



Population Forecasts 2018



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Key points

Population

- The total population of Cheshire West and Chester is forecast to increase by 12 per cent to around 381,000 in 2038
- The number of children (aged 0-15) will increase by 8 per cent over the next twenty years. The greatest increase will be in the numbers of children aged 11-15
- Labour supply will increase by around 9 per cent with large increases in workers aged 65 or above
- The number of people aged 65 or above will increase by 44 per cent to over 100,000 in 2038
- Those aged 85 or above will more than double from 9,400 in 2018 to almost 20,000 in 2038.

Health

- The number of people with dementia is forecast to increase from 5,300 in 2018 to around 8,900 in 2038
- Older people with medium or high dependency and requiring substantial care (daily or 24 hour) is forecast to increase from 9,400 in 2018 to around 11,800 in 2038.

Households

- The number of households is forecast to increase by 14 per cent (21,300), to 168,700 households by 2038
- There will be double the number of people aged 85 or above living alone by 2038.

Localities

- The population is forecast to increase over the next twenty years in all four localities. The greatest increases will be in Ellesmere Port and Northwich and Winsford.
- There will be more children in all localities by 2038; the greatest increase is forecast in Ellesmere Port.
- The number of older people (aged 65+) will increase in every locality, with greatest increases in Ellesmere Port (54 per cent) and Northwich and Winsford (54 per cent). The number of people aged 85+ will more than double in Ellesmere Port, Northwich and Winsford, and Rural localities.

Care communities

- The population will increase in all nine care communities with the largest increases in Winsford, Chester South and Ellesmere Port.
- The number of children is forecast to increase in every care community except in Neston and Willaston.
- The number of older people (aged 65+) will increase in every care community, with forecast increases ranging from 27 per cent in Helsby and Frodsham to 74 per cent in Winsford. The number of people aged 85+ will more than double in five out of the nine care communities.

Introduction

Understanding changes in population is an important aspect of forward planning in any organisation, especially those providing public services and serving local communities. These forecasts take account of the most recent demographic information available and update the previous population forecasts produced for Cheshire West and Chester.

This short report introduces these new forecasts and provides an overview of how key age groups will change over the next twenty years. It does not discuss the impact these changes will have on the services the Authority and its partners provide.

The base for the forecasts is the 2018 mid-year estimate of population produced by the Office for National Statistics. These forecasts take into account levels of recent demographic change and likely levels of future housing development (based on the Local Plan). These forecasts have been produced before the 2021 Census data is available and ultimately are based in part on findings from the 2011 Census. The results of the 2021 Census will enable the Office for National Statistics to recalibrate and revise their population estimates. Over the coming years they will also work on analysis of the long-term demographic impact of COVID and they will produce population and household projections that will take account of these factors. All forecasts are subject to uncertainty, this is particularly true for these forecasts.

The forecasts are rounded to the nearest 100. All forecasts become increasingly inaccurate the further into the future they go.

Total population

The population in Cheshire West and Chester in 2018 was 340,500¹. This is expected to increase by 12 per cent to 381,000 by 2038. This is a greater growth than seen in the past.

Chart 1: Forecast increase in total population

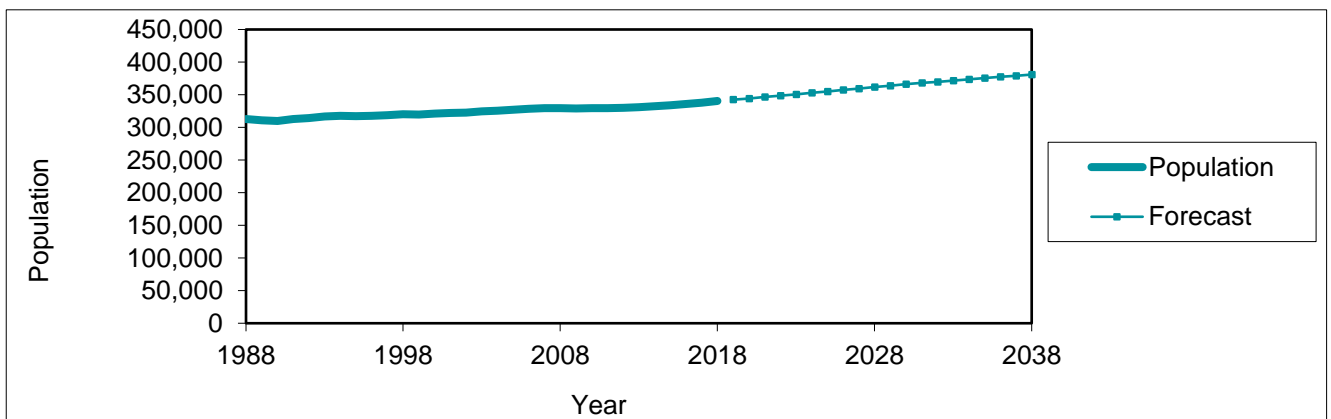


Table 1: Forecast increase in total population

	2018	2023	2028	2033	2038
Population	340,500	350,800	361,700	371,700	381,000

¹ Source: 2018 mid-year estimate of population, Office for National Statistics licensed under the Open Government Licence v.3.0.

