



Paper Title: Improvement Service Sub-Council Population Projections Update

Presented by: Nick Cassidy, Research Manager, Improvement Service

Security marking	Not sensitive
Can this be shared wider than PAMS?	Yes
Aims for discussion	Update and refresh PAMS members on the sub-council population projections, and seek views on further developments.
Key questions for PAMS members	<p>Do PAMS members use these data and how?</p> <p>Are there any additional formats that it would be useful to have the data in other than Excel?</p> <p>Would other analyses and reports be useful for using these figures?</p>
What is required from PAMS members	Comments and feedback on the projections and future developments, any examples of where they have been used

Population And Migration Statistics (PAMS) Committee

Sub-Council Population Projections

A set of sub-council population projections for all 32 local authority areas was published by the Improvement Service in August 2020. These have been widely used and we are seeking PAMS members' thoughts on what else the IS could offer to improve the data and support their continued use.

What are the sub-council population projections?

The sub-council population projections cover the period 2018 to 2030 and are broken down by age and sex for local authority defined geographies at a sub-council level. In most cases these geographies are Multi-Member Wards, but there are also several custom geographies, such as Community Planning Localities. The sub-council population projections are constrained to be consistent with the council level sub-national population projections produced by the NRS.

These projections were first discussed with PAMS in November 2019, and were developed together in collaboration with the NRS and with guidance from Ludi Simpson and Alan Marshall.

This work was intended to support local authorities who do not have the capacity to produce their own projections as well as users who are interested in a standard set of local area projections for all Scottish councils. They are not intended to replace projections already being produced by some local authorities.

The sub-council population projections do not take into account local developments, for example housing developments or investment projects. This is consistent with the national and sub-national population projections produced by NRS.

What information is available?

Each local authority has two files:

- Summary tables – this includes figures for the council and each sub-council area for each year including:
 - Population size;
 - The number of births and deaths each year;
 - Migration;
 - Fertility and mortality rates;
 - Life expectancy.
- Detailed tables – this provides the number of people per year by single year of age and is broken down by sex.

A national summary document is also available, which contains the total number of people projected to live in each sub-council area within each of the 32 local authorities.

The projections are available on the Improvement Service website:

<https://www.improvementservice.org.uk/products-and-services/data-and-intelligence2/sub-council-area-population-projections>

The IS has also produced a video introduction to these projections, available on YouTube -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n8J_7SK3jII

Usage

Engagement with the projections has been very good, and in the last six months there have been over 250 downloads of the different files available.

This engagement has come from a range of sources including local authorities, academia (in particular they have been used in a project at the University of St. Andrews), and from private consultants.

They have been used by multiple service areas including planning, economic development, early years expansion

Future Developments for 2018-based Projections

In addition to the data as currently provided, the IS are considering what else we could provide to help users make the most of these data and to facilitate their use by a wider group of stakeholders. Some suggestions for additional outputs include:

- Shapefiles for custom geographies (Multi-Member Ward shapefiles are available via [Ordnance Survey](#))
- Maps
- Additional analysis such as local authority summaries or a national overview.
- Alternative data formats e.g. csv, or access through API

Would any of these be of use to you or others in your organisation? Are there other outputs you would like to see based on the 2018-based projections?

Developing an Updated Set of Projections

The current projections are 2018-based and are constrained to match the NRS council area sub-national population projections. Any future work to produce an updated set of sub-council population projections will depend on the publication of new sub-national population projections.

We are interested to know whether there would be appetite from PAMS members for an updated set of Sub-Council Projections, based on a more recent set of Mid-Year Estimates. To help us consider demand and how they would be used, it would be helpful if you could let us know:

- *Whether and how you have used these data?*
- *Do you have any case studies of how these have been used?*

Any comments or examples can be shared at research@improvementservice.org.uk