



INFORMATION MANAGEMENT BULLETIN

October 2006

NO. 100

News from the Information Management Unit

Research, Survey and Intelligence

Annual Business Inquiry 2005 Data- validations exercise

Thank you very much to all of you who participated in the exercise this year, your comments and observations. Along with those from HCC, were passed on to ONS within the deadline this year.

We received a far greater response from you all this year which enabled us to send a more in depth reply but we can still do better, we are aiming for 100% co-operation next year!

Unemployment

The latest Monthly Unemployment Bulletin for August 2006 has been published, along with the Quarterly Unemployment Bulletin for July 2006.

Quarterly Ward Claimant Count Statistics by Rank and LTC for July 2006 have also been published and sent to each district.

Annual Business Inquiry 2004 – Fact sheets

Work is progressing well with producing this set of fact sheets and they are scheduled to be published this Autumn.

*For further information please contact
Gill Hiron on 01992 555274
Email: gill.hiron@hertscc.gov.uk*

This Bulletin gives news of emerging facts and trends in the County, recently published and planned reports and progress on projects. Deadline for the next issue is Monday 8th January 2007. Please send items with a contact name, phone number and email address to Barbara Murphy, Information Management Unit, Environment Dept HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, County Hall, Hertford, Herts. SG13 8DN
Tel: 01992 555276 Fax: 01992 588676
Email barbara.murphy@hertscc.gov.uk

ONS consultation regarding the proposed 'Business Register and Employment Survey' (BRES)

The deadline for submitting comments regarding the proposed new BRES closed in early September.

This was seen as a good opportunity to have a say in the type of employment data that will be available in the future.

The county council submitted its view to the consultation, being overall in favour of ONS combining the BRES with the ABI and for the new survey date to be collected in September, but it did express concerns regarding the proposal to drop figures by gender.

Unfortunately the reply could not include any observations from a District perspective as despite an article in the last Information Bulletin and a reminder email, no responses were received.

*For further information please contact
Teresa Damen on 01992 555275
Email: teresa.damen@hertscc.gov.uk*

Mid Year Estimates of Population for 2005

The Office for National Statistics published the Registrar-General's population estimates for England & Wales for 2005 on 24th August 2006. Hertfordshire's population was estimated as 1,048,200. This is an increase of approximately 6,900 (0.66%) over the estimate for 2004. The estimates for the individual districts in Hertfordshire suggest growth in eight of the ten districts, particularly in Welwyn Hatfield (2.03%) and St Albans (0.98%), with no change in Stevenage and Watford.

The population of England as a whole was estimated to have increased by approximately 0.68%. The population of Eastern Region was also estimated to have grown by 0.92%, with the greatest proportional growth in Cambridgeshire (1.74%) and Bedfordshire (1.4%). Hertfordshire had the lowest proportional growth in estimated population of any of the counties in the Eastern region, although the proportional growth was higher than all of the Unitary Authorities. Compared to the South East (0.67%) the proportional growth in Hertfordshire was almost exactly the same.

The overall increase in the estimate for Hertfordshire is almost equally split between natural growth (more live births than deaths) of 3,500 and net inward migration (and other changes) of 3,300. Over half of the net inward migration (and other changes) was in Welwyn Hatfield district (1,700).

The Mid Year Estimates for Hertfordshire and districts have been published on hertsdirect.org. A factsheet analysing the estimates and components of change in more detail will be published shortly.

For further information please contact Mike Brennan on 01992 588862
Email: mike.brennan@hertscc.gov.uk

News from other Environment Department Units

Forward Planning Unit

Countywide Development Monitoring

Results from the annual Developments Commitments update of the County are now being used for Local and Regional planning. Locally the figures help inform the Core Indicators for Local Development Framework process, for the Region they contribute to the information in the 2006 Regional Annual Monitoring Report. In addition the dataset is also fundamental to other services within HCC and its partners. 'Bundling' of this data with other indicators is further improving the understanding of the effects of development in the County. A specific example is the use of the data in Department for Transport Accession modelling tool, reporting the accessibility of new homes and additional employment floorspace to key facilities such as health, education and retail centres.

For further information please contact: Rob Wright, Information & Monitoring Team on 01992 555287
Email: rob.wright@hertscc.gov.uk

Regeneration & Partnerships Unit

Hertfordshire Funding Fair 2006 – 'Funding Solutions'!

This year's Herts External Resources Network (HERN) Funding Fair will be held 18 October 2006 at the Fielder Centre, Hatfield.

Securing a sustainable future is the key challenge affecting organisations in many sectors. With this comes the need for organisations at all levels to adapt to ensure that they find appropriate 'Funding Solutions'. The aim of our sixth Funding Fair is to provide delegates with the practical information tools, ideas and support to achieve this.

This free information and training day is open to all Hertfordshire groups and will include a mixture of information stands, advice sessions and workshops but advance booking by 11 October 2006 is essential. Full programme details for 2006 can be found on www.hertsdirect.org/hern

FUNDING Solutions! - email funding alerts from HERN
HERN purchases up to date funding information from a range of providers and cascades this out to groups and organisations in Hertfordshire who are signed up to receive information. The service uses email as the quickest and most cost effective way of delivering up to date and accurate information. You too can register to receive this comprehensive information about sources of funding by signing up to the HERN email alerts system called **FUNDING Solutions!** on www.hertsdirect.org/hern

'Do you need money?' Advice Leaflet

The HERN Network that unites funders and funding advisors to provide resources (tools, people and information) for the benefit of Hertfordshire communities has recently published an information leaflet entitled 'Do you need money?' aimed at voluntary and community groups. The leaflet will be distributed to information points in all HCC libraries, district and borough councils as well as key voluntary and community groups such as local councils for voluntary service. The leaflet is also available in electronic form on www.hertsdirect.org/hern and forms part of a wider information campaign to draw attention to the range of free information tools and events available to support those seeking external funding.