The following charts show how the age structure of the population will change over the next twenty years. Much of these changes are simply due to the current population being older in 2038 than they are now (as opposed to other factors affecting the population such as migration). In 2018, the largest age group was residents aged 50-54. In 2038, the largest group will be people aged 70-74.

Chart 2: Age structure 2018

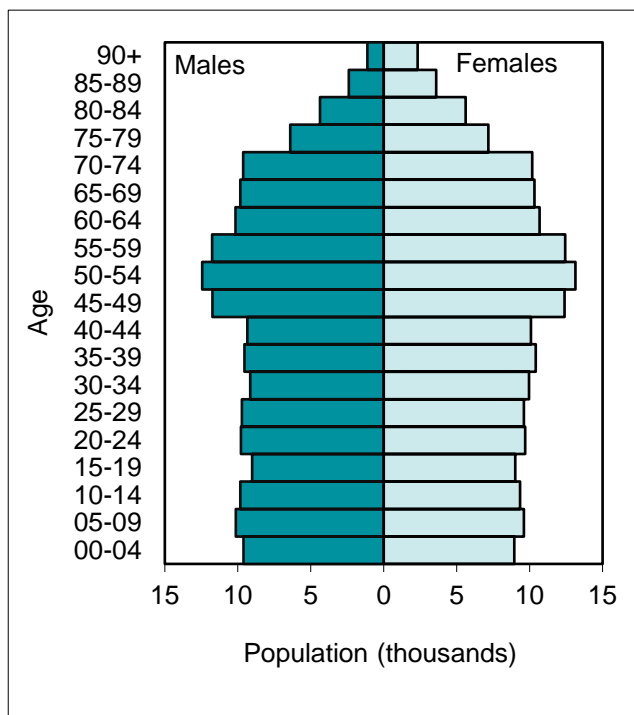


Chart 3: Forecast age structure 2038

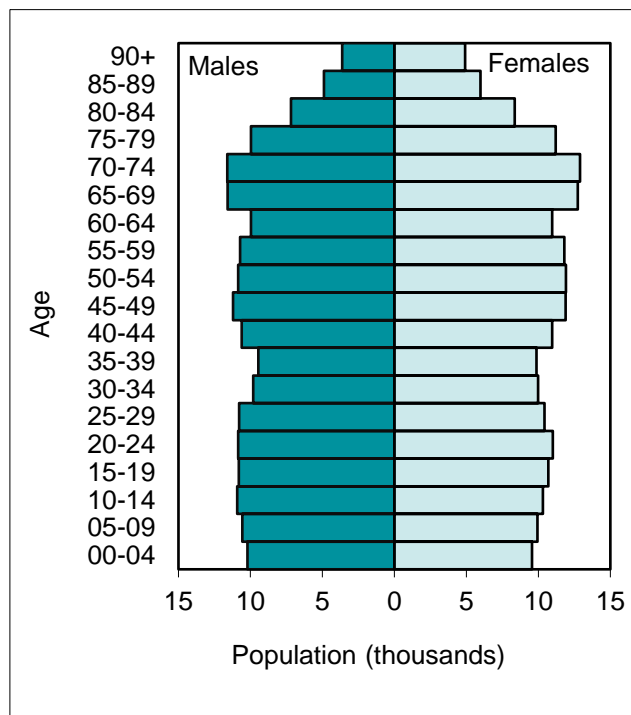


Table 2: Age structure 2018

Age	Male	Female	Total
0-4	9,600	9,000	18,600
5-9	10,100	9,600	19,800
10-14	9,800	9,400	19,200
15-19	9,000	9,000	18,000
20-24	9,800	9,700	19,500
25-29	9,700	9,600	19,300
30-34	9,100	10,000	19,100
35-39	9,500	10,400	20,000
40-44	9,300	10,100	19,400
45-49	11,700	12,400	24,100
50-54	12,400	13,100	25,600
55-59	11,800	12,400	24,200
60-64	10,200	10,700	20,900
65-69	9,800	10,300	20,100
70-74	9,600	10,200	19,800
75-79	6,400	7,200	13,600
80-84	4,400	5,600	10,000
85-89	2,400	3,600	6,000
90+	1,100	2,300	3,400
Total	165,900	174,600	340,500

Table 3: Forecast age structure 2038

Age	Male	Female	Total
0-4	10,200	9,600	19,800
5-9	10,600	9,900	20,500
10-14	10,900	10,300	21,200
15-19	10,800	10,700	21,500
20-24	10,900	11,000	21,900
25-29	10,800	10,400	21,200
30-34	9,800	10,000	19,800
35-39	9,500	9,900	19,300
40-44	10,600	11,000	21,600
45-49	11,200	11,900	23,100
50-54	10,900	11,900	22,800
55-59	10,700	11,800	22,500
60-64	10,000	11,000	20,900
65-69	11,600	12,700	24,300
70-74	11,600	12,900	24,500
75-79	10,000	11,200	21,200
80-84	7,200	8,400	15,500
85-89	4,900	6,000	10,900
90+	3,600	4,900	8,500
Total	185,600	195,400	381,000

- Older people will make up an increasing proportion of the population, as the number of people aged 65 or above significantly increases throughout the next twenty years.
- The number of children (aged 0-15) will increase. By 2038 there will be almost five thousand more children than there were in 2018.
- The number of people of working age (aged 16-64) will increase slightly over the next twenty years. The resident labour supply will increase by around nine per cent over the next twenty years. The largest growth will be in the numbers of workers aged 65 and above.

