



**Nathaniel Lichfield
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Planning Design Economics

**Household Projections and Migration
Patterns**

North West Regional Assembly

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document sets out the findings of work undertaken by Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners (NLP) on behalf of the North West Regional Assembly. The underlying assumptions of the recently released ODPM 2003-based household projections have been examined by NLP and are summarised within this report.

1.2 It is understood that these projections and the earlier 2003-based ONS sub-national population projections are based upon the analysis of trends observed over a five year time series. NLP have been instructed by the Assembly to examine how the adoption of a longer time series for data analysis might influence the household projections. In order to determine this, both intra-regional and international migration flows have been examined over a ten year period.

1.3 This report is set out under the following headings:

- The Underlying Assumptions of the ODPM Projections
- Migration Trends: a Five and Ten Year Time Series; and
- The Validity of the ONS Regional Household Change Figure.

2.0 THE UNDERLYING ASSUMPTIONS

- 2.1 This section of the report summarises the key assumptions that underpin the recently released 2003-based ODPM household projections. The ODPM household projections are based upon the 2003-based ONS sub-national population projections, to which updated household formation projections have been applied.
- 2.2 It should be noted that the projections are trend based and indicate what would happen if past demographic changes continue into the future. These trend based projections do not take account of the potential impact of future development policies or of future changes in the drivers of population growth i.e. fertility and mortality rates, as well as patterns of migration.
- 2.3 For each year of the forecast period, the projections are generated by ageing on the population from the previous year¹ and then applying local fertility and mortality rates. Anticipated migration into and out of the area is also accounted for. This process is then repeated for each year of the projection period.
- 2.4 The assumed fertility and mortality rates are derived by projecting forward historic rates observed over a five year time series. The same approach is adopted in forecasting migration patterns over the projection period. The validity of adopting a five year time frame in favour of a longer period of analysis is examined in the following sections of this document.
- 2.5 In terms of the migration patterns assumed by the projections, internal and international migration patterns are examined separately. To analyse migration trends within the UK, five years of NHS Patient Registration data is used to determine migration patterns for every year of age and sex for each Local Authority².
- 2.6 This information is then used to derive separate matrices for males and females at one year age intervals³, showing movements to and from each geographical area. In order to project the number of out-migrants from each Local Authority by age and sex, an assumed age profile is then applied to the migration data for each area.

¹ The population is aged on one year to become the appropriate age in the following year of the projection. For instance, 25 year olds in 2003 become 26 year olds in 2004.

² Migration is examined at the ONS 'building brick' level, which conform approximately to Local Authority boundaries.

³ i.e. individual matrices are calculated for 1 year old males, 2 year old males, 3 year old males and so on. The same approach is then also applied to females.

- 2.7 As discussed above, estimations of internal migration rely heavily upon information from the NHS Patient Register. One potential weakness of this data source is that some internal movements will not be picked up by the register. This tends to affect young males in particular, as many do not re-register with a doctor after they have moved house.
- 2.8 Additionally, this problem can also be particularly acute in areas that contain a high proportion of students. Students leaving their place of study and moving are also unlikely to be recorded as out-migrants and might therefore be contributing incorrectly to the projected future populations of certain areas.
- 2.9 An examination of five year trends is also used to construct projections of international migration, with data collected via the International Passenger Survey (IPS). Data from the IPS is available at the Former Health Service Area level. This represents a large geographical area; the data needs to be disaggregated to the Local Authority level in order to apply the projection methodology.
- 2.10 Census information regarding migrant residents originally from outside the UK is used to disaggregate inflows and outflows to the Local Authority level, under the assumption that the two flows are related. Clearly this assumption is unlikely to hold true for all Local Authorities; it does not necessarily follow that areas that receive large inflows of international migrants will also experience large outflows of residents through international migration. This assumption will therefore be more appropriate for some Local Authorities than others and may result in projected levels of international migration being slightly erroneous at the Local Authority level. The projections will, however, be accurate at the Former Health Service Area level.
- 2.11 In addition, because migration is viewed as the most difficult component of population change to measure, ONS consult with Local Authorities and Strategic Health Authorities before publishing their projections. These consultations are used to determine whether any areas have experienced local issues during the reference period that might have resulted in an atypical level of migration for the time period and subsequently impacted upon the assumed trend for the projection period.

Summary

2.12 The key issues identified in this section are summarised below:

- ODPM household projections are based upon an analysis of 5 years of data
- Trend based projections do not take account of the potential impact of future policy change or changes in the drivers of population growth; and
- Measures of internal migration may not record all moves, particularly young males and the student population.

3.0 MIGRATION TRENDS: A FIVE AND TEN YEAR TIME SERIES

Introduction

3.1 This section of the report examines trends in migration over ten and five year time series' to determine how analysing population trends over a longer time period than that adopted by ONS and ODPM⁴ might influence household projections. Trends in migration patterns have been examined using the following headings:

- UK-Wide Migration
- International Migration
- Population Change and Migration

UK-Wide Migration

3.2 To understand how patterns of migration into the North West from elsewhere in the UK differ over five and ten year time periods, regional patient migration data from the NHS Central Register has been examined for the period 1995/96 to 2004/05. This data is represented graphically in Figure 1 overleaf.

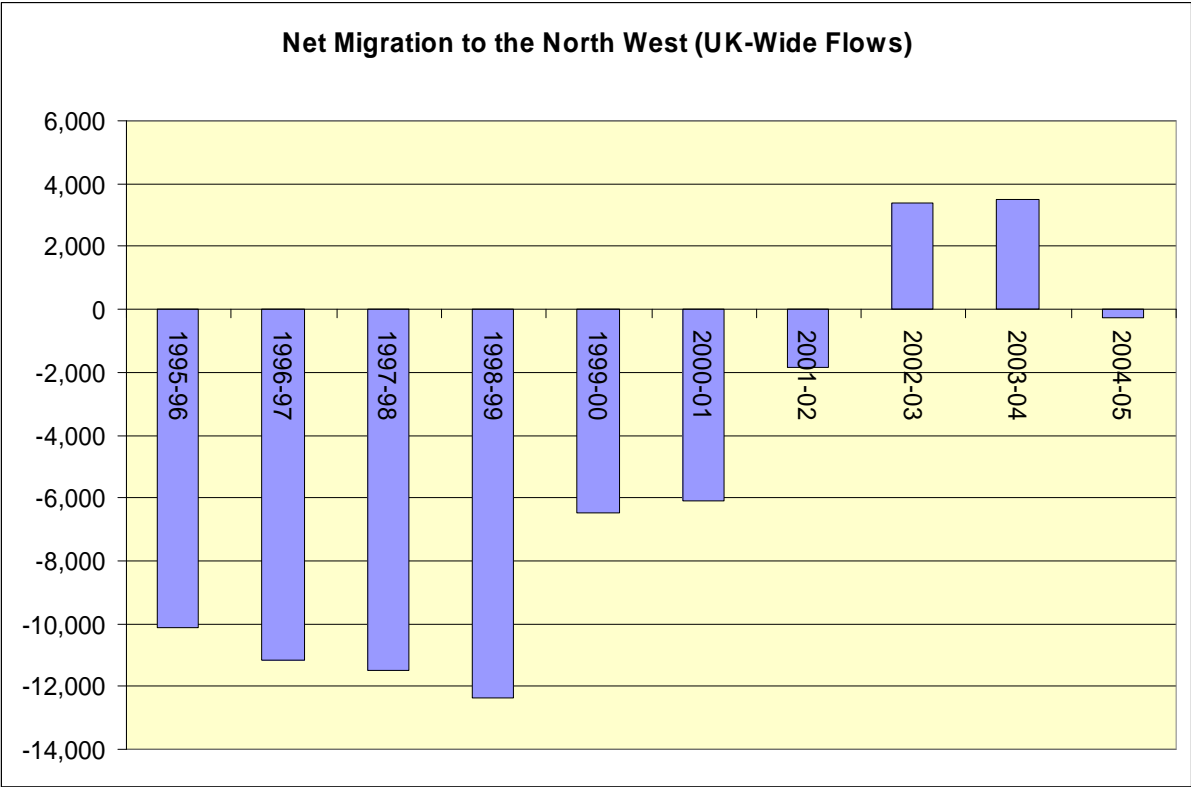
3.3 Figure 1 clearly indicates that the pattern of migration into the North West from elsewhere in the UK has changed significantly over the ten year period. The region experienced annual net outflows of migrants between 1995/96 and 2001/02 that ranged from 1,826 to 12,381. In contrast, net migration to the region was positive in 2002/03 and 2003/04 (3,395 and 3,467 respectively) although it did then decline to a low level of net out-migration in 2004/05.

