

GLA working group on strategic spatial planning co-ordination
Meeting to be held on Friday 18th October, 2013 at 2pm at City Hall,
Queen's Walk, London.

Draft Agenda

- 1 Welcome and introductions**
- 2 Aims and aspirations for the short working group**
- 3 Agree Terms of Reference, proposed below**
 - consider the policy issues on which strategic spatial planning co-operation is most important, and their geography.
 - consider the potential mechanisms which could be built with mutual support to foster co-operation between London and the wider metropolitan area, and their resource implications.
 - produce recommendations on key topics and mechanisms for co-operation, and their relative priority.
- 4 Discuss and prioritise issues requiring spatial co-operation**
- 5 Discuss and prioritise key mechanisms for co-operation**
- 6 Agree tasks for next meeting**
- 7 Date of next meeting 6th December 2013, 2pm at City Hall**

Things to think about before the meeting.....

- *Your own authority's experience with the duty to co-operate and examples of mechanisms your authority has adopted, and areas of strength and weakness in current approaches.*
- *The co-operation mechanisms that exist in your authority to translate higher level strategic co-operation objectives into technical work and evidence base to support policy development in land use plans.*
- *The geography of different spatial planning issues, the different scales they work and the co-operation approaches required.*
- *The benefits and drawbacks current shared working arrangements between authorities and with London.*
- *The relationships and boundaries between officer working arrangements and what they can cover and member working arrangements and what they should cover.*
- *Priorities for strategic spatial planning co-operation.*
- *Ideas for new co-operation mechanisms to address them.*

Working Group members

Richard Linton	GLA (Chair)
John Lett	GLA
Lee Searles	Consultant to GLA (Secretary)
Sue Janota	Surrey County Council
Jack Straw	Mole Valley DC/Surrey Planning Officers Association
Robin Miller-Scott	South London Partnership
Zhanine Oates	Essex County Council
Martyn Thomas	LB Havering
Stephen King	North London Strategic Alliance
Paul Donovan	Hertfordshire County Council
Paul Stimpson	Head of Planning Policy and Projects
Stephen Kelly	Harrow Council/West London Alliance
Steve Walker	Environment Agency
Nick Woolfenden	South East England Councils
James Doe	Dacorum BC/Hertfordshire Planning Officers Network
Tbc?	Bucks Planning Officers Group
Tbc?	Kent Planning Officers Group

Workshop on cross-boundary working

Notes of officer workshop held on 22nd March 2013 at City Hall, London.

Introduction

1. On 22nd March 2013, around 65 local planning authority and other stakeholders met at City Hall to share ideas and views about how to develop effective cross boundary working in the development of the London Plan and local authority Local Plans. The discussion was split into two main sessions, during which participants discussed in smaller groups the key issues on which more cross boundary co-operation is needed, and the mechanisms which could help to achieve it and also satisfy the requirements of the duty on each LPA to co-operate in plan-making. This note seeks to capture the key issues raised by the discussions and outline a next step to explore co-operative working on strategic spatial planning.

Issues on which co-operation is needed

2. Prior to the workshop, views on co-operation issues had been raised by respondents to the Mayor of London's discussion paper on cross boundary working. They largely reflected and endorsed London Plan Policy 2.2 themes as a starting point for a consideration of cross-boundary issues. Therefore, at the workshop, these were adopted as prompts for discussion, and then space was allowed for further issues to be raised by participants. For each policy theme, participants were asked to identify the first, second and third priority tasks required to address an issue, and consider how existing mechanisms might be developed, or what new ones are needed.
3. **Optimum development of growth areas and corridors** – Across the discussion groups, it was clear that the first task is to address key evidence base requirements relating to housing and employment, with an emphasis on the identification of shared methodological approaches (for example of SHMA and SHLAA), geographical definitions (for example of London Plan corridors) and assumptions about infrastructure requirements (social, economic and environmental). The second and third tasks related to the finer detail behind these, for example, space standards, parking standards, approaches to the delivery of affordable housing, and having regard to green belt, flood risk and natural assets. In terms of building on existing liaison mechanisms, a wide range were highlighted, including the LEPs, regeneration partnerships (like the Thames Gateway/South Essex Partnership and its north Kent equivalent), representative bodies like London Councils and South East Strategic Leaders, and professional bodies like ALBPO, the RTABs, POS Enterprises etc. New mechanisms required included joint studies across borders, a commitment to a co-ordination role by GLA and other mechanisms for creating two-way dialogue.
4. **Common policies and procedures between different plan areas** – The first priority is to identify and map common issues, then develop common or complementary methodological processes where possible and publish these. Some issues raised which would benefit from this included the role of the Metropolitan Green Belt and approaches to economic growth strategies, but would presumably also included the shared issues raised above (parking and

space standards for example). Existing mechanisms which could be used to progress these ideas would include waste technical advisory bodies, aggregates working parties and joint commissioning through planning officer associations. In response to the issues raised about approaches to economic growth, the idea was posed that polycentric approaches to growth could be rejuvenated. In terms of new debates, the role of London in the context of national growth policy was raised as an important one for understanding how growth could be accommodated and infrastructure investment delivered.

5. **Integrating policies for climate change and adaption of shared infrastructure** – The first priority task identified is to ensure issues are dealt with at the right scale in plan/policy terms. Examples were raised, such as the Gatwick Diamond which it was felt cannot tackle climate change issues at the scale it operates. On the positive side, the scale of the South West London Strategic Partnership has been an advantage in addressing drainage and flooding issues across a large geographical area. Waste, waste water and water issues were other issues raised. The second and third tasks related to addressing key barriers, including economic viability implications (for example of the Code for Sustainable Homes level 5) and member attitudes and knowledge of these issues. In terms of connections into existing mechanisms for these issues, the Local Nature Partnerships and Environment Agency River Basin Management Plans were mentioned. In terms of new approaches, there is seen to be potential for alliances based on responses to environmental opportunities and threats.
6. **Jointly owned policies to help rationalise commuting patterns** – First, there is a need to understand the complex patterns of commuting to London and other centres in the wider metropolitan area, and then consider the implications and potential factors which would influence them. It is important to establish an up to date evidence base for the wider area. Exploring common objectives and investment should be an aim. The role of homeworking needs to be examined in the context of SHMA. In terms of building on existing work, it was suggested that Crossrail impact assessment work could be extended to general rail and to a wider area. Network Rail needs to be engaged.
7. **Securing integration with other strategies to overcome barriers to work** – The first and second tasks are to understand and map the issues and work with local authorities to establish what is being accomplished through Local Plans in London and the wider area.
8. **Ensuring London Plan reviews have regard to plans and strategies of neighbouring local authorities** – Here it was felt that London needed to take on a greater co-ordination role, to understand what the impact of the London Plan will have on its neighbours. Knowing the state of plans and policies is important in order to understand what co-operation issues need to be worked through and with whom.
9. **Decisions on and implications of increased air capacity in the greater south east** – The most urgent need is for clarity, because decisions will affect employment and movement significantly across the area. There is a need to seek to influence the decisions in a way which supports London Plan and local plan objectives. Where possible, common positions should be explored.
10. **Understanding strategic growth options and opportunities** – Officer and member engagement is needed to create a shared understanding in London and the wider metropolitan area of the political and technical requirements for infrastructure investment and delivery. Maintaining an overview of infrastructure plans and provision is important.

There is a need to work with LEPs to identify local and strategic growth options. Strategic agreements in Zones of Co-operation across London and the wider metropolitan area need to be developed. A concerted effort is required to develop links with appropriate LEPs. There is a need to create a positive vision of what the growth imperative means for all communities in London and the wider area. Overall, there is a vacuum where the 'big ideas' for the region as a whole need to be developed.

11. **Other issues raised** – First, a clearer understanding of the impacts of London Plan scale growth on surrounding areas is needed. Second, information exchange and the development of shared methodologies to understand population trends and projections would be beneficial. Third, greater sharing of infrastructure and implementation plans prior to publication would encourage closer co-operation.

Views on co-operation mechanisms

12. In the second part of the workshop, participants were asked to discuss their views on the contribution that particular co-operation mechanisms could make and to consider their form and function. They were also asked to think about the steps in the process of establishing them.
13. **Co-operation strategy** – As originally written in the Mayor's discussion paper, the co-operation strategy for the London Plan would be a document which the Mayor would publish, setting out London's approach to co-operation based on dialogue and engagement with relevant stakeholders and an assessment of co-operation issues. It would be for local planning authorities to adopt their own co-operation strategies if they so wished, to address their own co-operation issues, which may include shared issues with London.
14. In the discussion groups, the idea of the co-operation strategy was welcomed, but the expectations about what it covered in principle varied around the Mayor's initial idea. Some participants viewed the co-operation strategy as potentially a shared mechanism for the whole region to adopt as an agreed framework, which others viewed as unwieldy and resource-intensive. Some suggested it should be light touch and headline focused, but others felt that this could be less meaningful in duty to co-operate terms.
15. There was agreement that the spatial limits of co-operation will vary by topic. There was a suggestion that a protocol could be adopted as a guide to how local planning authorities will approach co-operation (thus stopping short of an actual strategy). Statutory consultees would be included.
16. Some key steps were identified in establishing a strategy, including the identification of thematic and spatial issues which need to be addressed and their appropriate scale. A shared evidence base is important. Member involvement and a member decision making mechanism are needed. A clear understanding of the bodies to which regard is needed in developing local plans and the London Plan, could be produced in the form of a list and key checklist issues for each.
17. Most also thought it important to understand local planning authority plan development and progress, and to log co-operation issues.

18. Other components included a consultation contacts database, a forward work plan on co-operation issues, a shared website for sharing information, protocols and memorandums of understanding which could also cover some aspects of co-operation which the Mayor could carry out on behalf of the London Boroughs. A step-by-step process should be mapped out to aid understanding of how this would work.
19. One group raised the idea of a GLA Statement of Community Involvement and a Local Development Scheme with Annual Monitoring Report. (As originally conceived, this is what the annually reviewed co-operation strategy would be in practice).
20. **Network meetings** – Many comments about this idea were expressed in the form of questions, which will need to be explored and answered. First, there is a question of the focus of such meetings on information sharing or decision making, or both. There was a debate about whether they are focused geographically or by topic, or both. There is a question over the mandate for such meetings to make decisions, given (potentially) the lack of authority granted by members. There are, as always, questions about resources available for people to take part in practice.
21. There were also some clear views about how network meetings could work. There should be a clear focus on priority issues (perhaps identified through co-operation strategies). As much as possible, there should be a relationship with identifiable geographical areas like London's wedges. Sub-regions and corridors. They will be a mechanism for two-way communication. There could be a shared management process. There could be involvement of key statutory stakeholders. The aim could be to produce shared actions which will support the case for co-operation issues having been addressed at examinations.
22. **Online Forum** – There was not much support for a major effort on this idea. However, there was some support for the opportunity it could create for dialogue and information sharing. As such, most stakeholders felt that, if progressed, the aim should be to have such a forum sit within an already established online environment such as that managed by the Planning Advisory Service.
23. **Periodic Workshops** – The workshops were not much commented on in the discussion groups. At best, the workshops were seen as complementary mechanisms to the main thrust of co-operation activities taking place through co-operation strategy and network meetings.
24. **Sub-regional partnerships** – Overall, there was strong support for using sub-regional partnerships as a co-operation mechanism, in particular where they already cross boundaries, have officer and member buy-in and are willing to engage. A different suggestion was that existing professional bodies could develop a new role to promote co-operation, including the Planning Officers Society and the RTPI. Relating to the use of sub-regional partnerships, some issues will need to be explored – does it matter if there is incomplete coverage of sub-regions, in relation to the duty to co-operate? Are sub-regions appropriate for all issues and how can using formal mechanisms like this avoid getting bogged down when technical issues are addressed? Again, there is need to consider the role of LEPs in sub-regional arrangements.
25. **Topic Groups** – The discussion groups supported the role of topic groups as a key co-operation mechanism. Resources and funding are issues which would need to be addressed. The groups identified a range of topics which could usefully be examined, including housing, transport, employment, airports, ports, green belt, infrastructure and health. The work of

existing group could be further developed, including on waste, aggregates and flooding. The work of such groups could include research. Common approaches and where appropriate, apportionment. Support from DCLG should be sought for their work.

26. **Member liaison group** – The discussion groups felt an elected member liaison group is important to secure political support and buy-in to technical work being carried out on co-operation issues. There was a question raised, which would need to be explored, as to whether such a group would own the process in terms of setting its parameters, or would be more of a liaison mechanism without a formal agenda-defining role. A further question to be explored is the scale at which such a member liaison mechanism might work best. For example, would it cover the whole of the wider region, or might it best be aligned more tightly in geographical terms to the wider metropolitan area around London, or by quadrant, aligned to sub-regions etc? One group raised the idea to establish local members forums based sub-regionally, which would be attended by leaders and chief executives.

Next Steps

27. There was strong endorsement of the initiative being taken by the Mayor to continue to explore new working arrangements designed to promote co-operation on strategic spatial planning issues. GLA suggested that a small working group should be formed to explore the ideas presented and issues raised both there and in responses to consultation. The aim would be to examine in greater detail the practicalities and potentialities of co-operation mechanisms, with a view to establishing them where there is agreement. Participants at the workshop strongly supported this idea and so GLA said it would seek to carry this out over the next few months.

