

August 2009
Issue 3

InfoNet Update



InfoNet Update

InfoNet Update is produced by the Corporate Research Team (InfoNet) based in the Policy & Partnerships Service of Northumberland County Council in Morpeth.

The InfoNet provides a wide range of socio-economic statistics and research focusing on Northumberland.

This update aims to keep readers informed about the current work of the InfoNet team and updates to the website.

For more information on the Northumberland InfoNet see the contact details section at the end of this newsletter or go to our [website](#).

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Northumberland Information Network, www.northumberlandinfonet.org.uk

InfoNet to Corporate Research Unit

From the 1st April 2009 the InfoNet became the Research and Intelligence unit for Northumberland based in the Policy and Partnerships Service of the new Northumberland County Council. The InfoNet aim to support the economic, social and environmental research and information needs and aspirations of Northumberland.

The InfoNet team will continue to service the research and intelligence needs of the new Unitary

Authority and its partners. At the present time we will also continue to provide a two day enquiry service.

All data and reports produced by the InfoNet on Northumberland will continue to be provided via the InfoNet website www.northumberlandinfonet.org.uk

The InfoNet will continue to maintain its links with organisations such as NERIP, NEHPO, Tyne and Wear Research and Information and Durham County Council under the

new structure.

Individual services who would like to commission a piece of work should contact Philip Hanmer, Corporate Research Manager on (01670) 533919 or e-mail philip.hanmer@northumberland.gov.uk

To find out more about the work we do, the members of our team or how to contact us please see the 'About us' section of the website or see the attached link to the leaflet detailing our work:

Welcome - New Team Members

The InfoNet have welcomed two new members to the team.

Gillian Lavery, who joins us with a wealth of experience in the Early Years Service, has been appointed as the new Consultation Officer. Gillian's role will focus on advising other departments how to conduct better surveys and consultation in future. Part of Gillian's role in the next few months will be to develop a consultation toolkit alongside policies and procedures to support consultation across the council.

Gillian can be contacted on (01670) 533021 or e-mail gillian.lavery@northumberland.gov.uk



Strategic Partnership Coordinator. Ian will be leading on work to support the data requirements of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) and producing an updated leaflet on key facts about Northumberland.

Ian can be contacted on (01670) 533063 or e-mail ian.humphreys@northumberland.gov.uk



Ian Humphreys has joined the InfoNet team as Policy & Research Officer. Ian joins the team having worked for Alnwick District Council as the Local

Northumberland Economic Assessment Update



A significant body of evidence now exists as to the state and dynamics of Northumberland's local economy. The Economic Assessment website can be found at:

www.northumberlandinfonet.org.uk/EconomicAssessment/. The next stage is to translate this intelligence into a coherent set of policies that recognises the inter-dependencies between the drivers. This process will require further stakeholder involvement.

In order to help with this engagement and facilitate effective dialogue on the alternative policy options,

a "[Towards an Economic Strategy](#)" booklet has been produced which can be downloaded from the NSP website. Its objective is to provide a condensed picture of what the Economic Assessment process has confirmed about the local economy and move the collective debate into the question of "so what?"

A Northumberland Economic Strategy Workshop will be held 9am-1pm on Friday 25th September, venue to be confirmed. The event will provide an opportunity for

key stakeholders to discuss and input to the development of the new Northumberland Economic Strategy within the context of rural, city region and regional economic issues.

If you would like to register for this workshop please contact hayley.poole@northumberland.gov.uk by Friday 4th September.

For more information on the Economic Assessment contact:

Julie Dowson
Senior Research Officer
(01670) 534831
julie.dowson@northumberland.gov.uk

Town Centres

Northumberland's Town Centre Performance Monitoring System has been designed to assess the vitality and viability of rural market towns and larger centres. The system will use the following indicators to assess the economic prosperity, social and cultural functions and the conditions of the physical environment for each of the towns:

- Diversity of Uses
- Accessibility
- Retail Trends
- Environmental Quality

- Vacancy
- Perception of safety
- Retail Rents & Yields
- Customer Views
- Pedestrian Flows
- Economic Contribution

Reports are available for the following towns via the InfoNet website – Alnwick, Amble, Ashington, Bedlington, Berwick, Haltwhistle, Hexham, Morpeth, Newbiggin, Ponteland, Prudhoe and Rothbury

Reports for Belford, Blyth, Cramlington, Seaton

Delaval, Seahouses & Wooler will be available in the autumn.

For further information on this project please contact:

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(01670) 534757
lauren.widdrington@northumberland.gov.uk

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alyson.forster@northumberland.gov.uk



Morpeth Town Centre

Consultation

Over the past nine months the InfoNet have helped steer the first Place Survey in Northumberland. The Place Survey replaces the BVPI survey and will collect 18 of the National Indicator Set every two years. The Place Survey asks questions about the public's perception of safety and community issues, youth and healthcare, as well as getting a better understanding of the quality of life in the county.

The survey, carried on behalf of the County

Council by Ipsos Mori consultants, was undertaken between September and December 2008 and was sent to over 27,000 households across the County.