3.4 Clearly the improved migration performance of the North West in recent years results in a very different level of net migration when analysed over a five year period compared to ten years. Over the five year period 2000/01 to 2004/05 the North West experienced two years of net in-migration and another two years where net out-migration was relatively small. As a consequence, the average net migration to the region equals -273 when calculated on the basis of five years of data.

⁴ ODPM household projections and ONS sub-national population projections are both based upon the analysis of trends over a five year time period.

3.5 In contrast, an average calculated over the ten year time period takes into account the four years of strong net out-migration at the start of the period. This serves to reduce the level of average net migration considerably to -5,298. The differences in annual average rates of migration over a five and ten year period would be compounded by applying the rates over a 15 year period to 2021.

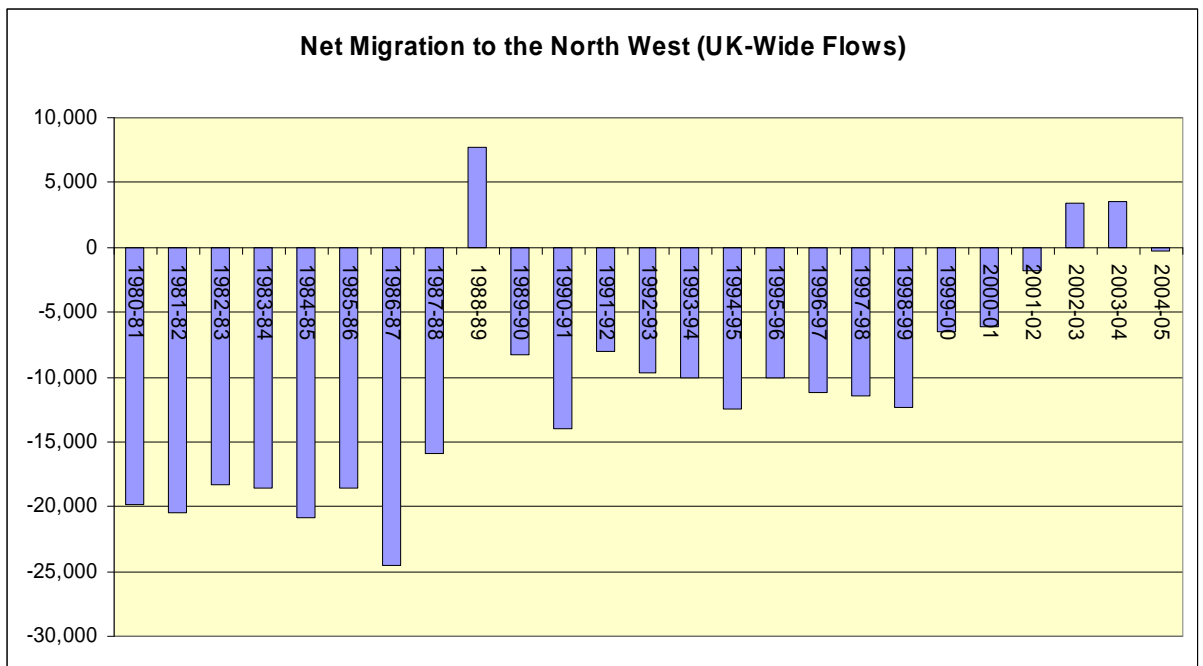
Figure 1



3.6 In order to develop a greater understanding of historic migration performance in the North West, net UK-wide migration into the region has also been considered over a longer timeframe. Figure 2 overleaf contains this data for the period 1980/81 to 2004/05.

3.7 Figure 2 illustrates that the North West has suffered net out-migration for much of the 25 year period. In addition, it can be seen that the region has experienced net in-migration only in very brief periods, before reverting back to a net outflow of migrants. This would suggest that examining migration performance over a five year period, which incorporates two years of positive migration performance, is not representative of the long term trend of out-migration from the North West and is consequently skewing upwards the projected level of migration.

Figure 2



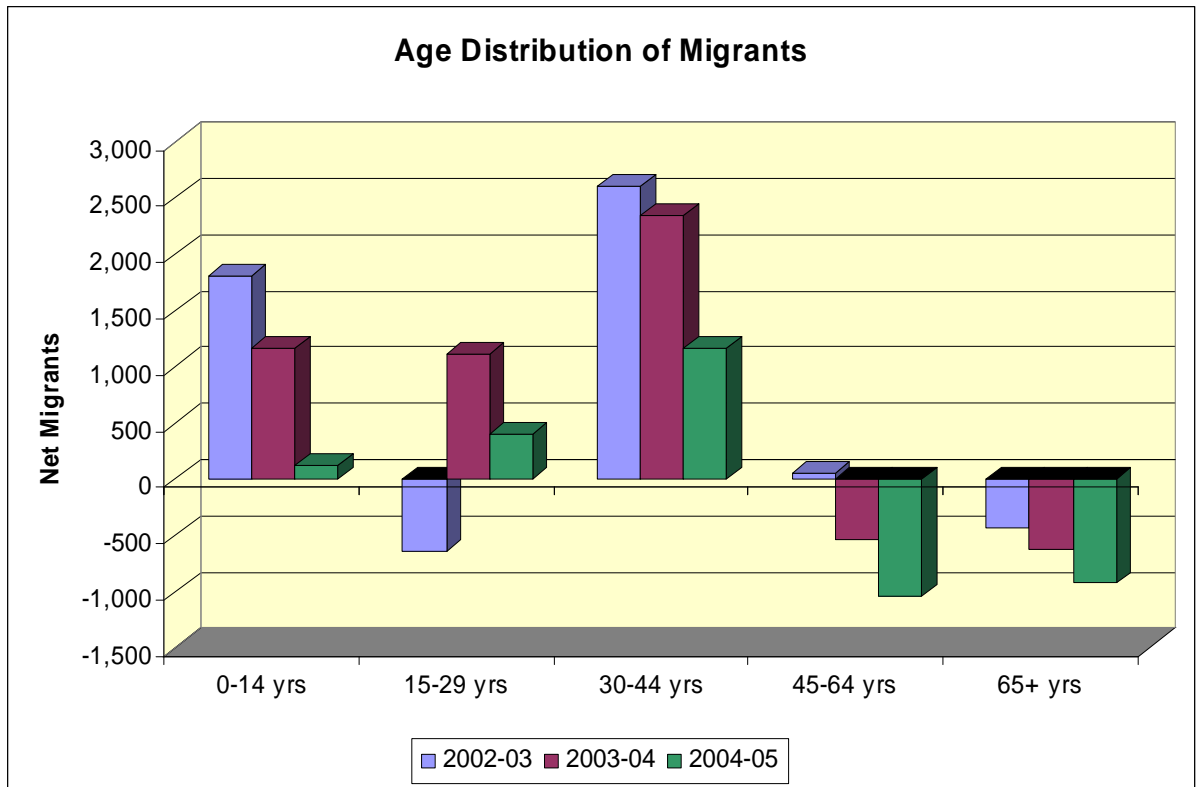
3.8 It should also be noted, however, that the magnitude of the out-migration from the region appears to be declining over time. The graph clearly shows that the average level of net out-migration during the 1980's was significantly higher than that observed during the 1990's. In addition, the graph indicates that another reduction in the level of net out-migration occurred in 1999/00 and 2000/01, and then becomes positive.