APPENDIX 1 – DISCUSSION GROUP NOTES ON CO-OPERATION ISSUES FROM GLA WORKSHOP ON 22 MARCH 2013

Co-operation issue	First Task	Second Task	Third Task	Existing mechanism to be used or built upon	New mechanism required
<p>Optimum development of growth areas and corridors</p>	<p>Evidence base and issues – population, transport, leisure. For housing and associated infrastructure, need to identify parameters on transport, housing, waste infrastructure, education, retail, economic development. Ascertain support from local authorities. Define and agree London Plan Corridors Housing – process and method for SHLAA and SHMA for London and adjoining areas. Define areas which can work together.</p>	<p>Growth issues beyond corridors. Other definitions for different issues. Identifying ways of providing affordable housing.</p>	<p>Green belt, SSSIs, Flood risk – balance with housing: ? Consider parking standards and space standards between London and adjoining areas, prior to developing policies. Consider GLA conformity.</p>	<p>Coast to Capital LEP Thames. Gateway/South Essex Partnership for engagement. Thames Gateway/ North Kent-Medway . London Councils (cut staff), ALBPO, POS Enterprises, South East Strategic Leaders, RTABs, SWELTRAC. SHMAs/SHLAAs/LEPs</p>	<p>Two way dialogue between GLA and Essex, Kent etc. Commitment to a co-ordination role by GLA required. Widen SHMA/SHLAA over borders – joint ones.</p>

<p>Common policies and procedures, between different plan areas</p>	<p>What should the Green Belt be used for – Play? Economic growth – countywide. E.g. Berkshire authorities agreeing joint methodology. SOG between neighbouring authorities. Complementary policies, not ‘common’ Identify and map common issues. Develop common methodological processes and publish.</p>	<p>Identify pressure on ROSE and London Green Belt. Scope and methodologies Discussion on affordable housing prior to drafting policies – different approaches.</p>	<p>Map structures and mechanisms.</p>	<p>Old polycentric structure to accommodate growth: should we rejuvenate. RTABs, RAWPs, joint commissioning through Planning Officers associations.</p>	<p>National discussion re growth – direct to the North or is London the centre of the growth universe?</p>
<p>Integrating policies for climate change and adaption of shared infrastructure</p>	<p>Gatwick Diamond – not big enough to tackle climate change. E.g. South West London Strategic Partnership – flooding and drainage.</p>	<p>Economic viability implications: lots of variation – e.g. can afford code level 5 in some areas but not others. Boosting member</p>	<p>Identify policy areas to address.</p>	<p>What is best spatial scale to address housing – at least sub-regional. Local Nature Partnerships, River Basin Management</p>	<p>‘Alliances of the willing’ where there are tangible issues requiring co-operation. Officers and politically led action driven by</p>

	<p>No co-ordination between similar groups e.g. flood risk.</p> <p>Waste, waste water and water issues also important.</p> <p>Prioritising issues.</p>	<p>education about the duty to co-operate (marketing) to secure political buy-in.</p> <p>Identify cross-border issues.</p>		Plans.	opportunities and threats.
<p>Jointly owned policies to help rationalise commuting patterns</p>	<p>Implications of commuting patterns rather than joint policies.</p> <p>Not just commuting to London but to growth districts in ROSE.</p> <p>Understand patterns versus factors influencing them.</p>	<p>Get south east evidence base for commuting done before refresh.</p> <p>Common objectives and investment.</p>	<p>Role of home-working - integrate with SHMA.</p>	<p>Crossrail impact assessment: look outside, extend to general rail.</p> <p>Network Rail.</p>	
<p>Securing integration with other strategies to overcome barriers to work</p>	<p>Understand and map current picture.</p>	<p>Identify and understand key clusters and issues.</p>		<p>Map out where districts are with Local Plans</p> <p>Bolt in ALBPO and counties.</p>	<p>Need informal plan input.</p>
<p>Ensuring London Plan reviews have regard to plans and strategies of</p>	<p>Understanding a baseline for where Local authorities are</p>			<p>Information sharing at a minimum, but this will not solve the</p>	

<p>neighbouring local authorities</p>	<p>in their plan preparation. Identify 'catchment areas'. Waste – WPAs have agreed to accept waste from London, but little or no recognition from London. So London should have regard to plans it will impinge on. Mayor could have a greater co-ordinating role. Understand issues on which co-operation is needed to agree and resolve.</p>			<p>problem. Need only to agree.</p>	
<p>Decisions on and the implications of, increased airport capacity in the Greater South East</p>	<p>Need clarity on need for hub. Integrated with HS2. Airport capacity considerations open up a wider transport issue about movement of people</p>	<p>Tension with ports and energy ? Influence policy and identify wider implications.</p>		<p>Need weighting in evaluation criteria.</p>	

	<p>in and out of London. Dependent on national policy decisions, supported by data and evidence. Attempt to agree a common position.</p>				
<p>Understanding strategic growth options and opportunities</p>	<p>Open early dialogue across London and greater south east (political and technical) on understanding investment and infrastructure requirements. It is important to know what is going on each area and to keep this up to date. Member engagement is essential. Identify local and strategic growth options and engage LEPs. Zones of co-operation. Area teams</p>	<p>Identifying LEPs outside and adjacent to London e.g Coast to Capital LEP. Identify barriers to growth, including infrastructure.</p>	<p>Need to pull together evidence on growth imperative and create vision and positive framework for growth that members can support across the greater south east. Co-operation between sectors on agreed objectives.</p>	<p>Vacuum for big strategic thinking on wider south east.</p>	

	out into home counties. Strategic agreements.				
Other issue#1	Understanding the Impacts of London Plan scale of growth and whether it can be contained within its boundaries.				
Other issue#2	Exchange of information on population – sharing methodology for projections and reports.				
Other issue#3	Infrastructure (London Implementation Plan and any similar outside of London) – share emerging implementations plans prior to publication.				

APPENDIX 2 – DISCUSSION GROUP NOTES ON CO-OPERATION MECHANISMS FROM GLA WORKSHOP ON 22 MARCH 2013

Co-operation mechanism	What contribution to co-operation can this make?	Views on form and function	What are the essential steps to establish this, in terms of co-operation with partners?	What would success look like in three years' time?
<p>Co-operation Strategy</p>	<p>Should be a high level strategy. Difficulties practicalities to deal with in getting agreement. Uncertain – could take up too much energy and time, and be light touch, to be useful for examination. Should it be guidance rather than strategy – less bureaucratic? Demonstrating that the right bodies have been engaged at the right time and in the right way. If buy-in from all within the inter-region, then this creates an agreed framework – Fundamental. Clarity of expectation</p>	<p>Practicalities on scope of strategy and how it is agreed. There are many authorities to consider. Aim for a statement of ? or a protocol. Would need clear actions and agreed strategic issues arising from the NPPF. A physical document. Needs to be short and strategic. Spatial limits will vary by topic (transport further, for instance) Extension of well-functioning existing arrangements Include statutory consultees. Who, how and what</p>	<p>Separate thematic issues from spatial issues. Form areas e.g. quadrants of Greater London for spatial issues. Create a shared evidence base. Ensure member involvement and decision-making mechanisms Spreadsheet of issues and plan development. Produce and circulate a list of issues to 'duty bodies' to establish which they want engagement on and how. Establish a communications strategy. Draft co-operation strategy to coincide with Local Plan Statement of</p>	<p>Co-operation strategy agreed and in place both within and outside London. Successful use at examinations of plans. Would not have neighbouring authorities suggesting the duty to co-operate has not happened. Protocol prepared and agreed. London Plan meets duty to co-operate Foundation for Boroughs to meet the duty to co-operate. Clear structure.</p>

	<p>How to make a sound plan GLA to set out their approach – all fill in. Consider the structure of London and form sectors or groupings based on central, north, east, west south Develop a contacts list and use it. Undertake mapping of groups.</p>	<p>issues? Short and simple How to do it/what's required? Protocol (yes) vs Strategy (no) Memorandums of Understanding to sit beneath protocol – not just the Mayor but also the Boroughs/London Councils. Need a consultation contacts database Need a forward plan for co-operation work Need a website/deposit point where all can upload data and contacts so others know.</p>	<p>Intent. Buy-in at Chief Executive and Leader level. Mayor to set initial priorities and proposals. Document and Strategy, website and LDS.</p>	
Network meetings	<p>What will the focus be – information sharing or influence and decision making? Clear focus on priority issues. Not clear where this fits with other mechanisms –</p>	<p>Existing county networks (at Chief Planning Officer level) Are they resourced to take part and are they empowered to make decisions on behalf of their networks? Needs to be two-way</p>	<p>Shared management process? Involvement with statutory bodies e.g. the Environment Agency. Discussion.</p>	<p>Production of shared actions and successful plans, approval at Exam.</p>

	<p>top down.</p> <p>Wedges, areas, sub-region groups.</p> <p>Authorities on the edge</p> <p>Nodes/attraction at the end of corridors.</p> <p>Waste region – sub-region not necessarily the same for housing.</p>	<p>communication.</p> <p>Potentially resource-intensive.</p> <p>May have patchy attendance.</p> <p>Topic or geographic</p> <p>Organise self versus GLA-facilitated.</p>		
Online forum	<p>This is a good way to allow many people to contribute.</p> <p>A waste of time.</p> <p>Not clear – how would it demonstrate active and on-going engagement?</p> <p>Would make little contribution. Not sure about longevity of such a forum – use existing mechanisms like PAS.</p> <p>Some, but favour meetings and discussion due to resources and training.</p>	<p>Could be an extension of the PAS forums.</p> <p>Would need resourcing and updating with a moderator.</p> <p>Use existing e.g. PAS</p>		<p>Lots of comments and well-used.</p> <p>Evidence that issues raised have been followed-up on.</p>
Periodic Seminars	<p>Should involve more than being talked to and should be based on specific</p>	<p>Shouldn't necessarily rely on online forum.</p>	<p>Multi-way dialogue.</p>	

	<p>outcomes – SHMA and SHLAA.</p> <p>Not needed as a formal mechanism</p> <p>Help inform about what's going on.</p> <p>Provide quarterly updates.</p>			
<p>Sub-Regional partnerships</p>	<p>Possibly utilise other fora for example RTPI regional offices or POS Spatial Plans Group. These are existing mechanisms which are less political and would involve giving them a new role.</p> <p>Important to focus on other groupings outside counties.</p> <p>Existing partnerships are fit for purpose. There is officer and member level operation can allow for professional relationships within the sub-region even when differences occur. However, may not deal with all issues.</p> <p>Crucial. Willing</p>	<p>It may be more important to establish sub-regional partnerships to feed into wider co-operation strategy.</p> <p>Inconsistent coverage make-up to cover the duty to co-operate?</p> <p>Is it possible for this type of relationship to exist all around London?</p> <p>Define themselves, operate within protocol – but also beyond.</p>	<p>Mechanisms need to be appropriate to the issue. Do not want to formalise the mechanism too much as this can stultify.</p> <p>Clear roles for LEPs, sub-regional partnerships, transport groups.</p>	

	<p>organisations, with political buy-in and issues in common.</p> <p>Links to networks and wedges.</p>			
Topic Groups	<p>Could be of value for example in housing, transport and employment.</p> <p>Perhaps with a quadrant focus?</p> <p>Possible topics include airports, transport, ports, housing, green belt, green infrastructure, minerals, waste.</p> <p>There are already some groups in place e.g. on waste and flooding. These need GLA engagement in them.</p> <p>Housing, transport, waste, aggregates and flooding.</p> <p>Linked to above (areas)</p> <p>Transport, health.</p>	<p>Some issues are about apportioning effects fairly throughout the South East ie minerals and waste, ports traffic.</p> <p>Members of different RTABs and AWPAs to participate in respective groups/meetings including LAAs</p>	<p>CLG support required.</p> <p>There are questions about funding and resources.</p>	
Member-led liaison group	<p>Key to provide strategic and political buy-in,</p>	<p>This should be high-level, strategic and keep</p>	<p>SEEC willing to engage with the Mayor and other</p>	<p>SERPLAN!</p> <p>Agreement and positive</p>

	<p>leadership and high level steering.</p> <p>There is a need to ensure buy-in</p> <p>Take out the 'led' word – member liaison group.</p> <p>Could provide political endorsement.</p> <p>Vital – need political ownership</p>	<p>numbers manageable.</p> <p>Should have decision-making powers – clear governance structure and terms of reference.</p> <p>Would need significant officer support.</p> <p>Arrangements have to mean something to members geographically and/or by topic.</p>	<p>partners.</p> <p>To unwieldy to cover the whole region. A member Leaders group would be very big.</p>	<p>outcomes influenced by the members.</p>
Other idea #1	<p>Important to engage with LEPs.</p> <p>LEPs have growth strategy roles.</p> <p>Guidance needed on the Duty to Co-operate.</p> <p>Contacts for Areas approach places on the edge</p>			
Other idea #2	<p>A GLA SCI</p> <p>A GLA LDS with AMR</p>			
Other idea #3	<p>A Local members network or forum with leaders and chief executives e.g. North London.</p>			

Further Alterations to the London Plan

Emerging policy proposals



Proposed purpose of the Further Alterations to the London Plan (FALP)

- Develop concept of the Plan as the ‘London expression of the National Planning Policy Framework’;
- Provide robust, interim planning framework to address the key housing and employment issues arising from a substantial increase in population and to support recession recovery, until the long term implications of these are clear
- Minor changes in terms of fact; changes in national policy; support for the Mayor’s Housing and other strategies and where relevant address other advice to the Mayor eg from the Outer London Commission.

London's demographic challenge

- London population 2001 (revised): 7.34 mll
 - London population 2011 (Census): 8.17 mll
- = 83,000 pa increase

BUT

London Plan 2011 – 2031 assumes 51,000pa

AND

new GLA trend projection 2011 – 2036 suggests 76,000 pa, and over 100k in earlier years....

Emerging spatial proposals

- Wider South East: GLA Act duty to inform/ Localism Act Duty to Cooperate
- Olympic legacy: carrying this forward through LLDC
- CAZ: review mixed use policy in light of loss of offices to resi
- Opportunity/Intensification Areas: encourage higher densities
- Town centres: update network and respond to multi-channel challenge: mixed use, largely resi led intensification
- Industrial locations: encourage managed release of surplus around transport nodes
- Strategic Outer London Development Centres: new eg Crystal Palace, Royals, White City, Golden Mile

Emerging housing proposals: requirements

- CLG currently suggests c52,000 more households pa to 2021 (cf 34k)

BUT

- Is this a realistic basis for planning?
Outdated hhld formation rates; what happens if recent changes are cyclical/short term? Accept “planning for uncertainty” – central theme for FALP and LHS
- **New SHMA:** ranges around GLA central hhld projection (40k); backlog of need (10 or 20 yrs?); other factors eg second homes? = 50-60k pa working proposition

Emerging housing proposals: supply

- New NPPF compliant, needs driven SHLAA
- More rigorous approach to exclusions, probabilities, phasing : challenge based: c40k pa cf 32k
- ‘Potential’ large sites confidential; ‘identified’ sites public
- More broadly based scenario testing, including ‘need’, town centre and Opp Area potential
- Maintain single figure borough provision targets
- Handling the ‘gap’ between requirements and capacity: Opp Area/Town centres/Indust release; PMM; early review

Emerging housing proposals: density

- maintain current 'SRQ' based approach (possibly update through full Plan review)

BUT

- flag scope for higher densities in town centres, OAs, surplus industry (+PRS (Ch 2))
- recognise importance of sustaining local character in suburbs (Ch2)

Emerging housing proposals: quality including play

- Maintain current approach
- Allow standards to bed down
- CLG standards review: London's distinct circumstances (NB scale of provision, densities) justifies maintaining London's approach

Emerging housing proposals: large developments

- Emphasise importance to provision and potential for large scale PRS
- Stress role of OAPFs in bringing forward capacity

Emerging housing proposals: choice

- Maintain same priority for affordable family housing
- Older persons special needs - significant growth: recognise distinct economics; allocate sites; mainly private, new forms of intermediate?
- Student accommodation - Academic Forum: scale and distribution; dispersal; affordability; links to unis; quality; partnership working
- PRS – recognise distinct economics (funding, design, amenity) in line with NPPF
- Custom build, ex-forces needs - support

Emerging housing proposals: mixed communities and affordable

- Update needs figures in light of new demographics
- Better links with London Housing Strategy
- Otherwise maintain policy

Emerging housing proposals: existing stock and future investment

- Update in light of Housing Strategy
- Barriers to Delivery - translating approvals to completions: distinguish build out rates; speculators; genuine barriers (planners et al)
- Clarify importance of viability: S106, CIL in light of new regs/N Devon

Emerging housing proposals: social infrastructure

- Flexibility to enable social infrastructure providers to ensure continued delivery (e.g.in community safety and health)
- Clarify new role of public health in Boroughs and links to planning
- Stronger support for free schools
- Underscore playing fields need assessments

Emerging economic proposals

- New employment projections (34k pa cf 33k)
- New industrial, office, retail, tourism demand/supply assessments –up date policies
- Significant update to town centres/retail policy
- Minor update to industry
- Possible updates to CAZ office policy – more protectionist?
- New clustering policy nb for betting shops, possibly takeaways
- Support for pubs, SMART London

Emerging proposals on climate change

- New policy promoting strategic power infrastructure provision
- Minor updates on flood risk, Thames Estuary 2100, Drain London
- Minor updates on water mgmt and infrastructure eg Tideway Tunnel
- Minor updates to municipal & C/I waste arisings & apportionments, and on hazardous waste

Emerging proposals on transport

- Highlight importance of Xrail 2 as next major infrastructure project
- Possible framework for HS2 in London
- Update table of infrastructure commitments
- Refine parking policy to make more sensitive to Outer London

Emerging proposals on places and spaces

- Clarify Lifetime Neighbourhoods Policy
- Expand on neighbourhood planning, incl. Community Rights
- Clarify Designing out Crime
- Update noise policy
- Updates policies on POS, geology, trees, burials, World Heritage Sites, resilience to emergency, public realm mgmt
- Blue Ribbon Network: new section on Royals

Emerging proposals on implementation

- New policy to support effective infrastructure development and delivery
- Greater flexibility on S106 priorities

Thoughts?



