

Under the former Regional Spatial Strategy housing targets, Sheffield had, I believe the following population Projections :

2006 525,800 and by 2031 615,300 (a net increase of 89,500)

The ONS identified the population change factors that caused the net increase of 89,500 as follows :

Immigration 80,700

Natural change 62,600

Internal migration -53,800

Question 1 :

Given that the Regional Spatial Strategy housing targets are due to be abolished, can you please tell me if Sheffield intend to stick with the above population projections / assumptions when developing their new housing targets (yes / no)?

The Sheffield housing target for the period 2004 to 2026 has already been set by the Sheffield Development Framework Core Strategy (adopted March 2009). The figure is the same as that in the RSS and the Council has no plans to set a new target in light of the decision to abolish RSS. However, it would be incorrect, for two reasons, to say that this means Sheffield is 'sticking with the population projections' you have outlined above.

First, the population projections you have referred to are the 2006-based population projections which were published in June 2008. This was too late for them to be taken into account in the RSS process (the RSS was published in May 2008). The housing targets set in the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) take into account both the Government's 2003-based and 2004-based **household projections**. The household projections link directly to **population projections** and make assumptions about future levels of household formation. As you note above, the population projections are based on an extrapolation of key assumptions about birth/ mortality rates (natural change) and migration. It might be helpful to note that the 2006-based population projections are higher than both the 2003-based and 2004-based projections. For comparison, the 2004-based projections show a net increase in Sheffield's population of 40,500 over the period 2006 to 2029.

Second, the projections were only one factor used to set the housing targets. The housing targets set by RSS **took into account a number of different considerations** and were not derived directly from one mathematical model or set of projections. Paragraph 12.5 of the RSS describes in more detail the range of evidence that was considered in preparing the plan.

Question 2

If Sheffield are not sticking with the above population assumptions, can you please tell me what are the latest projected population growth assumptions that Sheffield Council are using for the period 2006 - 2031 (or the latest date if different eg 2028) when developing their new housing targets? (e.g net growth of Xx thousand people)

Not applicable – see answer to Q1 above

Question 3

Using the net projected growth figure in question 2, can you please provide an analysis of how this figure is made up across the following population factors:

- Natural change / growth
- Immigration
- Internal migration

Not applicable – see answer to Q1 above

Question 4

If you have identified a figure for internal migration into / out of Sheffield can you please provide an analysis or details of where the assumptions behind this figure came from, in particular any assumptions about the movement between Sheffield and Rotherham e.g

- Net internal migration to / from Sheffield to Rotherham (xx thousand people by 2031etc)

Not applicable – see answer to Q1 above

Question 5.

Under the previous RSS can you identify the total number of homes that Sheffield was required to build by 2026 and 2031 (eg 2006 -2026 xxx thousand homes)

Sheffield is required to provide 29,750 additional homes over the period 2004 to 2026 (an average of 1,025 per year from 2004 to 2008 and 1,425 per year from 2008 to 2026). A further 4,800 homes are needed to replace dwellings lost through demolition over the period 2004 to 2016 (though this figure is subject to monitoring and regular review).

Question 6

As the RSS is now due to be abolished and using the dates identified in Q5 can you please provide me with Sheffield's latest estimate of the homes target they are now using up to 2026 and 2031 - ie the targets that Sheffield is using to replace the former RSS targets.

The target is the same as in the RSS (see answers to Q1 and Q5 above). No target has been set beyond 2026.