Chart 4: Population forecasts for key age groups

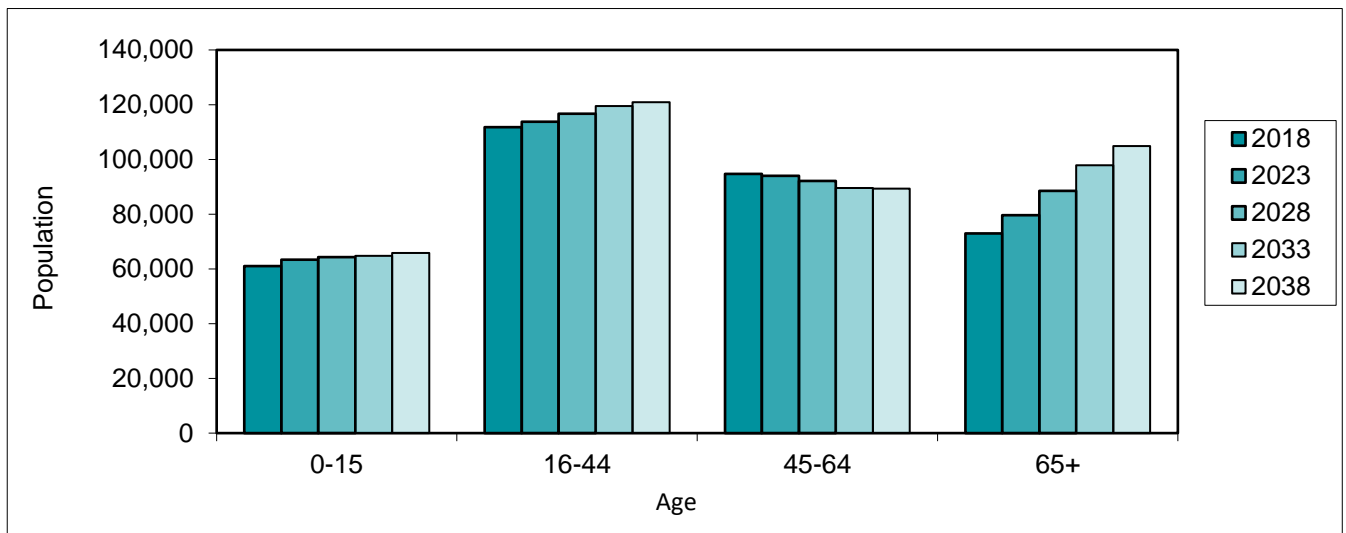


Table 4: Population forecasts for key age groups

	Population				
	2018	2023	2028	2033	2038
0-15	61,000	63,400	64,300	64,700	65,800
16-44	111,800	113,800	116,800	119,500	120,900
45-64	94,800	94,000	92,100	89,600	89,300
65+	72,900	79,600	88,500	97,900	104,900
Total	340,500	350,800	361,700	371,700	381,000

Children

The number of children (aged 0-15) will increase by 8 per cent over the next twenty years. The greatest increase will be in the numbers of children aged 11-15.

The number of children aged 0-4 will increase by 6 per cent from 18,600 in 2018 to 19,800 in 2038.

Children aged 5-10 will increase by 4 per cent over the next twenty years from 23,800 in 2018 to 24,700 in 2038.

The number of children aged 11-15 will increase by 14 per cent (around 2,500).