The Profile of In-Migrants

3.9 Figure 3 below contains NHS Patient Registration data available from ONS. The Figure shows the age distribution of net migrants into the North West from elsewhere in the UK over the period 2002/03 to 2004/05.

3.10 The graph clearly shows that the number of net in-migrants fell for each broad age group in 2004/05. This reflects the shift, which can be observed in Figures 1 and 2, from a position of net in-migration to the region in 2002/03 and 2003/04 to one of net out-migration in 2004/05.

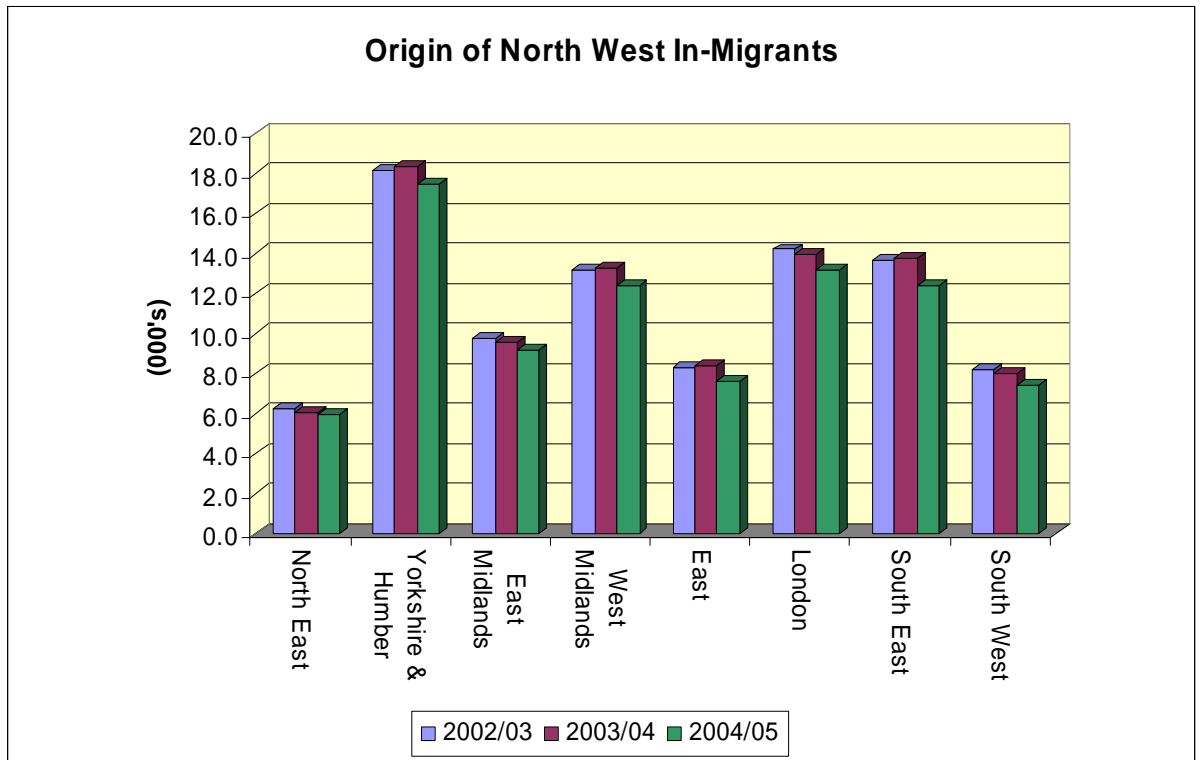
Figure 3



3.11 Figure 3 shows that the 30 – 44 years age band accounts for the majority of net in-migration into the region and together with the 15 – 29years age group accounts for nearly all net in-migration to the North West. This highlights that the majority of net in-migrants to the region are of working age. In contrast, net outflows were recorded in the 45 – 64 years and 65+ years age bands in 2003/04 and 2004/05.

3.12 Additionally, the NHS Patient Registration data from the ONS can also be used to determine the number of in-migrants to the North West from the various regions of England. This information is presented graphically in Figure 4 below for the period 2003 to 2005.

Figure 4



3.13 Figure 4 shows that the contributions of the regions to the North West's in-migration have remained fairly constant over the period. However, it can be seen that the number of migrants to the North West from each of the eight regions was lower in 2004/05 than in 2002/03. This is to be expected given that the overall number of in-migrants to the region declined over this period.

3.14 It can clearly be observed from Figure 4 that the majority of in-migrants to the North West move to the region from Yorkshire and Humber. In 2005, 17,500 people migrated from Yorkshire and Humber to the North West, accounting for 20.4% of all inflows to the region that year. London made the second largest contribution, accounting for 15.4% of all in-migrants to the North West in 2005. The South East and the West Midlands were also the source of large flows of in-migrants to the region.

Summary

3.15 The key findings of this sub-section are highlighted below:

- There is a long-term trend of net out-migration from the region
- Average annual migration equals -273 over five years or -5,298 over ten years
- The majority of migrants to the North West are of working age; and
- The majority of migrants to the North West (20.4%) originate from Yorkshire and Humber.

