

InfoNet Update

InfoNet Update is produced by the Northumberland Information Network team based in 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

Childcare Research & Information

In November 2007, the Northumberland Information Network was commissioned by Northumberland Early Years and Childcare Service to carry out a "Gap Analysis" of Northumberland to identify where the supply of childcare was and how this matched the actual demand for childcare.

This would enable the Childcare service to target areas in Northumberland where childcare was an issue in order that they

could start to investigate what exactly they could do to tackle problems such as lack of childcare altogether, or problems with existing childcare providers such as cost or flexibility of opening hours.

The final report can be accessed at www.engagingpeople.org/docs/csa.pdf.

The 2007/08 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) which was completed in April 2008, is now under review to

consider which areas need to be focussed on next time. An action plan is being written and work is starting to be done for the 2010/11 CSA including a survey to investigate the views of parents with disabled children. Work with extended services has also begun with the hope of a smoother, more joint up approach.

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InfoNet Work Programme, 2009/10

As of 1st April the InfoNet will be based in the new Policy and Partnerships Service. The InfoNet Manager is currently working towards producing the InfoNet work programme for the coming financial year.

If you would like the

InfoNet to assist you with a piece of work, whether this is short or long term, then please get in contact to arrange a discussion. As well as carrying out work ourselves we can also advise or provide guidance when putting research work out to tender and can help to

steer the work of private consultants for you.

For further information or to arrange a discussion please contact:

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Northumberland Economic Assessment Update

As reported in the first InfoNet Update the InfoNet are currently undertaking a comprehensive Economic Assessment for Northumberland on behalf of the Northumberland Strategic Partnership (NSP) and the Local

Authority Regeneration Collaboration Group.

A draft version of the Economic Assessment has now been produced which will be discussed at the next steering group in February and debated at a scoping event to be held

in March.

For further information please contact:

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Northumberland Property Data Service



The InfoNet maintains a database of all Industrial, Office and Managed Workspace Properties in Northumberland.

The database holds details including floor space, occupiers, vacancies and average rental prices. The information is used to feed into other InfoNet work and to produce an annual overview of the property market in Northumberland report which looks at:

- Stock of properties.
- Trends in availability, by type and size of accommodation

- New availability - on flows of properties to the market by type and size of accommodation.
- Take-up - off flows of properties from the market by type and size of accommodation.
- Northumberland Rent Index based on asking rents from agents.

The database is currently being updated with the latest information to allow a review of the year ending 31 December 2008. The InfoNet aims to complete the update and produce new reports by

April 2009. The team are also looking into the viability of adding extra information (such as use class) to the database to allow more detailed analysis of the property market.

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Town Centres



Morpeth Town Centre

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 for the following towns – Alnwick, Ashington, Hexham, Morpeth, Amble and Prudhoe have been completed and are under consultation. A workshop will take place in March where comparisons will be made on these completed reports.

For further information on this project please contact:

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Community Consultation

The InfoNet have recently been involved with two very different surveys seeking the opinion of the local community.

The Castle Morpeth Rural Transport Survey has been carried out on behalf of Advancing Castle Morpeth (Castle Morpeth LSP) and aims to look at the transport needs of four parishes in Castle Morpeth District. The four parishes, Hartburn, Mitford, Stamfordham and Longhorsley were chosen because of varying access to public transport.

The report produced from

the survey, due to be completed in February, will help Castle Morpeth LSP assess the needs of residents in terms of public and community transport in their area.

Over the past nine months the InfoNet have helped steer the first Place Survey to be carried out 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 results from the survey, which was sent to over 27,000 households, is due in the next month.

For further information on these surveys please contact:

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Migrant Workers

The InfoNet are currently working on a three phased project looking at the impact of migrant workers within Northumberland.

The first phase consisted of a literature review of current available data on the subject for Northumberland. The second phase, which is nearing completion, has focused on migrant workers from a Northumberland employer's perspective and considers migrant workers living and/or

working in Northumberland.

The third phase of the research was carried out by Barefoot Research and Evaluation who have undertaken research with local migrants to provide an assessment of their perceptions of living and working in the county and issues that they face in everyday life. The research will also look to facilitate local migrants and key stakeholders to identify, and outline potential community based solutions to issues

identified during the research.

Some of the work will be placed in the public domain in the coming weeks.

For further details and information on the migrant workers data please contact:

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Seahouses Harbour



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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. This is not the governments preferred measure of unemployment, but is the only indicative statistic available for areas smaller than Local Authorities. 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 Peter McTaggart, (01670) 533947, peter.mctaggart@northumberland.gov.uk or Liam Crawford, (01670) 534775, liam.crawford@northumberland.gov.uk.

Area Profiles – North, South East & West Northumberland

Area profiles have been produced showing a range of socio-demographic data for the three new service areas in Northumberland. They also include a comparison table showing how the three areas compare to each other. The profiles can be downloaded from the InfoNet website or can be provided in hard copy on request. For more information contact Shona Rowe, (01670) 533903, shona.rowe@northumberland.gov.uk or Myra Jamieson, (01670) 533790, myra.jamieson@northumberland.gov.uk.

Working Papers 77, 78, 79 – Northumberland Property Data Service

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 2006 and 2007, and provide district and county level analyses. The reports can be accessed on the InfoNet website www.northumberlandinfonet.org.uk/InfoNet/ReportMenu_Y8.htm.

Working Paper 81 - Long-Term Employment Projections for Northumberland

This document, produced by Andrew Hunt at Durham University, outlines five scenarios for potential future trajectories of economic activity in Northumberland. These are presented as a central 'business as usual' scenario, combined with four alternative scenarios. The 'alternatives' have been selected so as to highlight how certain drivers of change could be anticipated to push the county away from the central trend. This document can be downloaded from our website: www.northumberlandinfonet.org.uk/InfoNet/ReportMenu_Y8.htm.

About the InfoNet...

Established in 2001 as a pilot project, the InfoNet is the sub-regional information partnership for Northumberland. It works to a research programme agreed by a management board made up of the two principal funding partners – Northumberland Strategic Partnership (NSP) and Northumberland County Council (NCC).

The work programme operates on a three-year rolling basis and draws a clear distinction between 'Principal' activities, which address the common concerns and priorities of the partners; and 'Secondary' activities to meet the research and information needs of individual 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