



# Research Note

June 2014

Briefing Note 12

## 2012 Based Population Projections for Sandwell

National and Sub-National Population projections are produced every two years by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Sub-national projections provide an estimate of the future size and age structure of the population of local authorities in England and are used as a common framework for informing local policy and planning as they are produced in a consistent way across the country.

They cover a 25 year projection period and the latest (2012 based) are the first full set of projections to incorporate information from the 2011 Census. They provide estimates of the future population by age and gender, based on local trends in fertility, mortality and migration over the last five years, constrained to the assumptions made for the national projections. They give an indication of what the future population size and age and sex structure might be if recent trends continued. They are not forecasts and do not attempt to predict the impact that future government or local policies, changing economic circumstances or other factors might have on demographic behaviour or the capacity of an area to accommodate a change in population.

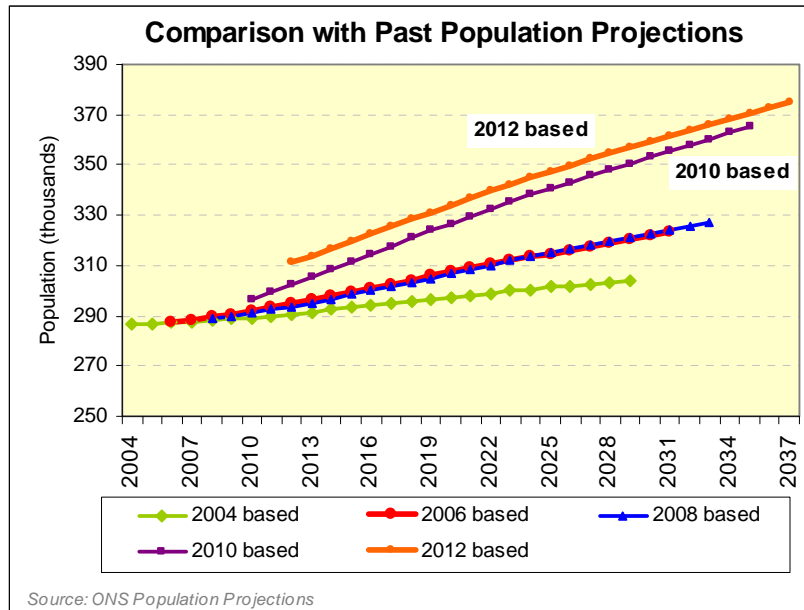
### Headline Summary

The projections show an increase in the population of Sandwell of 63,500 between 2012 and 2037, from 311,300 to 374,800, an increase of approximately 20% (a fifth). Over the first 10 years 2012-2022, they show an increase of 28,200 (9.1%) which is higher than the increase shown between the two Censuses 2001 and 2011.

They are higher than the 2010 based projections for Sandwell, both at the baseline and at the end of the projection period, although the rate of increase is very slightly lower. In the West Midlands Metropolitan area only Sandwell and Walsall have a higher projection at the end of the period compared with the 2010 based projections. For Sandwell, at the base date 2012, they are 7,000 higher

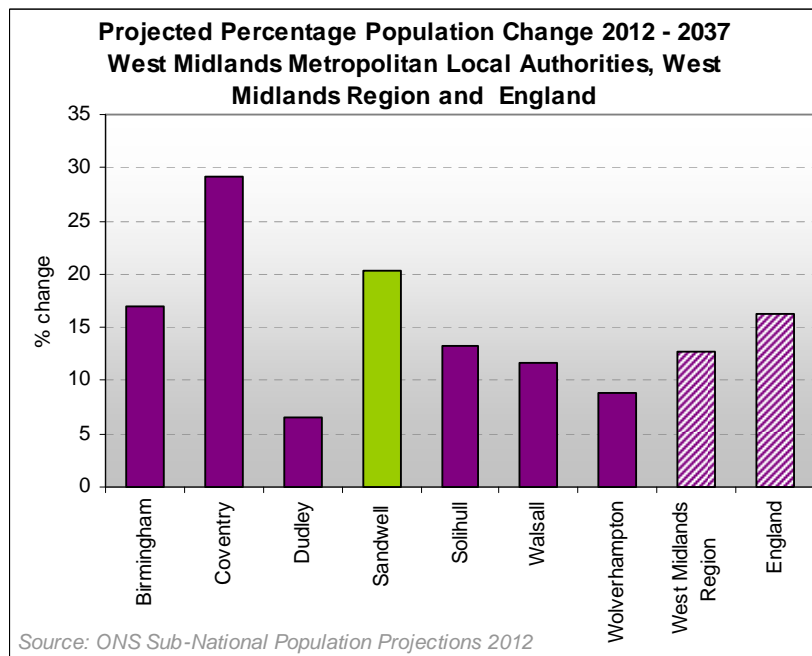
than the 2010 based projections, at 2022 they are 7,000 higher and at 2035 they are 5,200 higher.

