

Population Projections for the London Plan Sub-regions

Key points

- The note indicates the current status of population projections for the *London Plan* sub-regions.
- Reference is also made to the plans for new GLA projections incorporating the results of the 2004 London Housing Capacity Study.

In the *London Plan* (GLA, 2004) the only reference to population numbers for sub-regions is in Table 5A.1 on page 224.

The populations shown for 2001 are the revised ONS mid-year estimates (London: 7.308m) that were released in September 2003. The populations for 2016 are from the GLA 2003 Round of demographic projections (London 8.117m). *Note that there is a misprint: the North sub-region total for 2016 should be 1177, although the annual growth figure (9.0 thousand) is correct.* These figures are from a provisional projection that was prepared in advance of the receipt from ONS of full data on population changes for 2001-02. *These projections were based on provisional migration trends for 1997-2002 and were **not** linked to the London Housing Capacity Study (GLA, 2000).* The full results were not published or given any wider circulation by GLA. It should be noted that the source of these projections was given in the *London Plan* as *SDS Technical Report 5* (GLA, 2003). In fact TR5 was published in May 2002 and did not contain any of these data and nor did the later TR23, published in January 2003.

DMAG Briefing 2004/5 (February 2004) showed the borough level results of the GLA 2003 Round demographic projections, particularly of Scenario 8.1. This projection was prepared at the London level as a central variant projection based upon an analysis of migration trends over the period 1997-2002. The base was the same set of mid-2001 estimates as in the *London Plan* and the projection shows a very similar London population in 2016 of 8.108m. *The borough distribution in this Scenario was obtained by linking the migration-based projection with the additional homes expected to be available in each borough from the London Housing Capacity Study. It was assumed that average household size was constant in each borough at mid-2001 values.* The *Briefing* shows the analysis that led to the figures.

***DMAG Briefing 2004/17* (July 2004) showed profiles of the *London Plan* sub-regions. This was the first publication that added up the Scenario 8.1 borough projections for 2016 to present the sub-regional totals. It is these figures that should be used as *London Plan Gold Standard* for sub-regions.**

The Greater London, sub-region and borough population projections shown in *DMAG Briefing 2004/25* were prepared by ONS. They were based upon the following main sources:

- Average annual migration over the period 1998 to 2003 for flows at borough level within England.
- Average annual migration over the period 1998 to 2003 for flows at the borough level with Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Rest of the World, including asylum seekers. In

the projection these flows were constrained to a long-term assumption for England of annual net inflow of 124 thousand.

It should be noted that the ONS model ensures that the sum of all flows for all local authorities within England is zero. Flows beyond England are assumed to remain constant at the long-term levels after 2006. The sums across all LAs in England are constrained to the national assumption, ie each London borough will have a constant proportion of the flows between the rest of the World and England based upon averages over the period 1998-2003. The ONS projection was based upon the ONS mid-2003 estimates (September 2004) that included the impact of re-revised estimates for 2001 based upon ONS studies on the accuracy of the 2001 Census in a number of LAs, including Southwark, Wandsworth and Westminster. The ONS re-revised London mid-2001 estimate is now 7.322m, 14 thousand more than the base used for the *London Plan*.

The ONS studies confirmed that the measured levels of migration at LA level between 1991 and 2001 were incorrect in many authorities, particularly in London (overestimating by an average of over 5 thousand per year in the case of Westminster). Whilst it had originally been planned that ONS would allow for these 'errors' in their population estimates after 2001 and the projections based upon them, this has not now been done. For London as a whole this is a trivial point but it is critical to the outcomes for certain boroughs. This is particularly so for Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster, where the migration figures used point to much too rapid population growth, and several inner boroughs where the migration figures point to too little population growth.

It is important to realise that the ONS projections are not intended to reproduce county plan populations or to reflect proposed development levels. They are intended to be a consistent backdrop for the whole country based upon the migration statistics for the most recent five years.

The ONS 2003-based subnational population projections should not be used as an update to either the *London Plan* or Scenario 8.1.

In 2005 DMAG will be producing a 2004 Round borough level 'Scenario' that links a migration led projection for London with the 2004 LHCS in a similar way to the 2003 Round Scenario 8.1. The projections will be based upon the latest ONS revision to the mid-2001 estimates for boroughs. It is likely that the London population total in 2016 will be somewhat lower than in Scenario 8.1 due to a more rapid downturn in net migration in 2002-03 than had been anticipated, however the extent of this impact needs to be tested. DMAG will be bringing forward suggestions as to how this should be done. Once the 2004 London Housing Capacity Study is completed, in April/May 2005, the GLA will issue a new set of projections incorporating revised estimates of future residential development activity.

Later in the year DMAG will use the results of the ODPM analysis of household representative rate trends, due to be published as part of the ODPM 2003-based subnational household projections in 'Spring 2005', to prepare GLA population and household projections based upon the 2004 LHCS. These projections will show households by type and age/gender/marital status of representative for boroughs, *London Plan* sub-regions and Greater London.

Comments or further information:

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