

HARG MEETING ON 30 MAY 2002

MAIN POINTS AGREED

Minutes of Last Meeting

The following correction to be made: JF's name removed from point 2.1

The following 3 points still to be actioned: 2.1, 2.3 and 5.1

Methodology Options for the Production of 2000-Based Household Projections

Agreed the following:

- Method B (i.e. the 2 point exponential using 1981 and 1991 Census years) to be used to project headship rates. *The analysis did not point to the superiority of any one method over the others. It was agreed that therefore probably best to use a method which has been used previously, which means A or B. Since B produces household projections where the number of adults involved is more in line with the projected adult population than method A, it was agreed that this was the most appropriate option for this round of projections.*
- The raw projections to be adjusted to the 2000 estimates, using the same method as last time (i.e. adjusting all projections for a council by the ratio of the total households projected for 2000 to the household estimate for 2000). *It was agreed that if the projection for 2000 does not equal the 2000 household estimate, then it is likely that the projected trend is not so reliable. By adjusting using the ratio (rather than the difference) the projected trend will also be adjusted.*
- Adjustments also to be made to the projections to ensure that the minimum number of adults required to fill the projections is never greater than the projected number of adults in private households, and the same methodology to be used to do this as last time (i.e. the total number of households kept the same, but the household type distribution altered). Adjustments will be made only for those councils and years that are affected – and the adjustment will be kept to a minimum (i.e. so that the minimum number of adults is brought down to equal the projected number of adults). *It was agreed that it was important to ensure consistency between the household and population projections – hence the adjustments should be made. It was noted that if the adjustment was made by simply decreasing the number of households (of all types) then we would be further affecting the projected growth in households – and it was agreed that other than the adjustment to the trend resulting from re-basing to the 2000 estimates (discussed above) no further adjustment to the trend should be made.*
- No adjustments will be made for children. *With all of the methods the minimum number of children required to fill the projected households is always (for all councils for all years) less than the projected number of children in GROS population projections. Information on projected family size would be required to assess whether the actual/estimated number of children in the households was comparable with the projected number of children in GROS population projections, and such information is not readily available.*
- A section should be included in the bulletin about how the choice of method was arrived at and why the various adjustments were made. There should also be a full discussion of the limitations of the 2000-based projections – at Scotland and level, as well as for individual councils.

Consultation with Non-LA Users of Estimates and Projection

It was agreed that the full survey report, based on consultation with LA users, will be used as a basis for the consultation paper to go to non-LA users. **The final report (which takes on board comments from the last meeting and JF's written comments) will be circulated to members (action DP). JF and SF will produce a draft consultation paper over the next few weeks, which (after taking on board comments from DG and SC) they will aim to issue by the end of June.** Agreed that the mailing list should include Homes for Scotland, Scottish Water, Health Boards and SFHA.

2001 Census Data

The three papers were for information. **Agreed that DP would put a bid to GROS for the tables from the 2001 Census that will be required to produce 2001 headship rates, and for the data required to re-produce 1991 headship rates with students counted at their term time address.**

Neighbourhood Statistics

Duncan noted that a regulation is needed so that councils are able to release Council tax billing data for use for research/statistical purposes. SE lawyers are currently drafting this regulation which will enable the SE to request local authorities to provide non-personal information data from their council tax billing systems. These data would be used to generate statistics about small areas, although the intention would be to request data on an individual dwelling basis which will be aggregated up to a variety of geographic areas, using the postcode as the key geographic indicator.

Celia Macintyre will circulate a note to members about other National Stats developments.

Duncan Gray noted that the results of the Modernising Government Bids were now available - web link: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/government/c21g/rptMGF_Web1.pdf - and that the bids from COSLA and Stirling to develop MAD have been accepted on the condition that they work together on a joint project.

Use of the Council Tax Base

An updated set of charts was tabled at the meeting. A chart for each council showing how the household estimates compared to the number of occupied dwellings obtained from the council tax register for the years 1996 to 2000. It was noted that by and large the figures are comparable – though was noted that in some cases the council tax figures did fluctuate a good deal. For this reason it was concluded that we would probably not be able to take figures directly from the council tax register for household estimate production, but that there would inevitably need to be some dialogue with councils. Next stage will be to compare figures with 2001 Census data when it becomes available next March. **The charts will be emailed to all members** (as some had left the meeting by this stage).

Any other Business

It was noted that Jan was looking for comments on his paper. **Agreed that all members should send comments direct to Jan, copying to Duncan and Stevan.**

Date of Next Meeting

No date was set. The timetable for future meetings will be considered once the projections have been published.

SE Housing Stats
June 2002