



INFORMATION MANAGEMENT BULLETIN

July 2006

NO. 99

News from the Information Management Unit

Research, Survey and Intelligence

Travelwise Survey

The annual survey to ascertain public perception of the Travelwise initiative has again been sent to households in Watford and Welwyn Garden City with approximately 1000 households being targeted in each town. The work is being carried out for the Transportation Planning and Policy unit.

*For further information please contact:
Ted Burton on 01992 588861
E-mail: ted.burton@hertscc.gov.uk*

Business Register and Employment Survey

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is exploring possible ways to improve the quality of its outputs and their efficiency of production, through increased integration of the present portfolio of business surveys.

The Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) is due to be piloted in 2008 and fully implemented in 2009, it will replace the Business Register Survey and the employment part of the Annual Business Inquiry (ABI).

At present ONS are conducting a consultation on the proposed BRES; the closing date is Friday 1st September 2006. This is an ideal opportunity to help shape the type of employment data that will be available in the future.

It is proposed to discontinue collecting employee numbers split by male and female; outputs from

the Labour Force Survey/Annual Population Survey will be offered as an alternative source.

A document giving a more detailed explanation of the proposal and suggested questions for users of the current ABI can be found on the ONS website at www.statistics.gov.uk/about/consultations/downloads/BRES_Users.pdf. If anyone interested in looking at this document but is unable to access it please contact Gill Hiron who will send a copy to you.

Please send any comments to Gill Hiron by Friday 18th August and they will be included in the countywide response that HCC will co-ordinate.

*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 22nd September 2006. 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

Annual Business Inquiry Local Authority Validation Exercise 2006

Once again we have been invited to take part in this annual checking exercise which will be carried out during August (one of the most inconvenient times of the year!) It is appreciated that difficulties will be encountered but it is very important for us all to take part. This is the only opportunity each local authority district and borough council has to comment on the Annual Business Inquiry data for their area and to help make it as reliable as possible. ONS then has

time to make any necessary adjustments to the data before it is released in December.

We are expecting the data to arrive during the week July 24th-28th and once the data is received I will pass it on to the named individuals who have access to the ABI data and would appreciate your responses by Monday 14th August at the latest.

For further information please contact

Gill Hirons on 01992 555274

Email: Gill.Hirons@Hertscc.gov.uk

Hertfordshire Census Users' Group

Demography

Mid Year Estimates

The regional demography group held a meeting in May with ONS to discuss concerns about recent Mid Year Estimates of population, and in particular estimates for 2004. Hertfordshire had an exceptionally low Mid Year Estimate for 2004, just 400 higher than the 2003 estimate, in the context of a typical annual increase in dwellings stock of around 3,000. In other parts of the region, there were particular concerns about the population estimates for local authorities such as Forest Heath and Cambridge. ONS have taken away the concerns expressed to review and report back.

IMPS project

Improving Migration and Population Statistics is ONS's special project reviewing the population and migration estimates methodology. This has arisen out of concerns about the discrepancy that developed between the 1990's series of Mid Year Estimates and the 2001 Census. Welwyn Hatfield Council are directly involved in this as one of the four initial study areas.

2003-based Household Projections

These projections were produced in 2005 at regional level only. District level projections were published in June 2006, but with very little information (total number of households only, expressed in 1,000s). They are derived from the 2003-based population projections. A revised factsheet including the household

projections for Hertfordshire county and district is published on Herts Direct at <http://www.hertsdirect.org/yrccouncil/hcc/env/factsfigs/population/popproject/onspopproj/>

2004-based Subnational Population Projections – consultation

ONS have released provisional 2004-based sub-national population projections for consultation. Normally there will be a set of projections every two years, and these were programmed to succeed the 2002-based projections (which were abandoned and replaced by the 2003-based).

The interim 2004-based projections have been reviewed against the 2003-based, and also against the recent trend in dwellings stock change, and the recent trend in records on the Hertfordshire Health Authority Patients Register. No one source is entirely reliable, but in general the projections for the county and most districts look plausible in relation to the other sources, and I don't propose to suggest any changes. There are discrepancies in a few districts, including Broxbourne and Stevenage. If anyone wants to suggest amendments to the interim projections, please contact Mike Brennan immediately. The deadline for responses is Thursday 13th July. There is a detailed paper on the Herts Observatory at the Census Users Group Discussion Forum pages.

If changes are made to any district projections within the country this will affect the remaining projections, since the national projections are already established, and the sub-national projections must sum to the national figures. Hence the interim 2004-based projections for Hertfordshire and districts are quite likely to be amended.

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

The annual update of Hertfordshire's Development Commitments is now complete. The update includes Residential and Employment uses and concerns all planning permissions to 31st March 2006 and allocations from current Development Plans. This update has been undertaken with Hertfordshire Districts and because of this the results now only require a minimal level of checking. The data forms a basis for the Local Development Frameworks and the Regional Spatial Strategy Annual Monitoring Reports. The former are to be published for the end of December 2006 and latter, February 2007.

For residential development preliminary results show that in the year to 31st March 2006 a draft total of **4392 dwellings** (3994 net of losses) were constructed in the County. This total includes dwellings from new build, conversions and changes of use.

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

News from the Districts

Watford Borough Council

Following submission to the Secretary of State in January 2006, the Inspector's Report on our Statement of Community Involvement

was received in June. We anticipate our SCI to go to Council for approval in July and then be formally adopted.

A Planning Statement on the potential redevelopment of West Herts College Leggatts Campus Site was issued in May 2006 and a copy is available on our website. (West Herts College has put the freehold up for sale).

A further conservation area was designated in May 2006, around the High Street/King Street area – a conservation area appraisal for the new conservation area is currently being prepared. There will be public consultation later in the summer on the content of the appraisal and on future management proposals emerging from the appraisal.

The Planning Policy team has also been involved in local area committee meetings, discussing preliminary ideas with the intention of working towards issuing Core Strategy Topic papers and Site Allocations Issues and Options papers for consultation in autumn this year.

For further information please see our website www.watford.gov.uk, contact Planning Policy on 01923 278263 or email: strategy@watford.gov.uk

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