

JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
22 September 2022
UPDATE ON THE PLAN FOR MAKING USE OF CENSUS 2021
RESULTS FOR OXFORDSHIRE

Report by Corporate Director of Public Health, Oxfordshire County Council

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Committee is RECOMMENDED to

1. Note that the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has started to release results from the Census 2021 survey, but it is not yet possible to access data below Local Authority level. More detailed data is expected to be released in stages by ONS from October 2022 to “early 2023” and analysis of findings for Oxfordshire will be published on [Oxfordshire Insight](#).
2. Note that the 2022 update of the Oxfordshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) will be provided to the Health and Wellbeing Board on 6 October 2022. Delays to the ONS Census 2021 release timetable mean that detailed population and health-related analysis of Census findings for Oxfordshire will now be included in the June 2023 JSNA.
3. Agree the scope of any specific data analysis to be provided to future meetings of HOSC, noting the dependencies on data releases from ONS and the plans of the H&WBB Board to publish JSNA updates.

Release of Census 2021 results

2. The national 2021 Census was carried out on 21 March 2021 and the first results – limited to data by Local Authority and 5-year age band – were released on 28 June 2022¹.
3. As described in an article published on Oxfordshire Insight² (see annex) this first release shows that:
 - (a) On Census Day, 21 March 2021, the size of the usual resident population in Oxfordshire was 725,300.
 - (b) Oxfordshire’s population grew by 71,500 (10.9%) since the last Census in 2011 when it was 653,800. This increase in Oxfordshire was above the growth across England (6.6%) and was as expected from Oxfordshire County Council’s work on housing-led population modelling.

¹ [Phase one of Census 2021 results - First results - Census 2021](#)

² [Census 2021 results highlight Oxfordshire’s growing population | Oxfordshire Insight](#)

- (c) Each district in the county has seen an increase in population, with the greatest change in Cherwell and Vale of White Horse (see annex).
- 4. ONS has not yet released Census 2021 results at any lower geographical level than Local Authority district – so we cannot yet analyse the findings for communities, or the differences between urban and rural parts of Oxfordshire.
- 5. ONS Census 2021 release plans³ show that data by topic and by area is planned to be published in stages from October 2022 to “early 2023”.
- 6. This data – especially the later, multivariate datasets - will provide a rich source of demographic and social statistics, including the health and caring responsibilities of Oxfordshire’s population, that we will be able to analyse and visualise by age, location (including rural/urban areas), ethnicity and other factors.
- 7. Extracts and summaries of Census 2021 results for Oxfordshire will be published on [Oxfordshire Insight](#).

Updating Oxfordshire’s Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

- 8. Each year, the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board receives an update of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) – a statutory process.
- 9. The JSNA report and related resources are used widely as part of service planning. Recent examples include providing benchmarking information on hospital admissions due to falls, data on the health and care workforce, supporting the review of care beds and the latest information on Mental Health and Wellbeing for the HESC Commissioning team.
- 10. The 2022 update to the Oxfordshire JSNA is currently being finalised for the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting on 6 October 2022 and the 2023 update will be provided to the H&WBB meeting in June 2023⁴. (From 2024 onwards, it is planned that the JSNA will continue to be provided to the H&WBB meeting in June).
- 11. The October 2022 update includes Census 2021 data at Local Authority level (all the data available so far from the Census) plus the older mid-2020 ONS estimates of population for sub-local authority areas.
- 12. For population projections/forecasts up to 2030, the JSNA makes use of two different sources:
 - (a) Population projections (available at Local Authority level only) provided by ONS which are based on past trends;
 - (b) Housing-led population forecasts produced by Oxfordshire County Council for small areas⁵, taking into account the predicted increase in housing across Oxfordshire from planned district housing trajectories.
- 13. Most of the health-related data used in the JSNA – including health conditions, hospital episodes and deaths - is sourced from NHS Digital, the Office for Health Improvement & Disparities and ONS. Using a range of local data for

³ [Release plans - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

⁴ [Update on the plan for the Oxfordshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment](#)

⁵ [Future population | Oxfordshire Insight](#)

Oxfordshire, we have created a JSNA health inequalities dashboard⁶ and an update to this will accompany the main report.

Financial Implications

14. There are no financial implications relating to this report as the work on publishing an annual JSNA and producing population forecasts is already accounted for within business as usual service planning.

Legal Implications

15. There are no legal implications relating to this report.

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⁶ [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment | Oxfordshire Insight](#)

ANNEX: First results from the 2021 Census for Oxfordshire

In June 2022 the Office of National Statistics (ONS) [released the first results from the 2021 Census](#) providing data at Local Authority level only, including population counts by 5-year age band and count of households. All data has been provided rounded to the nearest 100 and may not sum.

More detailed Census 2021 data for small areas and on topics such as ethnicity, health and the labour market are [due to be released by ONS](#) from October 2022.

Above-average increase in Oxfordshire's population

On Census Day, 21 March 2021, the size of the usual resident population in Oxfordshire was **725,300**.

Oxfordshire's population grew by **71,500 (10.9%)** since the last Census in 2011 when it was 653,800. This increase in Oxfordshire was above the growth across England (6.6%).

Each district in the county has seen an increase, with the greatest change in Cherwell and Vale of White Horse.

**Table showing count of usual residents of Oxfordshire and districts
Census 2011 and Census 2021 and change**

	Census 2011	Census 2021	2011 to 2021	Percentage change
Cherwell	141,900	161,000	19,100	13.5%
Oxford	151,900	162,100	10,200	6.7%
South Oxfordshire	134,300	149,100	14,800	11.1%
Vale of White Horse	121,000	138,900	17,900	14.8%
West Oxfordshire	104,800	114,200	9,400	9.0%
Oxfordshire	653,800	725,300	71,500	10.9%

Increases in the working age and older population

Between 2011 and 2021, Oxfordshire saw significant increases in the resident population of:

- Young people aged 5 to 14 (+15%)
- Working aged people in their 30s (+15%) and 50s (+27%)
- Older people aged 65+ (+25%)

There has been a fall in the number of children aged 0-4 (-8%). This decline in the number of young children was most significant in Oxford City.

**Chart showing count of usual residents of Oxfordshire by age and sex
Census 2011 and Census 2021**



Increase in households

The number of households has increased in Oxfordshire, with an increase in each district with the exception of Oxford City, which has seen a small decline.

**Table showing count of households in Oxfordshire and districts
Census 2011 and Census 2021 and change**

	Census 2011	Census 2021	2011 to 2021	Percentage change
Cherwell	56,700	65,900	9,200	16.2%
Oxford	55,400	55,200	-200	-0.3%
South Oxfordshire	54,100	61,500	7,400	13.7%
Vale of White Horse	49,400	57,500	8,100	16.4%
West Oxfordshire	43,200	48,000	4,800	11.0%
Oxfordshire	258,900	288,100	29,200	11.3%

Households are those with at least one usual resident.

Finding out more

- Find the latest population estimates and forecasts, including the Census results, on the [population page of Oxfordshire Insight](#)
- Explore the [Census 2021 first results from ONS](#) including some fun scrollytelling for [Cherwell](#), [Oxford](#), [South Oxfordshire](#), [Vale of White Horse](#) and [West Oxfordshire](#)
- From October 2022, watch out for more information on [Census 2021 results on Oxfordshire Insight](#).

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