

# Commission of Inquiry - Vision for Hampshire 2050

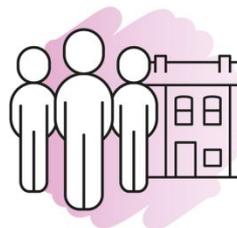
Evidence summary report

## Demographic and Societal Challenges

July 2018

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**HAMPSHIRE 2050**  
VISION FOR THE FUTURE



Demographic  
and societal  
challenges

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### 1. Purpose

The aim of the Demographic and Societal Challenges theme of this Commission of Inquiry 2050 project is very much setting the scene as to what Hampshire both as a place and in terms of its residents might look like by 2050. Focussing on the changes to the overall population, its age structure as well as how the population might live and its characteristics, and what any emerging trends might mean moving forward.

The aim for all themes is to examine where possible the following three questions –

1. What do you think might happen in the future?
2. How will that effect/impact on what we do?
3. How will the County Council and Partners need to react in light of this?

### 2. Introduction

Demography is the study of human populations – their size, composition and distribution across space – and the process through which populations change. In its purest form it is the study of three main demographic processes - births, deaths and movement.

The aim of this theme is to move beyond the pure demography to also capture society and the way people live and might live in the future.

Hampshire County Council’s Demography Team within the Research and Intelligence Group produce an annual set of Small Area Population Forecasts (SAPF). These figures link directly into the work of the school place planning team to produce pupil forecasts. The figures are also used throughout the county for a range of service planning and policy formation work.

The County also holds key roles in terms of Adult Social Care and Public Health for which the issues raised within this theme will directly link. Moreover, it should be noted that such an overarching theme as this will no doubt result in its conclusions having implications that reverberate across the whole of the County Council’s remit.

The County Council has a strong background in research and producing evidence-based plans and policies. This quality will bode well for Hampshire working to mitigate any negative impacts future trends might have. For example, Hampshire has experience in working with its older residents to produce strategies and services that suit this heterogeneous group.

A number of the main themes to emerge and grow from this work are also likely to be National trends. As such, strategies will potentially be limited and impacted by National policy and research.

One of the main findings this theme demonstrates is the ever-increasing complexity of people's lives. Therefore, the County Council will need to ensure any plans and policies can be flexible and adaptive rather than prescriptive.

Hampshire's ethos of fostering and encouraging a growing network of partners and stakeholders should enable Hampshire to be in a strong position to bring about service provision and policy that helps Hampshire's ever-changing population. For example, Hampshire's Adult Services current work with Amazon and their Alexa product for use within older people's homes is just one example of how Hampshire County Council is working, looking for new and innovative partners to work with to bring about solutions and improved lives.

### **3. Theme scope**

Demographic and Societal Change has an almost infinite potential scope and can be intertwined with many different areas including health and social care, housing, and the environment. As such some parameters have been set in order for the theme to keep a focus.

It is important to tell the story of Hampshire's population in order to understand its possible future. As such some historical population data was included along with the major societal events and trends from the time in order to gain an understanding of how Hampshire's population has got to where it is today. It is very hard to look forward without any understanding of what has gone before. Forecasts and projections have then been used to look at the possible overall population size and structure in Hampshire's population in the future.

The focus of societal changes segment then largely concentrates on areas associated with the key demographic trends that came out of the forecasts and projections. So, for example a key demographic trend moving forward is the continued and accelerated ageing of the population. As such society issues associated with an ageing population were given more weight in the analysis.

### **4. Expert evidence**

Evidence has been submitted by the following experts;

- Demography team, Research and Intelligence, Hampshire County Council
- Richard Pereira, Deputy Director, Population Statistics, Office for National Statistics (ONS)
- Andrew Cooling, Strategic Development Manager, Government Relationships Team, Ordnance Survey (OS)
- Professor Jane Falkingham, Dean of the Faculty of Social, Human and Mathematical Sciences, Professor of Demography and International Social Policy, Director of ESRC Centre for Population Change, University of Southampton, Maria Evandrou, Centre for Research on Ageing, University of Southampton, and Ann Berrington, ESRC Centre for Population Change, University of Southampton.
- Mark Braggins and Simon Eden, Associates, Southern Policy Centre, The Think tank for central southern England

ONS have been invited to talk at the hearing about the demographic impacts likely to be seen across Hampshire.

Ordnance Survey have been invited to present on Hampshire the physical place.

## 5. Key points

Hampshire County Council's Demography Team have provided an overview of Hampshire's population, past present and future. It takes data from its own Small Area Population Forecasts (SAPF) which provide a very detailed look at the likely future population of Hampshire in 2024 using the latest dwelling information to aid its quality, in addition to the latest trends in births, deaths and migration. The forecasts tell of a population that is to continue to grow but at an uneven rate with the majority of growth occurring in the older age groups. Using the ONS projections it's clear that this ageing is set to continue further and if anything, potentially accelerate as we move towards the middle of the century.

Whilst Hampshire has a relatively healthy older population, older people do suffer more from chronic conditions and make greatest use of the health and care services. Just the sheer increase in numbers of older people is likely to result in greater demand on such services moving forward.

There are also potential concerns to be raised regarding Hampshire's younger population with current increasing levels of obesity amongst the child population looking set to continue as well as affordability issues becoming a growing concern amongst younger adults across large parts of the County.

Looking at the wider societal trends the main stand out point has to be the ever-increasing complexity of how people live, a trend that is unlikely to diminish but rather grow over time.

The Office for National Statistics, using largely their own Sub-National Population Projections (SNPP) present the change over time in Hampshire's population and

break this down to the district level. Looking at the pure demographic processes ONS explain what is driving the change in the County. Ageing is a key theme coming through the report with an acceleration of the older population and a possible shrinking of the working age population key issues facing Hampshire moving forward. The number of households will also increase and many of them will be occupied by just one person.

The evidence submitted from the Ordnance Survey provides a background to the geography of Hampshire, the place and includes information about both the built and natural environment of the county. Information is also included about the location and type of new house building over the last 10 years.

The University of Southampton have focused their evidence on the challenges presented by the migration and ageing of the population in Hampshire. Of note are the topics around the movement of people out of the cities (Southampton and Portsmouth), 'studentification' of towns and the ageing of particular sub-groups of the population with special needs.

Meanwhile the Southern Policy Centre have taken a different look at 2050 and focused on the what if. They have produced two story scenarios which provide thought provoking opposing futures – one looks at what life might be like if plans are put in the place for the future and the other focuses on what might happen if the right decisions and opportunities are not taken They have also looked at the wider drivers of change, identifying what they see as the key challenges and opportunities.

## **6. Conclusion**

- Hampshire's population is an ageing one. As people live longer, often with more complex health problems there will be an increase in the demand for additional support.
- As a result of the ageing population and greater life expectancies 'one person' households are projected to increase, requiring more housing to be made available.
- The percentage of the population aged 65+ is projected to increase, but the child and working age population is likely to decrease putting an extra strain on society and the economy.
- People in Hampshire are living more multifaceted lives than in the past requiring more flexible approaches to future policy and plans.