Chart 5: Trends in numbers of children

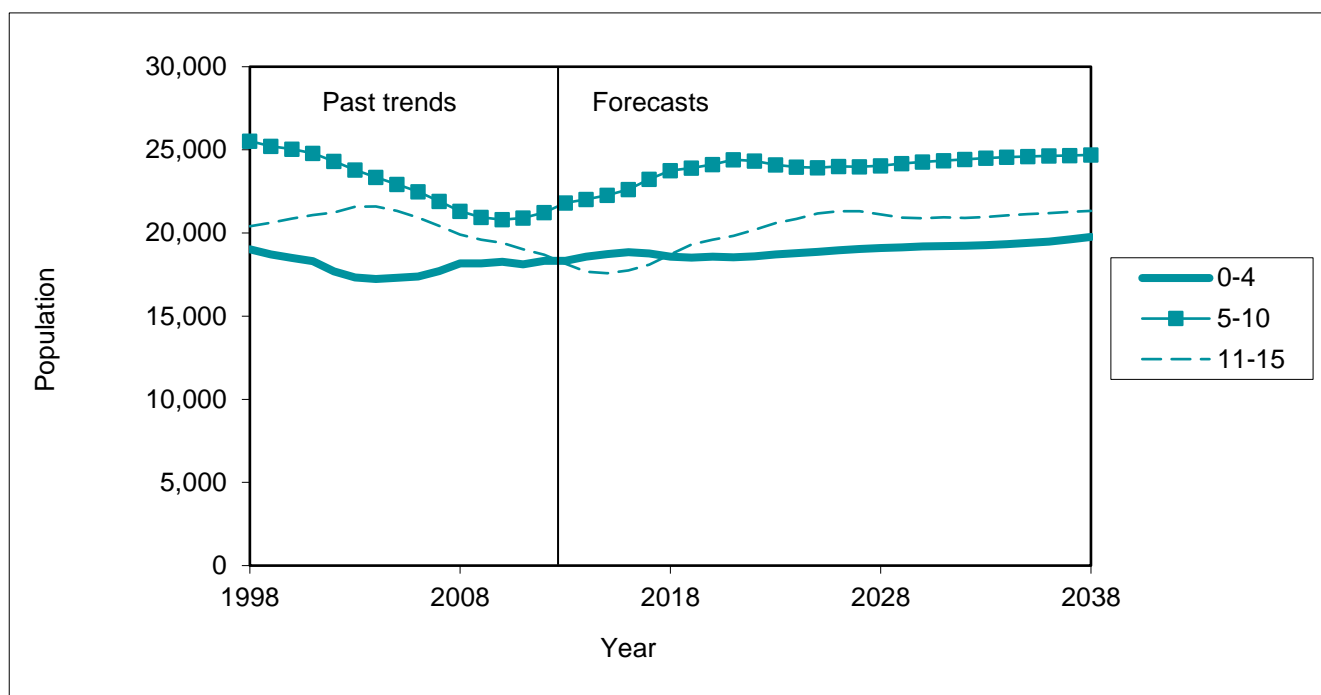


Table 5: Forecasts of children

	Population			% change	
	2018	2028	2038	2018-28	2018-38
0-4	18,600	19,100	19,800	3%	6%
5-10	23,800	24,000	24,700	1%	4%
11-15	18,700	21,100	21,300	13%	14%
0-15	61,000	64,300	65,800	5%	8%

Working age population

The number of people of working age (aged 16-64) will increase by around 2 per cent over the next twenty years. The number of people of younger working age (16-44) will increase by 8 per cent over the next twenty years from 111,800 in 2018 to 120,900 in 2038. The number of people of older working age (45-64) will decrease from 94,800 in 2018 to 89,300 in 2038.

Chart 6: Trends in working age population

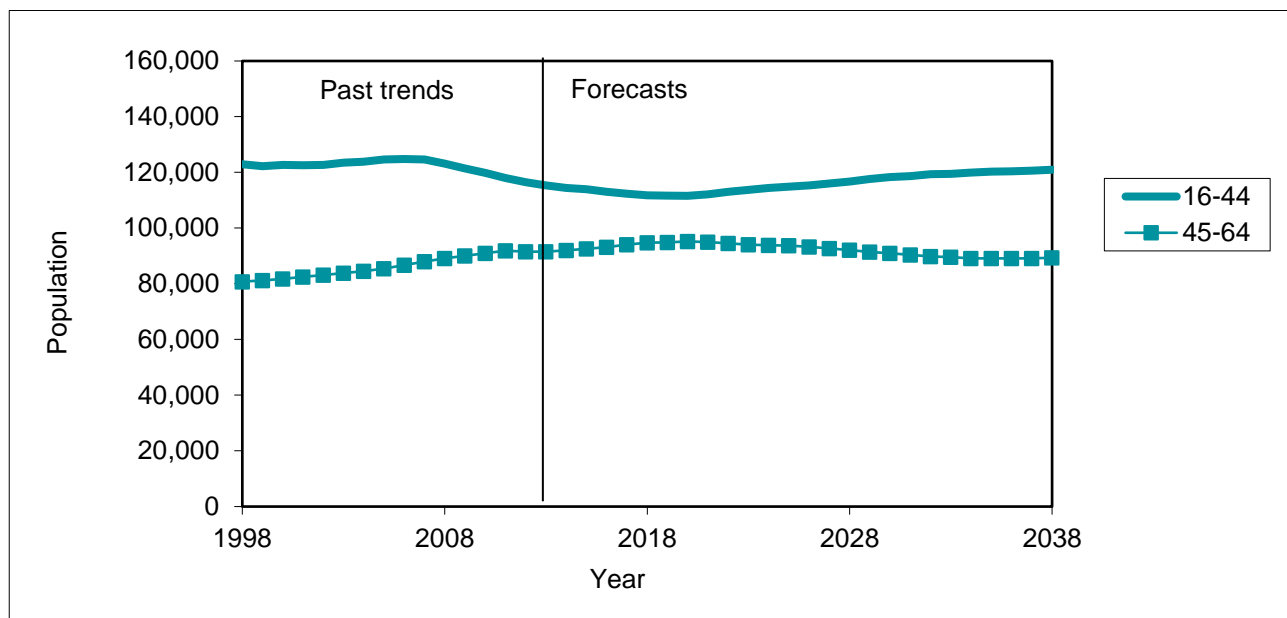


Table 6: Working age population

	Population			% change	
	2018	2028	2038	2018-28	2018-38
16-44	111,800	116,800	120,900	4%	8%
45-64	94,800	92,100	89,300	-3%	-6%
16-64	206,500	208,900	210,300	1%	2%

Working age, in this paper, is described as aged 16-64. This is the Office for National Statistics current definition of working age. However, over the coming years as changes in State Pension Age (SPA)² come into effect, the working age band will increase above 64.

