

Research Conference

14th February 2008

Measures of Wiltshire's population

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The Census of population

- ...is 200 years old
- The last census was in 2001
- ...and contains detailed and (fairly) comprehensive information about residents, households and accommodation and other topics...and detailed information on population
- The smallest unit is the “output area”

Undercounting in the 2001 Census

- All censuses have undercounted, but...
- The 2001 census adopted procedures to identify “all” missing persons
- Undercounting still occurred, especially in urban areas, but also for institutional populations

Government population projections

- UK (“constituent country”) projections are published every two years
- The latest sub-national projections are 2004-based and pitched at unitary/district level. They are “trend-based”
- Exceptionally, these were revised in response to a reassessment of migration flows

WCC population projections

For several reasons, WCC produces its own population projections:

- To take better-account of the military populations
- We require populations for small areas
- We have detailed data on dwelling completions and planning permissions which can help us
- We need to produce “variant” projections as part of the “policy-formulation” activity
- We need to have available policy-based projections

Policy background

- A cornerstone of strategic land-use planning is to set policy-targets for new dwellings
- Until recently, this was the role of structure plans...
- ..which are being superseded by Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS)
- The SW RSS will set down new dwelling requirements for each of the Wiltshire Districts for the period 2006-26, in addition to requirements for Chippenham, Salisbury or Trowbridge

