



Commentary on Welsh Government's anticipated 2017-based household projections

Comparison of Welsh Government sub national projections for Flintshire with indicative 2017-based projections produced for Flintshire County Council by the Corporate Research and Information Unit, Conwy County Council

Produced by

The Corporate Research and Information Unit
Bodlondeb,
Conwy, LL32 8DU.
Email: research.unit@conwy.gov.uk

Phone: 01492 575291

Contents

Background	3
What the figures show	3
Conclusion	4
Technical notes	5

Background

This paper provides a comparison of population and household projections for Flintshire. It looks at the official projections which have been produced by Welsh Government over the past decade alongside indicative figures for 2017-based projections. The indicative 2017-based figures have been produced by the Corporate Research and Information Unit in Conwy County Borough Council.

Official 2017-based sub national population projections are due to be published by Welsh Government on 31st October 2019. Household projections are due to be published in winter 2019 (date to be announced). It is likely that a 15 year migration trend projections scenario will be included in the official statistics for the first time.

Figures have been produced showing change for the current proposed Flintshire Local Development Plan period (2015-2030).

As numbers are only a projection of future requirements and are not an exact count, the results are rounded to the nearest 50 for publication, except for projected annual dwelling requirements and annual migration, which are rounded to the nearest 10.

What the figures show

Population totals grow under all scenarios. Growth for 10 and 15 year migration trend projections is likely to be lower for 2017-based projections than shown in the Welsh Government 2014-based projections, partly due to changes in natural change levels over the longer term (births and deaths), and partly due to a revision of population totals and methodologies which ONS undertook in March 2018.

Population growth in Flintshire is mainly driven by natural change. On average there were about 250 more births than deaths a year over the last 10 years. This gap is likely to reduce within the life of the Plan, as the baby-boomer cohort ages, and the trend towards lower birth-rates continues. The ageing of the baby-boomer cohort has implications for population totals as a whole over the longer term, and on the number of people of working age.

The growth in the working age population between 2015-2030 is partly driven by the changes to state retirement age which take place in the period, which temporarily inflate the perceived level of growth. The reduction in the pool of people of working age is a trend which will be seen across the UK (and most of the rest of the western world).

Historically Flintshire's net migration figures are low, generally fluctuating between +200 and -200 a year, and in officially produced projections has tended to average out close to zero when trended over 5 or 10 years. However there has been relatively high net in-migration in the past five years, bucking previous trends. International migration is the main driver of this recent rise except in 2016-17 which saw very high net UK migration. As the migration figures are reliant on modelling, it could be that this change is a result of changes to ONS methodology which mainly affects distribution of international migration. (The figures could also be anomalous, or could be a true reflection of what is actually happening).

Table 1: Summary impacts of population and household projections for Flintshire

Sources: 2008-, 2011-, and 2014-based population and household projections, Welsh Government; 2014- and 2017-based population and household projections, Conwy County Borough Council

	CCBC 2017- based 5 yr mig	CCBC 2017- based 10 yr mig	CCBC 2017- based 15 yr mig	Welsh Govt 2014- based 5 yr mig	Welsh Govt 2014- based 10 yr mig	CCBC 2014- based 15 yr mig	Welsh Govt 2011- based 5 yr mig	Welsh Govt 2011- based 10 yr mig	Welsh Govt 2008- based 5 yr mig
Average annual net migration	310	110	90	-40	10	130	-20	0	-110
Change 2015-2030									
Population - all	6,750	3,850	3,650	2,800	3,800	4,500	1,750	1,850	1,150
Population - working age	3,900	1,950	2,050	850	1,750	3,100	1,300	1,500	-300
Households	4,950	3,950	3,900	3,750	4,150	4,650	3,450	3,600	6,000
Dwellings total (before contingency)	5,100	4,050	4,000	3,900	4,300	4,800	3,550	3,750	6,150
Dwellings annual ave. (before contingency)	340	270	270	260	290	320	240	250	410

Figures for working age population take into account the changes in state pension age over the period.

Household membership rates continue to change at the same rate as they did between 2001 and 2011. (Household membership rates show the likelihood of people of different ages and genders to form households of different types, such as one person households or two adult + two children households). The trend towards smaller average household size has been consistent for many decades, though the rate of change has reduced and is now at a slower rate than was predicted prior to 2011.

Conclusion

Indicative results for the 2017-based projections do not show a significant departure from evidence presented by Welsh Government's official 2014-based sub-national projections. As such they do not suggest that Flintshire County Council needs to reassess its approach to the growth strategy outlined in the deposit Local Development Plan as they present no new data that would impact on the approach taken to set the housing requirement.

Technical notes

All projections were produced using the POPGROUP suite of software. Projections produced by Conwy County Borough Council use the same methodology and assumptions as the official Welsh Government projections, but update the data inputs where appropriate.

2017-based projections

Indicative only – uses 2014 methodology, 2014 age specific births and deaths rates, 2014 differentials for rate of change in birth and death rates. 2014 data is pre ONS population base revision (implemented March 2018 – all data back to 2012 was revised). Uses 2017 data for all migration ratios and totals, population base, and birth deaths and migration actuals 2011-2017. Household formation rates– 2011 Census based.

2014-based projections

5 year and 10 year migration – Welsh Government official projections. 15 year migration – produced by CCBC using 15 year migration trend but 10 year age specific births and deaths rates and differentials data. All data is pre ONS population base revision. Household formation rates– 2011 Census based.

2011-based projections

5 year and 10 year migration – Welsh Government official projections. Household formation rates– 2011 Census based.

2008-based projections

Welsh Assembly Government official projections. All data is pre 2011 Census rebasing of population and components of change. Household formation rates– 2001 Census based.