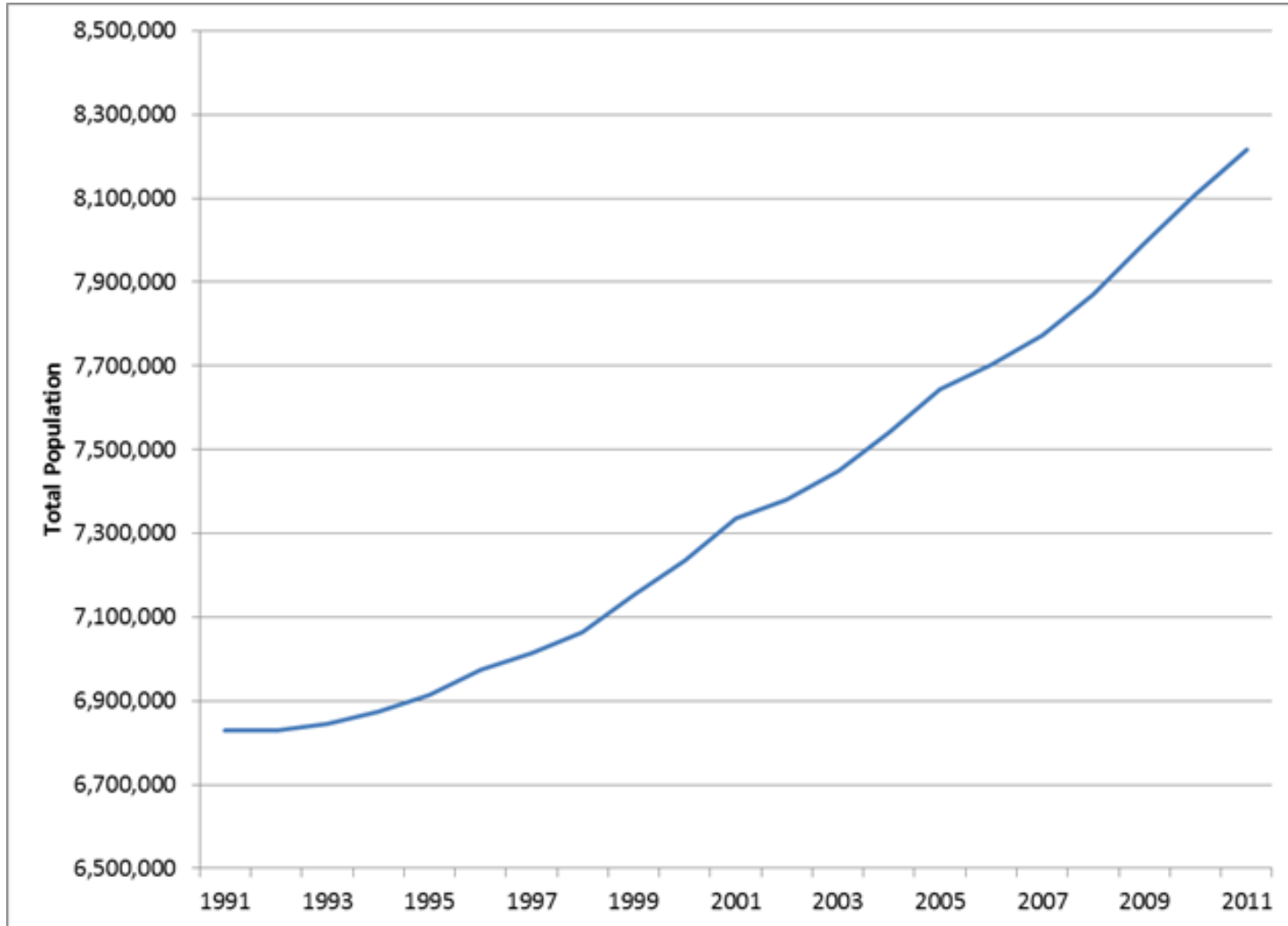
GLA population and household projections for FALP

**Ben Corr
Intelligence Unit**

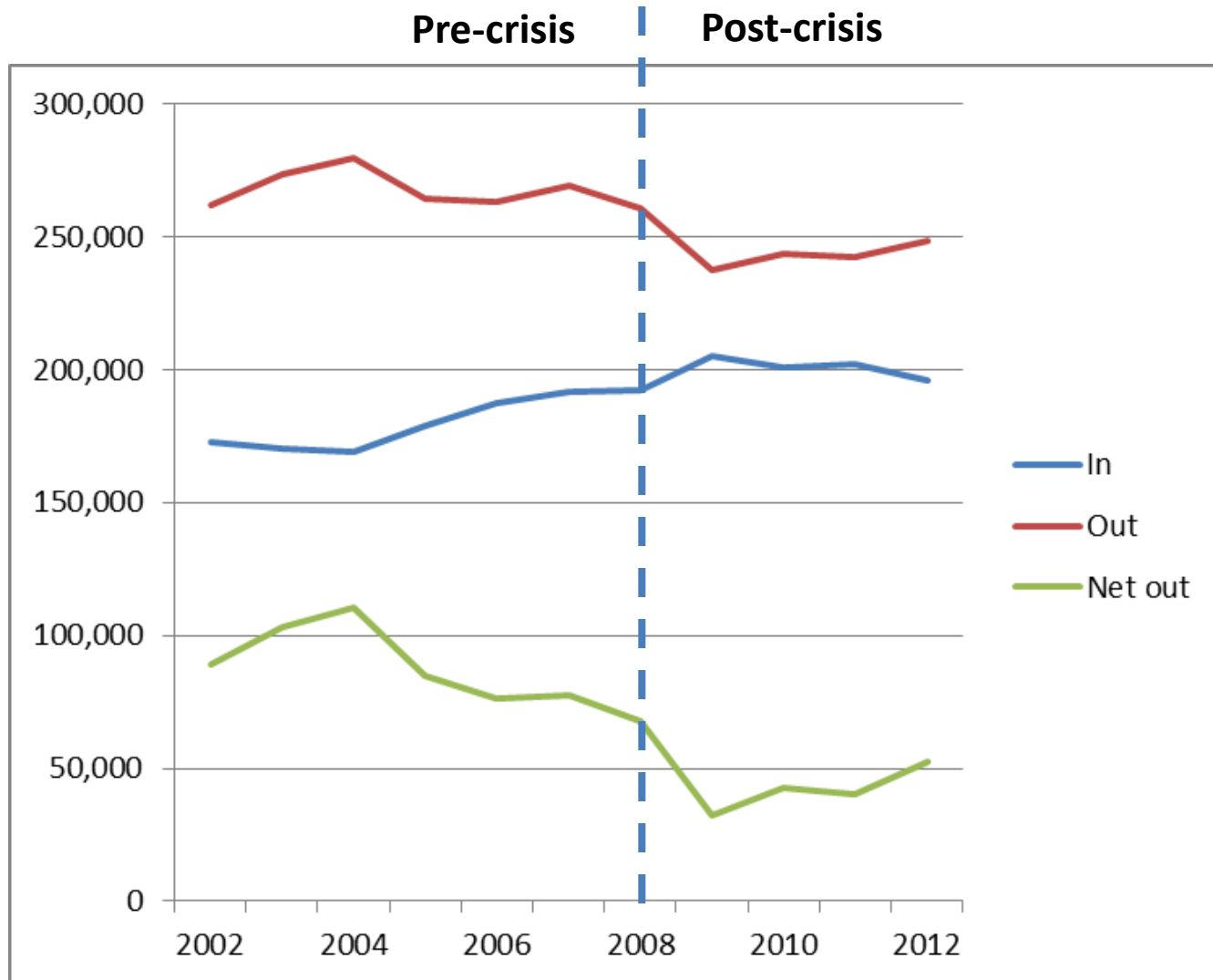
Content

1. Population projections
 - Recent trends
 - Projection scenarios
 - Results
2. Household projections
 - Historic household size trends
 - Household model adopted
 - Drivers of household growth
 - Results

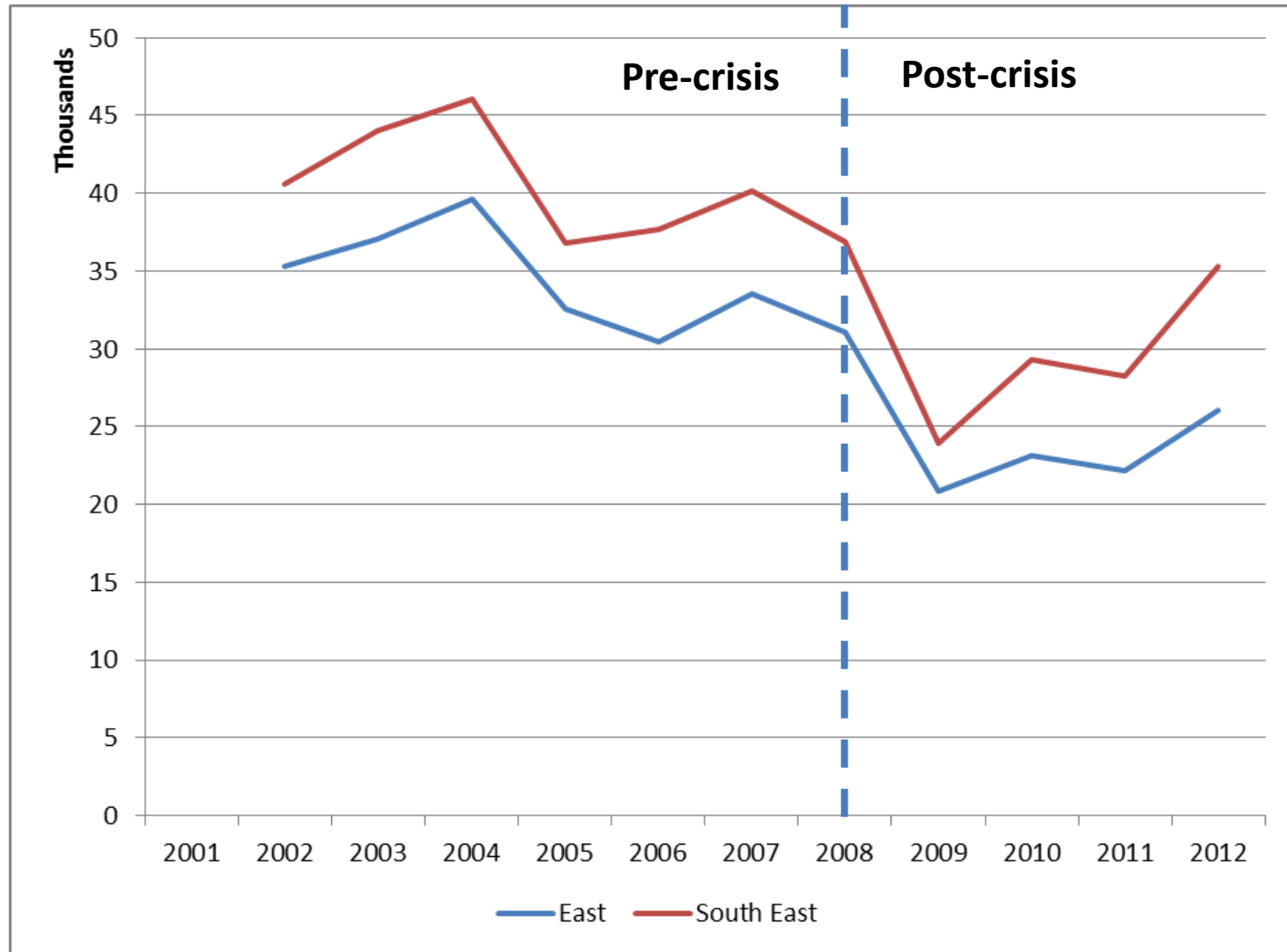
Population – since 1991



Recent trends – domestic migration



Net outmigration to wider South East



Impact of economic crisis

- Domestic out-migration from London fell
- Domestic in-migration to London rose
- Both linked to:
 - housing market/availability of credit
 - Relative strengths of London/UK job markets
- Net out-migration from London fell
 - From >75k pa before
 - To <50k pa after

