2018-Based Subnational Population Projections

Related information

The *Population and Census* web page contains more information which you may find useful.

Population change presents a time-series of population estimates and an analysis of population growth

Population forecasts presents the latest thinking about future population levels

2011 Census provides information of the characteristics of the population

***NOTE**: within this bulletin 'Kent' refers to the Kent County Council (KCC) area which excludes Medway*

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This bulletin presents the 2018-based Subnational Population Projections for Kent as published by the Office for National Statistics on 24 March 2020.

Important Note:

Subnational population projections use past trends to project forward the population.

These projections are not a forecast and do not take any account of future government policies, changing economic circumstances or the capacity of an area to accommodate the change in population. They provide an indication of the future size and age structure of the population if recent demographic trends continue.

The projections are the only data set to provide a national population projection and population projections at a local level for the UK. For this reason, they are used as a common framework for local area resource allocation. It is necessary therefore for Kent County Council to consider what the projections show.

However, past trends may be disrupted by future growth policy changes. For example, the level of growth a district has seen over the last 5-years may be very different to the level of growth expected for the future.

For this reason, Kent County Council produce a set of population forecasts for Kent which take account future house building plans in each of the Kent districts. As these are driven by proposed housing developments, population growth is determined by the number of dwellings expected to be built in the county.

The results are used by the County Council for service provision planning. More information is available from Strategic Commissioning - Analytics.

Introduction

This bulletin presents findings from the 2018-based subnational population projections. These replace the 2016-based projections published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in 2018 and are based on the mid-2018 population estimates as published 26 June 2019. The subnational projections are produced by the ONS on behalf of the National Statistician and the Registrars General of Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The subnational population projections by age and sex are produced every two years. They provide estimates of the future population of the United Kingdom as a whole, plus the constituent countries, English Government Office Regions (GORs), local authorities, strategic health authorities and primary care organisations. The projections are based on the most recently available mid-year population estimates and a set of underlying demographic assumptions regarding future fertility, mortality and migration.

These projections are provided for each year from 2018 up to and including 2043 (25 years). However, projections become increasingly uncertain the further they are carried forward due to the inherent uncertainty of demographic behaviour. This is particularly so for smaller geographical areas and detailed age and sex breakdowns. For this reason, this bulletin will present the projections up to 2028 (10 years).

Further information on the National Population Projections and related statistics is available from 2018 National Population Projections which includes detailed tables containing the projections for the UK and its constituent countries, as well as more detail on the assumptions made for the projections and how these assumptions were developed.

Statistician's comment

"The UK population is projected to grow by 3 million people by 2028. This assumes migration will have a greater impact on the size of the population than the combination of births and deaths. Although migration declines at first and the number of births is stable, the number of deaths is projected to grow as those born in the baby boom after World War Two reach older ages.

"Over the next decade, the population of most areas is set to continue growing, particularly in the south and Midlands. Our projections also show the share of people aged 65 years and over will increase almost everywhere. This information is particularly important for anyone planning local services – for example, opportunities and services for older people"

Andrew Nash, Population and Household projections, Office for National Statistics

County-wide analysis

At mid-2018, Kent had an estimated total population of 1,568,600. Over the next 10-years the county's population is projected to increase by 119,500 people bringing the total population to 1,688,100 by 2028. This is equivalent to a +7.6% increase.

Kent's population is projected to grow faster than both the South East regional average (+4.4%) and national average (+5.0%). See Table 1 for details

Table 1: Current and projected population change: Kent, Medway, London, South East, and England

Total Population				
	2018	2028	10 year change	% change
England	55,977,200	58,751,700	2,774,500	*5.0%*
South East	9,133,600	9,538,900	405,300	*4.4%*
London	8,908,100	9,342,100	434,000	*4.9%*
Kent (KCC Area)	1,568,600	1,688,100	119,500	*7.6%*
Medway Unitary Authority	277,900	284,300	6,400	*2.3%*
Kent & Medway combined	1,846,500	1,972,400	125,900	*6.8%*

Source: 2018-based Subnational Population Projections, Office for National Statistics (ONS)
Table produced by Strategic Commissioning - Analytics, Kent County Council
All figures have been separately rounded to the nearest 100 so may not sum
Percentages have been calculated using unrounded numbers

Kent's total population is projected to increase by 119,500 people over the period 2018-2028. This is the result of 165,500 births, and 159,800 deaths, which provides a positive natural change of 5,600, and 113,600 net migrants. Net migration is the result of the total number of people moving into the area minus the total of people moving out of the area.