Figure 1



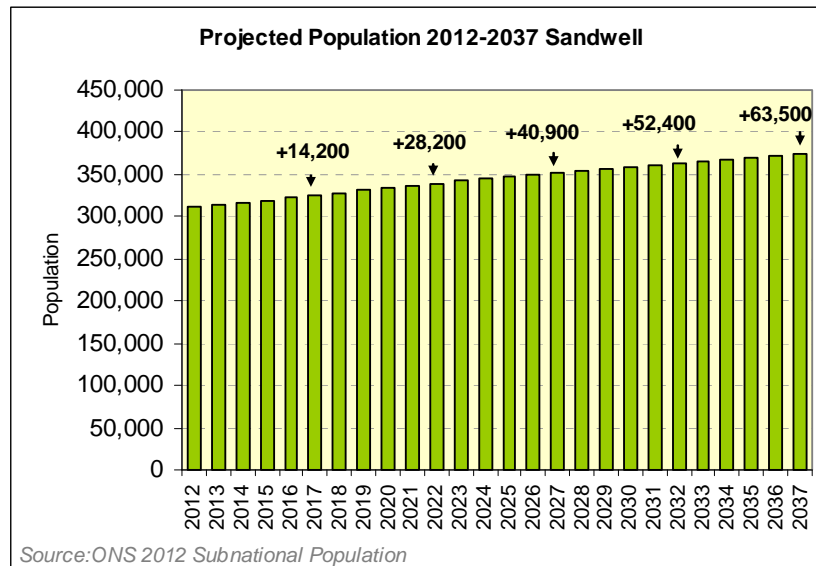
At +20.4%, Sandwell has the highest rate of increase of the Black Country Boroughs and the second highest in the whole of the West Midlands Region after Coventry (+29.4%). It is a higher rate of increase than that projected for England (+16.2%). In total, four local authorities in the West Midlands Region have a projected rate of increase higher than that for England as a whole, the other two being Rugby (+19%) and Birmingham (+17%).

Figure 2



The projected change at 5 year intervals through the total 25 year projection period is shown in the chart below. The average annual increase is 2,540. In the first 10 years, the population is projected to increase by 9% in Sandwell, compared with a projected growth for England of 7% over the same period.

**Figure 3**



### Projections by Age Group

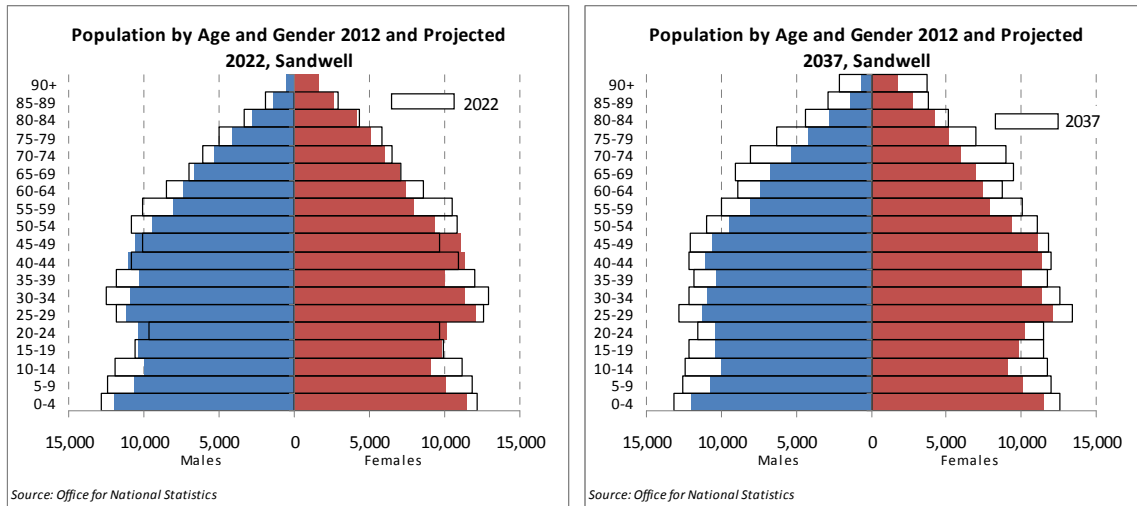
Sandwell has a relatively young age profile compared with England as a whole. International immigration has contributed to this; there have been significant increases in young families; a quarter of the population aged 25-34 were born outside the UK and just under 30% of births in the Borough in 2012 were to mothers born outside the UK.

At the same time there have been large proportional increases in the very elderly, aged 85+. These increases in both children and the elderly have significant implications for the council in terms of service demand.