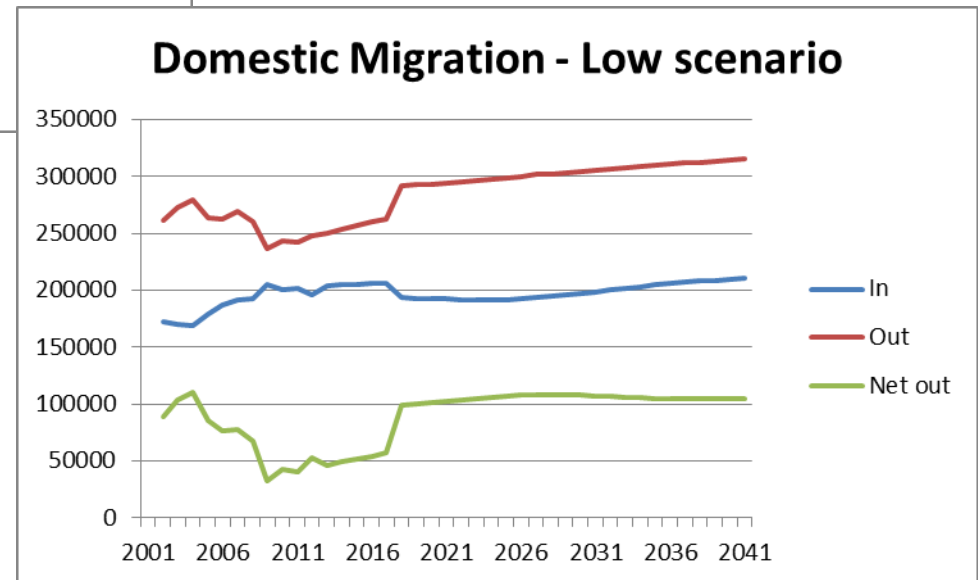
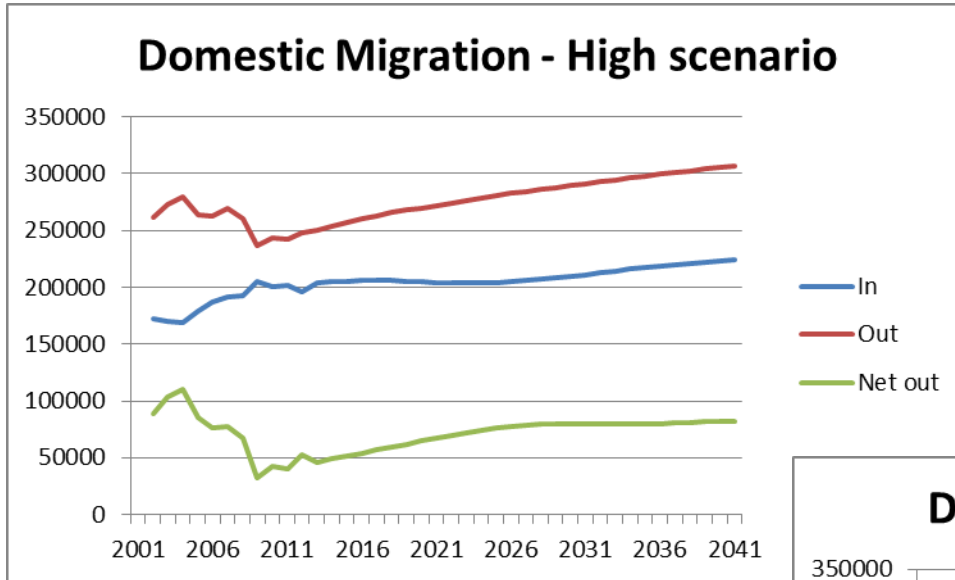
Impact of economic recovery

- Range of views on impact of recovery:
 - It will have no effect; the changes are structural and here to stay
 - London has adapted to increasing numbers of families staying in recent years and has become a more attractive place to raise children as a result
 - Migration patterns will revert to pre-crash norms
 - The changes in migration are entirely transient and due to problems in the housing and job markets - once these are resolved migration will return to pre-crisis patterns

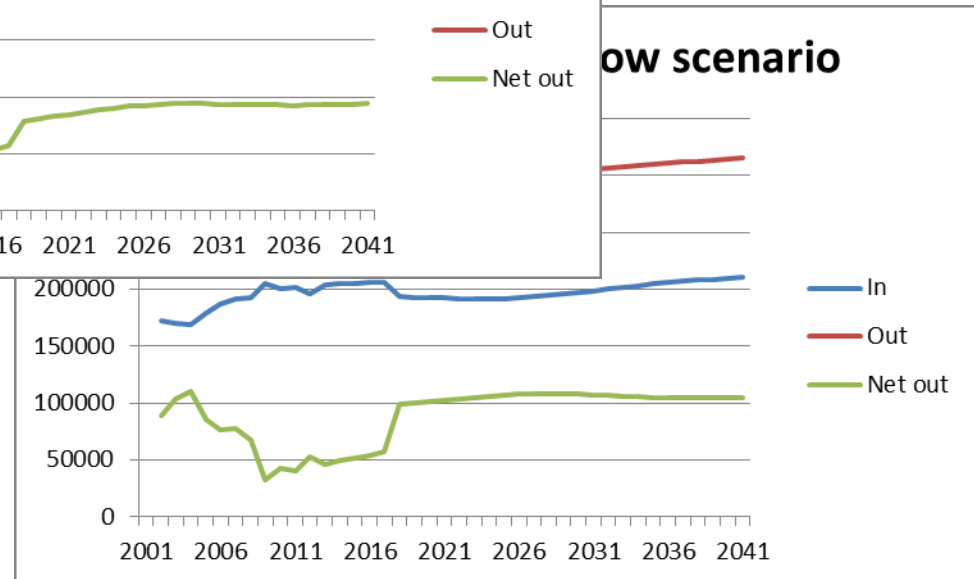
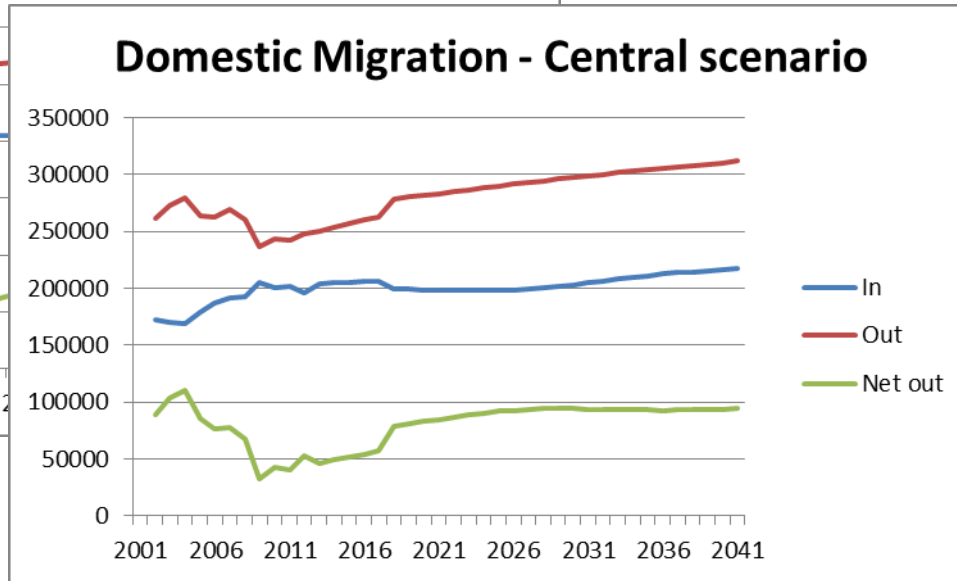
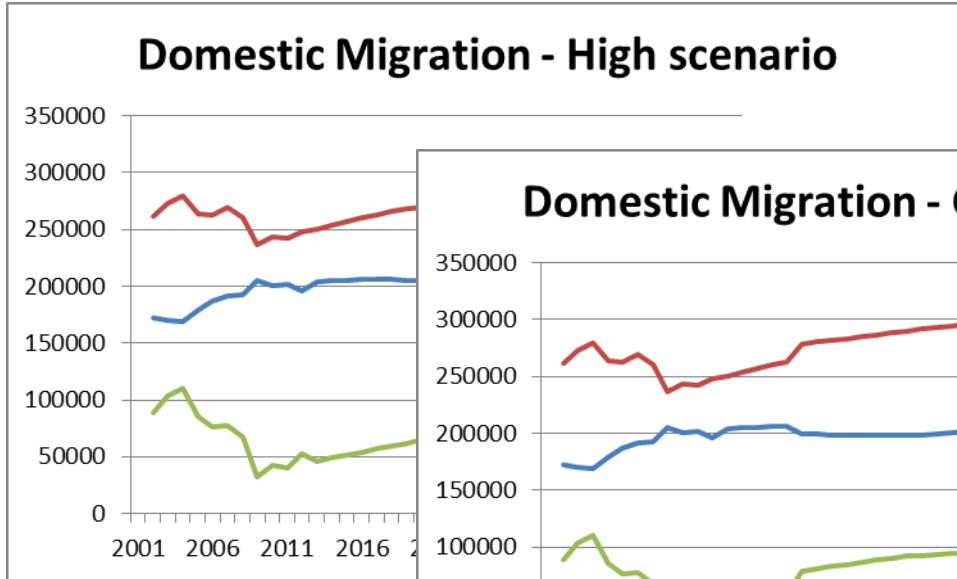
Projection scenarios

- Based around an hypothetical post-2017 economic recovery and effect on domestic migration
 - High – migration propensities based on recent 4 year patterns for duration
 - Low – after 2017, out-migration increases by 10%, in-migration falls by 6%
 - Central – after 2017, out-migration increases by 5%, in-migration falls by 3%