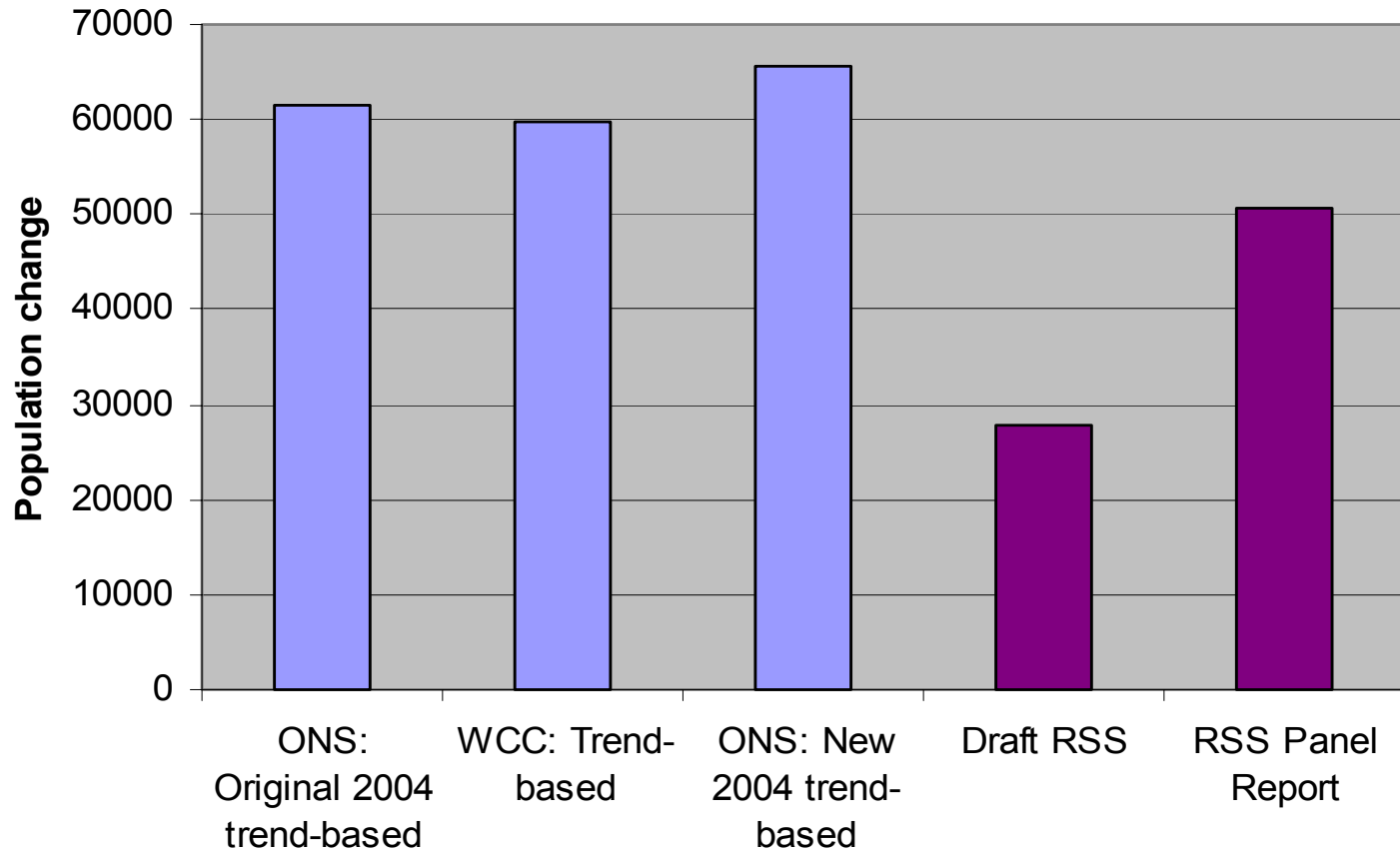
Translating population to dwellings

- In determining dwelling proposals, it is necessary to “translate” population projections to dwelling numbers or requirements
- Some dwellings will be occupied as second homes, some will be vacant at any one time, but, most importantly...
- Household size will not stay constant
- From time to time, the Government publishes new “headship rate” and household projections

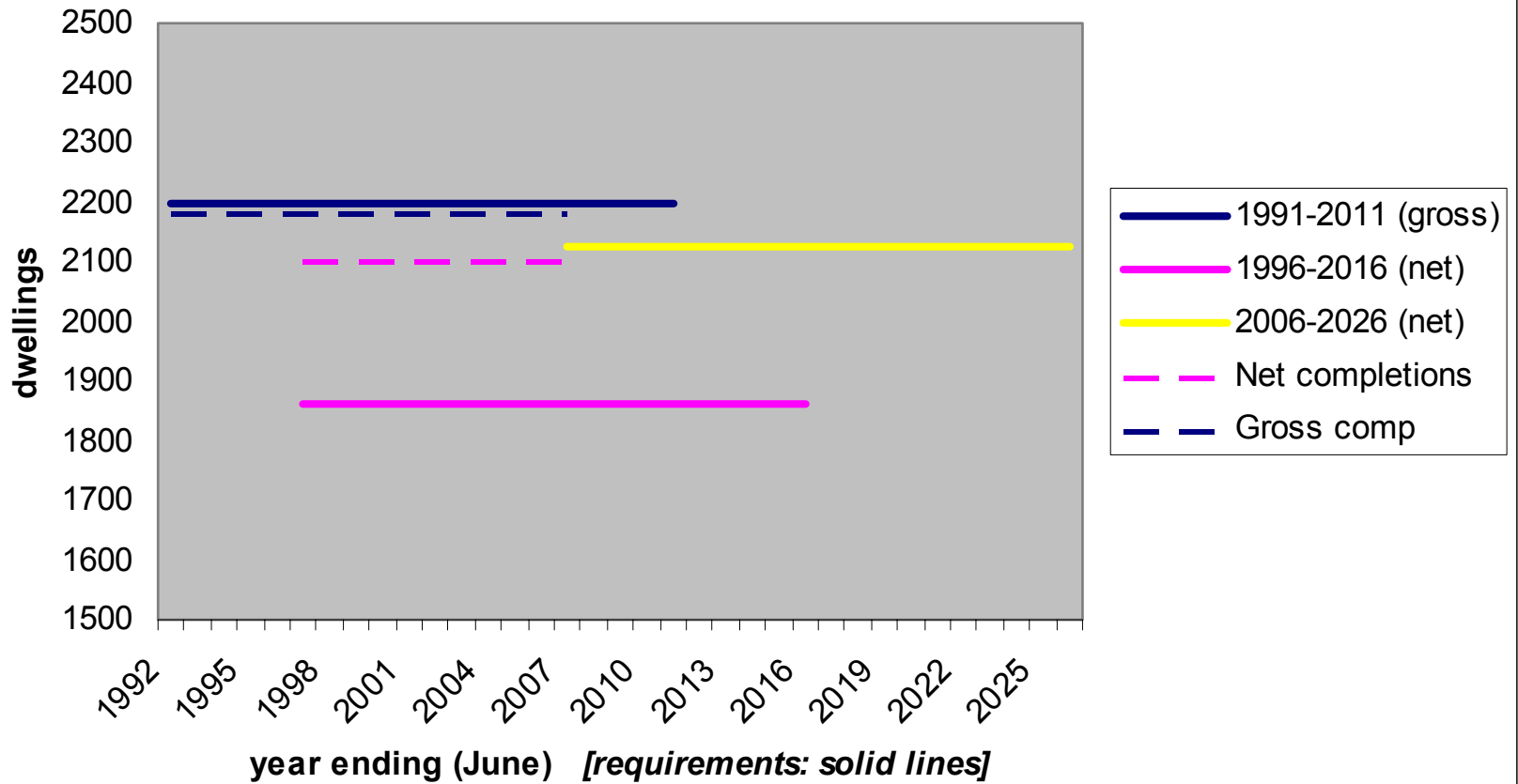
The RSS “requirements”

