Beyond 2011: Where next?
Census Advisory Groups July 2014

Peter Benton

Programme Purpose (phase 1)

- Identify the best way to provide small area population and socio-demographic statistics in future

- Provide a recommendation in September 2014
  - underpinned by full cost-benefit analysis
  - & high level design for implementation

The evidence

❶ Statistical research - Population estimates

❷ Statistical research - Population characteristics

❸ Public acceptability

❹ Data linkage methods

❺ Legislation

❻ Independent review - Skinner and international review

❼ Public discussions and the consultation (over 700 responses)

National Statistician's recommendation

- An online census of all households and communal establishments in 2021 - with support for those who are unable to complete the census online.

  AND

- Increased use of administrative data and surveys in order to enhance the statistics from the 2021 census and improve annual statistics between censuses.

  ➤ Make the best use of all available data to provide the population statistics required

  and

  ➤ offer a springboard to the greater use of administrative data and annual surveys in the future.

What does this mean in practice?

Three key strands of work

1. 2021 Census operation
   – Research, development, implementation & operation of a 2021 online Census and CCS

2. Integrated population statistics outputs
   – Integration of census, admin & survey data to produce outputs

3. Beyond 2021
   – Research into the shape of the census and population statistics system beyond 2021

1. 2021 census operation strand

- Online collection, and implications
    - Digital exclusion, revised field roles etc.
- Modernisation of field processes
    - Field technology?
    - Email contact?
    - Postal reminders?
    - Etc.
- Enhanced use of admin data in data collection
    - Address register enhancements
    - Field operation targeting and management
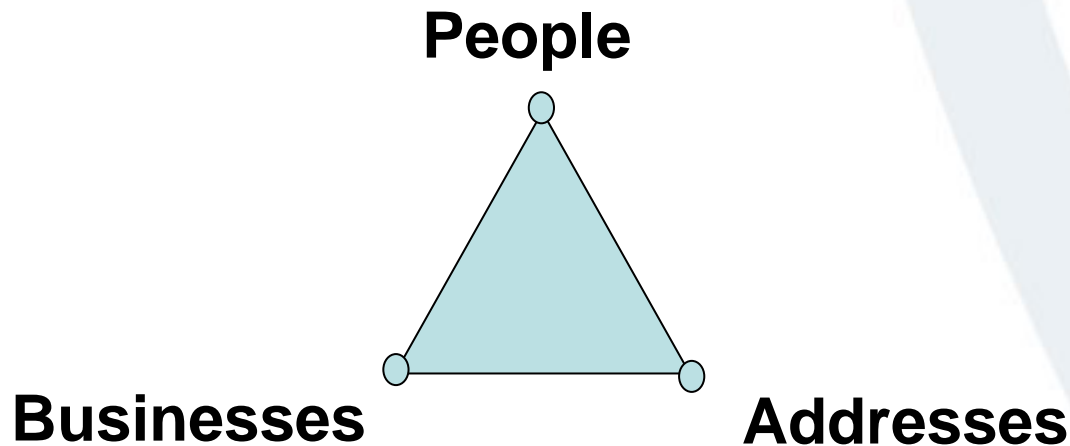
2. Integrated outputs strand

- Data integration – linkage, storage etc
- Enhancement of census records using admin data
  - Item imputation?
  - Person imputation?
- Production of enhanced census / pop stats outputs
  - including additional attributes from admin data?
  - improved accuracy, frequency and detail
- Early trial outputs
- Research into output production & dissemination

Range of options

- Ad hoc, piecemeal linkage

Through to

- Full integration of all sources, through time

People

Businesses   **Addresses**

- Lots of detailed thinking done already

3. Beyond 2021 strand

- Ongoing review of 'Integrated outputs' strand

- Research into the potential & need for new surveys after 2021

- Benchmarking new methods

- Proposals for the future of the census and population statistics beyond 2021

In scope

Across all strands:

- Research into optimal privacy provisions
- Ongoing development of case for data sharing legislation
- Address Register development (with OS)
- England and Wales
  - But close links with parallel programmes in Scotland and Northern Ireland

Eight programme phases

1. Research (Jan 2011 – Mar 15)
2. Design and prototyping (ends Dec 2016)
3. Testing (2017)
4. Development (2018)
5. Rehearsal (Jan 2019 – Jun 2020)
6. Collection operations (Jul 2020 – Dec 2021)
7. Analysis, output and dissemination (22-23)
8. Evaluation / future planning (23-24)

Research Strategy

- Developing 3 year research programme as part of wider 10 year plan
  - Key research issues and questions
  - Integrated plans to answer these questions
- Joint research academics, ESRC, internationally
  - Opportunities for partnerships
  - Joint working groups on key topics
- Publish research work plan later this year
- Publish trial outputs/statistics and research findings each year
- Annual research conference
- In conjunction with an annual research conference
- International Review Panel (21-23 May)

Planning milestones for the next 10 years