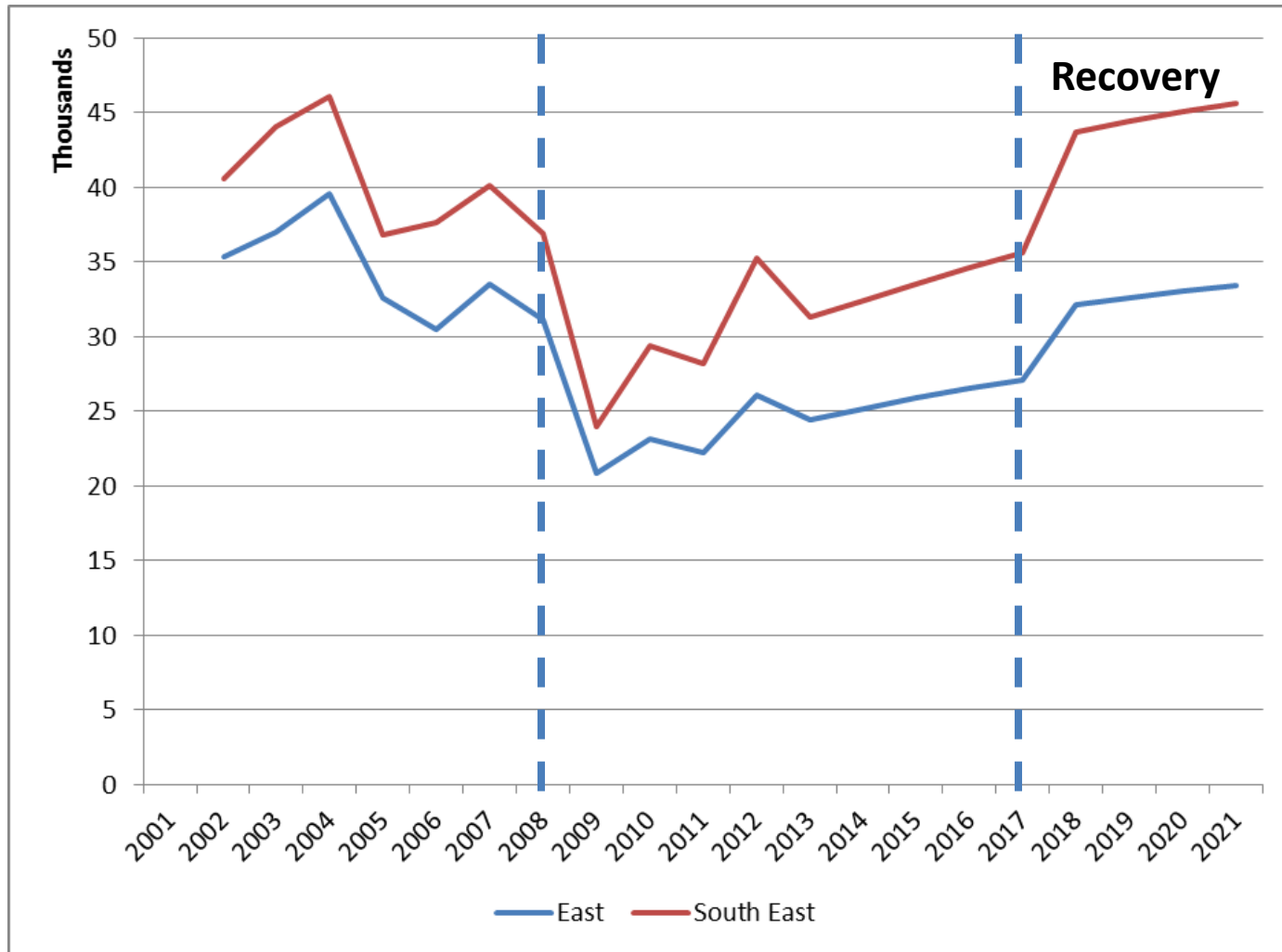
Projection scenarios



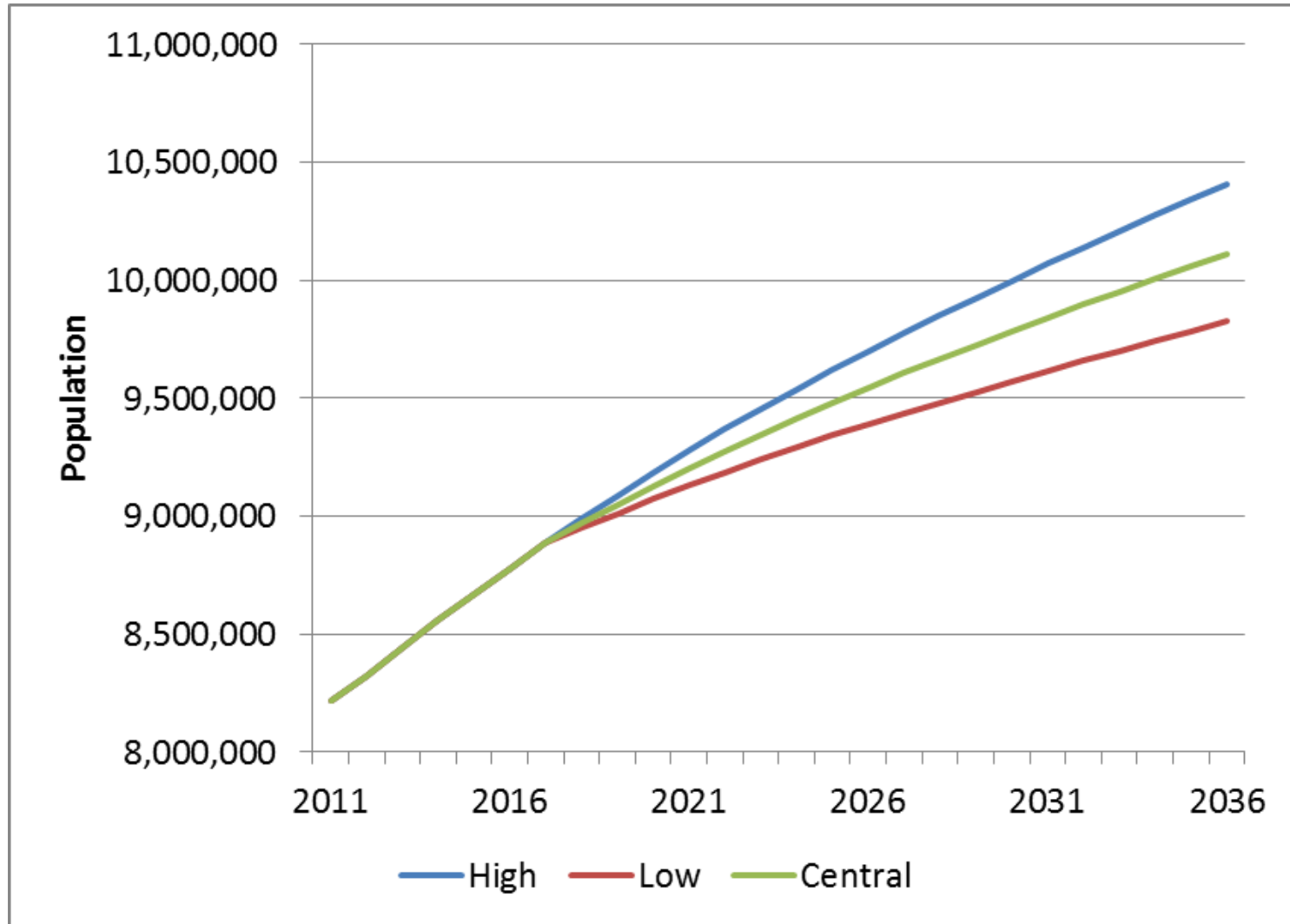
Projection scenarios



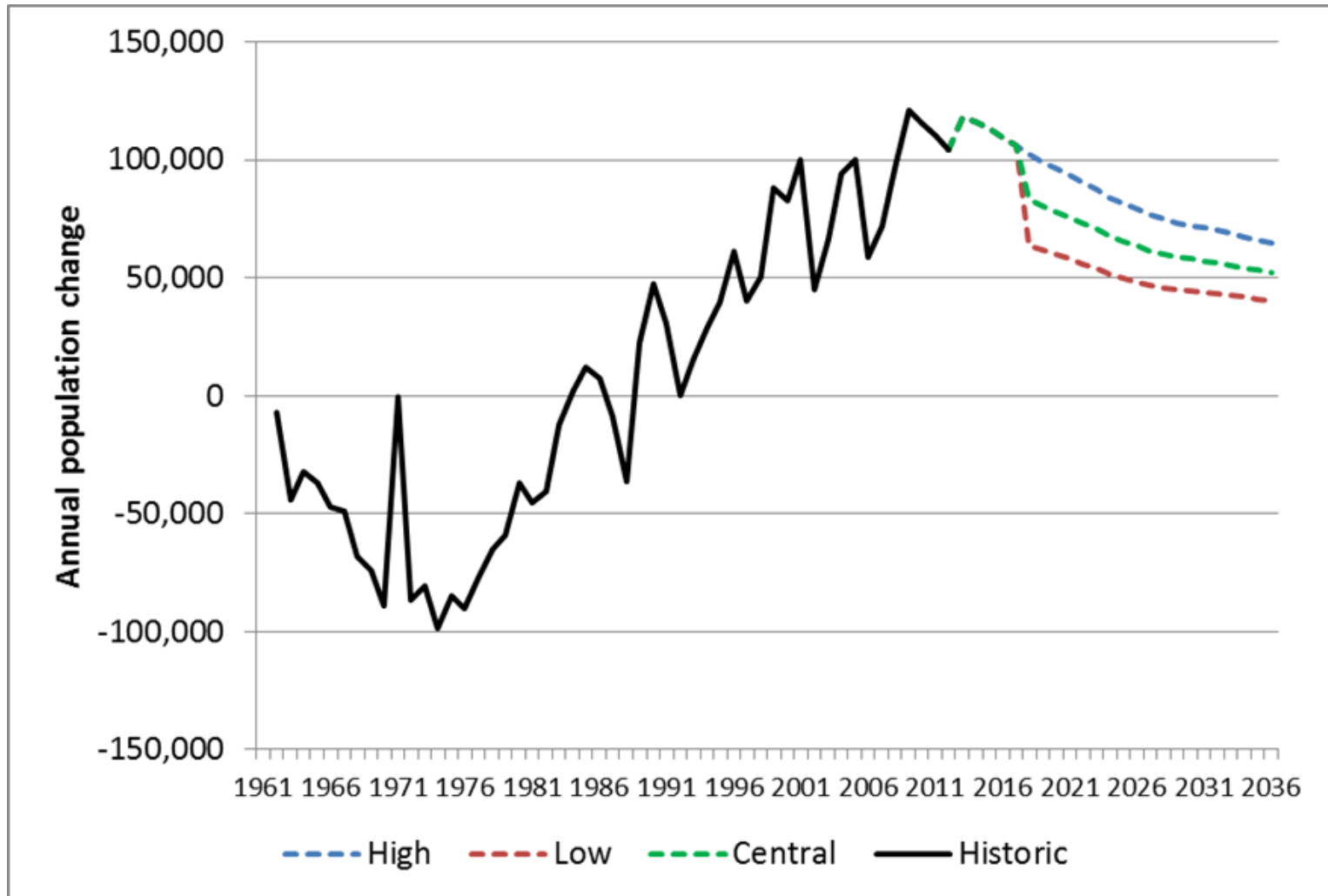
Net outmigration to wider South-East - Central scenario



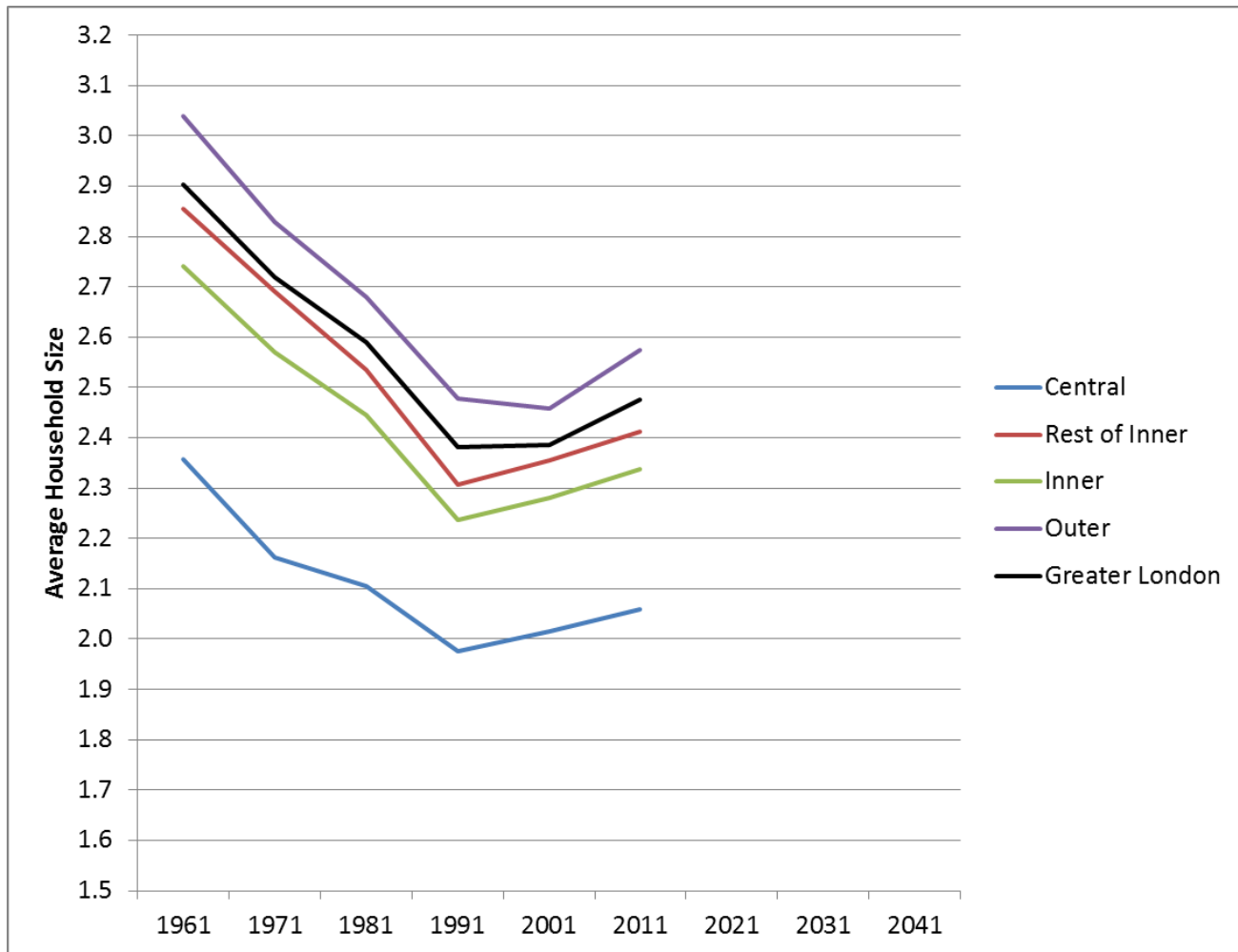
Projection results



Projected growth in historic context

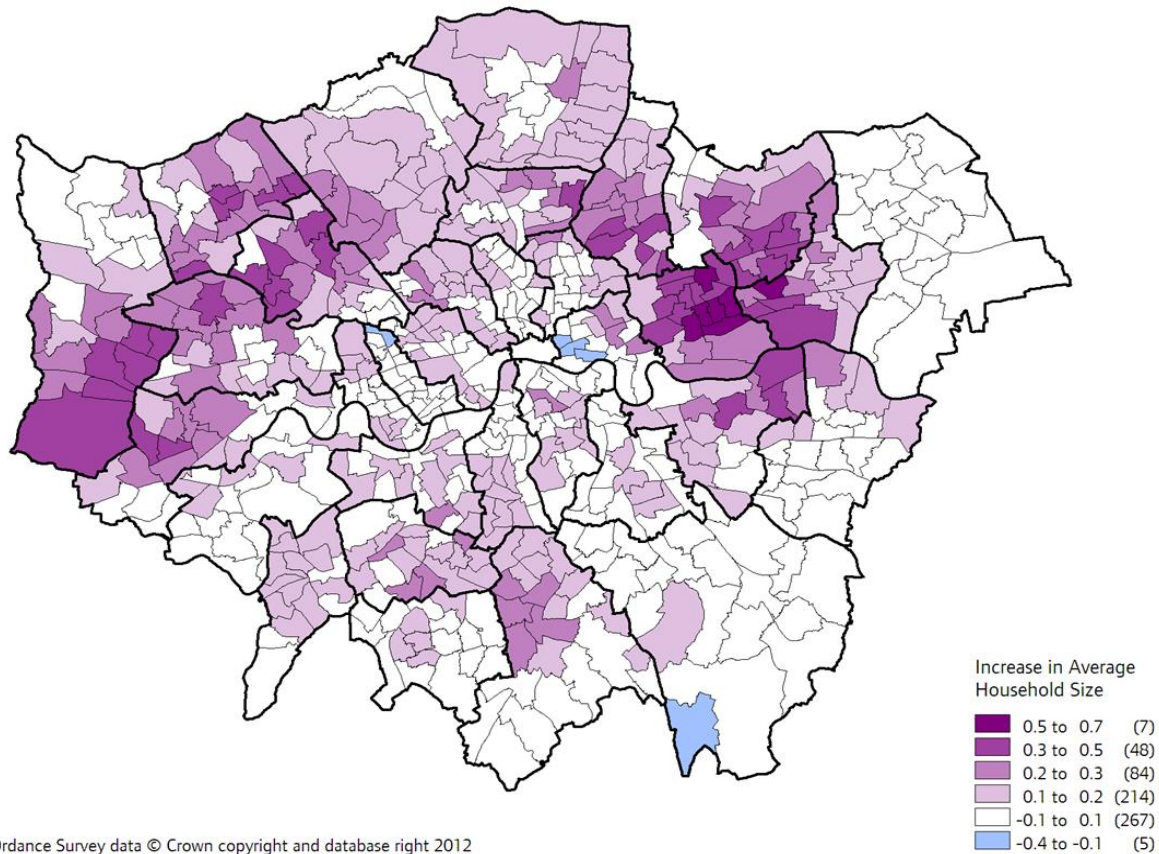


Household size - historic trends



Household size - historic trends

Change in Average Household Size of London wards between 2001 Census and 2011 Census



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2012

Household model

- Use DCLG Household Representative rates extrapolated to 2036

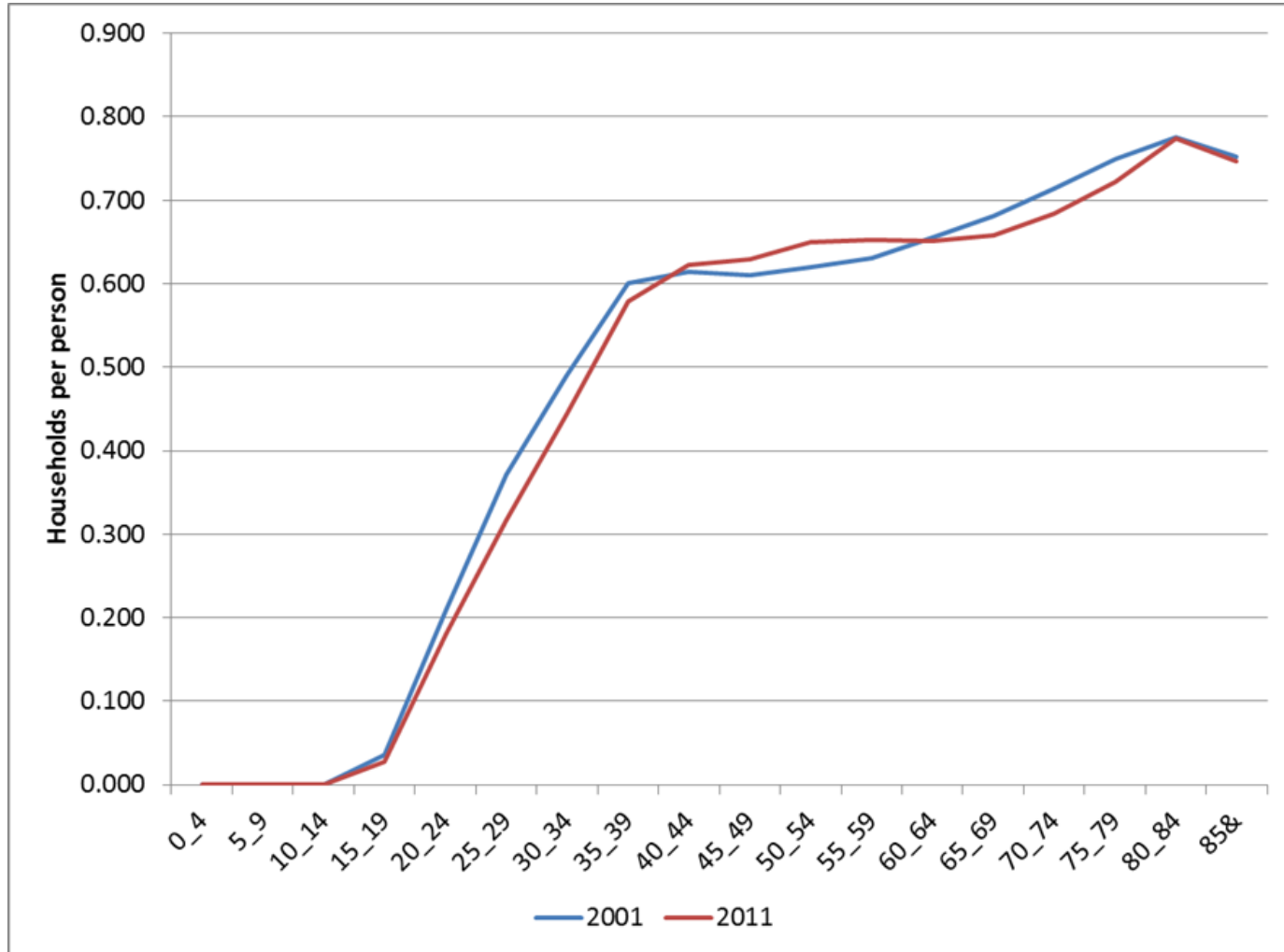
Drivers of household growth

- Growing population
- Household formation patterns
 - Extrapolated from past census data
- Age structure