Natural change accounts for 4.7% of the total change and net migration therefore accounts for 95.1% of Kent's projected population growth over the next ten years.

Net migration also accounts for the majority of population growth in the South East region and England. However, migration and natural change are more evenly balanced for England as a whole. Population change in London and Medway Unitary Authority is almost entirely due to natural change as both areas are expected to experience negative net migration over the next 10-years. See Table 2 for details.

Table 2: Projected change in population and reason for change – Kent, Medway, London, South East, and England

| | Components of population change - 2018 to 2028 (10 years) | | | | | | |
| | | Natural change | | | | Net Migration | |
	Total change	Births	Deaths	Total	%	Number	%
England	2,774,500	6,146,800	5,262,200	884,600	*31.9%*	1,877,800	*67.7%*
South East	405,300	935,000	873,600	61,300	*15.1%*	343,400	*84.7%*
London	434,000	1,157,000	527,700	629,200	*145.0%*	-199,700	*-46.0%*
Kent (KCC Area)	119,500	165,500	159,800	5,600	*4.7%*	113,600	*95.1%*
Medway Unitary Authority	6,400	33,000	23,400	9,500	*148.1%*	-3,100	*-48.1%*
Kent & Medway combined	125,900	198,400	183,300	15,200	*12.0%*	110,500	*87.8%*

Source: 2018-based Subnational Population Projections, Office for National Statistics (ONS)
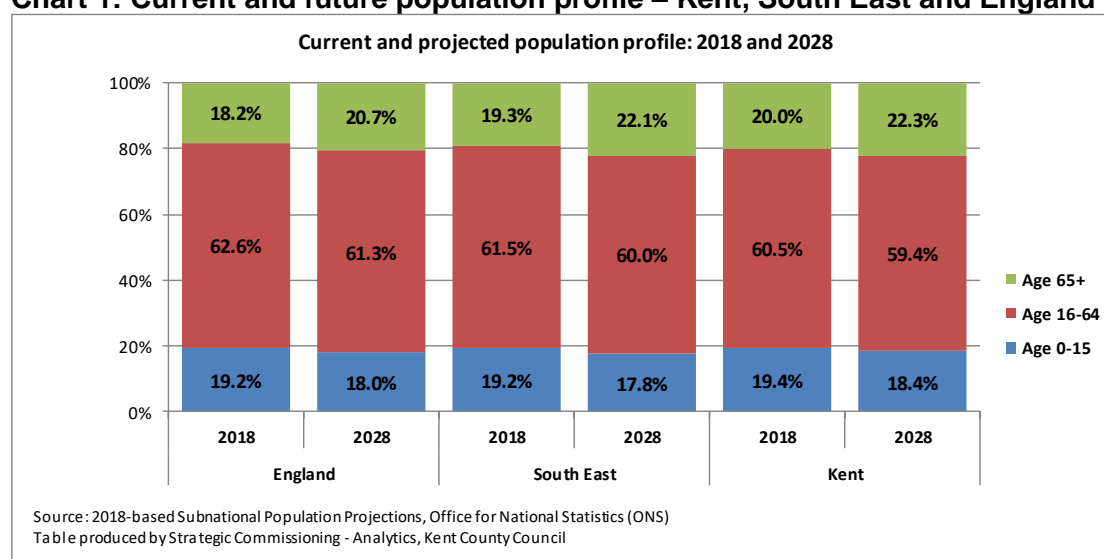Table produced by Strategic Commissioning - Analytics, Kent County Council
All figures rounded to the nearest thousand at source so may not sum when added. Percentages calculated from rounded figures

The population profile of Kent is on the whole similar to both the national and regional age profiles. However, Kent does have a slightly higher proportion of children and older people but a slightly lower proportion of working age people than the regional and national average. This trend is projected to continue over the next 10 years.