² The statutory retirement age (of 65) was abolished in 2011. State Pension Age (SPA) - the rise in the female SPA (from 60 to 65) was completed in November 2018, the phased rise in the SPA to 66 (for both males and females) will run from December 2018 to October 2020. The SPA will increase to 67 between 2026 and 2028. SPA is due to increase to 68 between 2044 and 2046. The government has announced plans to bring this timetable forward and increase SPA to 68 between 2037 and 2039.

Labour supply

The resident labour supply³ will increase by around 9 per cent over the next twenty years. There will be a large increase in numbers of workers aged 65 or above due to changes in State Pension Age (SPA) and forecast increases in economic activity rates for older people.

Chart 7: Resident labour supply

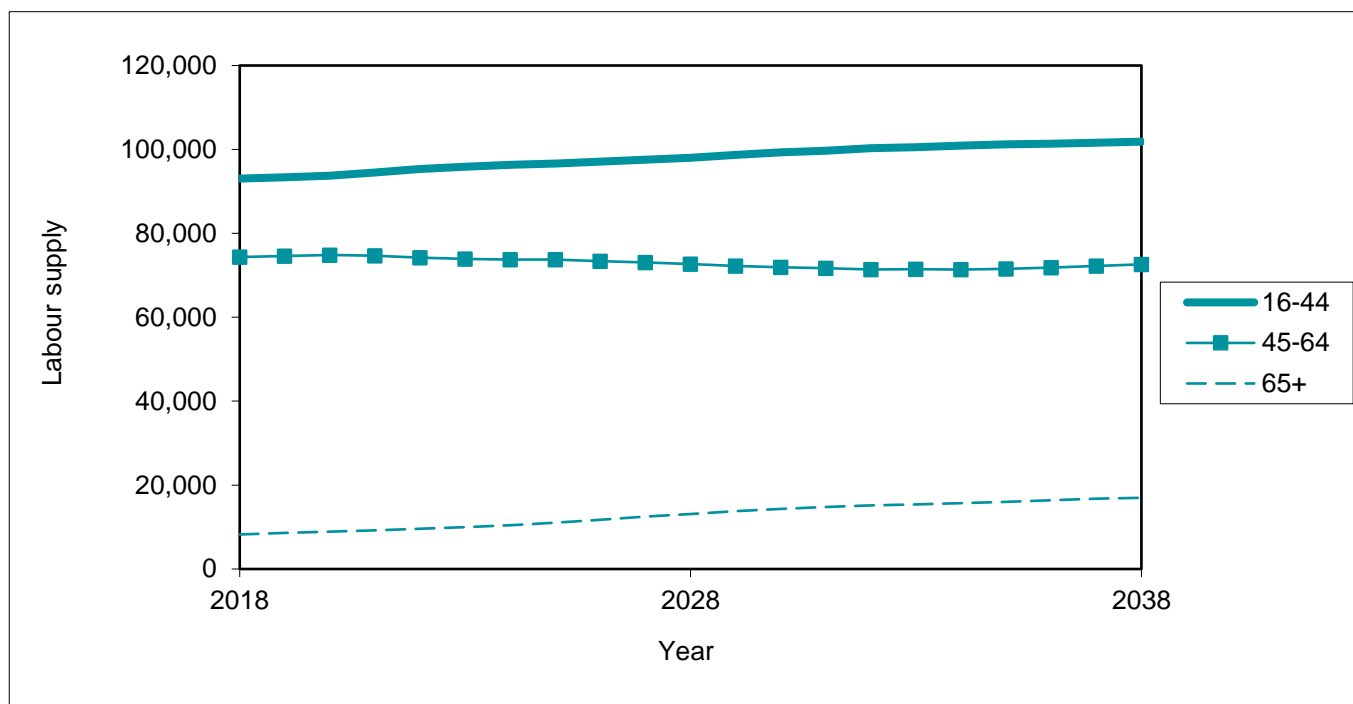


Table 7: Resident labour supply

	Labour supply			% change	
	2018	2028	2038	2018-28	2018-38
16-44	93,100	98,000	101,800	5%	9%
45-64	74,300	72,700	72,600	-2%	-2%
65+	8,200	13,100	17,000	59%	106%
16+	175,600	183,800	191,400	5%	9%

Jobs

If unemployment and commuting rates remain constant, the number of additional jobs⁴ that the increase in labour supply would support is around 16,000 between 2018 and 2038 or 800 per annum.

³ Labour supply = people aged 16 and over who are either employed or unemployed (available for and actively seeking work).

⁴ Includes a factor for 'double-jobbing'; residents with more than one job.

Older people

This age group is forecast to significantly increase. The number of people aged 65 or above will increase by 44 per cent from 72,900 in 2018 to almost 105,000 in 2038. By 2038, 28 per cent of Cheshire West and Chester residents will be aged 65 or older (21 per cent in 2018).

