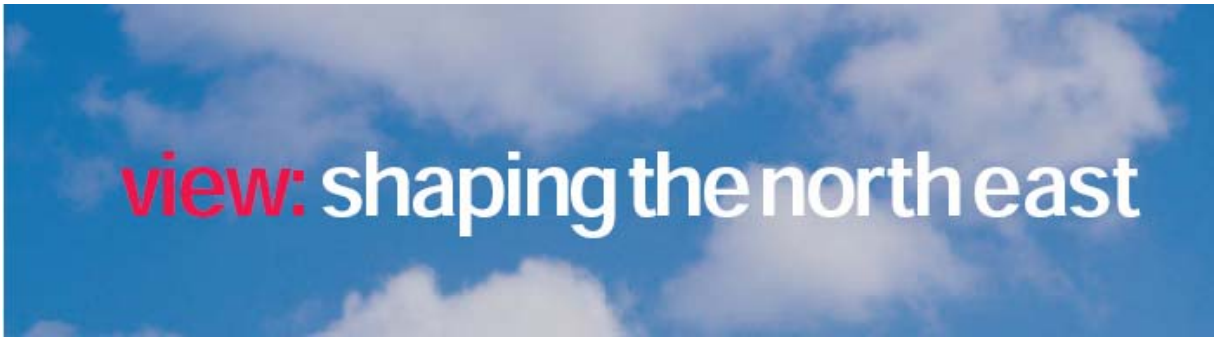

REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY FOR THE NORTH EAST

SUBMISSION DRAFT

EiP INFORMATION NOTE 2: ADDENDUM 2

CLARIFICATION OF PANEL QUESTIONS REGARDING ZERO NET MIGRATION 2004 – 2021

VIEW Shaping the North East

NORTH EAST ASSEMBLY
THE VOICE FOR THE REGION

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RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS

General Response

1. Each local authority has a different population, age structure, fertility and mortality rates and household formation rates. This means that if zero net-migration occurs there will be a given change in population, households and net additional dwelling requirement for each local authority. Therefore if there were 100 net migrants, for example, in each local authority the result would be a different population change, a different household change and a different net additional dwelling requirement. This is because of each local authority's present population and 100 net migrants a different proportion will die, produce children and live in different sized households. As a result the population change and net additional dwelling requirement will be different for each local authority.

2. Furthermore another important assumption within the model is the vacancy assumption. As explained in the RSS Technical Paper 4: Housing paragraph 4.6 the model includes a 'vacancy reduction factor'. This enables inclusion of the 3% vacancy target set out in RPG1 and Submission Draft RSS. The model reduces vacancy to 3% for those authorities whose vacancy rate was above that level in 2004. These dwellings are assumed to meet some of the increased dwelling requirement. Thus this factor is subtracted from the net additional requirement to leave a residual requirement which appears as the net additional dwelling requirement. This is applied for the 2004-11 period only.

- Dwelling change – vacancy exceeding 3% = Net additional dwelling requirement

3. Therefore although at first sight it may look unusual to see a disparity between certain local authorities with similar migration levels and different population household and net dwelling changes this should not be unexpected.

4. Equally at regional level when comparing the June 2005 and October 2005 model runs at zero net-migration there is a 10,000 difference in net additional dwellings. This does not mean that 15,000 net migrants, for example, will produce the same difference in dwelling requirement. This hypothetical 15,000 migrants could be distributed in any number of different ways between local authorities and produce different net dwelling requirements and levels of population change.

5. The time factor is also critical. If there were 100 net migrants over night the population would change by 100. If there are 100 net migrants over 17 years some of them and the existing population will die or have children so the population change is unlikely to be 100.

QA. It is noted from the report that the Tees Valley enjoys a positive natural change component, but the Redcar and Cleveland figures catch the eye because they are so different from the adjoining authority areas. It is accepted that there has been a decline in the natural birth component over recent years, but does it justify the level of difference shown in the population figure in Annex B.