Over the next 10 years the proportion of the population that are children and of working age is set to decline. This is a trend seen not only in Kent, but also in the rest of the South East and England. Although this population group is projected to increase in overall size (outlined in Table 3) Children and the working age population is not growing as fast as the older population. As a result, the proportion of the population that are of working age is falling, but the proportion that is older people is increasing. See Chart 1 for more information.

Chart 1: Current and future population profile – Kent, South East and England

Source: 2018-based Subnational Population Projections, Office for National Statistics (ONS)
Table produced by Strategic Commissioning - Analytics, Kent County Council

Each of the key population groups in Kent (children, working age and older people) are all projected to grow faster than the national and South East regional average. However, there are marked differences in the rate of growth for each age group.

At mid-2018, Kent had an estimated total population aged 0-15 of 304,500. This age group is projected to increase by 5,900 people bringing the total population to 310,500 by 2028. This is equivalent to a +2.0% increase.

The estimated working age population of Kent in 2018 was 949,600. This age group is projected to increase by 52,300 people bringing the total population to 1,001,900 by 2028. This is equivalent to a +5.5% increase.

At mid-2018, Kent the estimated older population aged 65 and over of 314,500. This age group is projected to increase by 61,200 people bringing the total population to 375,700 by 2028. This is equivalent to a +27.6% increase. See Table 3 for more information.

Table 3: Current and projected population change of broad population groups Kent, Medway, London, South East, and England

10 year change				
Age 0-15	**2018**	**2028**	**change**	**% change**
England	10,748,500	10,573,200	-175,300	*-1.6%*
South East	1,755,300	1,701,600	-53,700	*-3.1%*
Kent (KCC Area)	304,500	310,500	5,900	*2.0%*
Medway Unitary Authority	57,900	57,500	-400	*-0.7%*
Kent & Medway combined	362,400	368,000	5,600	*1.5%*
Age 16-64	**2018**	**2028**	**change**	**% change**
England	35,049,500	36,002,800	953,300	*2.7%*
South East	5,616,600	5,726,800	110,200	*2.0%*
Kent (KCC Area)	949,600	1,001,900	52,300	*5.5%*
Medway Unitary Authority	175,700	175,700	0	*0.0%*
Kent & Medway combined	1,125,400	1,177,700	52,300	*4.6%*
Age 65 and over	**2018**	**2028**	**change**	**% change**
England	10,179,300	12,175,700	1,996,400	*27.2%*
South East	1,761,800	2,110,500	348,800	*27.5%*
Kent (KCC Area)	314,500	375,700	61,200	*27.6%*
Medway Unitary Authority	44,200	51,000	6,800	*21.2%*
Kent & Medway combined	358,700	426,700	68,000	*26.8%*

Source: 2018-based Subnational Population Projections, Office for National Statistics (ONS)
Table produced by Strategic Commissioning - Analytics, Kent County Council
All figures have been separately rounded to the nearest 100 so may not sum
Percentages have been calculated using unrounded numbers

Kent district analysis

Maidstone currently has the largest population of all Kent local authority districts and is projected to remain the largest authority area in terms of population at 2028.

Between 2018 and 2028, Maidstone is projected to experience the largest increase in overall population increasing by an additional +17,100 people (+10.0%). However, in percentage terms Dartford is projected to experience the largest increase in population increasing by +15.5% (an additional 17,000 people) between 2018 and 2028. Table 4 provides the projected growth for all Kent districts.

Gravesham currently has the smallest population of all Kent local authority districts. With a predicted increase of 1,600 people (+1.5%) it is projected to remain the smallest authority area in terms of population at 2028.