- The draft RSS proposed 1,735 (net) new dwellings p.a., 2006-26 (=34,700 over 20 years)
- New household projections were published several days later!...implying a halving of the population increase associated with the dwelling proposals
- A subsequent Panel report (December 2007) raised the proposed scale of dwelling provision to 2,220 p.a. (=44,400 over 20 years)
- The relationship between dwellings “added at the margin” and population change is constantly evolving

Wiltshire: projected population change, 2006-2026



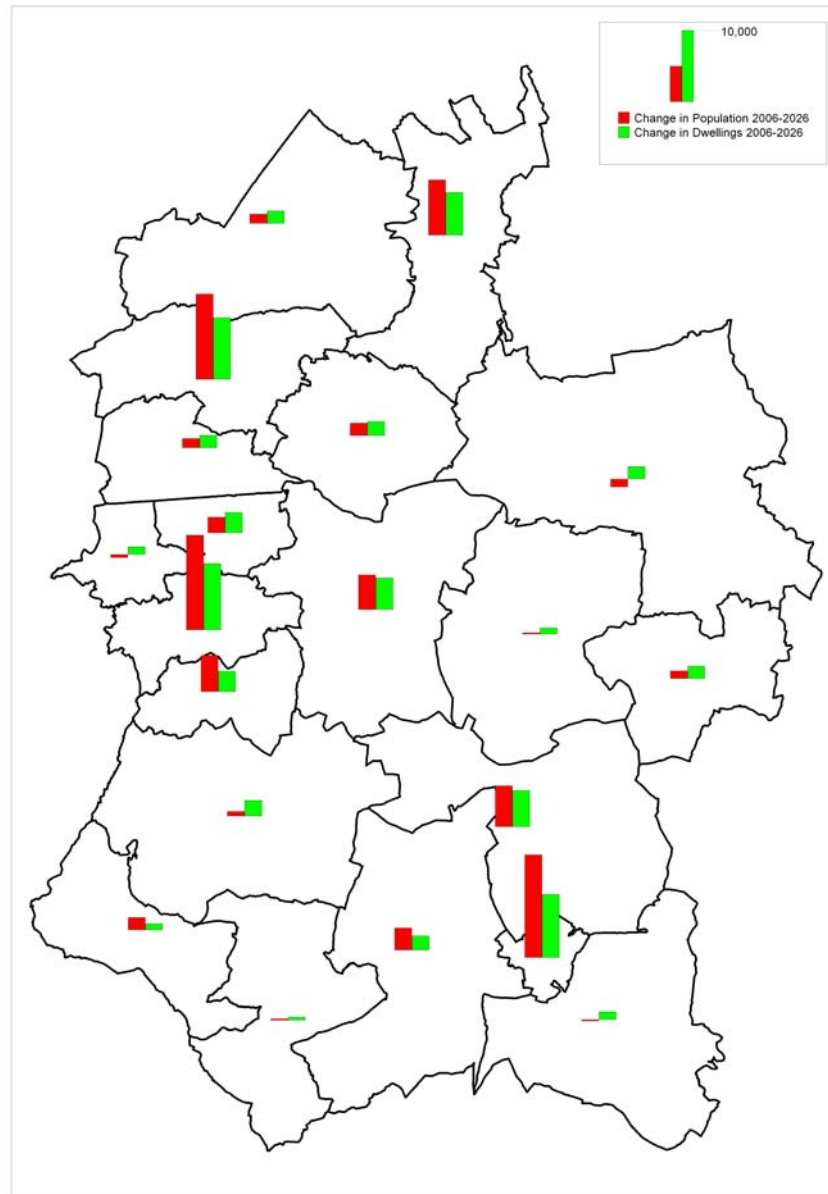
Wiltshire: dwelling requirements & average completions, 1991-2026



Implications of the Panel proposals for the Wiltshire Community Areas

- Most housing provision and population growth is concentrated in those Community Areas containing “SSTCs”
- Growth in the Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Community Area is high because of the Swindon component
- Not every Community Area is likely to have a population increase. The population of Marlborough and Bradford-on-Avon could decline; and the situation will be finely balanced in Downton, Pewsey and Tidworth CAs