6. Although Tees Valley has generally enjoyed positive natural change, this has been predominantly due to Hartlepool, Middlesbrough and Stockton. Redcar & Cleveland has shown a different profile of largely negative or static natural change since 1997. The table below shows the population structure of Tees Valley as per the ONS Mid Year Estimates of Population 2004. Some of the key observations are that Redcar & Cleveland has the highest proportion of people in the 60+ category and the second highest number of people in this category. There are a similar numbers of people in the 65+ age group and in the 0-14 age group for Redcar & Cleveland where there is a difference of only 900. A similar observation is true when comparing the numbers of people in the 65+ age group with those in the 15-29 age range. This differs from all other Tees Valley authorities, in particular for Stockton, Middlesbrough and Hartlepool. It demonstrates that those of child bearing age at any particular time are similar to or out numbered by those with the highest mortality rate. Since the zero-net migration run does not lead to the younger population being supplemented by migrants the projection logically takes forward an approach where mortality rates exceed fertility.

Age	Darlington	Hartlepool	Middlesbrough	Redcar & Cleveland	Stockton-on-Tees
0-14	18.2	17.6	26.7	25.3	35.4
15-29	16.7	16.4	29.8	23.8	34.9
30-44	21.7	19.4	29.0	28.7	41.7
45-60	20.1	17.5	25.6	28.6	37.5
60-64	5.0	4.3	6.1	8.0	8.9
65+	16.9	14.9	20.8	24.4	27.7
All Ages	**98.6**	**90.1**	**138.0**	**138.8**	**186.1**
Proportion of Population					
0-14	18	20	19	18	19
15-29	17	18	22	17	19
30-44	22	22	21	21	22
45-60	20	19	19	21	20
60-64	5	5	4	6	5
65+	17	17	15	18	15

Source: ONS Mid Year Estimates of Population for 2004

QB. From the evidence in the Mid-Year Population Estimates information the natural change performance of Durham does not seem to be that different from some of the other authority areas in the county. Hence the positive population change against surrounding negatives generates uncertainty. It is also surprising that the net dwelling forecast for Durham city is so much higher than its neighbours given a very similar starting point.

7. The Table below shows the population structure of each local authority in County Durham according to the Mid Year Estimates of Population for 2004.

	Chester-le-Street	Derwentside	Durham City	Easington	Sedgefield	Teesdale	Wear Valley
0-14	9.2	14.9	13.1	17.1	15.7	3.9	10.9
15-29	8.4	14.2	23.9	16.2	14.9	3.8	9.7
30-44	12.3	19.0	18.3	19.8	18.9	5.0	13.3
45-60	11.4	18.0	17.6	18.4	18.6	5.8	13.3
60-64	3.0	4.8	4.6	4.9	4.8	1.6	3.5
65+	8.9	15.2	13.2	16.2	14.8	4.8	11.1
All Ages	53.2	86.1	90.7	92.6	87.7	24.9	61.8
Proportion of Population							
0-14	17	17	14	18	18	16	18
15-29	16	16	26	17	17	15	16
30-44	23	22	20	21	22	20	22
45-60	21	21	19	20	21	23	22
60-64	6	6	5	5	5	6	6
65+	17	18	15	17	17	19	18
All Ages	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: ONS Mid Year Estimates of Population for 2004

8. The table above shows that most authorities in County Durham have a similar population structure with the exception of Durham City. Durham City has between 9% and 11% more people in the 15-29 age group than the rest of County Durham. More detailed analysis in the table below illustrates that there is a significantly higher proportion of Durham City's population in the 15-19 and 20-24 age groups. In particular Durham City has just fewer than 12,000 people in the 20 to 24 age group.

Percentage of Population Represented by these Age Groups (MYE 2004)

Age	Chester-le-Street	Derwentside	Durham	Easington	Sedgefield	Teesdale	Wear Valley
15-19	6	6	8	7	7	6	6
20-24	5	5	13	6	5	5	5

Source: ONS Mid Year Estimates of Population for 2004

9. The presence of this large group of young people has an impact on the mortality and fertility rates. Therefore the population of Durham City as a whole has an improved mortality and fertility rate. This may well differ from surrounding local authorities that do not benefit from large student populations and where a larger proportion of the population has been involved in coal mining and other heavy industry which have associated health implications, and an influence on mortality rates.