Table 4: Current and projected population change – Kent districts

Total Population				
	2018	**2028**	**10 year change**	**% change**
Ashford	129,300	142,700	13,400	*10.3%*
Canterbury	164,600	173,200	8,600	*5.2%*
Dartford	109,700	126,700	17,000	*15.5%*
Dover	117,000	128,900	11,900	*10.2%*
Folkestone & Hythe	112,600	120,300	7,800	*6.9%*
Gravesham	106,400	108,000	1,600	*1.5%*
Maidstone	170,000	187,000	17,100	*10.0%*
Sevenoaks	120,300	125,200	4,900	*4.0%*
Swale	148,500	162,900	14,400	*9.7%*
Thanet	141,800	149,000	7,200	*5.1%*
Tonbridge & Malling	130,500	142,500	12,000	*9.2%*
Tunbridge Wells	118,100	121,700	3,700	*3.1%*

Source: 2018-based Subnational Population Projections, Office for National Statistics (ONS)
Table produced by Strategic Commissioning - Analytics, Kent County Council
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Gravesham, along with Medway Unitary authority, Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells all expected to experience a lower rate of population growth than that seen regionally and nationally over the next ten years. See Chart 2 for details.

Chart 2: Projected percentage population change – Kent districts, Medway Unitary Authority, Kent, South east and England

Projected percentage population change between 2018 and 2028

District	%
Dartford	15.5%
Ashford	10.3%
Dover	10.2%
Maidstone	10.0%
Swale	9.7%
Tonbridge & Malling	9.2%
Kent	7.6%
Folkestone & Hythe	6.9%
Canterbury	5.2%
Thanet	5.1%
England	5.0%
South East	4.4%
Sevenoaks	4.0%
Tunbridge Wells	3.1%
Medway UA	2.3%
Gravesham	1.5%

Source: 2018-based Subnational Population Projections, Office for National Statistics (ONS)
Table produced by Strategic Commissioning - Analytics, Kent County Council

The population of all 12 Kent districts is set to increase over the next 10 years. Table 5 sets out the reason for this population change.

Table 5: Projected change in population and reason for change – Kent districts

Components of population change 2018 to 2028							
	Total change	**Natural change**				**Net Migration**	
		Births	**Deaths**	**Total**	**%**	**Number**	**%**
Ashford	13,400	15,000	12,100	2,900	*21.4%*	10,400	*78.0%*
Canterbury	8,600	13,100	17,300	-4,200	*-49.2%*	13,200	*152.5%*
Dartford	17,000	15,400	9,400	6,100	*35.8%*	10,900	*63.9%*
Dover	11,900	11,100	14,200	-3,100	*-25.8%*	14,900	*125.5%*
Folkestone & Hythe	7,800	9,900	13,800	-3,900	*-49.7%*	11,600	*149.0%*
Gravesham	1,600	12,600	9,600	3,000	*186.7%*	-1,400	*-87.0%*
Maidstone	17,100	19,700	17,000	2,700	*15.8%*	14,300	*83.8%*
Sevenoaks	4,900	12,100	11,600	500	*10.5%*	4,300	*88.7%*
Swale	14,400	16,900	14,400	2,600	*17.8%*	11,700	*81.8%*
Thanet	7,200	14,300	17,600	-3,300	*-45.2%*	10,500	*145.0%*
Tonbridge & Malling	12,000	14,500	11,600	2,900	*24.1%*	9,100	*75.6%*
Tunbridge Wells	3,700	10,900	11,400	-500	*-14.8%*	4,200	*112.8%*