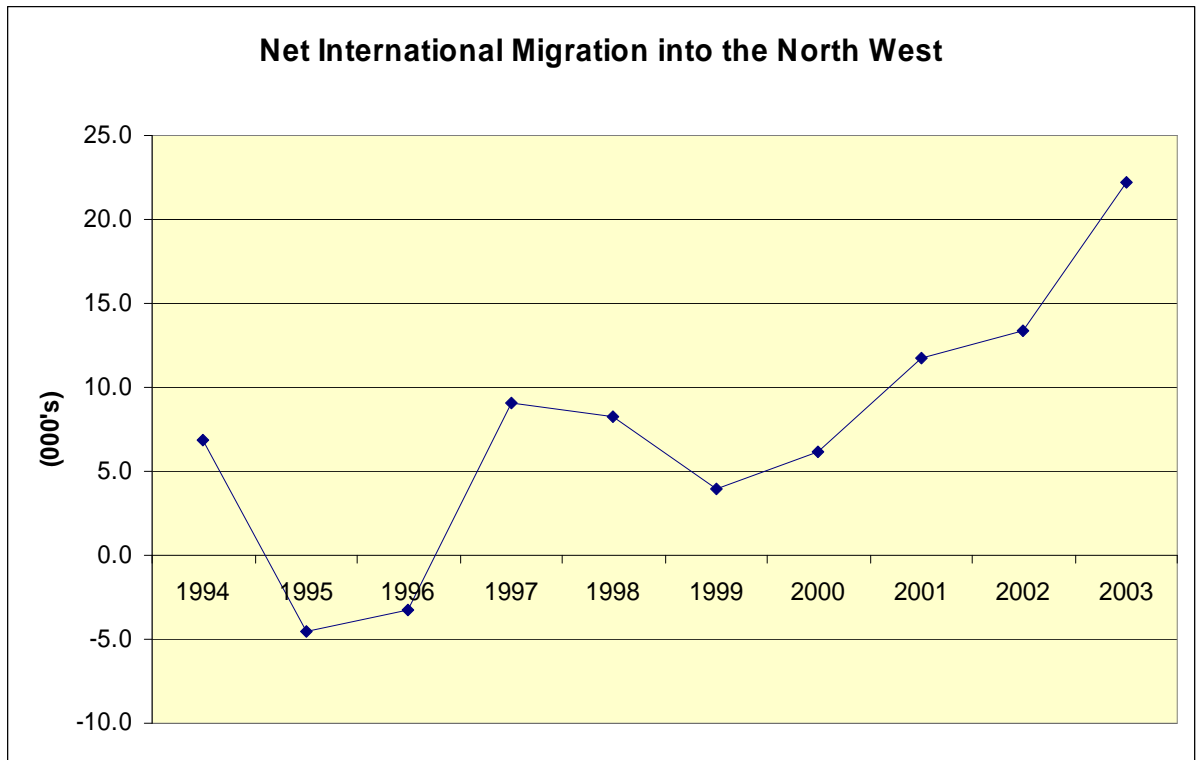
International Migration

3.16 In order to understand the migration performance of the North West, an analysis of international exchanges must also be undertaken. International migration flows are monitored by ONS using three principal sources of data:

- International Passenger Survey (IPS)
- Home Office data relating to asylum seekers and their dependents; and
- Irish Central Statistics Office data regarding migration between the UK and the Irish Republic.

3.17 The ONS data is presented graphically in Figure 5 below. The graph shows that migration performance was stronger over the period 1999 to 2003 in comparison with the previous five years. Net international migration during the 1990's fluctuated considerably, with the North West experiencing positive in-migration either side of a net outflow of international migrants in 1995 and 1996. In contrast, the number of net international migrants moving to the region exhibited year on year increases from 1999 onwards.

Figure 5



3.18 It is possible that higher levels of net international migration to the North West since 1999 have been driven in part by the 'no choice' dispersal policy to asylum seekers introduced by the 1999 Immigration and Asylum Act. In order to ease the financial burden of asylum being placed upon the Local Authorities of London and the South East⁵, asylum seekers are now involuntarily dispersed to locations throughout England and remain there whilst their application for asylum is being processed.

3.19 In addition, a report published by the Home Office in 2001 entitled *Migration: An Economic and Social Analysis* states that the level of net international migration into the UK has increased since the late 1990's, as a consequence of the following factors:

- Economic globalisation, resulting in reduced transport and transaction costs and therefore making it easier for individuals to move between countries. Globalisation has also improved and increased information flows and consequently people are now more aware of the opportunities available in other countries

⁵ London and the South East of England are the two most popular destinations for individuals seeking asylum in England

- Increased economic integration, and particularly labour market mobility, in the EU; and
- The current strength of Britain's labour market vis-à-vis other European economies.

3.20 Furthermore, *The Determinants of International Migration into the UK: A Panel Based Modelling Approach*, J. Mitchell and N. Pain argues that recent increases in net international in-migration to the UK have been driven in part by “the existence of an unchanged entry regime in the UK at a time when entry criteria in other possible host countries have been tightened.” As a consequence, it is believed that immigration into the UK has become comparatively easier in recent years.

3.21 Clearly the improved migration performance of the North West from 1999 onwards has implications with respect to differences in projections based upon trends derived from the analysis of either a five or ten year time period. For instance, calculating a mean figure over the five year period 1999-2003 generates an average level of net international migration of 11,500 per annum, whereas an analysis of the ten year period indicates an average annual level which is significantly lower at 7,400.

3.22 The projections based upon the five year period are driven by the rapid increase in net international migration to the region from 1999 onwards. However, the projections based upon the ten year period are tempered by the less robust migration performance of the region between 1994 and 1999. Over this period, net international in-migration never exceeded 10,000 and was negative in two of the years.

3.23 There is no way of knowing whether international migration into the North West will continue to increase as it has done since 1999. However, figures released by the Government Actuary's Department (GAD) indicate that it will continue to play a significant role in driving population at the national level. The GAD forecast that the population of the UK will increase by 7.2 million over the period 2004 to 2031 and have projected that 4.1 million of this increase will be accounted for by net in-migration.

Local Authority Level

3.24 Figure 6 below contains ONS data regarding net international migration figures at the Local Authority level. It can clearly be seen from the data that net international in-migration into the North West in 2004 was focussed upon the cities of Liverpool

(5,930) and Manchester (3,662). Expressing net inflows of international migrants as a percentage of Local Authorities' resident population also illustrates the dominance of Liverpool and Manchester as well as highlighting strong migration performance in the Cumbrian local authorities of Allerdale, Carlisle, Copeland and Eden.

3.25 Figure 6

	Population	Net International Migration (IPS)	% of Population
Knowsley	149,800	-348	-0.23
Liverpool	444,500	5,930	1.33
St Helens	176,700	-410	-0.23
Sefton	281,800	433	0.15
Wirral	313,100	-556	-0.18
Blackburn with Darwen	140,200	-294	-0.21
Blackpool	142,700	-2	0.00
Chester	119,000	17	0.01
Congleton	91,800	-269	-0.29
Crewe and Nantwich	113,400	-355	-0.31
Ellesmere Port and Neston	80,900	-262	-0.32
Macclesfield	150,400	-143	-0.10
Vale Royal	124,500	-421	-0.34
Bolton	264,800	703	0.27
Bury	182,100	483	0.27
Manchester	437,000	3,662	0.84
Oldham	218,300	-94	-0.04
Rochdale	206,500	303	0.15
Salford	216,400	717	0.33
Stockport	282,200	-486	-0.17
Tameside	213,700	-92	-0.04
Trafford	212,700	530	0.25
Wigan	305,400	461	0.15
Halton	118,900	-12	-0.01
Burnley	88,100	-208	-0.24
Chorley	103,000	-39	-0.04
Fylde	75,800	194	0.26
Hyndburn	81,600	-224	-0.27
Lancaster	136,700	206	0.15
Pendle	89,300	-183	-0.20
Preston	131,000	467	0.36
Ribble Valley	56,600	-122	-0.22
Rosendale	65,900	-187	-0.28
South Ribble	105,500	-112	-0.11
West Lancashire	109,200	-89	-0.08
Wyre	109,300	201	0.18
Warrington	193,700	342	0.18
Allerdale	95,300	805	0.84
Barrow-in-Furness	70,500	-267	-0.38
Carlisle	103,500	997	0.96
Copeland	70,600	621	0.88
Eden	52,000	419	0.81
South Lakeland	102,900	-228	-0.22