The number of people aged 85 or above will more than double over the next twenty years, increasing from 9,400 in 2018 to around 19,400 in 2038. The growth will accelerate around 2032, this is due to the large cohorts of people aged 70 and 71 (WWII baby boomers) who will reach the 85+ age group around 2032.

Chart 8: Trends in numbers of older people

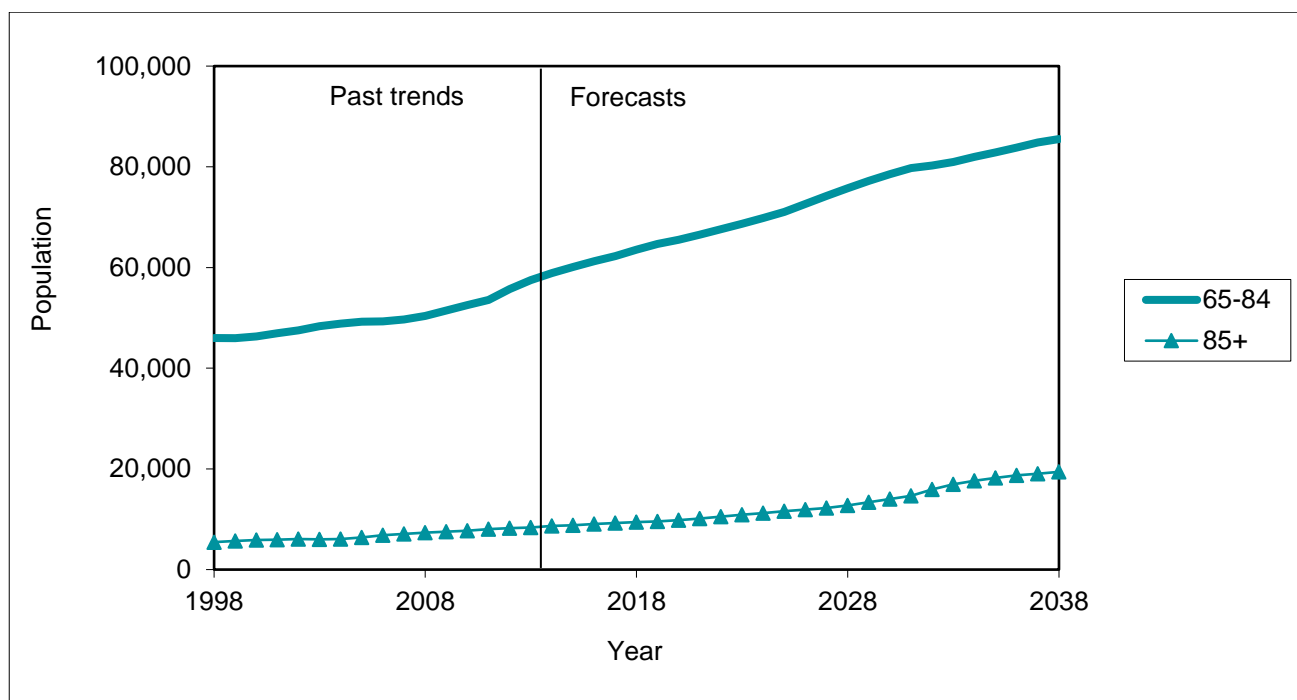


Table 8: Older people population

	Population			% change	
	2018	2028	2038	2018-28	2018-38
65-84	63,500	75,800	85,500	19%	35%
85+	9,400	12,800	19,400	35%	106%
65+	72,900	88,500	104,900	21%	44%

Health forecasts of the older population

Dementia

If the prevalence⁵ of dementia remains the same, the number of people with dementia⁶ is forecast to increase over the next twenty years, from 5,300 in 2018 to around 8,900 in 2038. This growth is driven by population ageing alone. Around half the growth will be in the number of people with moderate or severe dementia. The number of people with severe dementia is forecast to increase at the fastest rate, from 600 in 2018 to around 1,200 in 2038.

