

REVIEW – POPULATION FLOWS

Contact Officer: John Wheatley
Telephone: 6449

Additional information requested at the meeting on 22 March

The Committee asked for further information on the following matters:

1. The differences between Office for National Statistics and Greater London Authority population projections;
2. The composition of the 'Other' category in household type used in analysis of census data;
3. Clarification of numbers of births in Hillingdon.

1. ONS and GLA population projections

Population change occurs over time due to births, deaths and net migration.

There are two sources of population estimates for London Boroughs:

- Greater London Authority (GLA)
- Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Both sets of estimates are based on Census data (the latest available is 2001), which is the most reliable data available as it is (or is intended to be) a 100 per cent sample of the population.

ONS census-based data is frequently used in population analysis, providing for example information on population density, mid-year estimates between decennial Census returns, age structures, and population turnover.

ONS and GLA methods of projection and data sources differ, resulting in differences that particularly affect long-term population projections, looking ten or twenty years ahead. The main reason for this is that the methodologies take net migration into account in different ways. The main differences in methodology are:

ONS

- Migration is constrained to national (England) assumptions about international and cross-border migration flows.
- Migration is based on average changes over the past five years in mid-year population estimates.
- Migration structures are based on survey data (GP registration data/International Passenger Survey).

GLA

- Migration is development-led, using housing capacity as a proxy to model net migration.
- Migration structures are based on 2001 Census.

The GLA longer-term population projections for London boroughs are generally considered more robust. This source provides a time-series of change and projections into future years, ethnic projections, and ward-level population projections.

Projection methods used by ONS may underestimate the population of London Boroughs because there is a higher rate of migration and population churn in London compared to the rest of the country. The underlying problem with ONS projections is the difficulty of measuring migration:

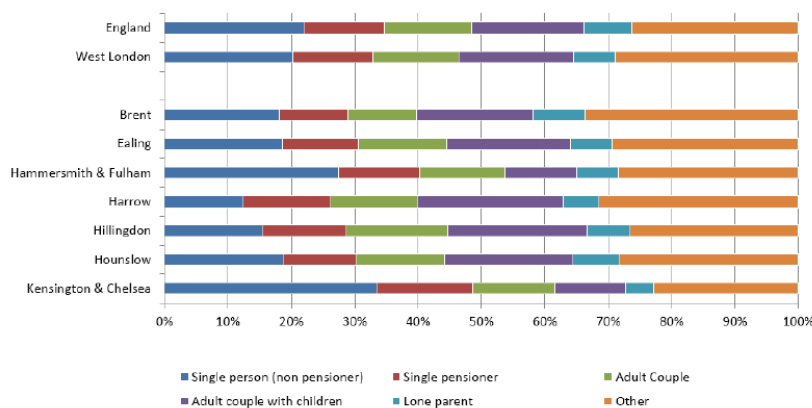
- Internal (within UK) migration based on changes of GP registration (delayed re-registration and non-registration). It is also difficult using the ONS methodology to assign usual area of residence to some groups of people: e.g. students, overseas students, contract workers, those with second homes and those who live and work away from the family home in the week, homeless people and those living in communal establishments.
- International migration is measured using sample surveys based on interviews with people passing through ports and on routes into and out of the UK. There is insufficient confidence in estimates of international migration for London, as it receives some 40% of net UK international migration, and results do not clearly show the area of the UK or London where migrants will settle.

GLA population projections for Hillingdon from 2006-2031 were shown in the Committee's report for 22 March agenda item 5.

2. Household types for West London Boroughs

Members asked about the composition of the 'other' category in the chart showing household type. The chart was taken from the West London Housing Market Assessment 2010.

Household Type by Borough (Source: UK Census of Population 2001)



The 2001 Census used the following definition of a 'household':

- one person living alone, or
- a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address with common housekeeping - sharing either a living room or sitting room, or at least one meal a day.

The 'Other' category in the chart includes multi-adult households that do not fit elsewhere in the categories. Hillingdon and Harrow have the highest proportions of adult couples and adult couples with children, at around 37% of households. Hillingdon has around 26% of 'other' multi-adult households.

Households consisting of one family and no other people are classified according to the type of family and the number of dependent children. Other households are classified by the number of dependent children or whether all student or all pensioner.

A family comprises a group of people consisting of a married or cohabiting couple with or without child(ren), or a lone parent with child(ren). It also includes a married or cohabiting couple with their grandchild(ren) or a lone grandparent with his or her grandchild(ren) where there are no children in the intervening generation in the household. Cohabiting couples include same sex couples. Children in couple families need not belong to both members of the couple.

3. Hillingdon Births

The Office for National Statistics publishes annual data for births by area of usual residence of mother, England and Wales.

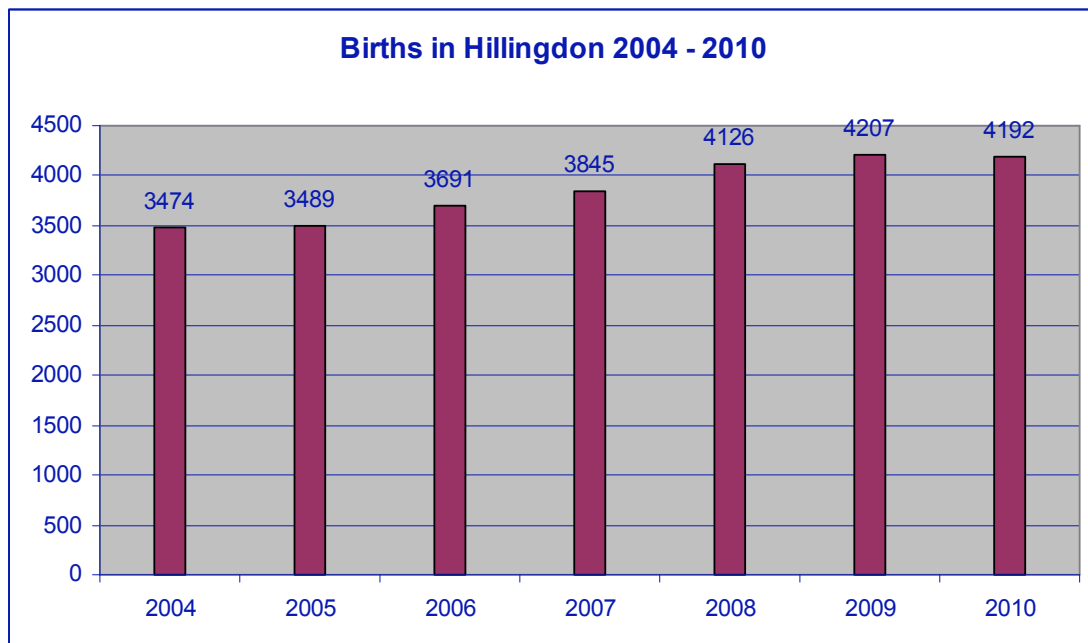
The most recent births data for 2009 and 2010 may be accessed at:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/all-releases.html?definition=tcm%3A77-210644>

The following page includes further information and mapping tools:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/vsob1/births-by-area-of-usual-residence-of-mother--england-and-wales/2010/index.html>

The chart below updates the information previously provided to the Committee:



Source: ONS - Live births by mother's usual area of residence