Source: 2018-based Subnational Population Projections, Office for National Statistics (ONS)
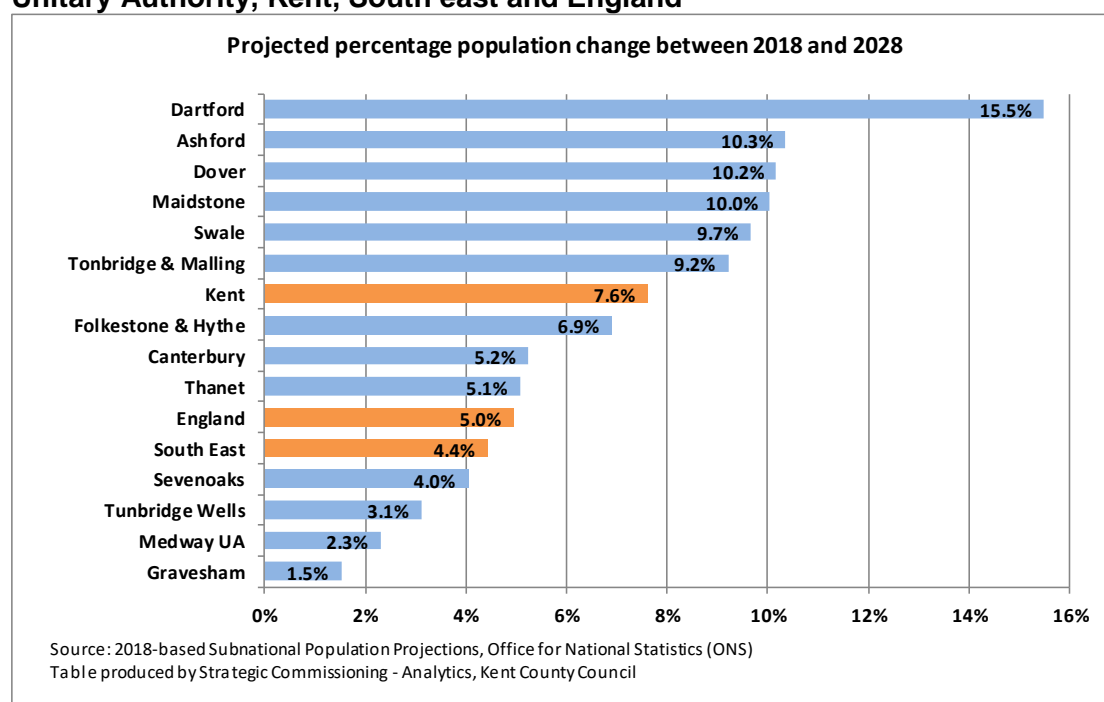Table produced by Strategic Commissioning - Analytics, Kent County Council
All figures rounded to the nearest thousand at source so may not sum when added. Percentages calculated from rounded figures

Migration accounts for majority of the projected population increase in 11 of the 12 Kent districts. Only in Gravesham does natural change account for the largest proportion of population growth between 2018 and 2028.

Dartford and Gravesham have a relatively young population profile in comparison to the other Kent districts, which results in a higher number of births and fewer deaths.

Although Kent is expecting a +2.0% increase in the population aged 0-15, this age group is projected to decrease in five of Kent's local authority districts between 2018 and 2028. These are Canterbury, Folkestone & Hythe, Gravesham, Sevenoaks and Thanet.

Gravesham is the only local authority where the estimated working age population is also projected to decrease over the next ten years.

The estimated older population aged 65 is projected to increase in all areas by 61,200 by 2028.

See Table 6 for more detail.

Table 6: Current and projected population change of broad population groups – Kent districts

10 year change				
Ashford	**2018**	**2028**	**change**	**% change**
Age 0-15	26,800	28,100	1,300	*5.0%*
Age 16-64	77,600	83,900	6,300	*8.1%*
Age 65 and over	25,000	30,700	5,700	*23.0%*
Canterbury	**2018**	**2028**	**change**	**% change**
Age 0-15	26,100	25,900	-200	*-0.8%*
Age 16-64	104,900	106,900	2,100	*2.0%*
Age 65 and over	33,600	40,300	6,800	*20.2%*
Dartford	**2018**	**2028**	**change**	**% change**
Age 0-15	24,200	27,800	3,600	*14.8%*
Age 16-64	69,800	80,500	10,700	*15.3%*
Age 65 and over	15,700	18,400	2,700	*17.3%*
Dover	**2018**	**2028**	**change**	**% change**
Age 0-15	20,500	21,000	600	*2.7%*
Age 16-64	69,300	74,200	5,000	*7.2%*
Age 65 and over	27,200	33,600	6,400	*23.3%*
Folkestone & Hythe	**2018**	**2028**	**change**	**% change**
Age 0-15	19,100	18,200	-900	*-4.7%*
Age 16-64	66,000	68,500	2,500	*3.8%*
Age 65 and over	27,500	33,700	6,100	*22.3%*
Gravesham	**2018**	**2028**	**change**	**% change**
Age 0-15	22,500	22,000	-600	*-2.6%*
Age 16-64	65,400	65,100	-300	*-0.5%*
Age 65 and over	18,500	21,000	2,500	*13.8%*

