



INFORMATION MANAGEMENT BULLETIN

January 2008

NO. 105

News from the Information Management Unit

Travel to Work Areas (Source NOMIS)

The 2001 based travel to work areas (TTWAs) have now been released. The new TTWAs are available with the following data series:

- Claimant Count.
- Jobcentre Plus Vacancies.
- Annual Business Inquiry.

Travel to Work Areas, (TTWAs), are approximations to self-contained labour markets based on commuting to work patterns. The 234 new TTWAs were defined in 2007 using 2001 Census Information and are based on lower layer super output areas in England and Wales, data zones in Scotland, and super output areas in Northern Ireland. The basic criteria used in the exercise were:

- At least 67% of those who live in the area also work there;
- At least 67% of those who work in the area also live there; and
- The working population as measured by the Census should be at least 25,000.

Further information including a detailed description of the methodology is available on the ONS Geography website.
www.statistics.gov.uk/geography.

Census

2011 Census

CLIP Census Advisory Groups met in November to discuss developing plans for the 2011 Census. There have been changes at the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in personnel at the census management level. Glen Watson is now Director of Census at ONS. Angela Eagle, MP for Wallasey, has been appointed as Exchequer Secretary at the Treasury, which

includes responsibility for ONS through the newly created Statistics Board chaired by Sir Michael Scholar.

The following are some of the main developments for the 2011 Census:

- A report on output geography for the 2011 Census has been published, favouring retention of the 2001 Output Area and devolved Super Output Area geography as the main census geography for 2011.
- Liaison with Local Authorities is one of the major concerns arising from the 2007 Census test, which was conducted in May. This affects plans for recruitment, publicity, quality of address registers and local area profiles. ONS have produced a draft document "2011 Census, Working with Local Authorities."
- Census test results are still being evaluated, but the addition of a fourth page of personal questions and the inclusion of a question on income appeared to have little effect on response rates. Post out of census forms was also evaluated against hand delivery by enumerators, and is now adopted as the proposed delivery strategy.
- Central government is lobbying strongly for additional pages to support questions on dwellings and migration. A fourth page has cost implications for ONS which need to be resolved. There is concern from the Local Authority and Demographics (Market Research) Advisory Groups that this will weaken the case for some of the labour market questions, including that on income. The groups have urged ONS to continue to take an integrated approach to census topic assessment.
- The Census White Paper, which will include proposals on all these matters, is due in October 2008.

Demography

Regional Annual Monitoring Report

A draft demographic background paper has been prepared by members of the Regional Demography Group, to support the Annual Monitoring Report. The draft paper examines available estimates, projections and forecasts for the region and sub-areas, and sets out the proposed future work programme for monitoring demographic trends against the Regional Spatial Strategy East of England Plan. Population and household projections are rising more rapidly than dwellings completions suggest, casting doubt on the assumptions about trends in variables like household size and occupancy rates.

Revisions to DCLG 2004-based household projections

These projections are linked to the ONS population projections, and are being revised at present. There is no publication date yet, but it should be early in 2008. The projected number of households is likely to rise, increasing the disparity between the trends in population and household projections on one hand, and proposed dwellings completions on the other.

Treasury Sub-Committee on Counting the Population

A Treasury Sub-Committee is reviewing the process of population estimation involving both the census and mid year estimates. They invited submissions from interested parties, and the Hertfordshire Census Users Group made a submission, which was discussed through the extranet pages of the Hertfordshire Observatory. The final submission can be viewed on the Observatory. The Treasury has now published all written submissions in a thick document. Further oral presentations are being made in January by representatives of the Statistics Commission, the Royal Statistical Society, the Bank of England, ONS, the Exchequer Secretary and the Statistics Board. The sub-committee's review will take place in the first half of 2008.

ONS Consultation on its Work Programme

The Office for National Statistics is conducting a consultation into its work programme for the period 2008 to 2012. The Census Users Group prepared a response to the first phase earlier in 2007, and to the second phase in November 2007. The Hertfordshire Observatory provided the forum for discussion of a draft response, and a revised response was sent to ONS. This can be viewed on the Hertfordshire Observatory.

*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.

Preparation has started for the annual survey stage of the update of Hertfordshire's Development Commitments. The survey concerns all planning permissions to the 31st March 2008. It looks at Housing, Employment and other land use change, informing policy monitoring and review processes for the East of England Plan and the Hertfordshire's Local Development Frameworks. Close liaison and joint working with District Councils continues to be achieved via the County/District Information Liaison Group. The initial results giving Housing completions are expected by Mid May 2008, and form an important part of national, regional and local performance indicators.

*For further information please contact Rob Wright on 01992 555287
Email: rob.wright@hertscc.gov.uk*

News from the Districts

Watford Borough Council

A Planning Brief for the Leggatts Campus and the Bill Everett Community Centre Site was formally adopted by the Council on the 10 December 2007 and the Watford Annual Monitoring Report 2007 was submitted and made available online in December.

Interviews with consultants took place on the 14th January and the Three Dragons consultancy was

appointed to undertake a Development Economic Study (DES) on behalf of Watford, Three Rivers and Dacorum. The DES will investigate the economics of residential development particular to these areas and the viability of different levels of affordable housing. This study is linked to the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) which is underway, with Opinion Research Services (ORS) commissioned to undertake research on housing need and a report expected in April this year.

There is also a Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) in progress by Llewelyn Davies Yeang, which has also been commissioned on a joint basis with Three Rivers and Dacorum. This will update the findings of the previous Urban Capacity Study, in assessing the land potential for housing development.

*For a copy of the Planning Brief or further information please contact:
Planning Policy on 01923 278263
Email: strategy@watford.gov.uk*

Dacorum Borough Council

The Council has published the latest Commercial Property Register ("Dacorum Commercial Property Register Number 77 December 2007") 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.*

The Council has published its third Annual Monitoring Report (Dacorum Borough Local Plan 1991 –2011 – Annual Monitoring Report 2006/07). It covers the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007.

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

The Council, in conjunction with a number of adjoining authorities in Hertfordshire, has recently appointed several consultants to undertake a range of housing related studies: Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (Llewelyn Davies Yeang); Strategic Housing Market Assessment (ORS Ltd); and Development Economic Study (Three Dragons).

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

On 21 January 2008 James Doe will start as the new Head of Planning and Regeneration at Dacorum Borough Council.

*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*

<p>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 10th April, 2008. Please send items with a contact name, phone number and email address to Barbara Murphy, Community Information Unit, Corporate Information Systems, HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, County Hall, Hertford, Herts. SG13 8DQ Tel: 01992 555276 Fax: 01992 588676 Email barbara.murphy@hertscc.gov.uk</p>
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