Summary

3.26 The key findings of this sub-section are summarised below:

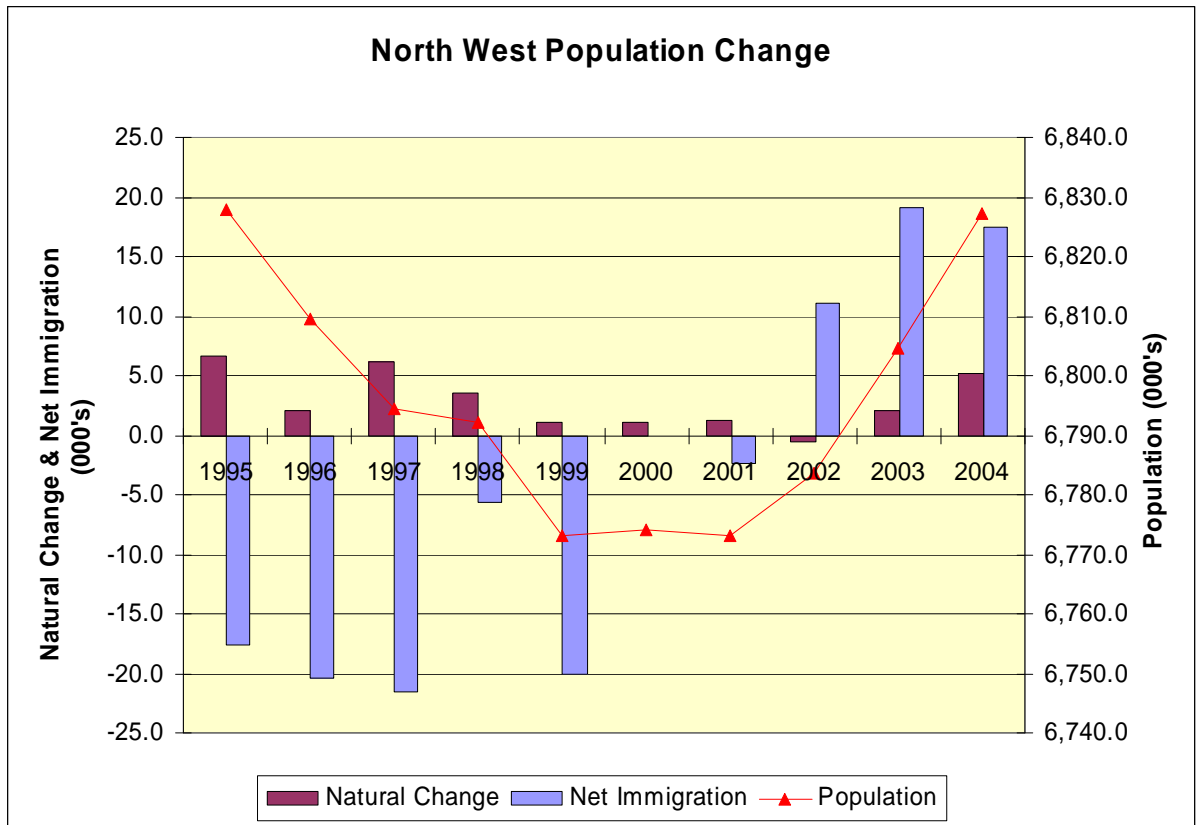
- International migration into the North West is largely positive and appears to be increasing over time
- International migration into the region has been particularly strong from 1999 onwards and is believed to be driven by political and socio-economic determinants
- Average annual international migration equals 11,500 over 5 years or 7,400 over 10 years; and
- Inflows of international migrants are concentrated within Liverpool and Manchester and to a lesser extent in Cumbria.

Population Change and Migration

3.27 Population change across the North West over the period 1995 to 2004 is shown in Figure 7 below. The graph also includes annual levels of net migration and natural change (births minus deaths) for the region, thus illustrating how significant the impact of net migration was with respect to population change for any given year. All data contained within the graph is available from ONS.

3.28 The previous analysis of UK-wide and international migration trends as two distinct flows is useful in providing a breakdown of these separate flows to determine overall trends. However, it is not possible to approximate overall average net migration by summing these two figures. **Discussions with ONS have indicated that net immigration, as implied by Figure 7 below represents the best estimate of net migration into and out of the North West.**

Figure 7



3.29 It can be seen from Figure 7 that the region’s migration performance over the ten year period can clearly be split into two periods; 1995 to 1999 and 2000 to 2004. Between 1995 and 1999, the North West suffered five continuous years of significant net out-migration, which resulted in the population declining from 6,827,900 to 6,773,000 over the same period.

3.30 In the second half of the study period, the migration performance of the North West was markedly different. Large net inflows in the years 2002, 2003 and 2004 resulted in a rapid increase in population and by 2004 the regional population had increased to 6,827,200.

3.31 The graph also indicates that migration flows exert a greater influence over population change than natural change, with shifts in migration performance clearly driving the population increase and decrease in population observed in Figure 7. The level of natural change, however, increased in 2003 and 2004 after being particularly low between 1999 and 2002.

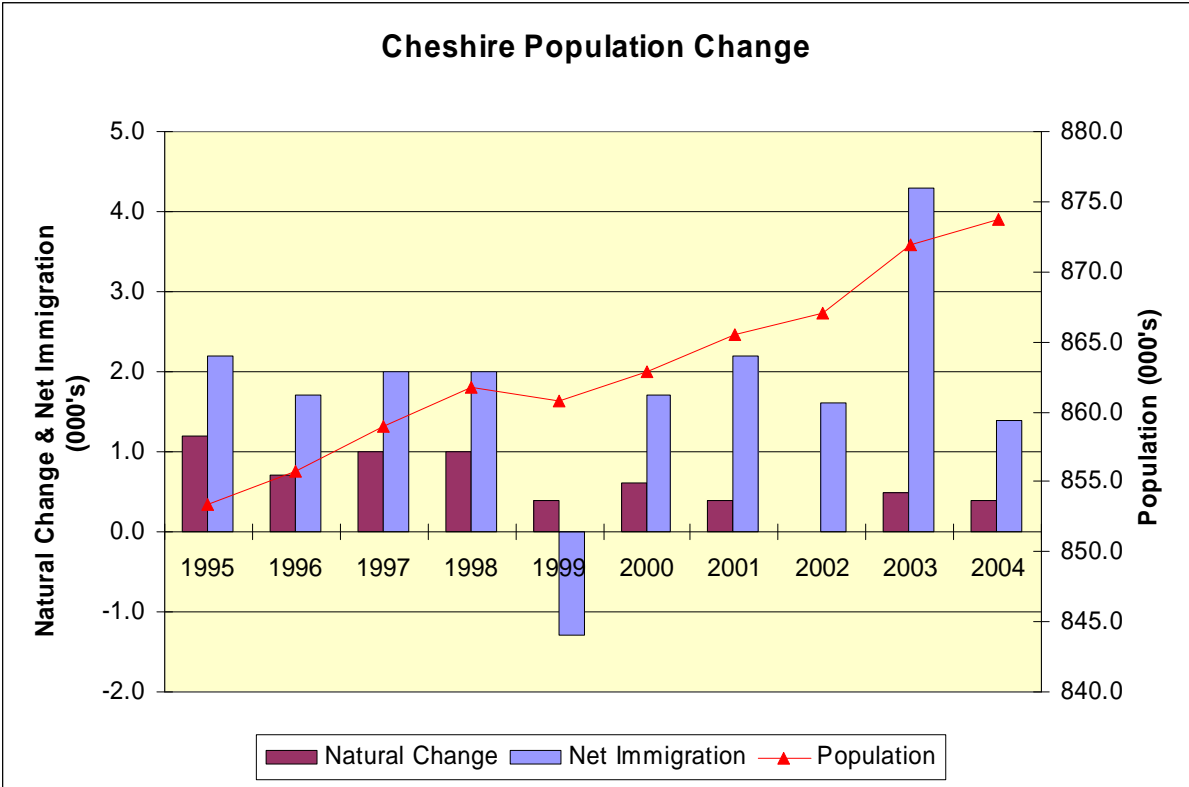
3.32 Clearly the migration performance of the North West, as shown in Figure 7 indicates once more that projecting forward migration trends observed over ten years will generate very different results to forecasts based upon observations over a five year time frame. For instance, average annual net migration into the North West was 9,020 per annum over the five year period 1999 to 2003. Calculating an average over the ten year period gives an annual average level of net migration of -4,020.