Source: 2018-based Subnational Population Projections, Office for National Statistics (ONS)
Table produced by Strategic Commissioning - Analytics, Kent County Council
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Table 6 continued

10 year change				
Maidstone	**2018**	**2028**	**change**	**% change**
Age 0-15	33,800	36,800	2,900	*8.6%*
Age 16-64	103,600	111,100	7,600	*7.3%*
Age 65 and over	32,600	39,100	6,600	*20.2%*
Sevenoaks	**2018**	**2028**	**change**	**% change**
Age 0-15	24,100	23,600	-500	*-2.1%*
Age 16-64	70,400	72,600	2,200	*3.2%*
Age 65 and over	25,800	28,900	3,200	*12.2%*
Swale	**2018**	**2028**	**change**	**% change**
Age 0-15	30,000	31,000	1,100	*3.5%*
Age 16-64	90,200	97,800	7,600	*8.4%*
Age 65 and over	28,400	34,100	5,700	*20.1%*
Thanet	**2018**	**2028**	**change**	**% change**
Age 0-15	26,900	25,700	-1,200	*-4.4%*
Age 16-64	81,700	84,300	2,600	*3.2%*
Age 65 and over	33,200	39,000	5,800	*17.5%*
Tonbridge & Malling	**2018**	**2028**	**change**	**% change**
Age 0-15	26,700	28,200	1,600	*5.9%*
Age 16-64	79,300	84,600	5,300	*6.7%*
Age 65 and over	24,500	29,700	5,200	*21.0%*
Tunbridge Wells	**2018**	**2028**	**change**	**% change**
Age 0-15	23,800	22,100	1,600	*5.9%*
Age 16-64	71,600	72,400	800	*1.1%*
Age 65 and over	22,600	27,200	4,600	*20.2%*

Source: 2018-based Subnational Population Projections, Office for National Statistics (ONS)
Table produced by Strategic Commissioning - Analytics, Kent County Council
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Whilst the working age population is projected to increase in all but one of the 12 Kent districts (Gravesham), as a proportion of the total population, the working age population is projected to decrease. This is shown in Charts 3 and 4. This is because the older population groups are projected to increase at a faster rate than the working age population.

The East Kent coastal districts of Dover, Folkestone & Hythe and Thanet currently have the largest proportion of older population out of all of the Kent districts. This is set to continue over the next 10 years with the proportion of older people growing faster than the younger age groups in these areas.

West and Mid Kent districts currently have the largest proportion of children and this is projected to continue over the next 10 years. Whilst the child population is increasing in real terms in seven Kent districts, the proportion that children contribute to the total population is declining in all districts.

