

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee – 20 June 2023

Subject: Headlines from the 2021 Census

Report of: Assistant Chief Executive

Summary

Economy Scrutiny members requested an update on the results from the 2021 Census and how the information is used to help with decisions about how funding and resources are used for public services.

This report summarises the headline outputs that have been released from the 2021 Census so far (as at June 2023), specifically describing the change in resident population, the concerns we have in terms of missing population, and an overview of how the Census results are generally used to support decision making.

Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:-

- (1) Consider and comment on the information in the report and the headlines from the 2021 Census.
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Wards Affected: All

Environmental Impact Assessment - the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city

Census information will be used as appropriate to inform our plans for tackling climate change in the Council and the city
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Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - the impact of the issues addressed in this report in meeting our Public Sector Equality Duty and broader equality commitments
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The Census provides intelligence about the diversity of Manchester residents that will be used alongside the Council's data and intelligence to inform the services that are available for residents
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Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS/Contribution to the Strategy
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	The Census provides intelligence about the residents of Manchester that informs all themes of the Our Manchester Strategy
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	

Full details are in the body of the report, along with any implications for:

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Risk Management
- Legal Considerations

Financial Consequences – Revenue

None

Financial Consequences – Capital

None

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

None

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Economy Scrutiny members requested an update on the results from the 2021 Census and how the information is used to help with decisions about how funding and resources are used for public services.
- 1.2 This report summarises the headline outputs that have been released from the 2021 Census so far, specifically describing the city's change in resident population, the challenges in terms of people/groups that have been missed by the census, and an overview of how Census results are generally used to support decision making.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Office for National Statistics (ONS) undertakes a national Census every ten years, the latest of which took place on 23rd March 2021. Whilst the Census provides us with a holistic picture of our residents at a snapshot in time, the ONS took the decision to conduct the Census during the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic and this brings challenges in terms of understanding what the city's usual population was at that time.
- 2.2 This report therefore presents the 2021 Census and the key trends associated with it, but also highlights those areas where we believe there are significant differences and gaps with more detailed local intelligence held by the Council and partners
- 2.3 The national Census is used extensively to inform decision-making both locally and nationally, therefore it is important that we understand how we can best use this intelligence resource alongside our other local monitoring and reporting.

3.0 Key concerns with the Census results

- 3.1 The Council has developed its own population forecasting model, Manchester City Council Forecasting Model (MCCFM). This model is more accurate than the Census as it draws together a wide range of additional data sources such as Council Tax registrations, GP lists, University Student Accommodation data, School Census, plus plans and forecasts about housebuilding and volumes of people migrating in and out of the city. The model has been used for many years to inform a wide range of service planning.
- 3.2 The Census recorded a significant undercount of people in Manchester compared to MCCFM, of at least 33,000 people. The total Census count for Manchester was 551,944 compared to the MCCFM number of 588,277 in March 2021.
- 3.3 The Census 2021 household count also appears too low, with between 12,862 to 20,362 households estimated to be missing when comparing local Council Tax records and our register of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs /

shared houses) - Manchester's household count should be between 227,596 to 229,500, not 214,730 as counted by the Census

- 3.4 Most of the missing households we believe are due to missed new build apartment blocks, hidden HMO households, communal establishments & purpose built student accommodation, or because some households were digitally excluded from a mostly digital census in 2021.
- 3.5 The residents who are most likely to be missing are aged 18-49, with a mix of young professionals and international students in the inner city, and young to middle-aged adults including students in HMO, some with young children. Those missing from digitally excluded areas could be any age but more likely to be aged under 40 or over 65.
- 3.6 A higher-than-average proportion of those missing are likely to be Black, Asian and minority ethnic residents based on their age and the areas of the city that they are missing from.
- 3.7 All the above correlate with the fall or low rise in resident numbers for those aged 18-49 when comparing Census 2011 and Census 2021 – a trend that is clearly at odds with the city's development and growth in the past decade.

4.0 Headline results from the 2021 Census

- 4.1 Despite these issues, the Census is still a good picture of our residents and it is useful alongside other local data, to inform decision-making.
- 4.2 A full breakdown of the key trends can be found in Appendix 1 and via the Council's interactive dashboard (https://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/100004/the_council_and_democracy/8069/census_2021). Some key messages are as follows:
- 4.3 Manchester has one of the fastest growing populations in the country, up 9.7% / 48,900 people between the 2011 and 2021 Census. If we add in those that we believe we are missing then this would rise to 16.9% / 85,177 people)
- 4.4 The city has always been very diverse and the pace of change has been very quick in the last ten years. The proportion of residents identifying as from all Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority communities (non-white) has increased from 33% to 43% in the last ten years. The proportion identifying as non-white British has increased from 40.7% in 2011 to 51.3% in 2021. Around one in three residents recorded that they were born outside of the UK
- 4.5 There are also more languages than ever being spoken across the city, 94 languages in total, with Urdu, Arabic and Polish being the top three after English
- 4.6 There have been significant shifts in religion with a growth in residents stating Muslim or No Religion compared to 2011, and a reduction those with a Christian religion