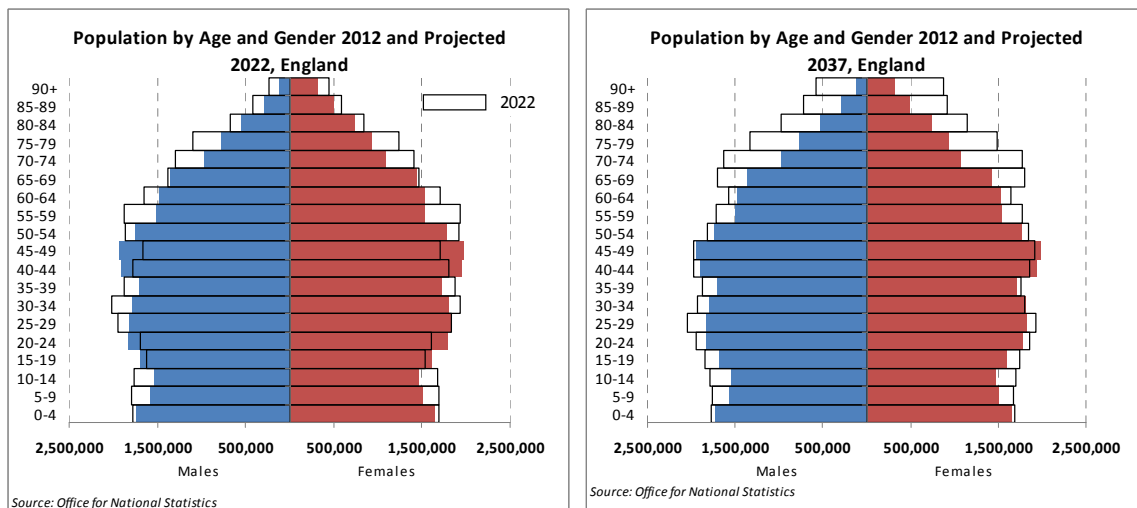
Over the first 10 years of the projection period, the greatest projected increases are in people in their 50s, 30s and children aged 5-14 as the current age cohorts are rolled forward. There are decreases in the 20-24 and 40-49 age groups.

Over the full 25 year period, all age groups show an increase. The greatest numerical increases are among older people and children, particularly the age groups 65-74 and 10-14. The greatest percentage increases are in the very elderly age groups. The population pyramids in Figure 4 show the change over the first 10 years and the full 25 years.

Figure 4



A comparison with the equivalent pyramids for England (below) illustrates Sandwell's younger age profile with their wider bases. The pyramids on the right, showing the projected growth by 2037, show a much more evenly spread growth across the age groups for Sandwell compared with the concentration of growth in older age groups for England.



## Children

There has been a significant and sustained increase in births in Sandwell in recent years. In 2004, there were just over 4,100 births, by 2012 there were over a 1,000 more births. This compares to a figure of 25.9% for England and Wales. In 2012 there were more 0-4 year olds than any other of the 5 year age bands shown in the population pyramids.

The projected increase over the first 10 years shows large increases in the numbers of children aged 5-9 and 10-14 as the current population in the younger

age cohorts are rolled forward. There are also further increases in the number of births.

Over the full 25 year projection period the number of children (aged 0-15) is projected to increase by 11,800, an increase of 17.5% compared with an increase of only 9.4% for England. Within this age group, 8-13 year olds are projected to increase the most.

### Working Age

There is a projected increase of 28,400 (+14.5%) people of working age(16-64) over the 25 year period, however, the working age population as a proportion of the total population is projected to decrease from 63% to 60%.

### Older People

There is projected to be an additional 23,400 older people (aged 65+) living in Sandwell (2012-2037), an increase of just under a half, (+49%). Older people are projected to increase as a proportion of the total population from 15% to 19%.

The greatest proportional increases are among the elderly. The population aged 85+ is expected to almost double over the projection period.

## **Components of Population Change**

The assumptions made in the calculation of these projections result in 'natural change' (births minus deaths) being the main contributor to the population increase in Sandwell from 2012 to 2037. International migration is assumed to remain stable throughout, with an annual inflow of 2,200 and outflow of 700. Internal migration, both in and out of Sandwell is projected to increase slightly while cross border migration is assumed to remain stable. Both internal and cross border migration have a net decrease over the 25 year projection period. Overall, projected net migration shows more people moving into Sandwell than moving out up to 2025 then slightly more people moving out of Sandwell than moving in from 2028-2037.

However, migration assumptions are the major source of uncertainty for long-term population projections. Future international migration is more difficult to project than fertility and mortality because migration flows are typically affected by sudden changes in economic, social, or political factors which are hard to predict or quantify.

## Conclusions

The 2012 based population projections for Sandwell indicate an increase of 63,500 (+20.4%) between 2012 and 2037 to 374,800, This is the second highest rate of increase in the West Midlands Region after Coventry.

The increase in population is spread more broadly across the age groups than nationally with greater percentage increases in children and although the increases in elderly people are not as pronounced as for the country as a whole, there are nevertheless significant increases, with those over 65 projected to increase by almost a half and those over 85 projected to double by 2037. The increases in children and elderly people will place further pressure on council services, particularly on children's services, education and adult social care. The working age population as a proportion of the total population is projected to decrease from 63% to 60% over the 25 year period.

Natural change (births minus deaths) is the main component of population increase over the projection period, although past migration trends have contributed to the increase in natural change, particularly births. Immigration has significantly increased the population aged 20-34 and 30% of live births in Sandwell in 2012 were to mothers born outside the UK. Also, migration patterns are difficult to predict and are the main source of uncertainty for long-term projections.

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