Summary of User Need for the 2016/17 Work Plan

Meeting with Department of Education (DE) Population Statistics Users

Date: 17 June 2015

Venue: McAuley House

Present: Representatives from Population Statistics team, DE Statistics Branch and DE Area Planning Policy Team.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how NISRA could meet the data needs of DE to enable them to provide projected need for school places to the Education Authority, given the new eleven district council areas.

Background

- The area planning process relies on projections of need for school places locally over a 15 year panning horizon. These have been derived from population projections by single year of age at the old 26 (Local Government District) LGD level.

- Plans will now be developed at the new 11 LGD level (or combinations thereof). This will be a requirement given the new local council statutory powers in respect of community planning.

- However, the areas covered by the 11 LGDs are in some cases too wide for need projections to be meaningful.

Proposed Solution

- NISRA will publish population projections for the 11 LGDs. In addition, sub-LGD areas broadly based on the former 26 LGD model will also be produced. These will be within the new LGD boundaries, i.e. no projections will be provided for areas spanning the new LGD areas.

Timing

- NISRA hoped to publish the sub-national population projections by March 2016.
- NISRA staffing changes may compromise the target deadline.

Note due to staffing changes and the fact that statistics cannot be released in the run-up to the election (planned for early May), this report is now due to be published in May 2016 – DE staff have been informed.

Neighbourhood Statistics User Group Meeting

Date: 18 November 2015

Venue: McAuley House

Present: Representatives from Population Statistics team, Neighbourhood Statistics, NI Assembly and local councils.

Background
The aim of the meeting is to share knowledge and information on issues that are likely to be useful to key users of local area statistics.

The group were mainly interested in Census Key Statistics for District Electoral Areas (DEAs) and for NINIS to host statistics for DEAs; this may lead to a demand for population estimates at DEA level.
The next meeting has been arranged for February 2016.