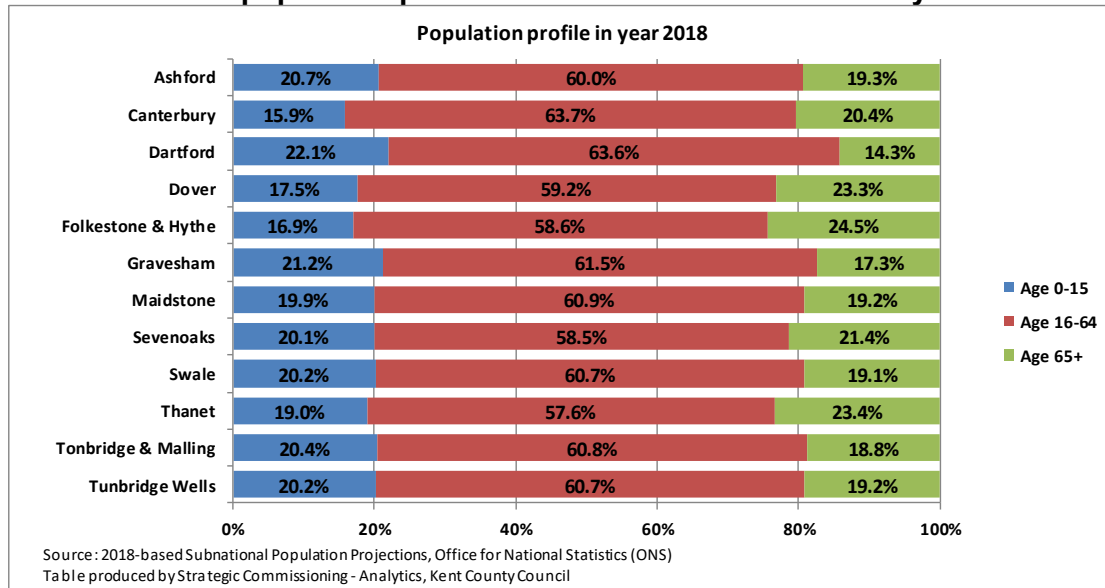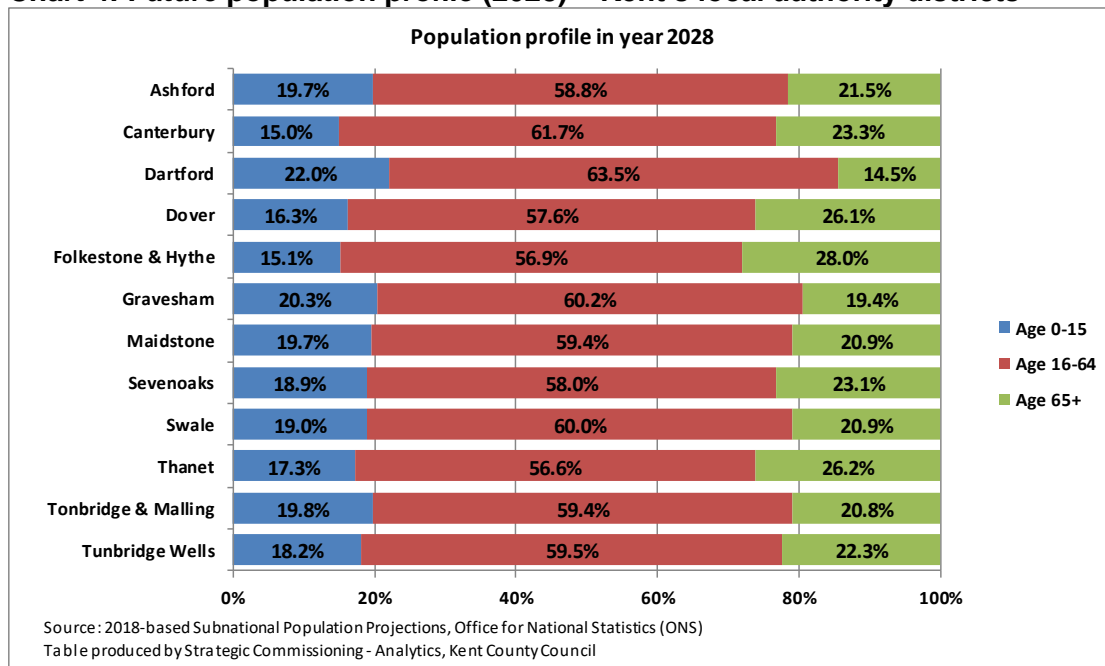## Chart 3: Current population profile in 2018 – Kent's local authority districts