For further information please contact Andrew Burt, Funding & Partnerships Manager
On 01992 555213
Email: andrew.burt@hertscc.gov.uk
OR
Carol Cain, Systems & Support Manager
On 01992 555366
Email: carol.cain@hertscc.gov.uk

In2work.... on the move

In2work as part of the wider welfare to work strategy, supports lone-parents and people on Incapacity benefit to return to work. The programme has been running in Hertfordshire for over 2 years and has helped over 200 long-term, economically inactive people, to return to the jobs market. Many more have been supported into training and voluntary work as a stepping stone to a return to work.

We are delighted with the success of In2work and equally pleased that the services will continue in the future.

In2work has 'joined up' with other employment initiatives in the County Council such as Employment Direct and Buddy Mentor to launch a new 'supported' employment service called **Work Solutions**. The new service will be responsible to Adult Care Services.

A recent award of **£260k from Investing in Communities** is to be welcomed and will help deliver the new LAA reward targets and develop a new Condition Management programme, supporting people to manage their disability and / or health condition and return to work.

Several members of the In2work Team will be moving to the new service in ACS. An Away Day is planned for early September 2006, to start the process of team building and leadership of the new service.

A formal launch is planned later in the Autumn 2006, to raise awareness of the new employment service and to promote **Work Solutions** to key employers in Hertfordshire.

*For further information please contact
Fiona Brown, Project Manager In2work on
07876 546390
Email: fiona.brown@hertsc.gov.uk*

Transport, Planning and Policy

Hands Up in Herts 2006 Survey Summary

The School Travel Team carried out their Hands Up in Herts survey in June 2006. 237 schools returned the hands up questionnaire forms. 152 (64%) of these were schools that have existing school travel plans, 85 (36%) do not have school travel plans. 202 primary schools responded, 30 Secondary schools and 5 schools with both primary and secondary provision. In total, almost 55,000 responses from children were received, representing information on a significant percentage of school journeys within Hertfordshire.

The results show that 54% of Primary pupils and 70% of Secondary students travel to school by sustainable modes.

Walking is the most popular mode of travel to school for both primary and secondary pupils with just under 50% of primary schools students and 45% of secondary school students indicating that they walk to school. Car is the second choice with 46% and 30% respectively. Other modes reported were bus, cycle and train.

*For further information please contact
Alan Storey on 01992 588720
Email: alan.storey@hertsc.gov.uk*

News from the Districts

East Herts District Council

The Public Inquiry into the Council's Local Plan Second Review finished on 28th April 2006. At present, the Inspector's report is expected to be

received in early December, while adoption should take place in March 2007. The latest version of the Local Plan is available to view on the Council's website. The Council has started work on some of the documents that will make up the Local Development Framework. A draft version of the Statement of Community Involvement will soon be complete. This will be consulted on in November/December. In addition to this, the Core Strategy and Key Diagram DPD and the Gypsy and Traveller DPD are both at the evidence gathering stage.

Work has also commenced on the following Supplementary Planning Documents, all linked to the Local Plan Second Review:

- Landscape Character Assessment SPD
- Affordable Housing SPD
- Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities SPD
- Planning Obligations SPD
- Historic Parks and Gardens in East Herts SPD

The Local Development Scheme which outlines the proposed timetable for all East Herts planning documents is also available to view on the Council's website.

Finally, the Council has successfully appointed a consultant to complete its Housing Capacity Assessment. The study will examine potential for residential development within and on the edge of the district's main towns and villages. Entec intend to complete the study by spring 2007.

*For further information please contact
Chris Butcher, Development Plans on
01992 531624.*

Watford Borough Council

The Statement of Community Involvement was adopted 19 July 2006, and other work is in progress on the Local Development Framework - the first stage of the Issues and Options consultation on the Site Allocations DPD is due to be undertaken this autumn, as is the release of topic papers on Housing and Employment in order to gather more views on the Core Strategy. The next formal stage in preparing the Core Strategy will be the publication of a Preferred Options document for consultation, expected to take place in early 2007.

We are awaiting approval from GO-East on a revised timetable for our Local Development Scheme.

An appraisal document on the new conservation area around King Street/High Street is due to be issued for public consultation before the end of September 2006 and will be available on our website www.watford.gov.uk, as will be a new brief guide to living in a conservation area, produced by Watford Borough Council.

*For further information please contact
Karen Barnes, Information & Monitoring Officer,
Planning Policy on 01923 278276
Email: karen.barnes@watford.gov.uk*

Dacorum Borough Council

1. The Council has published the latest Commercial Property Register ("Dacorum Commercial Property Register Number 74 August 2006") which is available free of charge from the Planning Department, Marlowes, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 1HH.

*For further information please contact Laura
Badham, Development Plans on 01442 228660.*

2. The Council has recently completed its residential land position statement (Residential Land Commitments Position Statement No.33 – 1 April 2006).

*For further information please contact Francis
Whittaker, Development Plans on 01442 228383.*

3. The Council has published a number of technical studies on the following:

- Outdoor Recreation Facilities (August 2006)
- Housing Market Background Paper (August 2006)
- Transport Study (August 2006)

*For details on price and other further information
on these documents please contact the
Development Plans team on 01442 228660.*

For up to date information on the progress and availability/cost of documents please contact Development Plans and/or visit the Planning Department's web site at www.dacorum.gov.uk/planning.

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