

Key Points from Consultation

Local Authority Users

Introduction

The following note briefly outlines the key findings from the local authorities response to the consultation on user priorities for official household estimates and projections undertaken in the summer of 2001.

Overall Response

On the basis of overall response to the survey it is implicit that there was more interest among local authorities in the production of official household estimates than projections, i.e. 29 as opposed to 20 responses from the 32 authorities. Ayrshire and Glasgow & Clyde Valley Joint Structure Plan teams also responded to the consultation on household estimates.

Household Estimates

- Official estimates are widely used by local authorities particularly in the assessment of strategic/local housing requirements and as a base figure for the calculation of performance indicators.
- In the majority of cases they are used in combination with other data sources.
- Most authorities suggested that it would be very useful to have the data further broken down by household type and tenure. This would have to be balanced against the practicalities of keeping this information up to date.
- Most authorities would also have found it very useful to have the data made available below Council area level. Introduction of the regulation allowing use of non-personal data from the CTAX base for statistical research would help enable this (survey showed most authorities anticipated that this would be more reliable than the established stock/household ratio method).
- The preferred option for dissemination was data output in downloadable format via email and the SE's website.

Household Projections

- Official projections are again widely used by local authorities particularly in the assessment of strategic/local housing requirements.
- The vast majority of local authority users felt that it would be useful to have a 16 year projection period which is consistent with the GRO's population projection period.
- Maintaining the existing biennial cycle of updating projections was seen to be of more importance than unnecessary changes to the methodology, e.g. increasing the range of household types.
- In half of all cases these are used in combination with other data sources.
- The preferred option for dissemination was data output in downloadable format via email and the SE's website.

Conclusion

Most authority users would like to see a more detailed breakdown of official household estimates by type/tenure and geographical area. Further to this, most users would like to see the projection period extended to 16 years. Users generally agreed,

however, that this should not compromise current frequency of production for either estimates or projections.

Next Stage

It is recommended that the Group consider how the future work programme should be prioritised to reflect the key findings of the survey from both a local and non-local authority user perspective. At its next meeting the group should agree a revised work programme which takes account of the identified priorities where practicable.

S. Fraser,
Development & Promotion Section,
Corporate Services,
North Ayrshire Council

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