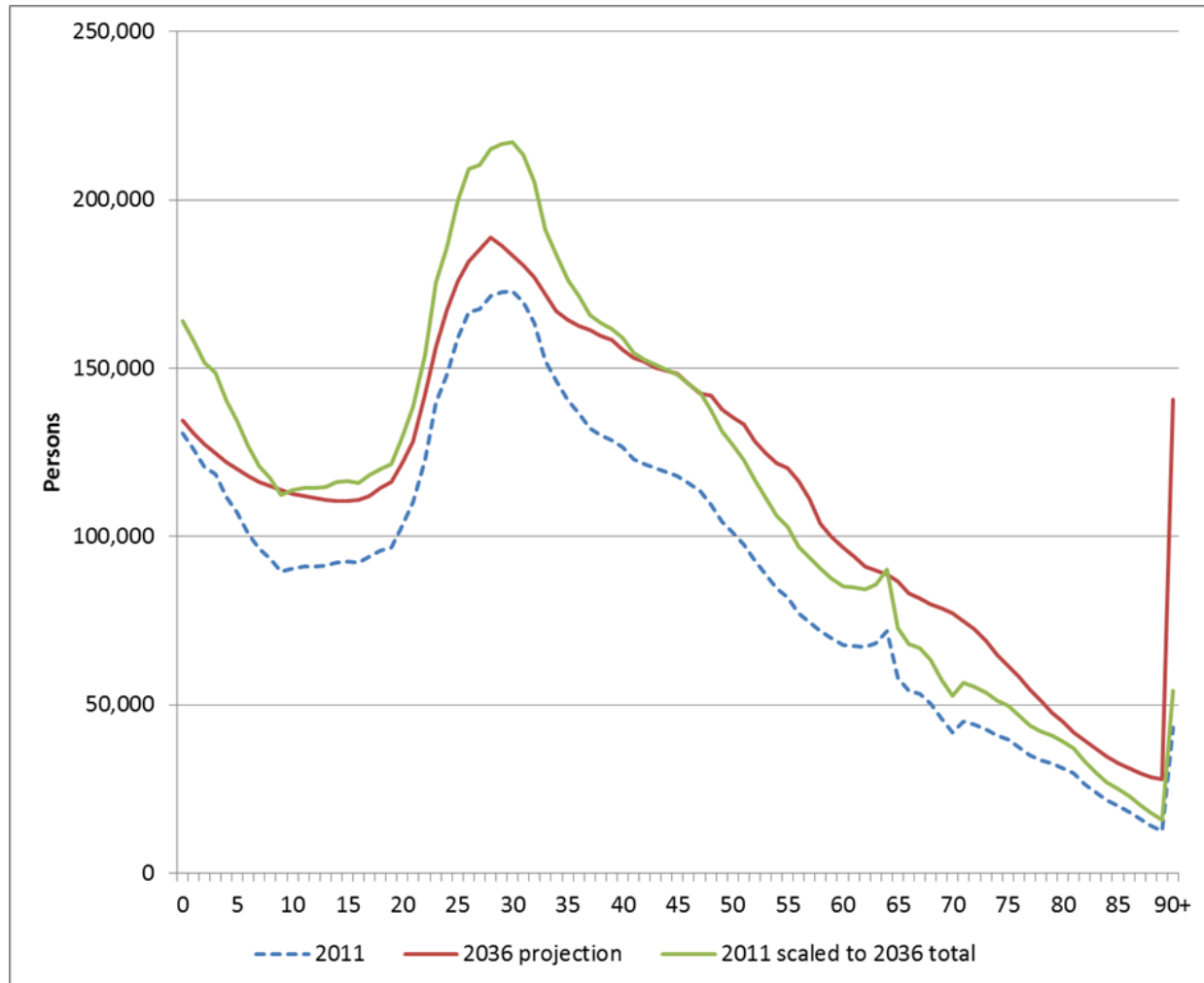
Impact of ageing population

- Higher proportions of older people give rise to smaller household sizes
- Projected fall after 2011 results from changing age structure
 - Baby boomers hit 65 after 2011 census
- Projected impact of ageing ~12.5k households per annum to 2036