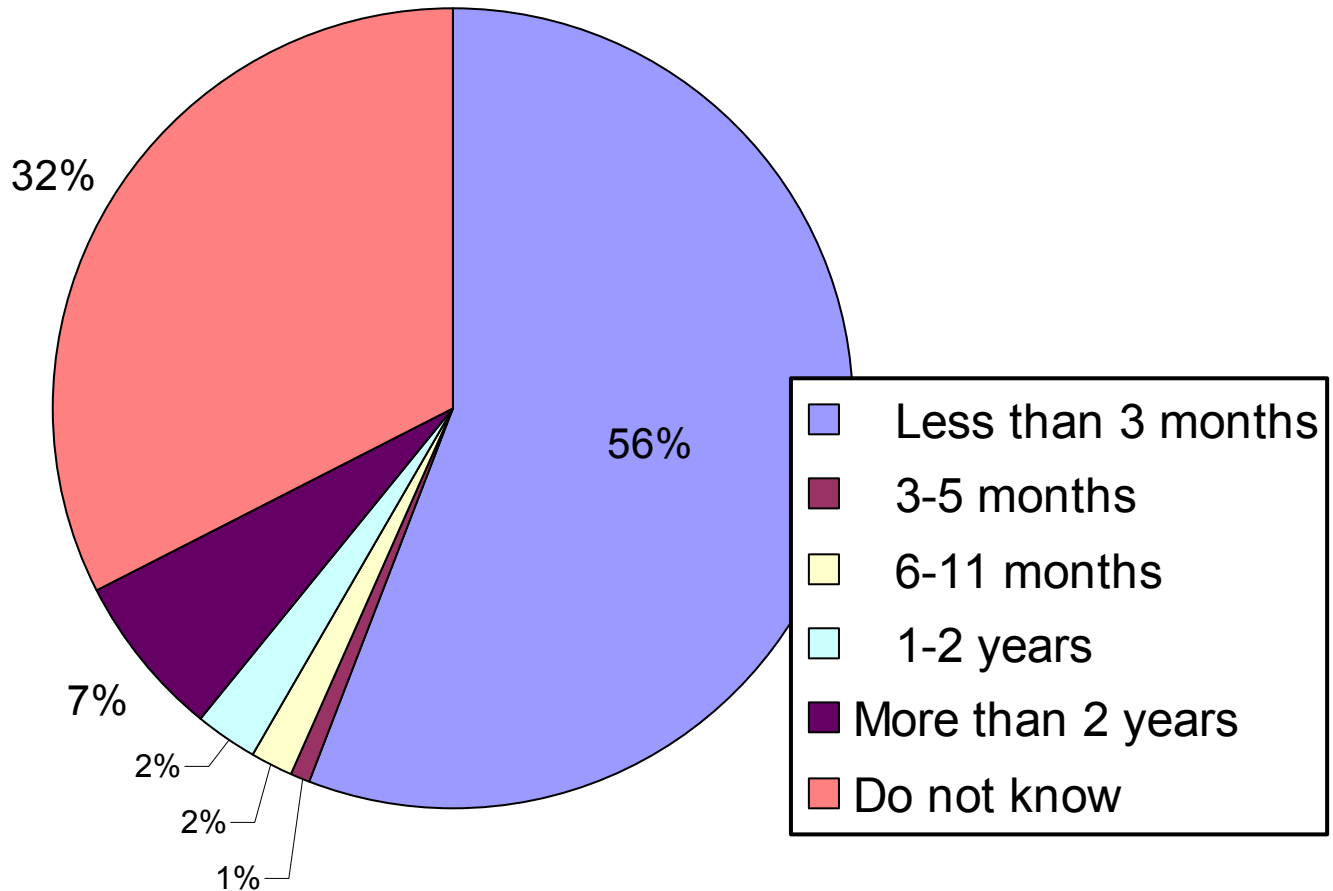
Wiltshire Community Areas: dwelling & population change associated with EIP Panel Report proposals



Migration

- In-migration to Wiltshire has been high - essentially domestic - and largely job-related
- Since 2004, “in-migration” from the “A8” states has increased greatly...
- ...but most incomers are likely to stay only for short periods (??) and there is no established pattern
- “Guest-workers v “migrants”

"A8" Migrants: worker registration scheme registrations,
May 2004 - June 2007



Concluding points

- “Non-demographic” factors will be important in influencing the size and mix of the future population
- The “trend” v “policy” dilemma never goes away
- We need an increased awareness of the distinction between “base populations” and “population present”
- We are ultimately dependent on the quality of data collected
- ONS v WCC: strengths and weaknesses