3.33 It should be noted that household size is decreasing over time. As a consequence, although Figure 7 shows that the population of the North West in 2004 is similar to the 1995 population, there will be a greater number of households in the region because of the reduction in household size.

Cheshire

3.34 Figure 8 below illustrates that the Cheshire sub-region experienced significant population gains over the period 1995 to 2004, rising from 853,400 to 873,700.

Figure 8



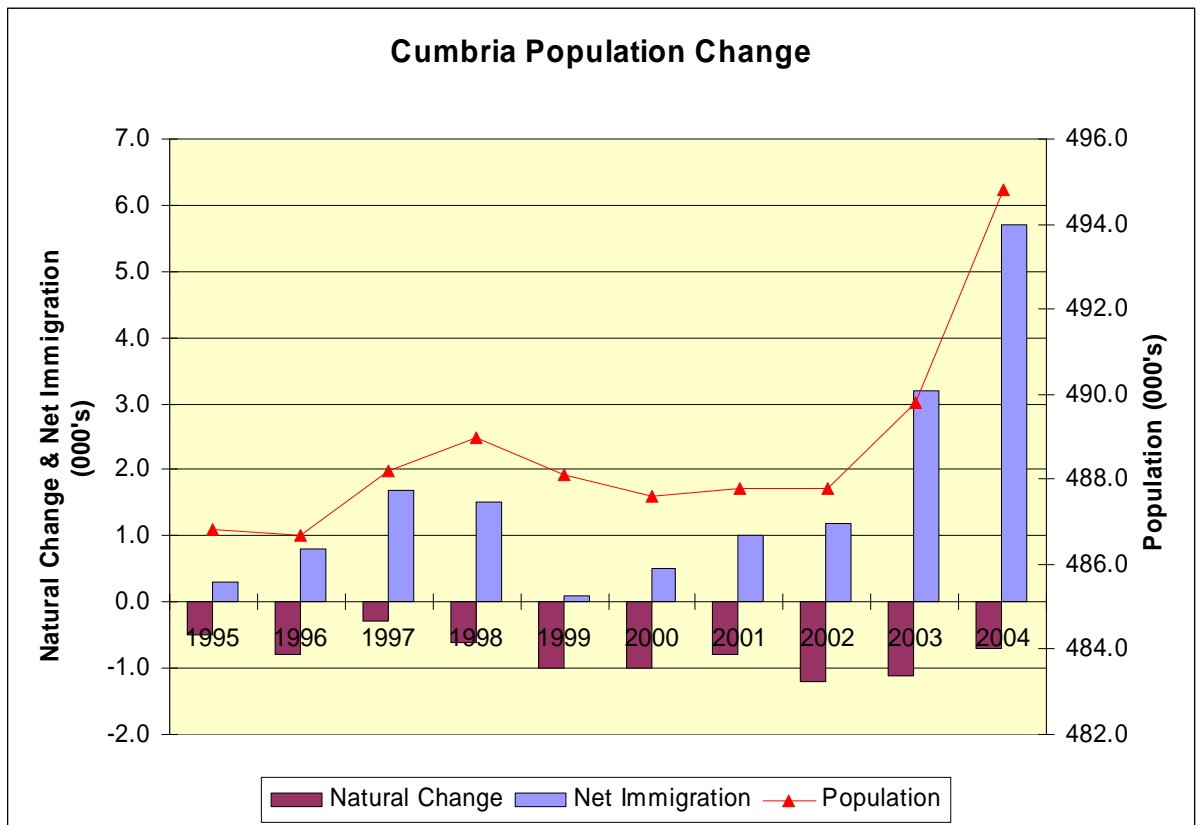
3.35 The graph clearly shows that both natural change and net immigration have contributed to the population growth of Cheshire. However, the level of natural

change appears to be declining over time, accounting for an increase of 1,200 residents in 1995 and just 400 in 2004. As a consequence, the relative influence of migration patterns upon population growth appears to be increasing.

Cumbria

3.36 Population in the Cumbria sub-region over the period 1995 to 2004 is represented graphically in Figure 9 below. The graph shows that natural change in Cumbria was negative throughout the ten year period, whereas net immigration into the sub-region was positive. As a consequence, any increases in population were driven exclusively by net inflows of migrants.

Figure 9



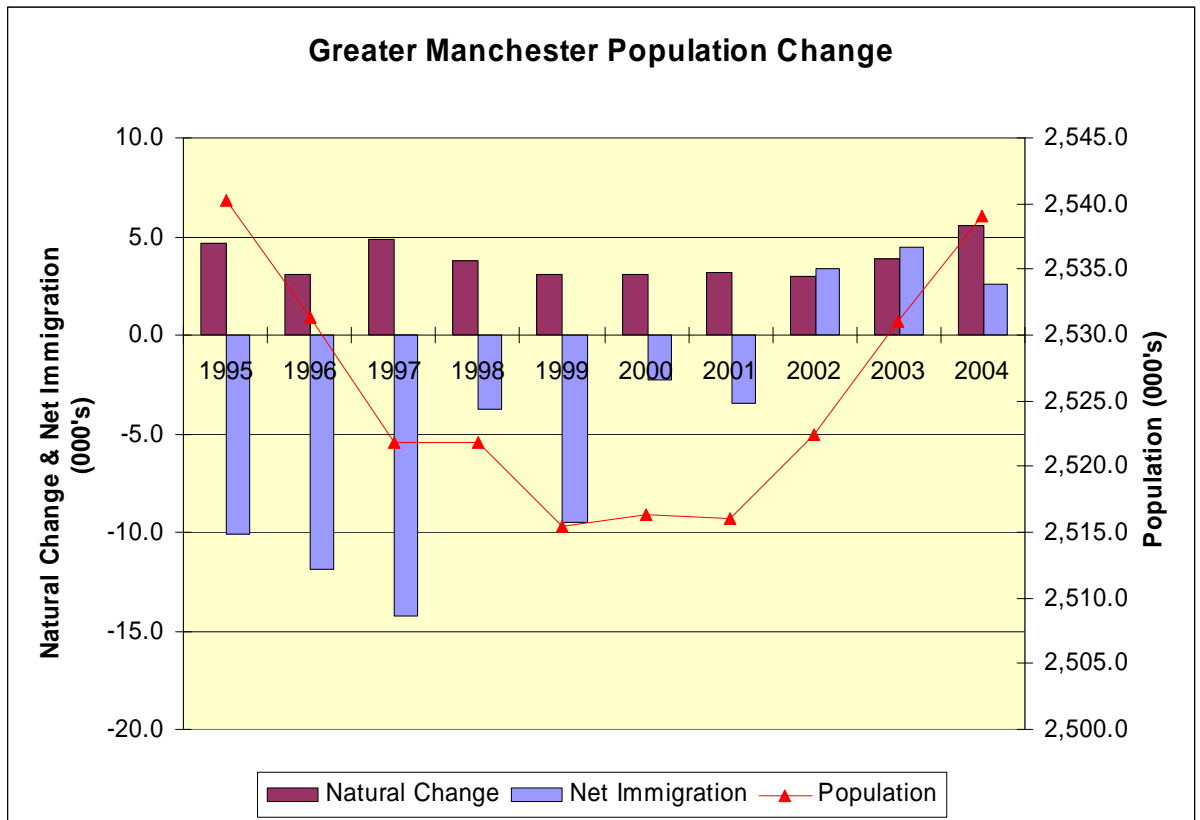
3.37 In the final years of the study period, Cumbria experienced rapid population growth, rising from 487,800 in 2002 to 494,800 in 2004. This was driven by substantial increases in the level of net immigration to the region. The population of Cumbria was approximately 486,800 in 1995.