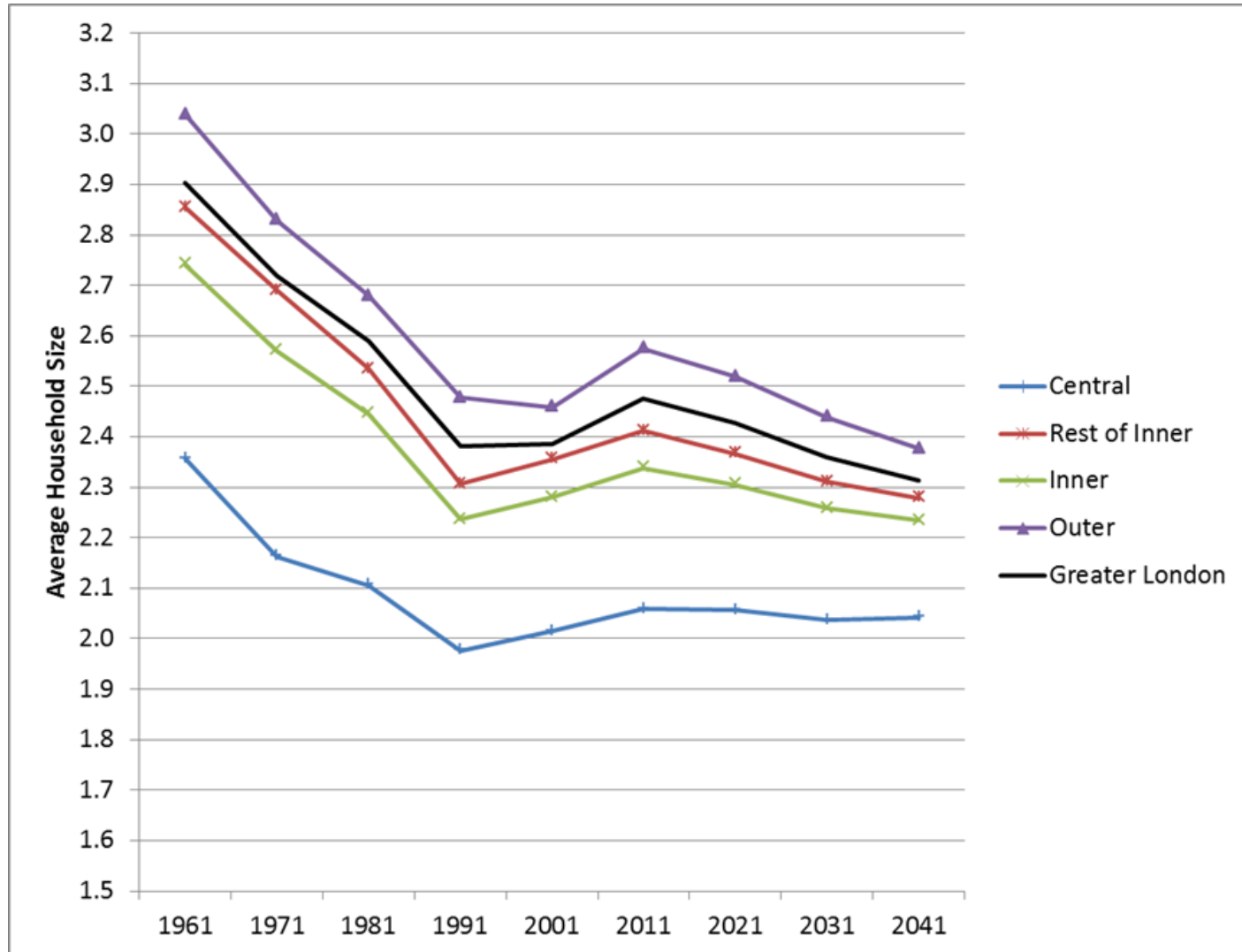
Headship rates rise with age



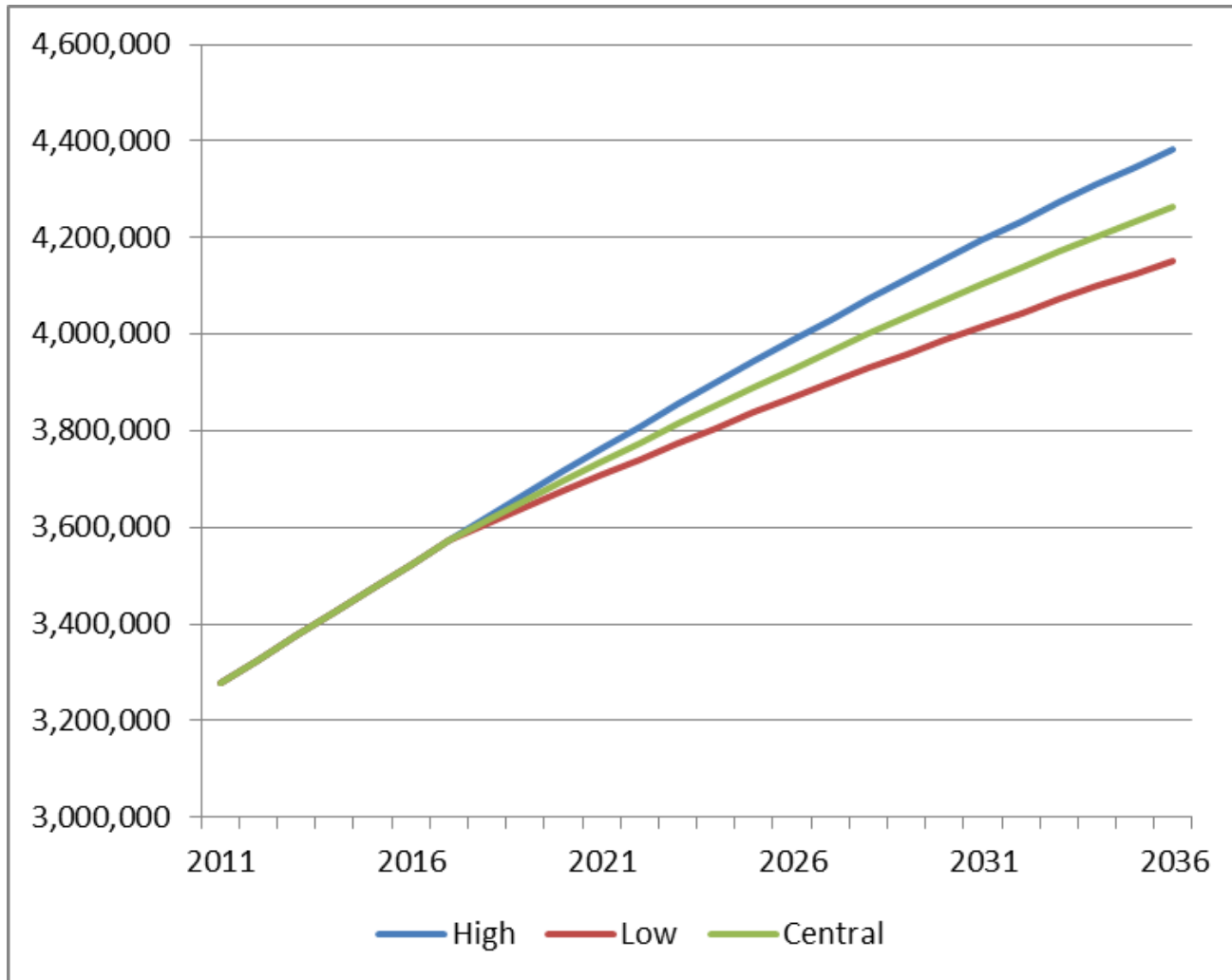
Projected change in age structure



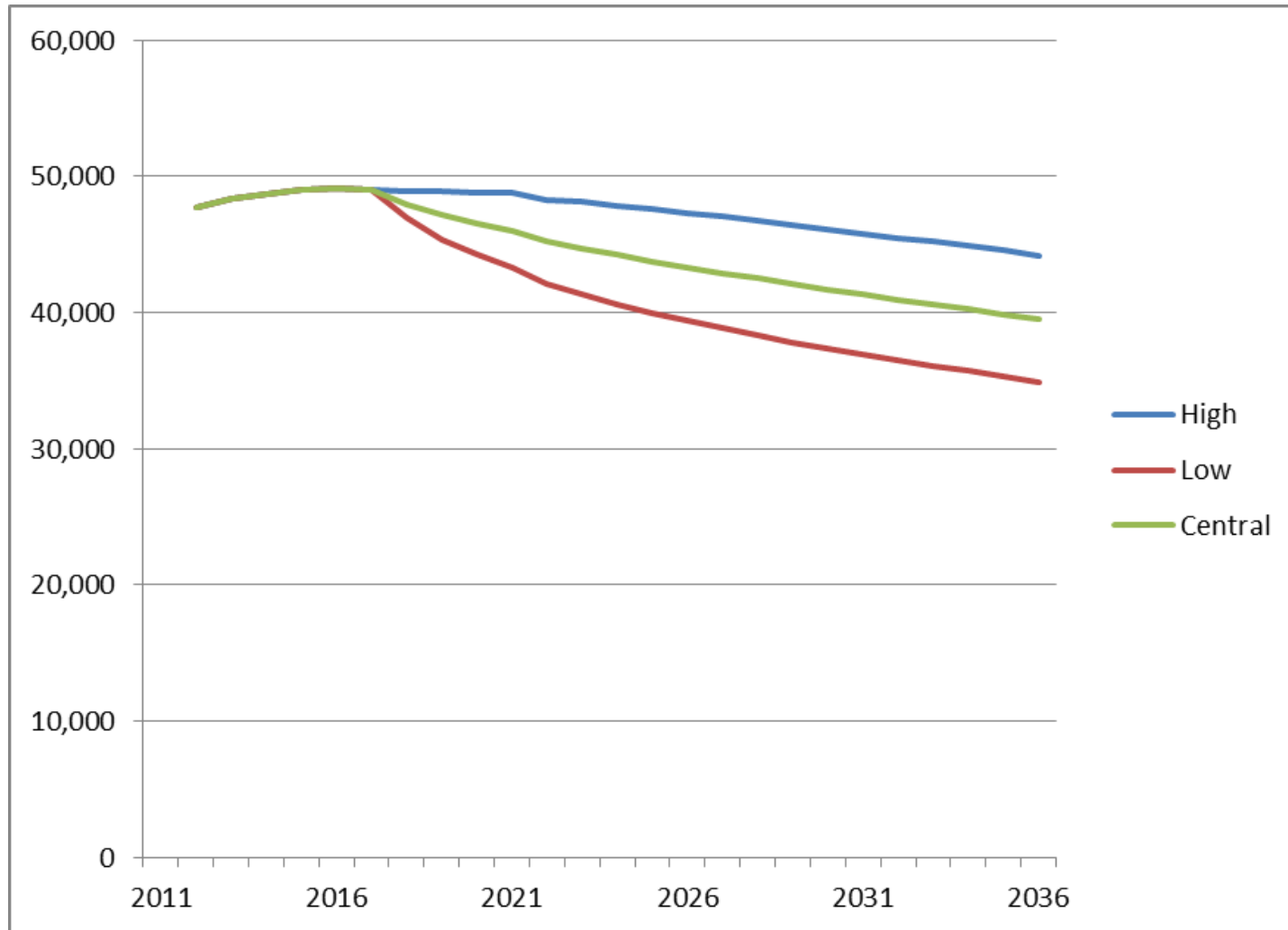
Household size – projected trends



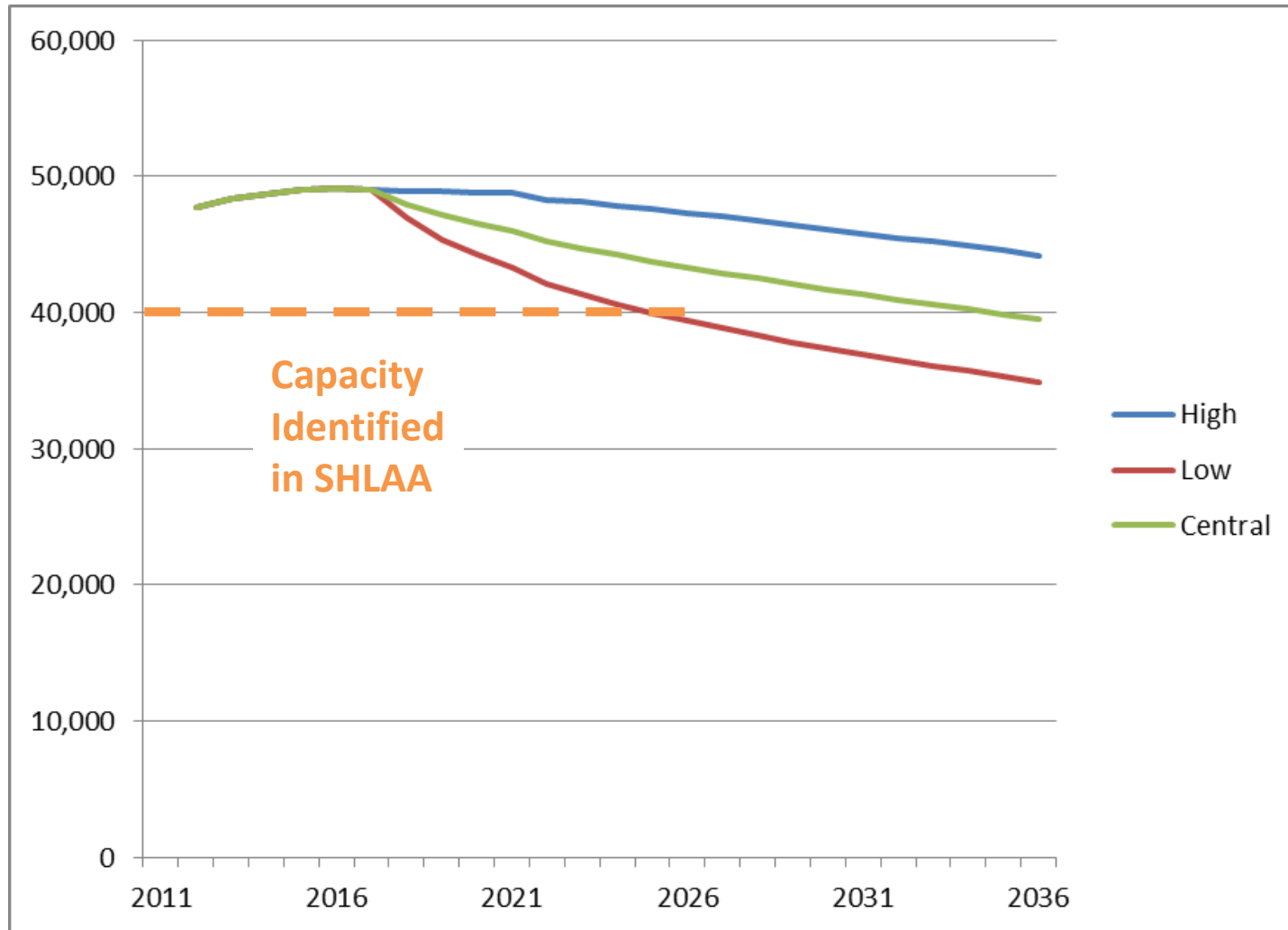
Household projections - results



Annualised household growth



Annualised household growth



Contact

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Work Programme scoping document

Introduction

1. This document examines the basic steps that might be taken to establish the various simple co-operation mechanisms. In previous arrangements for cross-boundary working up to 2010, all participants who shared responsibility for co-ordination of activities highlighted a basic lack of resources and mechanisms for dialogue and sharing on technical issues, to underpin higher level dialogue.
2. Responses to the Mayor's November 2012 discussion paper on co-operation said that cross-boundary working arrangements need to reflect the severe resource constraints applying to local government. This affects the availability of officers to take part in formal working arrangements and of money for new shared ventures. A pragmatic and informal approach is preferred, building on existing mechanisms where possible.
3. Each local planning authority must address its own co-operation requirements with others, with London Boroughs and the Mayor through the London Plan. Likewise, under the GLA Act, the Mayor must have regard to the impact of the London Plan on authorities beyond London. This means a significant element of cross-boundary working should be about influencing the development of local plans and the London Plan. This will provide solid foundations for more ambitious cross-boundary working.
4. A workshop held at City Hall on 22nd March 2013 explored the ideas contained in the Mayor's discussion the paper. Nearly 70 local authorities and other statutory consultees attended and also engaged in discussions about the issues on which co-operation is needed and the ideas set out in the Mayor's discussion paper.
5. The process scoping and discussion set out in the sections below is a first step which to be explored by this working group. It will test, develop or reject the mechanisms. The views of the working group will be an important factor in considering ways forward in 2014.

Formulate a 'Co-operation Strategy'

6. The Mayor's Discussion Paper set out the idea of adopting a co-operation strategy as a strategic document to govern his co-operation on cross-boundary spatial planning issues to support London Plan development. The co-operation strategy would have several purposes:
 - To provide a framework and context for co-operation activities, infusing them with a clear sense of purpose.
 - To provide an opportunity, through consultation on the draft strategy, for interested parties and local planning authorities to comment on the specific issues on which the Mayor intends to promote co-operation generally and with specific local planning authorities or other agencies. The Mayor would have regard to such comments in finalising his strategy.
 - To provide an action plan for co-operation with specific local planning authorities and groups of authorities as appropriate. Interested parties would be able to comment on the work plan as the co-operation strategy is developed and the Mayor would have regard to these comments in finalising it.
 - To provide an annual review to evaluate progress in implementing the strategy and consider new issues for co-operation. Again, interested parties and local planning authorities would have the opportunity to comment on the implementation of the strategy and other issues which they feel the Mayor should have regard to in reviewing his co-operation strategy.
7. The co-operation strategy would set out the strategic planning issues on which cross-boundary working between London and wider metropolitan area is required, in two forms. First, it would highlight in general terms the strategic spatial planning issues which affect, to greater or lesser degrees, local planning authorities in London and the wider metropolitan area as a whole. This would allow the Mayor to raise strategic issues requiring a strategic or group response. Second, it would build on the results of one-to-one dialogue with specific local authorities to set out issues where co-operation across boundaries is needed between specific local plans and the London Plan.
8. The co-operation strategy would need to set out how the Mayor intends to implement the strategy. It is likely that there would be a limited number of responses that can be made, ranging from informal shared practice through to formal agreements with local planning authorities utilising the provisions of the Localism Act. The response will need to fit the circumstances in each area of co-operation. Typical responses could include:

- Regular liaison and information sharing
- Joint work to agree common standards and data
- Development of model policies for inclusion in plans to respond to shared issues
- Formal agreements or memorandums to meet key spatial planning requirements across boundaries.

9. The aim of the co-operation strategy process, through its formulation and implementation would be to create a robust and sound basis for co-operation which simultaneously ensures that the issues on which there is a need to co-operate are known, tested through consultation, have a clear set of actions attached to them, and are monitored and kept under review. Implementation of the strategy would be through a series of mechanisms designed to encourage regular dialogue, to build on current capacities and to stay alive to emerging issues.
10. From the Mayor's point of view a Co-operation Strategy would set out co-operation requirements with each individual local planning authority, referencing the objectives involved and the mechanisms to be employed to implement it. From a local planning authority point of view, it would also contain the co-operation requirements of each LPA as agreed with the Mayor.
11. The mechanisms for implementing co-operation could be more strategic, given that similar requirements are likely to be agreed by individual LPAs and the Mayor. This could allow for co-operation on specific issues to be delivered through specific routes, such as working groups, joint research and formal memorandums.
12. An indicative process is set out below, from the Mayor's perspective, which could be matched in each LPA according to its needs and approaches adopted to discharge the duty to co-operate. This is for discussion.

Task
Background work on Co-operation Strategy development
Develop co-operation mechanisms to inform strategy development. Potential mechanisms need to be deliverable in practical terms.
Consult on whether these form a sound basis for dialogue
Hold a workshop to explore ideas in more depth
Scope processes for establishing mechanisms and strategy
Identify range of co-operation responses to implement co-operation required by a co-operation strategy.
Establish a working group of GLA and other officers from London Boroughs and the wider metropolitan area, and other selected stakeholders.
Design an issues log and database: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the form of a log sheet to record issues, plan information, meetings, correspondence and phone calls. • Create an issues framework for topic identification, geographical sector and technical issue involved (for example, data, standards and policy development). • A database would be designed.
An important step before writing to LPAs and Statutory Consultees is to identify co-operation issues in London and the wider metropolitan area. This could be undertaken in a thematic and a geographical way. Whilst building on existing London Plan policies, ideally these should be more specific to the issues which could be addressed by individual or groups of LPAs or Statutory Consultees.
Populate log sheets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For each LPA, augment local plan monitoring information with issues raised by the Mayor and the LPA, and any response from the LPA. • For each Statutory Consultee, log issues raised.
Write to each Local Planning Authority and Statutory Consultee setting out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mayor's understanding of his duties under legislation to seek/offer co-operation on strategic spatial planning issues. • The Mayor's understanding of the LPA's local plan position and his own London Plan (using plan monitoring information which will need to be acquired – see the contact schedule and log section elsewhere in this scoping document). • Issues on which the Mayor feels co-operation is needed with the LPA/Statutory Consultee and seeking a response on them.

- A request for issues to be raised on which the LPA feels co-operation is needed and offering to receive and respond to them.
- Or, a request for issues on which Statutory Consultees feel co-operation is needed.

Each LPA/Statutory Consultee would be given a fixed time to respond to the Mayor's letter. This should be a reasonable time period to allow for considered response and member approval.

Populate log sheet with responses

Create a draft response:

- Use mechanisms for co-operation scoped earlier to suggest co-operation responses to specific issues. It should be possible to group co-operation issues into shared responses. For example, if a number of LPAs in a specific part of the wider metropolitan area raise the same issue of the impact of strategic housing and employment allocations in London on their local plans, then a specific response dealing with the issues together may suggest itself from among those scoped as practical responses by the earlier working group.
- Other issues may be raised which can be responded to through even broader mechanisms, for example technical data issues and policy development relating to waste and aggregates planning could reasonably be addressed through existing topic group mechanisms.
- Alternatively, an issue may simply be dealt with through one-to-one co-operation.
- Apply all suggested responses to each issue raised on each log.
- Include a 'reject' response, with reasons included.

Further engagement with stakeholders:

- Throughout this process, officers could use meetings with networks to report on issues raised and responses suggested, and ask for feedback.
- GLA could hold a further workshop to consult with LPAs and other stakeholders at the end of the process when issues have been logged and draft responses suggested.

Draw up draft co-operation strategy:

- Describe the process undertaken.
- Report on the issues raised by LPAs and statutory consultees.
- Set out clearly the Mayor's understanding of the LPAs and Statutory Consultees he needs to co-operate with, and the issues on which he needs to co-operate.
- Set out clearly the proposed response mechanisms and clearly indicate how each issue will be responded to.
- Set out a response parameters and a timeline for implementation in the form of an action plan. This cannot be fully formed as the Mayor will not necessarily have the agreement of LPA and Statutory Consultee partners to proceed. For example, a response by the Mayor to a particular issue raised by a number of LPAs could be to channel the issue through an existing working group and for that group to carry out technical studies. But at that point, there will not be agreement on principle, scope and resources to carry out the work. The Mayor's draft co-operation strategy therefore proposes responses at this stage.

