

Welsh Statistical Liaison Committee
A National Statistics Joint Consultative Committee
Minutes of meeting held on 3 May 2018
Llandudno Junction

Attendees

Llandudno			
Janine	Edwards	JE	Conwy County Borough Council
Elen	Hughes	EH	Snowdonia National Park Authority
Glyn	Jones	GJ	Welsh Government
Mari	Jones	MJ	Public Health Wales
Andrew	Stephens	AS	Data Unit Wales
Nia	Wyn Jones	NW	Gwynedd Council
James	Thorburn	JT	Ceredigion County Council
VC Cathays Park			
Vicki	Doyle	VD	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Leanne	John	LJ	City and County of Swansea
Paul	Jones	PJ	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Steve	King	SK	City and County of Swansea
Sue	Leake	SL	Welsh Government
Ann-Marie	McCafferty	AM	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Duncan	McKenzie	DM	Data Unit Wales
Jenny	Murphy	JM	Data Unit Wales
Simran	Vaja	SV	Welsh Government
Tony	Whiffen	TW	Welsh Government
VC Titchfield			
Sue	Barton	SB	Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Apologies

Phillip	Barlow	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park
Hywel	Butts	Welsh Government
Sioned	Cardew-Richardson	Estyn
Richard	Cardwell	Natural Resources Wales
Chris	Clarke	Torfaen County Borough Council
Fiona	Clay-Poole	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Brett	Davis	South Wales Police
Liam	Evans	Development Bank of Wales
Martin	Jennings	Assembly Commission
Helen	Jones	National Assembly for Wales
Geraint	Morgan	Powys County Council
Sian	Price	Development Bank of Wales
Lesley	Rees	Carmarthenshire County Council
Yuan	Shen	Bridgend County Borough Council
Russell	Watts	Vale of Glamorgan Council
Andy	Wilson	Torfaen County Borough Council
Lowri	Wyn Francis	Gwynedd Council

1	Welcome, Introductions & Apologies	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GJ opened the meeting from Llandudno, ensuring VC to Cardiff working adequately 	
2	Notes of last meeting and update on action points	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes from previous meeting approved Action 1: NSW team are aware of this Action 2: Update was given in data unit monthly update when previous meeting was cancelled Action 3: JT has been to some meetings re tourism data which were helping VisitWales colleagues clarifying their data; improve the capture of all tourist accommodation data including that which feeds into the STEAM model Action 4: JM encouraged Local Authorities to speak more freely with Data Cymru around communication issues Actions 5-8: Completed Action 9: Survey has gone out for people to respond to options for the qualifications questions in census Action 10: no comments 	<p>Action: Secretariat to send previous Data Unit/Data Cymru update out again</p> <p>Action: JT to contact tourism research group to ask them to do a note for WSLC on the work they are doing</p>
3	Review of information papers	
	<p>Welsh Government Statistics Newsletter: A number of issues were picked up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WIMD annual Indicator data won't be updated in 2018 Housing conditions survey has finished and target number of inspections reached Regarding the note re social housing rent arrears data, WG statisticians continue to, work with Local Authorities on what they are reporting and offer any guidance for coherent reporting JE noted that a meeting had taken place with WG do discuss issues about preparing updated estimates of housing need and demand. Next housing need and demand meeting is due to take place 22nd May <p>Demography update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some discussion took place about recent ONS events on the Census (Consultation events on Census Output Content Design and ONS Public Policy Forum) Members expressed their differing views of the various events they had attended Various views on proposals for Census outputs including some members positive about flexibility of ONS approach though hoping for more standard tables and improved metadata to be available, some wishing to be able to continue to use SASPAC for 2021 Census results and others recognising what a broad use of Census data there is (including, for example, for segmentation e.g. through ACORN) JE expressed a need for more information on holiday homes, second homes and caravan parks in the standard outputs for 2021 	<p>Action: SL to report back to group about next housing need and demand meeting at next WSLC meeting</p> <p>Action: SL to draw up Census Issues Log for Welsh Census users and seek input from WSLC and other liaison groups</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst the flexible dissemination approach was welcomed, it was noted that there would need to be support for non-expert users on why totals differed across different tables. • GJ spoke at a recent ONS public policy event and referred to the fact that census data is arguably more important in Wales because of the Wellbeing of Future Generation Act and the requirements for Well-being plans and assessments. He would encourage members (and their colleagues) to be active in putting forward their views to ONS on issues of interest to census users in Wales so ensure their views are being heard strongly by ONS • GJ suggested the WG statistics team should draw together a list of key issues for Welsh Census users (an Issues Log), reflecting input from various liaison groups to monitor reaction of ONS to those issues <p>Data Cymru Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JM pointed to publication of Data Cymru strategic plan and the launch of the 3rd Sector Data Hub (prepared for WCVA) • JM has had conversations with WG on open data; Data Cymru intend to publish an open data plan as part of the strategic plan • Local Elections Candidates Survey was published 2nd May and all LA's should have their results back • Recent work for Swansea University social policy undergraduate courses was mentioned. This included lectures about how to use data to affect policy development - new course to be introduced on policy making • A discussion on future availability of local school performance data was prompted by AM following a recent WG consultation proposing to stop routinely publishing teacher assessment data and National Reading and Numeracy Tests data below the national level • GJ noted that the response to the consultation has not yet been published, but also noted that it does not affect Key Stage 4 • All data will still be collected and LAs will have access to their own data • It was queried how guidance around target setting should be followed in the absence of published data. It was agreed that education policy should be invited to the next meeting. <p>National Survey & Housing Conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comments 	<p>Action: GJ will send update on response to consultation on changes to routine publication of school teacher assessment and national test data below national level when available and will bring someone to the next meeting to discuss this.</p> <p>Response: This can now be found here</p>
4	<p>Data explorer tool for labour market data</p>	
	<p>Presentation given by James Carey on this interactive labour market intelligence tool on skills needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FE institutions and Regional Skills Partnerships (RSPs) use this tool to look at data and build up geographies • If they become aware of new employers in an area, they can put them into the projections and make adjustments to match demands • The tool takes in information from online CVs and skills required 	<p>Action: JC to update on progress of LMI tool at a future meeting</p>