Greater Manchester

3.38 It can clearly be seen from Figure 10 below that Greater Manchester experienced significant and positive levels of natural change over the period 1995 to 2004, ranging from 3,000 in 2001 to 5,500 in 2004. This indicates that migration is less influential as a driver of population change in the area, compared with some of the other sub-regions of the North West

3.39 In the mid to late 1990's, Greater Manchester suffered large net out-migration, the level of which was greater than the positive natural change in the sub-region. As a consequence, population declined from 2,540,200 in 1995 to 2,515,500 in 1999, driven by net out-migration.

Figure 10



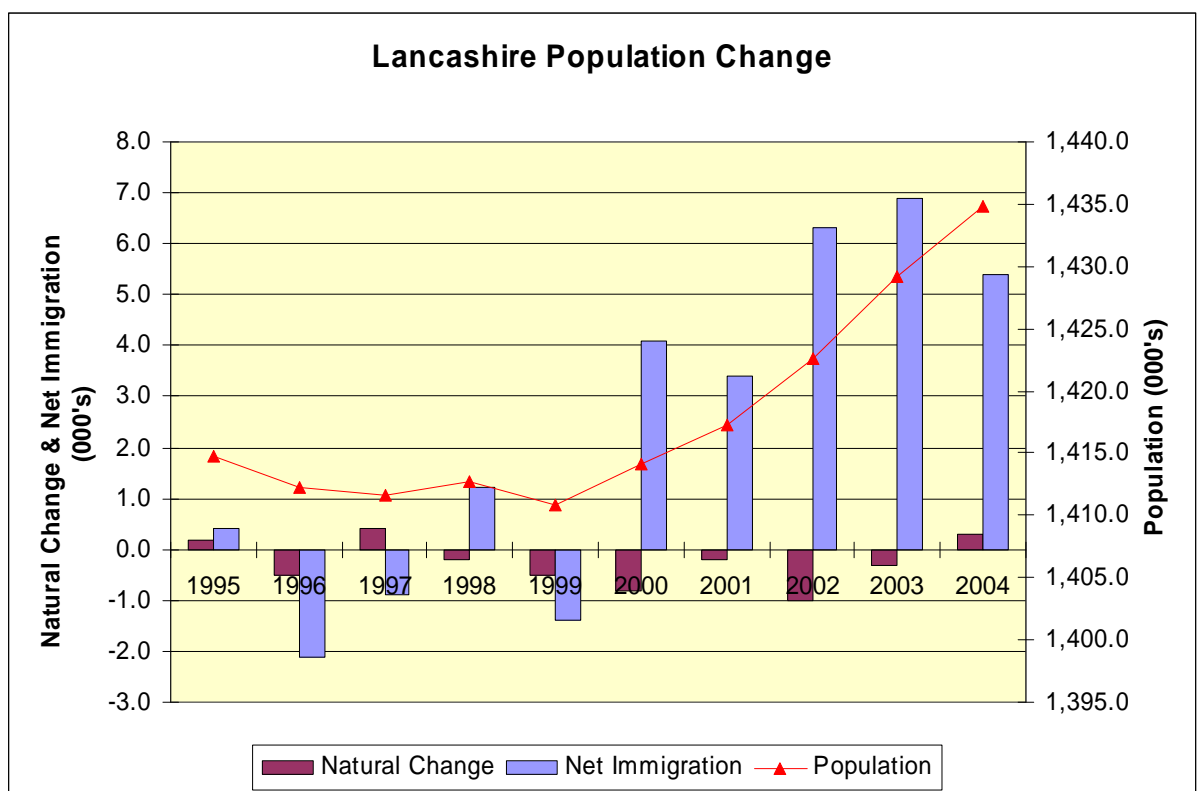
3.40 From 2002 onwards, however, the sub-region experienced a net inflow of migrants, which resulted in a significant increase in population, rising from 2,516,100 in 2001 to 2,539,000 in 2004. However, it can clearly be seen from Figure 10 that on average over the period 2002 to 2004, the level of natural change in the area made a greater contribution to the population gains than net immigration.

Lancashire

3.41 Figure 11 below clearly shows that levels of natural change were relatively small in the Lancashire sub-region over the period 1995 to 2004, ranging from 400 in 1997 to -1,000 in 2002.

3.42 Between 1995 and 1998, levels of net immigration were also relatively small. However, they appeared to exert a greater influence upon the population change of Lancashire in comparison with the impact of natural change.

Figure 11



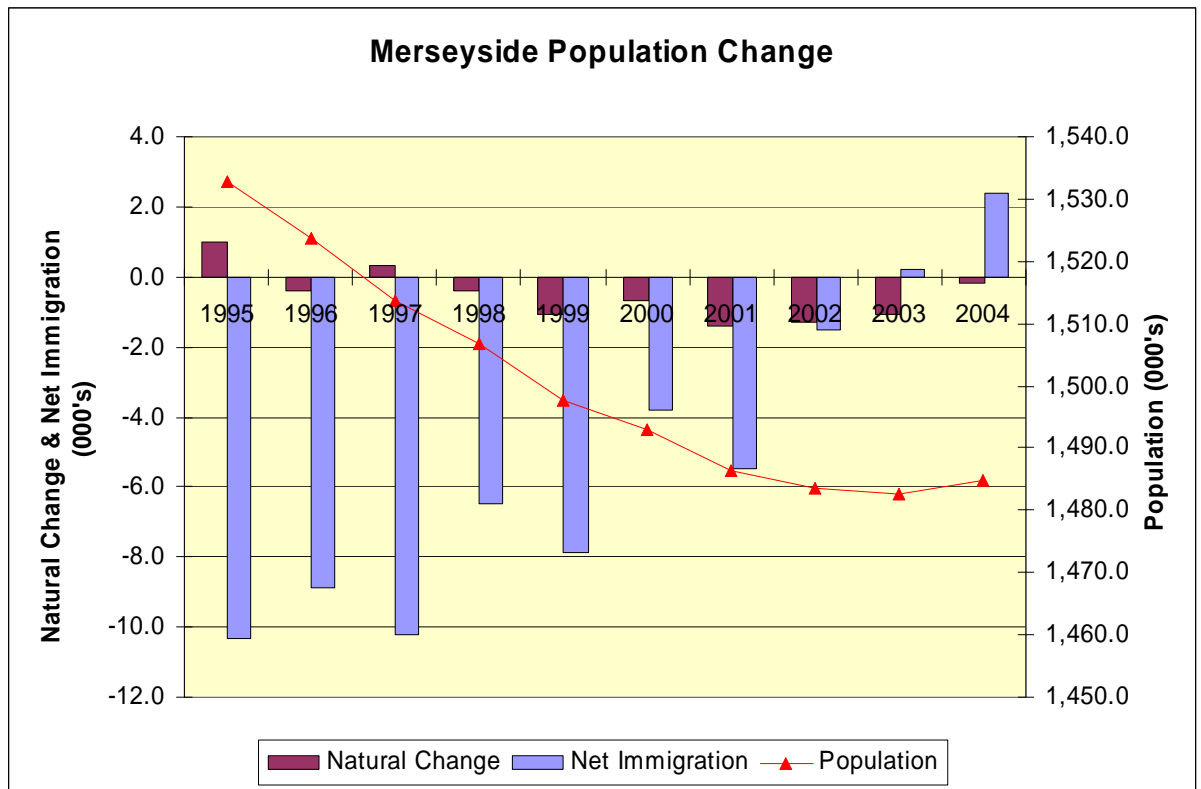
3.43 From 2000 onwards Lancashire experienced large levels of net in-migration which caused population to increase from 1,410,800 in 1999 to 1,434,900 in 2004. Clearly population growth in the latter years of the study period was driven by migration.