<p>Consult on draft co-operation strategy. It is suggested that the Mayor consults widely on the Draft Co-operation Strategy.</p> <p>The reason for this is to provide the maximum opportunity for LPAs, Statutory Consultees and, importantly, third parties an opportunity to engage with the process.</p> <p>It is further suggested that this is a very important step, as it provides the opportunity to put a boundary around the issues on which the Mayor needs to co-operate based on the engagement he has carried out in identifying them (at least until he reviews them periodically). It is essential in creating a 'reasonable' interpretation of the duty as it applies to a lengthy process of plan development.</p>
<p>Analyse responses and publish response to consultation. Undertake a further short consultation.</p> <p><i>(is further consultation needed?)</i></p>
<p>Finalise and publish adopted Co-operation Strategy, with clear commitment to monitor, implementation and review.</p>
<p>Carry out live review using agreed mechanisms scoped elsewhere in this report:</p> <p>Regular update reports through contact schedule for plan monitoring, logging new issues as they arise, progress checking agreed co-operation actions.</p> <p>Regular meetings with networks to review performance of co-operation strategy and issues contained within.</p> <p>Organising periodic workshops and online discussions to consider co-operation issues in larger forums.</p> <p>It should be recognised that a co-operation issue could evolve. Once evidence is gathered, there may be a need to reframe the co-operation issue in reviews of the co-operation strategy.</p>
<p>Prepare annual review report detailing co-operation progress, achievements and challenges. The report would include an appendix containing proposed amendments to the strategy and action plan.</p>
<p>Consult on Annual Review report and proposed amendments with London Plan consultation list.</p>
<p>Analyse responses and present views/themes in a report.</p>
<p>Take response report into account in finalising amendments to the co-operation strategy and publish amendments.</p>

Create a contact schedule and log

13. Recent challenges have shown that the Duty to Co-operate cannot be discharged through generalised engagement approaches which do not address specific interrelationships between plans and areas. There is no way around identifying issues which could imply the need for co-operation and keeping them under regular review on a one-to-one basis. Therefore, maintaining an understanding of plan development and issue resolution is an important dimension of the duty to co-operate.
14. Applying this to co-operation between London and the local planning authorities of the Greater South East is complicated by the sheer number of authorities involved and the influence London has beyond its immediate neighbours which extends the area over which co-operation is required for certain issues.
15. It is suggested that a commitment for informal contact between the Mayor and local planning authorities beyond London three times each year would be an important basic element in the menu of co-operation tools. The advantage of a regular, informal on-to-one approach would be the ability it would give to build relationships at officer level and build understanding of the issues which individual local planning authorities feel are important ones to work on with the Mayor. It would also create a regular informal opportunity for the Mayor to lay out the issues on which co-operation is required from a London perspective. It would provide a further benefit in providing a mechanism for managing the implementation of agreed actions.
16. Indicative steps are set out below for discussion.

Task
<p>Identify and agree LPAs, statutory consultees and other bodies to be included in regular updates. Assemble contact details for non-LPA bodies included.</p> <p>As a one off task, this would be a justified case for maintaining contact with the bodies is question, set out in a report.</p>
<p>Identify and subscribe to a plan monitoring service to give up to date plan and contact information for each LPA in the South East (or other defined area).</p> <p>This would be an annual procurement of the order of £1500 per annum.</p>
<p>Produce a report every four months, identifying key changes and mapping progress in plan development. This could be done by sub-divided areas e.g. Counties.</p> <p>Attach issues GLA wants to raise with individual or groups of authorities and other statutory consultees, through phone update. LPAs do the same from their perspective.</p>

Every four months, contact each LPA (using key contact identified) and other bodies to discuss plan progress, key issues arising, topics identified for discussion or work with GLA, progress check on previous issues.

Produce an updated sheet for each LPA, maintaining a log of contact and record of discussion. Many will answer first time and have little to say, others will be harder to reach and/or may have lots to say that needs to be recorded. Some may not respond and so an email record of the attempt will be kept.

Will use log and plan update as a template for asking about plan issues, issues previously raised with GLA, issues dealt with, new issues etc.

Produce a report on key issues arising from contact, requests for co-operation, issues dealt with and on-going issues not addressed.

A one-off task will be to create a table for logging co-operation issues and associated actions. This will be used to report issues arising every four months.

A further table will be created for exceptions-based reports detailing significant changes in plan progress and issues raised by LPAs and others

Meeting to review progress and agree new actions required to address issues raised and assign owner.

Check for progress with action-owners and produce an update report every two months on progress against actions identified.

Meet Planning Officer Network Chairs

17. A clear message which has emerged from local planning authority officers is that they were hard-pressed in resource terms to enter into extensive strategic planning arrangements with London. Further, there has been limited political support for doing so. Many feel that it would be wise to build on existing networks and hook London Plan issues into them. Officer networks from local planning authorities are a prime example raised, where there is generally an established liaison underway and where most lead officers take part.
18. The Mayor's discussion paper indicated that meetings could be held with such networks. Responses to consultation thought this was a good idea, but felt that other networks, topic groups and sub-regional partnerships should be included. The meetings with networks could be run on this wider basis.
19. Of the mechanisms consulted on, the idea of a regular meeting between the GLA and a range of networks and groups, and other interests such as LEAs, was seen as one of the strongest alongside the development of a co-operation strategy. Following the workshop held at City Hall on 22nd March 2013 to discuss these ideas, there was clear support for developing the networks meetings further.
20. In providing a mechanism of use to the implementation of a co-operation strategy, a key aim would be to provide robust working arrangements which can develop shared approaches on issues best resolved at a strategic scale, or as a way in to more geographically focused co-operation through relevant networks. There is also a potential for local planning authorities to delegate the resolution of technical co-operation issues to a network scale if that is appropriate.
21. This would be primary mechanism for creating regular dialogue, for ensuring a co-operation strategy is adhered to, for considering issues arising. The aim would be to hold meetings three times each year, timed to take stock of or influence development/reviews of co-operation strategy, periodic workshops and other actions arising from co-operation activities include a regular report on plan development and update on strategic co-operation issues (arising from the issue logs). The meetings would be hosted at City Hall and organised by a secretary with a specific responsibility for this.
22. Resource would be allocated to ensure decisions taken by the meetings are implemented in the time in-between. This would also involve liaison with the individual networks to ensure dialogue is maintained. Action on the co-operation strategy and the log of key issues registered, would be the main driver for activity.

23. Mechanisms for liaison with LEPs and LNPs also need to be considered. Whilst not formal statutory consultees on development plans, LPAs have to have regard to their strategies. An exercise may be needed to map how these impact on London and the wider metropolitan area and then a system be put in place for self-examining emerging plans against them, with an exceptions based alert going to the LEPs and LNPs where plans are diverging from their strategies. This could be investigated by the working group.

24. Below, the table maps the steps needed to operate three meetings per year, assuming the parameters have already been set by the next phase of work.

Task
Identify geographical and topic-based networks or groups to be invited to attend a regular meeting with GLA at officer level - justify this in a short report as an element of the co-operation strategy. This is a one-off task.
Invite the chairs of these networks or groups to play a part in general terms and liaise with them over this.
Develop Draft Terms of Reference for the meetings. This is a one-off task, to be kept under review. This is not to create formal body terms of reference, but to create a shared understanding of the purpose and role of the meetings.
A one-off task to develop a draft programme of meeting dates, based on meeting three times per annum over the next two years.
Develop a meeting agenda, based on regular topics e.g. updates, the plan monitoring exercise results, specific topics for discussion.
Invite participants to meeting and monitor attendance numbers.
Prepare papers for the meeting
Attend meeting
Write and agree notes of the meeting
Communicate results, for example to online forum or other dissemination routes.
Commission and progress chase actions agreed, plus liaison with network participants, over and above agenda and meeting related activity identified elsewhere in the table.

Organise periodic workshops

25. The organisation of periodic workshops would meet a number of needs, but primarily they would provide an opportunity for the Mayor to brief local planning authorities on emerging London Plan issues and get feedback from them. This would enable the Mayor to take account of views given in the development of the London Plan and for local planning authorities outside London to take account of how the London Plan will affect them. The frequency of such meetings would be of the order of every six months.
26. It is good practice to consult on the development of the London Plan with partners planning in the area beyond. A structured workshop designed to explore such issues could provide one complementary element in a co-operation response. The GLA would organise the workshop, set the agenda, issue invitations, provide supporting papers, carefully record discussion results and agreed actions. As part of a menu of co-operation tools, the role of the workshop is therefore more than good practice liaison.
27. The steps involved are largely administrative and so are not scoped below. The working group is invited to discuss the usefulness of the workshops and ideas for generating two-way discussion and shared agendas. For example, if a regular meeting of officer networks is established, then this would be able to feed in ideas for workshops.

Foster online co-operation

28. This idea was introduced as an online forum for information swapping, discussion and consultation. It would allow interaction through an online forum. This would be regarded as an opportunity for all local planning authorities and the Mayor to raise issues in an informal setting, as they arise. At one level, it would address everyday issues relating to plan development. At another level, it would be a route for testing new ideas or seeking support for issues being felt locally. It would be a conduit for raising ideas.
29. The clear message coming through consultation about this idea was that this mechanism should avoid making significant resource demands, stemming from views on the limited usefulness of an online forum. That said, as part of a wider range of tools, it was seen by many to have its place.
30. Importantly, issues raised through this mechanism would be picked up in Network meetings and periodic seminars, and through them potentially in the Co-operation Strategy. This idea envisages central moderation to ensure that the forum operates fairly and effectively, and is not misused, but beyond that, all registered users can use the mechanism to register views, raise issues and consult colleagues. The scoping task at this stage is to map what precisely could be provided, how it could be put in place and maintained.
31. A ready and ideal example is available. The Planning Advisory Service currently runs a series of Communities of Practice forums which perform a similar function for authorities and other sectors with shared interests. These are moderated by PAS staff. This model would appear to fit the requirements for London and the Greater South East given the limited number of participants.
32. PAS Communities of Practice are hosted by the Local Government Association's (LGA) Knowledge Hub. This would be able to host a Greater South East planning forum and, to some extent, moderate the discussion. Its ability to do this would depend on the level of expertise available within its Knowledge Hub team to moderate complex strategic spatial planning discussions (this is something that PAS has explored in relation to its Communities of Practice). There would be a resource implication for moderation.
33. Again, this idea is open for discussion at the working group.

Task
Identify host for online forum. Approach and discuss with LGA Knowledge Hub initially to explore if it can sit alongside PAS Communities of Practice.

Develop a protocol for membership of the online forum and rules of participation.

Develop a marketing plan and actions to promote the Forum through appropriate channels.

Would there be an opportunity to gain sponsorship of the forum?

Maintain a programme for introducing issues to the forum, based on co-operation strategy and discussions with networks.

Produce a monthly activity report (internal) and discuss at network meetings.

Moderate online forum on an ongoing basis. This will be either professional moderation negotiated through the host organisation, or another resource.

Example of how a calendar of activities might look

Activity	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Co-operation Strategy	Complete Annual Review									Commence Annual Review	Consult on changes	
Regular contact and plan monitoring report.			Plan Monitor and Issues Report				Plan Monitor and Issues Report			Plan Monitor and Issues Report		
Online Forum	Activity report	Activity report	Activity report	Activity report	Activity report	Activity report	Activity report	Activity report	Activity report	Activity report	Activity report	Activity report
Periodic Workshops (pm)			Workshop								Workshop	
Networks meeting (am)			Network Meeting				Network meeting				Network meeting	

Notes: The aim would be to hold the network meeting and workshop on the same day. This would reduce resources required to organise and maximise attendance.

DRAFT Notes of first meeting of the GLA Working Group on strategic spatial planning co-ordination

Friday 18th October 2013 at City Hall

Present

John Lett, GLA

Celeste ~~Giusti~~, GLA

Ben Corr, GLA (part of meeting)

Lee Searles, Consultant to GLA

Stephen King, London Stansted Cambridge Corridor

Ian Smith, South London Partnership

Robin Miller-Scott, South London Partnership

Paul Stimpson, Slough Borough Council/Berkshire Heads of Planning

Jack Straw, Mole Valley District Council/Surrey Planning Officers Association

Alison Bailey, South Buckinghamshire District Council/Buckinghamshire Planning Officers Group

Des Welton, Hertfordshire Planning Co-ordinator

Sue Janota, Surrey County Council

Zhanine Oates, Essex County Council

Paul Donovan, Hertfordshire County Council

Steve Walker, Environment Agency

Apologies

Richard Linton, GLA

Neil Woolfenden, South East Councils

Martyn Thomas, London Borough of Havering

James Doe, Dacorum District Council

Tania Smith, Dartford Borough Council

Discussion notes and actions

Context for the Group - Lee Searles explained the purpose of the working group which is to examine in closer detail the issues and ideas presented at the GLA's March 22nd workshop on strategic spatial planning co-operation. The group picks up where that left off. If the working group comes to some clear conclusions about the workability of co-operation mechanisms to address co-operation issues at a variety of scales, then GLA will consider extending its work in this area with partners in 2014.

John Lett explained that the timing of the establishment of the group means that it could be an important mechanism for information sharing on issues now emerging in the preparation of Further Alterations to the London Plan (FALP). He outlined a number of demographic and housing trends which will be important considerations in the development of FALP, with potential cross-boundaries ~~implications foreffects on~~ adjoining authorities. Information relating to this will be presented to a workshop of London and wider local planning authorities on 25th October at City Hall.

New information presented to the meeting in outline related to household projections and migration projections using new information from the 2011 Census, ~~ONS and CLG~~. On a range of scenarios using the GLA's own model, this points to a higher than currently expected level of households ~~growth in London and the wider metropolitan area~~. Based on what has already been

identified in the London Plan, this impacts on housing requirements supply beyond 2030. The Mayor is currently considering a range of responses in FALP to address the issue, but will most likely focus on an 'interim' policy response which will be reviewed once the demographic future for London and the wider region had become clearer – at present it appeared that constraints on the housing market associated with the recent recession had significantly reduced the traditional out migration flows from London to surrounding areas. pending the development of updated projections from ONS and further trend information.

The key areas which are being examined in FALP were also presented in outline. These will be presented to the workshop on 25th October. Taken together with the population and household information, these present a range of pressing issues which could usefully be shared and explored with authorities in the wider region, on which some form of co-operation is needed, starting with the development of a means of sharing information and discussing it.

Lee Searles explained that the work of the group would focus on officer working relationships and mechanisms. It has been recognised at a political level that there were weaknesses in previous strategic spatial planning working arrangements, stemming from the lack of basic infrastructure for officer working across London's boundaries with authorities in the areas beyond. This made it difficult to progress strategic actions. It is acknowledged that truly strategic decisions and debate will need member input and oversight. Separate initiatives will consider these, including a new regular but informal meeting between the mayor's representatives and those from South East Councils.

Officer level working group based on planning officer networks – In the context of the information presented to the meeting, there was ready agreement to the idea of organising a regular officer-level meeting with representatives from GLA, county officer networks, county councils, London sub-regional partnerships, London Boroughs, policy topic groups, statutory consultees and officer representatives from the main member bodies, such as South East Councils and London Councils.

The main priority of the group would be to organise a working model for this for agreement by the next meeting on 6 December. Lee Searles will make contact with each member of the working group to discuss the issues in more detail.

Periodic Workshops – The group agreed that these are a good thing – the GLA has organised two workshops this year, providing a forum to discuss co-operation in March and planning for housing forthcoming on 25th October. A new working group would be able to provide an input to the topics for these meetings.

Online Forum – At the present time, the group felt that an online forum is a step too far and that it would not be well used. This is something that should be revisited if greater co-operation is achieved and interactions grow.

Plan Monitoring – It was felt by the group that, at the current time, authorities would not use information collected via a shared plan monitoring service.

Co-operation Strategy – The Group felt that the Co-operation Strategy approach is the right way to go in the long term. However, two things stand in the way. The first is a lack of resources to undertake the process and the second is the possibility that it might be overtaken by events on FALP.

The Group will make progress on developing a working group as agreed above and return to this issue at the next meeting on 6 December.