- 4.7 Questions about sexual orientation and gender were asked for the first time in 2021 providing another insight into diversity of the city. When compared to the national average, Manchester has proportionally more residents who identify themselves as gay, lesbian, bisexual or other sexual orientation (6.7% of respondents in Manchester, against 3.2% in England and Wales). Likewise, Manchester has a higher percentage (0.8%) of people identifying with a different gender to registered at birth than England and Wales (0.5%)
- 4.8 Most residents (82.2%) stated that their general health was Good or Very Good, which is in-line with the national average. 11.8% said their health was Fair and 6.0% said their health was Poor or Very Poor. Although 17% of people stated they had a disability that limited their day-to-day activities, and overall 33% of households stated that one or more people in the household had a disability
- 4.9 The census showed a decrease in the number of residents who were economically active, down from 63.5% in 2011 to 59.2% in 2021, however it is likely that the pandemic affected these responses as some respondents would have been furloughed and students may not have been at term-time addresses
- 4.10 The main employment sectors recorded by residents show that the city had nearly 90,000 people working in professional or technical occupations (including. science, engineering, health, teaching, research, planning, social workers, etc), 32,000 in elementary occupations (including. construction, goods storage, postal/delivery workers, porters, waiting/bar staff, cleaning, security, etc), 24,000 in caring & leisure type services (including childcare, nursing, care workers, leisure attendants, hairdressing, etc), and 22,000 in sales & customer service occupations (including. sales assistants, shop owners, call centre workers, etc)
- 4.11 Location of work and travel to work methods were both affected by the timing of the 2021 Census, with 32% of working residents doing that from home at the time
- 4.12 The largest housing tenure group in the city was home ownership (79,925 households), however when combined private renting (69,403) and social renting (63,276) illustrate a high level of renting across the city – also note that the potential missing households in the census are likely to be private renters so those numbers are like to be an undercount
- 4.13 The Census also seeks to understand how houses/homes are used and therefore calculated overcrowding based on the number of people and the number of bedrooms in a property. Nearly 81,000 households have the right number of rooms to people, over 116,000 have more rooms that they need, but 16,953 do not have enough rooms and are classified as overcrowded.
- 4.14 Over 164,000 residents have level 4 and above qualifications (e.g. HNC,NHD, Degree, Post-Graduate), around 80,000 have level 3 (e.g. A-Levels or

equivalent), a significant increase since 2011 (Level 4 = c.117,000, Level 3 = c.65,000). There has also been a reduction in the number of people with No Qualifications, down from 93,800 in 2011 to 86,100 in 2021.

- 4.15 In the context of Economy Scrutiny it is worth noting that that the quarterly Economic Monitor, which was presented at the May'23 meeting, is an additional resource which enables decision-makers to review trends since the 2021 Census and identify where further progress beyond the period 2011 to 2021 may have occurred.

(<https://democracy.manchester.gov.uk/documents/g4367/Public%20reports%20pack%2023rd-May-2023%2010.00%20Economy%20and%20Regeneration%20Scrutiny%20Committee.pdf?T=10>)

- 4.16 The Census alongside other related statistics from the Office for National Statistics such as Mid-Year Estimates are used extensively in national and local decision-making. They underpin calculations about funding, they feed into planning for future services, and are built into baselines and forecasts to assess how places are changing across the country. Whilst the Census is not used in isolation, it is more important this time around that decision makers understand the context around the timing of the Census and the impact the pandemic will have had on the results.

- 4.17 Locally we have good knowledge and expertise to ensure we use the data in the right way and make the right assumptions. The Council has been working with key partners to ensure that we share that local knowledge and expertise, especially at a locality level where the differences may be more acute. Nationally, we are working with and challenging the ONS to ensure that the picture for Manchester is as accurate as possible and that their methods are appropriate and their guidance to users is clear. ONS are developing a new Dynamic Population Model that takes data from various administrative sources and Manchester is on the working group of Local Authorities that are helping to design this. Whilst this will not result in changes to the 2021 Census results (as they are a point in time and will not be adjusted for missing data), we anticipate that adjustments will be made to their associated data products to reflect that Manchester likely had an undercount and that our recovery from the pandemic means that any temporary dip in people living or visiting the city has significantly recovered since March 2021.

- 4.18 We are also working with other Government departments and associated organisations to ensure that any decision-making (especially relating to funding and service planning) is reflective of an accurate picture of Manchester.

- 4.19 Appendix 1 to this report provides more information on the 2021 Census results and links to where additional information can be found.

5.0 Recommendations

- 5.1 Scrutiny members are asked to consider and comment on the information in the report and the headlines from the 2021 Census

6.0 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Census 2021 results in Manchester (slidepack)