degree

of record swapping whereas there are still ongoing discussions regarding whether more up to date HEP CE data can be shared at data zone level.

Action 8: HEP branch to give further consideration to the publication of CE data at data zone level geography.

Agenda Item 11: New Household Formation

10.1 Thomas asked for comments on the work that had been done so far on new household formation. This work is based on the approach by Professor Glen Bramley from Heriot Watt University.

10.2 It was felt the highest household formation rates would be experienced in the cities and certain local authorities should be handled differently from the rest of Scotland. Thomas noted that he planned to investigate survey data to calculate the required rates and that this would build on work that Ashley had been doing on household formation rates to feed into the microsimulation model. Thomas also commented that the method used to calculate household formation rates needed to be clear and understandable and he planned to use survey data to validate figures used by Professor Bramley.

10.3 It was queried why newly formed households were an HNDA requirement and whether the net effect of household formation and dissolution was not more important. It was felt that the newly formed households HNDA requirement was perhaps geared to the social rented sector.

Action 9: HEP branch to clarify with CHMA why newly formed households as opposed to net households are a requirement of HNDAs.

Note: HARG members agreed that the experimental household formation analysis was useful and that they would like this to be further developed.

Agenda Item 12: Low level collection of housing/household statistics

11.1 Jon reported on the consultation that had been carried out with Local Authorities and other organisations that collect housing data. There were some key recommendations on what and how housing data are collected.

- There was a need to modernise the way data is collected.
- More unit level data with geo-coding was requested.
- It was felt that housing data could be better presented on the website with one portal giving easy access to all relevant data.
- There were requests for improved data for the private rented sector.

11.2 Jon was able to confirm that there are plans to improve data collection. An online data capture method is preferred that will reduce the burden on data suppliers and improve efficiencies. For unit level data collection there is an intention to tap into LA MIS systems and a decision will be made on this soon. It is planned that this new system will go live next March (2012) but before that date there will need to be thorough testing and piloting.

11.3 Alistair commented that whenever Edinburgh City carries out a manual audit of the number of completions their figure is always higher than that on the SG website. Jon noted that the SG figures are provided by the Local Authority. It

was suggested that a difference in definitions may cause this anomaly and that National House Building Council data may be used for validation.

Agenda Item 13: Date of next meeting

- 12.1** The date of the next meeting will be timed to precede the 2010-based household projections and 2011 household estimates publications. It is likely that the next meeting will be during March or April 2012.