QC. In the case of Blyth Valley it is presumed that it is a younger more fertile population base because of past migration to places such as Cramlington that differentiates it from neighbouring areas such as Wansbeck.

10. The present population structure is shown below and taken from the Mid Estimates of Population for 2004. It shows that the largest proportion of the population (39%) is of child bearing age, assuming this to be 15 to 44 years. Comparison with Wansbeck reveals that it and Blyth Valley have a very similar population structure. However, although the proportions are very similar for both Authorities there are at least 8,000 more people between 15 to 44 years and 4,000

more people 0 to 15 years in Blyth Valley than in Wansbeck. These factors impact on the fertility and mortality rates for Blyth Valley.

	Blyth Valley		Wansbeck	
Age	**Population**	**%**	**Population**	**%**
0-14	14,600	18	10,600	17
15-44	32,200	39	23,900	39
45-64	22,500	28	16,300	26
65+	12,300	15	10,800	18
All Ages	**81,600**	**100**	**61,600**	**100**

Source: ONS Mid Year Estimates of Population for 2004

11. It is reasonable to suggest the role of Cramlington in attracting younger families. However, it is equally plausible to look at the role of Blyth in providing cheap local housing for young families priced out of their homes towns and villages and who try to find affordable housing close by. The model only covers local authority level and cannot say for certain if these effects are created by one, both or none of these factors.

QD. The scale of population loss from Berwick-on-Tweed in comparison with Alnwick, which has a slightly larger population, seems large. Furthermore there does not seem to be such a difference in the natural change components set out in the Mid-Year Population evidence.

12. Alnwick and Berwick-upon-Tweed both have similar population structures (ONS Mid Year Estimates 2004) and have very similar natural change although Alnwick had more births and more deaths than Berwick. The table below illustrates the population structures for Alnwick and Berwick local authorities, which are very similar proportionally. However, there are a much greater number of people in the 0 to 44 age groups in Alnwick than Berwick whilst both have a similar number of people in the 60+ age groups. Alnwick has less distinct differences between its older and younger population than Berwick. These factors result in increased fertility and reduced mortality for Alnwick than for Berwick.

Age	Alnwick	%	Berwick	%
0-14	510	16	390	15
15-29	450	14	370	14
30-44	640	20	500	19
45-60	720	23	600	22
60-64	210	7	190	7
65+	640	20	620	23
All Ages	**3,170**		**2,670**	

Source: ONS Mid Year Estimates of Population for 2004

QE. It is appreciated that the Newcastle upon Tyne natural change component in the last few years of the evidence has been more positive than the Sunderland equivalent. It is difficult to accept however the level of difference set out in the population change column in Annex B

13. Newcastle and Sunderland have shared similar natural change, and indeed births and deaths 1991-2004 (ONS Mid Year Estimates of Population). As shown

below both Sunderland and Newcastle have similar population Structures although 6% more of Newcastle's population (13,000 people) are in the 15 to 29 age group. Equally 3% more of Sunderland's population (10,000 people) are in the 45 to 60 age group. More detailed analysis reveals that 12% of Newcastle's population is in the 20-24 age group. This accounts for 11,000 more people than the same age group in Sunderland.

Age	Newcastle	%	Sunderland	%
0-14	44,100	16	49,600	18
15-29	69,400	26	56,100	20
30-44	55,800	21	61,400	22
45-60	47,000	17	56,400	20
60-64	11,000	4	13,800	5
65+	42,100	16	45,400	16
All Ages	269,400	100	282,700	100

Source: ONS Mid Year Estimates of Population for 2004

14. This will have the effect of improving the fertility and mortality for Newcastle but less so for Sunderland. There are a number of plausible explanations for this such as the presence of a large student population in Newcastle, mostly aged between 18 and 25, this improves the survivability rate of the overall population. The recent past in Sunderland has been dominated by coal mining and ship building from which, like elsewhere in the region, there are a number of associated health problems which lower life expectancy.