

## **GM PLANNING AND HOUSING COMMISSION**

Date: **15<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

Subject: Census 2021 Briefing

Report of: Lucy Woodbine, Senior Principal, Planning and Housing Research GMCA,  
and Aislinn O'Toole, Analysts, Planning and Housing Research GMCA

---

### **Purpose of Report**

This slides accompanying this paper set out some of the headline findings in relation to the 2021 census.

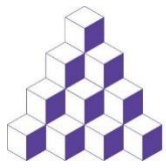
### **Recommendations:**

Members are requested to:

1. Note the contents of the presentation and report.

### **Contact Officers**

- Lucy Woodbine: [lucy.woodbine@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](mailto:lucy.woodbine@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)
- Aislinn O'Toole: [Aislinn.o'toole@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](mailto:Aislinn.o'toole@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)



## **1. Introduction/Background**

1.1 The England and Wales 2021 census was undertaken on March 21<sup>st</sup> 2021. The census results were reported from the end of 2021 to the beginning of 2024.

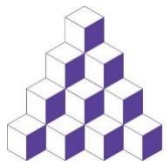
1.2 The census covers the following topics:

- demography and migration
- UK armed forces veterans
- ethnic group, national identity, language and religion
- Welsh language
- labour market and travel to work
- housing
- sexual orientation and gender identity
- education
- health, disability, and unpaid care

1.3 This presentation covers some of the headline findings in relation to the census 2021 for Greater Manchester with a focus on housing results.

1.4 The 2021 census was undertaken during the COVID-19 pandemic so may not show normal population and household patterns due to temporary changes in living circumstances during the pandemic for some households.

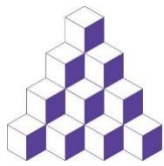
1.5 It is possible that the 2021 census will be the last England and Wales census, the Office for National Statistics have consulted on the option to move from a census every ten years to using administrative data and boosted surveys to provide more



regular outputs about the population of England and Wales. The GMCA responded to this consultation.

## **2. General census results for Greater Manchester**

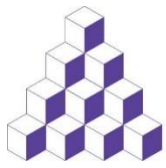
- 2.1 The following section sets out some interesting headline results from the census. It does not cover all census results.
- 2.2 The Census 2021 was held in England and Wales on 21 March 2021. There were 1,178,244 households and 2,867,800 usual residents in Greater Manchester on the census day.
- 2.3 Households in Greater Manchester increased by 50,000 (4.4%) since 2011. Nationally, the increase was larger, at 6.2%. The number of households increased in all ten of the Greater Manchester districts between 2011 and 2021, ranging from an increase of 11,560 in Salford (up 11.2%) to 1,785 in Trafford (up 1.9%).
- 2.4 Salford's population grew by 15.4% between 2011 and 2021, the highest growth rate in the north of England over the period.
- 2.5 Three quarters of the Greater Manchester population increase was driven by people born outside of the UK who arrived here over the last ten years.
- 2.6 The 2021 Census estimated that there were 821,801 Greater Manchester residents from an ethnic minority. This equated to 28.7% of Greater Manchester's population, slightly above the England average of 26.5%.
- 2.7 Some 6.6% of residents said their health was 'bad' or 'very bad' in Greater Manchester in 2021 compared with an average for England of 5.3%. Meanwhile, 9.3% of Greater Manchester residents said they had a health condition or illness which limited their day-to-day activities 'a lot'. The average for England was 7.5%.
- 2.8 The proportion of the Greater Manchester population who did not have any qualifications has fallen from 32.7% in 2001, to 25% in the census of 2011, to 20% in that of 2021.



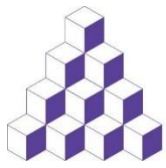
- 2.9 2% of Greater Manchester residents described themselves as gay or lesbian (compared with 1.5% in England). The proportion was highest in Manchester and Salford (3.3% in both).
- 2.10 The 2021 Census estimated that there were 821,801 Greater Manchester residents from an ethnic minority. This equated to 28.7% of Greater Manchester's population, slightly above the England average of 26.5%.