Population profile in year 2018

District	Age 0-15	Age 16-64	Age 65+
Ashford	20.7%	60.0%	19.3%
Canterbury	15.9%	63.7%	20.4%
Dartford	22.1%	63.6%	14.3%
Dover	17.5%	59.2%	23.3%
Folkestone & Hythe	16.9%	58.6%	24.5%
Gravesham	21.2%	61.5%	17.3%
Maidstone	19.9%	60.9%	19.2%
Sevenoaks	20.1%	58.5%	21.4%
Swale	20.2%	60.7%	19.1%
Thanet	19.0%	57.6%	23.4%
Tonbridge & Malling	20.4%	60.8%	18.8%
Tunbridge Wells	20.2%	60.7%	19.2%

Source: 2018-based Subnational Population Projections, Office for National Statistics (ONS)
Table produced by Strategic Commissioning - Analytics, Kent County Council

Chart 4: Future population profile (2028) – Kent's local authority districts

Population profile in year 2028

District	Age 0-15	Age 16-64	Age 65+
Ashford	19.7%	58.8%	21.5%
Canterbury	15.0%	61.7%	23.3%
Dartford	22.0%	63.5%	14.5%
Dover	16.3%	57.6%	26.1%
Folkestone & Hythe	15.1%	56.9%	28.0%
Gravesham	20.3%	60.2%	19.4%
Maidstone	19.7%	59.4%	20.9%
Sevenoaks	18.9%	58.0%	23.1%
Swale	19.0%	60.0%	20.9%
Thanet	17.3%	56.6%	26.2%
Tonbridge & Malling	19.8%	59.4%	20.8%
Tunbridge Wells	18.2%	59.5%	22.3%

Source: 2018-based Subnational Population Projections, Office for National Statistics (ONS)
Table produced by Strategic Commissioning - Analytics, Kent County Council

Differences between the 2016-based SNPP and the 2018-based SNPP

The 2018-based projections state that Kent's population will grow to 1,688,100 by 2028. This is -1,100 lower than the 2016-based projection for 2028. This is partly because they are based on the population estimate from mid-2018 rather than mid-2016, as well as the latest data on births, deaths and migration.

The ONS continue to base their assumption of net migration on the average levels of migration over the past 25 years. Average annual net long-term international migration to the UK over the 25 years between mid-1993 and mid-2018 was 190,000. This compares with the average of 165,000 between mid-1991 and mid-2016, which we set as the assumption in the 2016-based projections.

They have assumed that women will have fewer children which reflects the recent fall in fertility rates which has continued in the two years since the release of the 2016-based projections.

Table 7: Base population projection comparison as at 2028

Population at mid-2028				
			Difference	
	2016-SNPP	2018-SNPP	Number	%
England	59,043,500	58,751,700	-291,800	-0.5%
South East	9,703,900	9,538,900	-165,000	-1.7%
London	9,657,000	9,342,100	-315,000	-3.3%
Kent (KCC Area)	1,689,200	1,688,100	-1,100	-0.1%
Medway Unitary Authority	304,000	284,300	-19,700	-6.5%
Kent & Medway combined	1,993,200	1,972,400	-20,800	-1.0%
Ashford	140,500	142,700	2,200	1.6%
Canterbury	180,000	173,200	-6,800	-3.8%
Dartford	120,900	126,700	5,800	4.8%
Dover	121,600	128,900	7,200	6.0%
Folkestone & Hythe	118,800	120,300	1,500	1.3%
Gravesham	115,500	108,000	-7,500	-6.5%
Maidstone	184,700	187,000	2,300	1.3%
Sevenoaks	127,400	125,200	-2,200	-1.7%
Swale	162,700	162,900	100	0.1%
Thanet	156,200	149,000	-7,200	-4.6%
Tonbridge & Malling	139,100	142,500	3,400	2.5%
Tunbridge Wells	121,800	121,700	-100	-0.0%

Source: 2016 and 2018 -based Subnational Population Projections, Office for National Statistics (ONS)
Table produced by Strategic Commissioning - Analytics, Kent County Council
All figures have been separately rounded to the nearest 100 so may not sum
Percentages have been calculated using unrounded numbers