	<p>in job adverts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A procurement process is currently underway inviting bids to develop the system for rollout in July • VD questioned whether it would be possible to make local information publicly available as it is currently difficult to get local information on this to inform Well-being plans • JC responded saying they had 1 year funding and are exploring options through procurement JT mentions that data has to be available at geo-granular level as mobility of people within regions does not give specificity or granularity , though VD indicated that that travel to work areas need to be included • GJ note that whilst he understood the demand for small area data, labour markets should be analysed according to the appropriate economic geography. • JC will provide a demo in the next meeting 	
5	Thriving Places	
	<p>Presentation and demonstration given by Andrew Stephens on the Thriving Places index which had been launched at the end of April.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English index was published in February 2018 and showed that there was potential for work at the Wales level (Gwent pilot) • Thriving Places Index gives a score for the local areas; cannot compare with England and complements other measures instead of replacing them • Made up of 55 available measures and 3 dimensions (areas conditions, Equality and Sustainability) • Indicator descriptions are not currently available on the website, but will be made available • JM explained the methodology behind the index (normal distribution and standardisation on 0-10 scale) In general the indicators in a dimension are equally weighted. • JM will look at how comparisons might want to be used and find ways to facilitate this • Developing the tool has highlighted some data gaps and more development is in the pipeline and so more indicators may be picked up JE said that the tool will sit beside WIMD work • Will provide an update in March 2019 	<p>Action: AS to send list of indicators to group</p> <p>Action: AS wants feedback on how the Thriving Places index is used and how it could be improved</p>
6	Information Sharing	
	See AOB	
7	Feedback on Wellbeing of Wales Report Survey	
	<p>GJ provided an overview of this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Wellbeing of Wales first annual report was published in September 2017, the next edition of which is due to be published in September 2018. • There are no planned changes for the National Indicators contained within it but view are invited on the National Indicators and contextual indicators used. • Feedback from the user survey generally indicates that the report is easy to use but has jargon in places. • Further responses are welcome and a summary of all feedback will be circulated within a few weeks. 	