### **3. Housing census results**

- 3.1 The majority of population growth between 2011 and 2021 was driven by those of working age (16-65) at 39.1% which was higher than England at 38.2%. Greater Manchester also has a higher growth drive by under 16s contributing to 27.4% of the growth in comparison to England which is 13.2% of the growth. Those over 66 contribute 33.5% of the growth in the population to Greater Manchester in comparison to 48.5% of the growth in England.
- 3.2 All districts apart from Wigan have growth contributed by under 16s. In Wigan 104% of the growth is driven by those over 66.
- 3.3 There have been pockets of household growth in those areas which have seen the majority of residential development.
- 3.4 Private Rented tenure reported the greatest increase in households across Greater Manchester with 60,939 more households in the period 2011 – 2021, which is a 34% increase. In England, Private rent increased by 29% in the same period.
- 3.5 Across Greater Manchester, it is only Private Rented tenure where all ten local authorities reported an increase in the number of households.
- 3.6 There was a reduction in those reporting they lived in Social Rented households (-4,137) across Greater Manchester.
- 3.7 In Bury, Manchester, Salford, Stockport and Trafford more household report living private Rented than social rented housing.



- 3.8 Owner occupier remains the most common tenure type with 58% of households, a slight decrease from 60% reported in 2011.
- 3.9 In 2021, more households are now owned outright (50.3%) than owned with a mortgage or loan (49.7%). This is a shift from the 2011 pattern.
- 3.10 There was a significant reduction of households reporting Living Rent Free from 2011 - 13,091 fewer households.
- 3.11 The number of overcrowded homes has increased a little since 2011. Concerns that data may mask true extent of overcrowding. Areas which are overcrowded look similar to 2011. Overcrowding has reduced in owner occupation but increased by over 20% in both private and social rented housing.
- 3.12 The 2021 census has been used to develop the equality impact assessment for the Good Landlord Charter. The slides provide an overview of findings for three areas: age, sexual orientation and ethnicity.
- 3.13 Older households are more likely to own than younger households.
- 3.14 There are more people aged 24 years and under living in the private rented sector (241,632), than in the social rented sector (207,753) in Greater Manchester.
- 3.15 Age doesn't appear to be a defining characteristic in the social rented sector, where each age group from Aged 25 years onwards report 17-18% rates of living in the social rented sector, however, those aged 24 years and under report slightly higher rates of living in the social rented sector of 23% in GM
- 3.16 The percentage of households reporting as aged 34 years and under is lowest among people who own outright (2% as a percentage of total households in GM) and highest among those who live in the private rented (42%).
- 3.17 Sexual orientation only applies to those over 16 and there was a large number of respondents who did not answer (150,715 in Greater Manchester).
- 3.18 Similarly to age, all Sexual Orientation groups report similar rates of living in the social rented sector in Greater Manchester. However, there are bigger differences in groups in the private rented and owned housing. For example,



Bisexual people in Greater Manchester are around 2.5times more likely to report living in the private rented sector than Straight or Heterosexual people.

- 3.19 Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African people report the lowest rates of home ownership in Greater Manchester per ethnic group (21%), and the highest rates of living in the social rented sector (48%)
- 3.20 Other ethnic groups report the highest rates of living in the private rented sector in Greater Manchester per ethnic group (43%) compared to all other groups, and are around 2.4% more likely to report living in the private rented sector than white people in Greater Manchester (who report the lowest rates of living in the private rented sector)
- 3.21 Household data: 22% of Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African households report owning their home in GM, this is lower than the percentage for the whole of England and Wales (30%)

#### **4. Further work**

- 4.1 The GMCA research team are continuing to analyse the census data and are using it to support policy development.
- 4.2 The published briefings can be found on the GMCA research pages of the website.