Merseyside

3.44 Figure 12 below shows population change in Merseyside over the period 1995 to 2004. It can clearly be seen that the sub-region experienced a significant decline in population over the period, falling from 1,532,900 in 1995 to 1,484,700 in 2004.

3.45 The graph clearly highlights that this population decline was driven primarily by large net out-migration from the sub-region, whereas natural change appears to have exerted comparatively little influence on population change in Merseyside over the study period. The largest net outflow of migrants from the sub-region was observed in 1995 (10,300).

Figure 12



3.46 However, the magnitude of the net outflow of migrants appears to have been declining over time and was positive in 2003 and 2004. This resulted in a slight increase in population in 2004, following a sustained period of population decline.

Summary

3.47 The key findings of this sub-section are summarised below:

- At the regional level, population change is driven primarily by migration patterns
- Average annual migration equals 9,020 when calculated over a five year period, driven by rapid population growth from 2002 onwards
- Average annual migration equals -4,020 when calculated over ten years. The figure is significantly lower than that calculated over five years because of large

out-migration between 1995 and 1999, which resulted in a marked decline in population; and

- The influence of migration upon population varies at a sub-regional level
 - Strong, positive natural change in Greater Manchester reduces the influence of migration
 - Low levels of natural change in Lancashire and Merseyside mean that population change is driven almost exclusively by migration
 - Natural change is declining over time in Cheshire, increasing the relative influence of migration on population growth
 - Natural change is negative in Cumbria. Population increases in recent years have been driven by net in-migration.

4.0 THE VALIDITY OF THE ONS REGIONAL HOUSEHOLD CHANGE FIGURE

Introduction

- 4.1 This section of the report provides the North West Regional Assembly with some steer as to the level of confidence that can be attached to the ONS regional household change figures. In addition to summarising the key migration trends and the differences between observing migration over a five and ten year time period, this section will also outline the potential risks and benefits of adopting five and ten year based projections. These risks and benefits will be examined with respect to a series of key issues identified through the analysis undertaken in preceding sections.

Migration: Key Trends and Drivers

- 4.2 The North West has suffered an outflow of inter-regional or UK-wide migrants for much of the last 25 years⁶, although the scale of this out-migration does appear to be reducing over time. Academic research suggests that inter-regional migration flows are driven primarily by economic factors. It is believed that migrants move over such distances in search of higher economic growth and improved employment opportunities. The housing figures contained within the draft RSS are underpinned by the assumption that economic growth will help to drive future population growth in the North West.
- 4.3 International migration to the region appears to be on an upward trend. This is particularly the case from 1999 onwards; with the North West exhibiting stronger migration performance since then and international net migration increasing year on year over this period. It is understood that international migration patterns are driven by socio-political factors and lifestyle choices, as well as economic determinants.

Five and Ten Year Trend Based Projections

- 4.4 This report has demonstrated that the net migration performance of the North West has improved significantly since the early 1990's. Projecting forward migration trends observed over a ten year period, therefore, results in far lower average annual rates of migration in comparison with projections based upon the analysis of a five year period.

⁶ A net outflow of migrants has been recorded in 22 of the last 25 years
NE2006\MA40251-002 migration paper

- 4.5 For example, examining patterns of UK-wide migration with respect to the two time periods highlights that average migration equates to -273 per annum over the five year period and -5,298 per annum over the ten year period. Similarly, average net international migration to the North West equalled 11,500 per annum over the five year period, with the figure falling to 7,400 when calculated over the ten year period.
- 4.6 If both national and international migration figures are considered concurrently using ONS data then an examination of trends over the five year period indicates that annual net migration into the North West equals 9,020. Over the ten year period, however, the average annual rate of migration equals -4,020.

Potential Risks and Benefits

- 4.7 Figure 13 below considers the potential risks and benefits of adopting projections based upon either a five or ten year time frame, with respect to some of the key issues identified within this report.

Figure 13

Issue	5 Year	10 Year
The North West RSS is planning for improved levels of economic growth	<p>Five year trend based estimates project high levels of net in-migration into the region. This will result in high levels of household provision which will help to underpin the economic growth being planned for in the North West. However, if the region does not experience the strong economic performance anticipated then there is the possibility that the five year projections will result in an overprovision of housing.</p> <p>In addition, if the North West fails to achieve higher rates of economic growth then residents may migrate to other regions where growth <i>is</i> strong. Adopting the higher 5 year figures could prove problematic in this instance as it may result in the future population of the North West being over-estimated.</p>	<p>Ten year trend based projections forecast net out-migration from the North West and therefore do not reflect the high levels of net in-migration that could arise from strong economic growth in the region. As a consequence, the need for new housing in the region could be underestimated, which could in turn undermine the future economic growth of the region.</p> <p>However, if the North West fails to achieve higher levels of economic growth, residents may migrate to other regions experiencing strong growth. Ten year estimates of migration forecast a continuation of the trend of net out-migration from the North West and could be more applicable in such circumstances.</p>
International migration flows are positive and strong and this is projected to continue	Five year trends reflect the current high, positive levels of net international migration experienced by the North West and consequently should provide an appropriate forecast if recent migration trends do continue as	Ten year trends project positive levels of net international migration. However, the figures are tempered by the weaker migration performance of the North West in the mid-1990's. As a consequence, future levels of net international

	<p>projected.</p> <p>It should be noted that the policy framework has, in recent years, contributed to high levels of net international in-migration. This is primarily due to UK government policy with respect to asylum, as well as EU accession. However, if the policy framework changes in the future then there is a danger that projections based upon five year trends could overestimate future levels of net international population flows into the North West.</p>	<p>migration to the region could be underestimated.</p>
<p>Long-term trends show that the North West suffers net outflows of inter-regional migrants</p>	<p>An analysis of five years of UK-wide migration data incorporates two years of positive net migration performance. This would not appear to be representative of the long-term trend of net out-migration from the region and may skew upwards the migration projections.</p> <p>Adopting the five year trend based projections may therefore result in the future migration performance of the North West being over-estimated.</p>	<p>Analysing UK-wide migration patterns in the North West over a ten year period appears to reflect the long-term trend of out-migration from the region. This timeframe may therefore provide a more appropriate future estimate of migration performance.</p>