8	Economic and Labour market data	
	<p>Presentation by Mark Pont:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most economic data for Wales are provided by ONS. • Economic statistics are published via StatsWales and NOMIS but looking to develop more interactive outputs e.g. PowerBI. • Economic growth is targeted on nine key sectors highlighted in the Economic Action Plan whilst the basis for economic stats is moving from 4 regions to 3. • Views were invited on use needs for Economic and Labour Market data in Wales • AM wondered which economic indicators local authorities should use following a shift in policy to focus on prosperity instead of tackling poverty. • The mismatched timing of outputs from the Annual Population Survey (APS) via StatsWales and NOMIS was highlighted. GJ indicated that was due to differing priorities between WG and ONS and that rationalisation may be possible down the line. • Other suggested improvements included confidence intervals for APS estimates and better signposting between StatsWales and the statistics pages on the main WG website. • MP asked for any further feedback by correspondence. 	Action: MP to send link to Economic Action Plan
9	WIMD update	
	<p>Presentation by Nia Jones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The team have increased activity to raise awareness of WIMD. • There will be no 2018 tranche of indicator data due mainly to changes to income and employment indicators following rollout of Universal Credit. • The timetable for WIMD 2019 was presented. Four priorities for this next edition are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ High quality data for small areas ○ More help for technical users ○ Widen the pool of users ○ Further awareness-raising activity • It is also hoped that new and newly developed datasets can also be used in the new Index i.e.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Housing Stock Analytical Resource/Welsh Housing Condition Survey ○ Linked income and employment datasets from DWP ○ Broadband access data ○ Foundation Phase indicator • Consultation on proposed indicators for WIMD 2019 will commence in Autumn 2018. • JM commented on the value of annual indicator data • Some comments were made which will be considered within dissemination plans e.g. on guidance to provide explanations of change and on provision of numerator and denominator data to enable calculation at alternative non-standard geographies 	
10	Census update	
	<p>Presentation by Susan Barton at ONS via VC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantial work is under way for the 2021 Census including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Census outputs consultation. ○ The White Paper due in Autumn 2018 	Action: Members invited to provide ONS with any

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plans for a rehearsal in 4 test areas in 2019 ○ Online completion of the form in Welsh with an anticipated overall online completion rate of 75 percent. ● Following a question from VD it was clarified that data on Welsh speakers in England would not be collected ● Number of bedrooms not number of rooms per dwelling would be collected for the calculation of overcrowding. ONS are looking for the support of local authorities to engage with strategic groups and support particular population groups with online completion. There was some discussion about ONS's invitation to LAs to nominate Census Liaison Officers. SB will provide copy of invitation letter to LAs for WSLC members ● ONS are also looking for good stories of how the census has been used to shape communities. In response GJ would provide an account of how census data has been used following in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. ● In addition the Integrated Data Conference 2018 (IDC 2018) is planned for 9-10 July at the University of Surrey; SB will forward details and look into whether live streaming will be possible. 	<p>stories about good use of Census data in the past</p> <p>Action: SB to provide copy of letters to Local Authorities re Census Liaison Officers for circulation to LA members</p> <p>Action: SB to explore possibility of live streaming IDC 2018 and let WSLC know.</p>
11	Other business	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● VD mentioned use of the Thriving Places Index in the Gwent area, their use of the Happiness Pulse tool, alongside other futures-based research used in Well-Being assessments and agreed to discuss further at the WSLC meeting in September 2018. ● Regulations for Wales following the Digital Economy Act 2018 had been passed which named public bodies that could share data for the purposes of public service delivery. ● A new Commission has been launched for geo-spatial data in the UK to unlock data for use in GIS. ● An email is forthcoming reminding WSLC members of our use of their data and will include an attempt to cleanse the distribution list. ● WSLC may need a steering committee with a likely commitment of one teleconference per year. The Data Unit are happy to support this. 	Action: Add Gwent use of Thriving Places Index to next WSLC agenda

	Summary of Action Points	Status
1.	Secretariat to send previous Data Unit/Data Cymru update out again	Completed
2.	JT to contact tourism research group to ask them to do a note for WSLC on the work they are doing	
3.	SL to report back to group about next housing need and demand meeting at next WSLC meeting	
4.	SL to draw up Census Issues Log for Welsh Census users and seek input from WSLC and other liaison groups	
5.	GJ will send update on response to consultation on changes to routine publication of school teacher assessment and national test data below national level when available and will bring someone to	This can now be found here

	the next meeting to discuss this	
6.	JC to update on progress of tool at a future meeting	
7.	AS to send development of indicators PDF to group	
8.	AS wants feedback on how the index is used and how it could be improved	
9.	MP to send link to Economic Action Plan	
10.	Members invited to provide SB with any stories about good use of Census data in the past	
11.	SB to provide copy of letters to Local Authorities re CLOs for circulation to LA members	
12.	SB to explore possibility of live streaming IDC 2018 and let WSLC know.	
13.	Add Gwent use of Thriving Places Index to next WSLC agenda	