

# Methodology Note for Users: Cambridgeshire County Council's Mid-2011 to Mid-2020 Population and Dwelling Stock Estimates

## 1) Total Population Estimates

### Definition:

The total population figures are estimates of the usual resident population. The definition of the resident population used for our mid-year estimates is the same as that used in the 2011 Census as all students (including school boarders) are counted as resident at their term-time address. The population estimates include persons living in communal establishments as well as those in private households.

### Method:

Cambridgeshire County Council's population estimates build on the Census 2011 data. To produce the mid-2011 population estimates Cambridgeshire County Council compared the results of the Census with population data provided by alternative sources, including health statistics, school rolls and electoral registers, to establish a mid-2011 set of population estimates. The mid-2011 population estimates therefore not only include the change that has occurred due to the time lapse between the date of the Census and mid-2011, but in some wards (notably in some urban wards) may also address an element of Census undercount. The population estimates have then been carried forward using a consistent methodology to produce a set of mid-year estimates to mid-2020.

The sources used to compile the estimates cover the whole population age range: electoral registers and health service statistics for the adult population; child benefit data, school rolls and health service statistics for the school-aged population and child benefit data and health service statistics for the pre-school population. Where available, additional sources are used to monitor groups for which coverage is otherwise incomplete or uncertain. These include data sets on armed forces populations, higher education establishments, independent schools and other institutions such as nursing and residential homes and prisons.

Using electoral roll data to produce reliable population estimates has long been recognised to have limitations, associated with the compilation of the electoral register. At intervals there is a tidying up process whereby the names of people who have died or moved away are removed from the electoral register and attempts are made to increase the level of registration of 17 year olds and other sub-groups of the population. Changes also occur in the general practice of canvassing for the electoral roll which can impact consistency of responses. The electoral register can be a poor indicator of changes in numbers of students as well as service personnel

and their families living in an area. Consequently, it was recognised that changes in a particular area may occur in the number registered to vote that appear inconsistent with other indicators such as the number of new housing completions. The population estimates for mid-2011 to mid-2020 have been produced with reference to the electoral register data, along with consideration of other data sets as outlined above and housing completions data.

The population estimates are only as reliable as the sources and methods used to produce them. Certain parishes and wards, particularly those with large numbers of armed forces or students, are more difficult to estimate in terms of population size and figures are also likely to fluctuate more. Particular care should be taken in using the figures for:

- Areas with large numbers of armed forces and their families: the electoral register is a poor indicator of changes in numbers of service personnel and their families living in an area. Low registration levels reflect high turnover among those entitled to vote. Information from the Ministry of Defence is used to adjust the estimates where it is clear that our usual sources give a poor indication of change. Unfortunately, this source is itself often incomplete, particularly with regard to families of armed forces and those living in accommodation off the base.
- Areas with large numbers of students: experience suggests that many students, especially those living in privately rented accommodation, are not entered on the electoral register. Students from overseas may not be eligible for registration. Figures from educational establishments help in recording changes in the student population not fully covered by electoral roll change.

#### Rounding:

Figures for parishes and wards have all been rounded to the nearest 10 people and may not sum to district totals.

## 2) Dwelling Stock Estimates

### Definition:

Estimates of dwelling stock relate to the number of self-contained residential units whereby, if there is more than one separate area of living accommodation within a property, each is counted separately. Vacant properties, second homes and holiday homes are included, as are non-permanent dwellings, such as caravans and houseboats (where these are used as dwellings).

### Method:

The 2011 Census provided a count for the number of dwellings by parish and urban ward. For some parishes the ONS methodology means that these geographies are excluded from the Census results as parishes as they are too small an area. The ONS methodology covers the results for these areas through Output Areas, which it aggregates with those for a neighbouring parish. To address this issue, figures from the relevant Output Areas of these neighbouring parishes have been reallocated accordingly.

The 2011 Census count of the number of dwellings by parish and ward form the basis for the mid-year estimates. Estimates have been calculated using housing completions data published annually by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council to record annual change since the Census, with an estimate included to account for dwellings completed between the Census and mid-2011.

Rebasing the CCC estimates model every ten years can lead to some discontinuity between figures; comparisons with intermediate years' estimates should be made with some caution and small changes in populations should not be scrutinised too heavily.

### Rounding:

Figures for parishes and wards have all been rounded to the nearest 10 dwellings and may not sum to district totals.