The headline results from the survey and the slides from an initial presentation on the data can be downloaded from the 'Consultation' page of the InfoNet website.

A full detailed report is due in the next month which will break the information down to the three new

service areas. The InfoNet will also be using the data as part of the 27 area profiles currently under development. A second presentation of the results will be held at the end of September.

For further information on the survey please contact:

Gillian Lavery
Consultation Officer
(01670) 533021
gillian.lavery@northumberland.gov.uk

Shona Rowe
Principal Research Officer
(01670) 533903
shona.rowe@northumberland.gov.uk



New InfoNet Website

The new InfoNet website has just been launched.

Over the past few months the current website has been reviewed and rebranded, the aim being to update the information contained on the site and expand the level of data, including the links section.

The data and reports included on the site have also undergone a restructure with data now grouped into topics to enable users to find the data they are looking for more easily.

All reports produced by the InfoNet will be available on

the new website along with links to other related data produced by partners and government departments.

The InfoNet website is available at

www.northumberlandinfonet.org.uk

For more information contact Iain Rowe, Research Officer on (01670) 534147 or e-mail iain.rowe@northumberland.gov.uk

Northumberland InfoNet
www.northumberlandinfonet.org.uk

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Information by topic

- Area Profiles
- Census
- Economic Prosperity
- Health Care & Well Being
- News & Information
- Place Shaping
- Population & Migration
- Stronger Communities

Northumberland InfoNet - Research & Intelligence

From the 1st April 2009 the InfoNet has become the Research and Intelligence unit for Northumberland based in the Policy and Partnerships Service of the new Northumberland County Council. The InfoNet aim to support the economic, social and environmental research and information needs and aspirations of Northumberland.

Whether you are a partner organisation of the InfoNet or a member of the general public looking for Northumberland related statistics this website can provide an ideal base for your search. Information available on the website has been grouped into topics, you can find information by clicking on the menu shown on the left side of this page.

To find out more about the InfoNet team visit the 'About us' section of the website. If you have any enquiries or comments visit the 'Info & Help' section, where you will also find the terms and conditions for using this website.

Website Updates & Key Documents

- Northumberland Place Survey Presentation
- Free School Meals Report
- Town Centre Health Checks
- National Survey of Third Sector Organisations
- Northumberland Crime Profiles
- Northumberland Property Market Review
- Extension to Free Early Education Entitlement Pilot Parental Consultation
- Measuring Housing Affordability Within Northumberland

If you have any queries please check the [info & help](#) section. You can contact the InfoNet via e-mail at InfoNet@northumberland.gov.uk.

Search:



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Latest Reports

The InfoNet have recently published the following reports:

Unemployment Update – Monthly Newsletter

The InfoNet have recently started to produce a monthly Unemployment Newsletter. The newsletter focuses on JSA claimant count which records the number of people claiming Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) and National Insurance credits at Jobcentre Plus local offices. The update aims to keep readers informed about the current unemployment issues in Northumberland. For further information or a copy of the newsletter please contact Liam Crawford, (01670) 534775, liam.crawford@northumberland.gov.uk. The newsletter is also available on the InfoNet website.

Northumberland Crime Profiles – 3 Areas

Profiles of crime in Northumberland by the three new service areas. The profiles are available via the InfoNet website.

Working Paper 106 & Briefing Paper 206 – Free School Meals in Northumberland

Free school meals (FSM) are used as an indicator of poverty, and used in calculations for school funding. The data presented here is taken from the Northumberland 2008 and 2009 School censuses done in January each year. The reports are available on the InfoNet website.

Working Paper 104 – National Survey of Third Sector Organisations

Report and analysis of data collected via the National Survey of Third Sector Organisations used to assess third sector organisations across England for one of the new national indicators. The report compares Northumberland data to the England average. The report can be accessed on the InfoNet website.

Working Paper 103 – Measuring Housing Affordability within Northumberland

This report provides an analysis of housing market affordability over the past ten years and compares the increases within Northumberland, the North East and England. Set out within this report are a number of approaches that can be used to measure market affordability. The report can be accessed on the InfoNet website.

Working Papers 100, 101 & 102 Northumberland Property Market Review

The InfoNet have recently published three reports using data compiled for the property data service: Industrial Property Review, Managed Workspace Review and Office Property Review. The reports provide an overview of the property market in Northumberland during 2007 and 2008. The reports can be accessed on the InfoNet website

About the InfoNet...

Established in 2001 as a pilot project, the InfoNet was the sub-regional information partnership for Northumberland. From the 1st April 2009 the InfoNet became the Corporate Research and Intelligence unit for Northumberland based in the Policy and Partnerships Service of the new Northumberland County Council. The InfoNet aim to support the economic, social and environmental research and information needs and aspirations of Northumberland.

The InfoNet work to a work programme agreed in April each year which supports the research and intelligence needs of the County Council and its partners. Requests additional to the work programme that take two days or less to complete can be delivered free of charge through the InfoNet Enquiry Service. Larger additional tasks require funding commensurate with their scale and nature. For more information contact us at the e-mail below:

E-mail: infonet@northumberland.gov.uk Website: www.northumberlandinfonet.org.uk