

HOUSEHOLD ANALYSIS REVIEW GROUP:

Minutes for the meeting of March 5th, 2007
Room 1/G/9, Ladywell House, 2-4pm

Present:

Esther Roughsedge (Chair)	General Register Office for Scotland: Household Estimates and Projections Branch
Jan Freeke	Glasgow Council
Alistair Harvey	Edinburgh Council
Stuart Law	Communities Scotland
Barry Stewart	Communities Scotland
Paul McNamara	Stirling Council
Tom Snowling	Aberdeen Council
Karen Trouten	Homes for Scotland
Alison Craig	North Ayrshire Council
Simon Bonsall	Scottish Executive Development Department Planning Services Division
Kirsty MacLachlan	General Register Office for Scotland: Head of Demography Division
Cecilia Macintyre	General Register Office for Scotland: Demography Branch
Nick Wright	General Register Office for Scotland: Demography Branch
Sharon Meighan	General Register Office for Scotland: Household Estimates and Projections Branch

Apologies:

Stephen Fraser	North Lanarkshire Council
Jonathan Davidson	Scottish Executive Finance & Central Services Department: Statistical Support for Local Government
Claire Boag	Scottish Executive Development Department Analytical Services Division
Duncan Gray	Scottish Executive Development Department Analytical Services Division
Thomas Robertson	General Register Office for Scotland: Household Estimates and Projections Branch

Agenda item 1: Introductions

1. Esther Roughsedge thanked everyone for attending the meeting, noted the apologies received and welcomed new members to the group.

Agenda item 2: Minutes of the last meeting

2. The minutes of the meeting in February 2006 were briefly mentioned and Esther asked if there were any comments or questions.
3. Regarding action point 3, Jan Freeke enquired if any further analysis was done on Aberdeen's population projections decreasing by 25% over the next 20 years. Celia explained that resources are short and that analysis will be carried out soon.

Agenda item 3: Dwelling Counts

4. Esther gave a brief presentation, main points included:
 - 4.1. GROS currently publishes neighbourhood statistics on number and percentage of dwellings by Council Tax Band, based on data from the Assessors' Portal
 - 4.2. In addition, number of dwellings by size and type will be published early May on SNS website (www.sns.gov.uk). Maps illustrating the figures for a few areas were also presented.
 - 4.3. Dwelling count figures have been compared to Census data to ensure consistency across Scotland
 - 4.4. Further analysis may be provided on request.
5. HARG members thanked Esther for her work on this and said that these results would be very welcome and interesting.

Agenda item 4: Small Area Household Estimates

6. Esther presented the paper HARG 2007(1) and emphasised to the group that it was a '**Restricted**' document and should not be circulated outside the group as it contains unpublished data.
7. Esther explained that the data used is from Council Tax Systems supplied by Local Authorities. Only half of LAs provided the information so it will be used as a pilot only and we will expect complete returns from all LAs in 2007. GROS will then publish data based on these results. **Esther will chase up all LAs to ensure data is provided in 2007 [ACTION: GROS].**
8. Household Estimates are currently carried out as at September, in line with data collected by the Finance and Central Services Department of the Scottish Executive. Some discussion followed regarding moving the date forward to June, however, it was agreed to keep to September. This will provide more consistency with previous years – and Jan

Freeke noted that it can take some time for Council Tax information on discounts and exemptions to be updated.

9. Esther showed some useful powerpoint slides showing maps of unoccupied dwellings, second homes, occupied exemptions and single person dwellings data in several council areas. It was agreed that the maps showed very useful information, and the trends were what those with local knowledge of particular areas would expect. Jan Freeke raised a question about showing information on tenure. **Esther undertook to look into this and compare the figures with Census data on tenure [ACTION: GROS].**
10. Jan Freeke also suggested that GROS should carry out comparisons of the number of households recorded in the Census (2001) and Council Tax systems (2006) [ACTION: GROS]

Population & Migration Statistics – Update

11. Celia MacIntyre provided an update, the main points included:
 - 11.1. Population Estimates to be published at end of April.
 - 11.2. Small Area population estimates to be produced in October.
 - 11.3. Population projections system (Popgroup) being investigated by a student in Strathclyde University.
 - 11.4. Methodology for SAPE will not change drastically but will be reviewed.
 - 11.5. Migration Statistics Unit in ONS are reviewing their method of estimating total International Migration and are currently working on these new estimates. GROS will consider the impact of these once they are supplied by ONS
 - 11.6. Research has begun on Short-term Migrants. Consultation paper from ONS has been circulated to LAs for comment.

Agenda item 5: Household Estimates publication

12. Esther presented the paper HARG 2007(2), and expressed that to the group that it is 'Restricted' until 29 March and should not be circulated until after this date. HARG members said they were happy with this publication.

Agenda item 6: Household Projections – Plans for the year

13. Esther presented the paper HARG 2007(3), which describes the work to be carried out by Thomas Robertson over the next year. Thomas is currently working on creating a new system to produce the projections using the SAS statistical package. Tom Snowling queried the use of housegroup. Esther replied that it was not flexible enough to meet the needs for GROS projections, however, she is happy to provide data to Aberdeen to test trends in housegroup, and would welcome any suggestions for ways in which GROS can help housegroup users.

14. Draft information on Communal Establishment should be available in the autumn and will be sent to LAs for comments. Definitions of Communal Establishments will, as far as possible, be the same as those used in the Census.

Agenda item 7: Household Projections – DCLG Review

15. Esther presented the paper HARG 2007(4), and promised to keep HARG members informed of any developments.

Agenda item 8: Household Projections – PhD

16. Esther presented the paper HARG 2007(5). Ashley will be based in GROS in September and Esther will discuss the objectives for his dissertation in May. Other ideas for Ashley's work included: Household by tenure or social class; and how many households are new and how many are dissolved – rather than just the total difference.

Agenda item 9: Household Projections – Comparisons with Census data

17. Esther presented the paper HARG 2007(6), and explained that the requested charts show how projections are based on past trends and the relationship to the actual Census results.

Agenda item 10: Household Projections – Household types and age groups

18. Esther presented the paper HARG 2007(7). HARG members said that they were happy with the suggestions made in the paper, and did not have any requirements for different household types or age groups.

Agenda item 12: Date of next meeting

19. It was agreed that the next HARG meeting would be held when there is a need for one – probably in September. **GROS will contact the group members to agree an exact date [Action: GROS].**

GROS: Household estimates and projections
March 2007