Chart 9: Forecast population with dementia

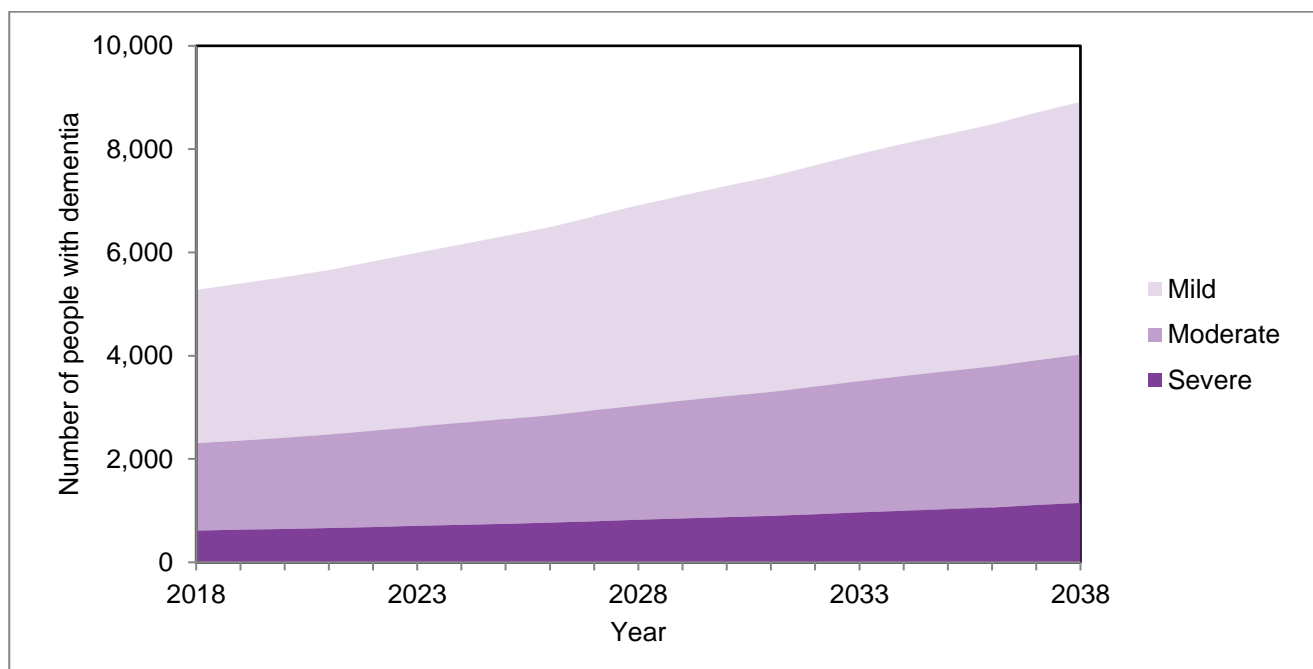


Table 9: Forecast population with dementia

	Population			% change	
	2018	2028	2038	2018-28	2018-38
Mild	3,000	3,900	4,900	30%	65%
Moderate	1,700	2,200	2,900	31%	70%
Severe	600	800	1,200	34%	87%
Total	5,300	6,900	8,900	31%	69%

⁵ Prevalence taken from Dementia UK Update 2014, Alzheimer's Society

⁶ Diagnosed and undiagnosed

Dependency⁷

In the next 20 years, Cheshire West and Chester is forecast to have large increases in the number of older people who remain independent but also increases in those with complex care needs. This increase is due to more individuals reaching 85 years or older who have higher levels of dependency, dementia, and comorbidity. The number of older people with medium or high dependency and requiring substantial care (daily or 24 hour) is forecast to increase from 9,400 in 2018 to 11,800 in 2038.

Chart 10: Forecast dependency of older population

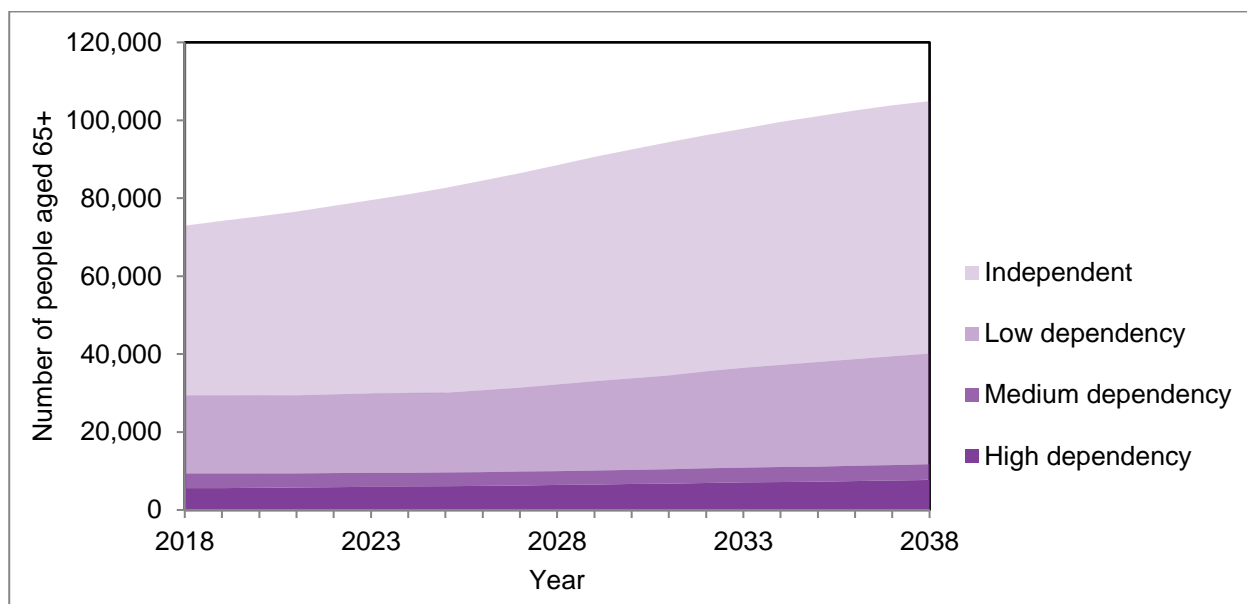


Table 10: Forecast dependency of older population (aged 65+)

	Population			% change	
	2018	2028	2038	2018-28	2018-38
Independent	43,500	56,300	64,800	29%	49%
Low dependency	20,000	22,200	28,400	11%	42%
Medium dependency	3,800	3,600	4,000	-5%	7%
High dependency	5,600	6,400	7,700	14%	37%
Total	72,900	88,500	104,900	21%	44%

Note: Adults were categorised as high dependency if they required 24-hour care; medium dependency if they needed help at regular times daily; low dependency if they required care less than daily; or independent.

⁷ Prevalence taken from Lancet Public Health 2018; 3: e447–55: Forecasting the care needs of the older population in England over the next 20 years: estimates from the Population Ageing and Care Simulation (PACSim) modelling study, Andrew Kingston, Adelina Comas-Herrera, Carol Jagger for the MODEM project.

Household forecasts

The number of households is forecast to increase by 14 per cent (21,300). By 2038, there will be around 168,700 households living in Cheshire West and Chester. The growth in households is due to the increase in numbers of households headed by pensioners (aged 65 and above). This is driven by the population growth in this age group.

By 2038, there will be almost 11,000 more single people households and they will make up more than a third of all households. The increase will almost all be in older single person households. By 2038, there will be 9,600 people aged 85 or above living alone. The increase accelerates around 2032 in line with forecast population changes.

Chart 11: Forecast change (2018 to 2038) in households

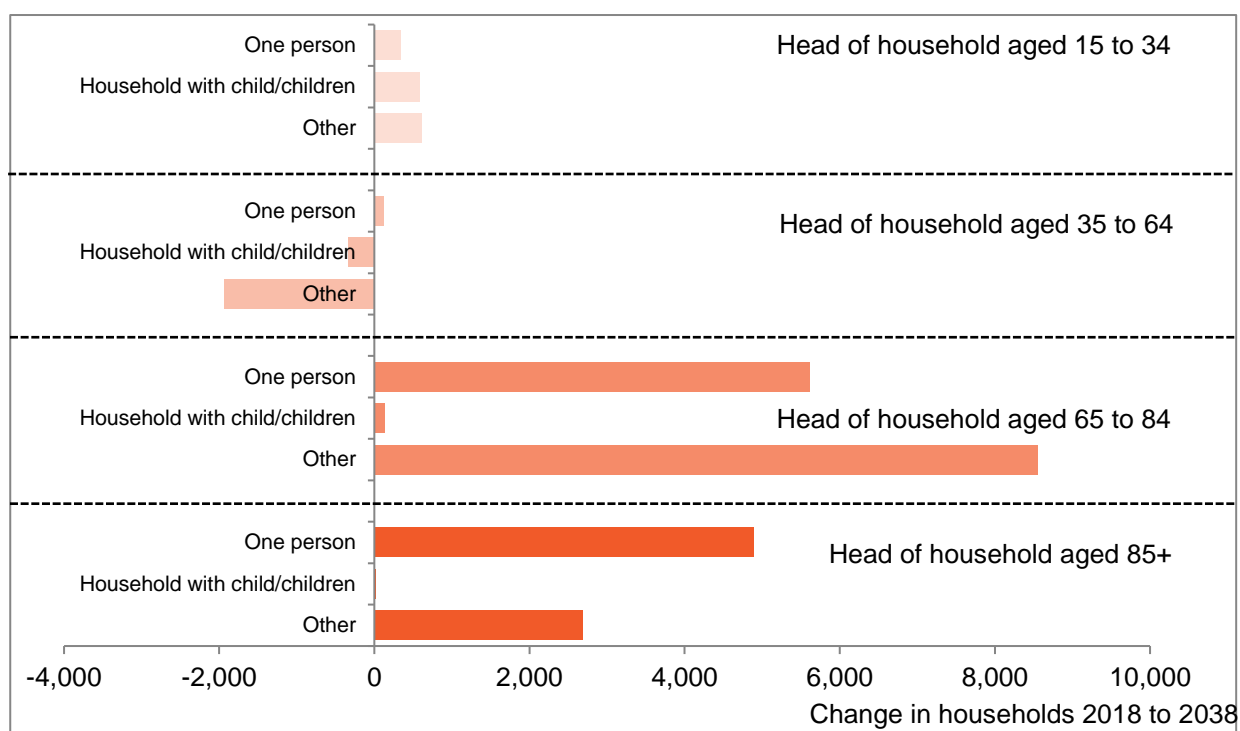


Table 11: Household forecasts

	Households			% change	
	2018	2028	2038	2018-28	2018-38
One person	46,500	52,200	57,500	12%	24%
Under 65	25,100	26,100	25,600	4%	2%
65-84	16,700	19,800	22,300	18%	34%
85 and above	4,700	6,300	9,600	34%	104%
Households with dependent children	37,300	36,800	37,700	-1%	1%
Other	63,600	69,100	73,500	9%	16%
Total	147,400	158,000	168,700	7%	14%

Locality forecasts

Locality working focuses on involving local people, organisations and partners in shaping and delivering local services. The Council's locality working programme is split across four locality areas. The population is forecast to increase over the next twenty years in all four localities. The greatest increases will be in Ellesmere Port and Northwich and Winsford.

Chart 12: Locality forecasts

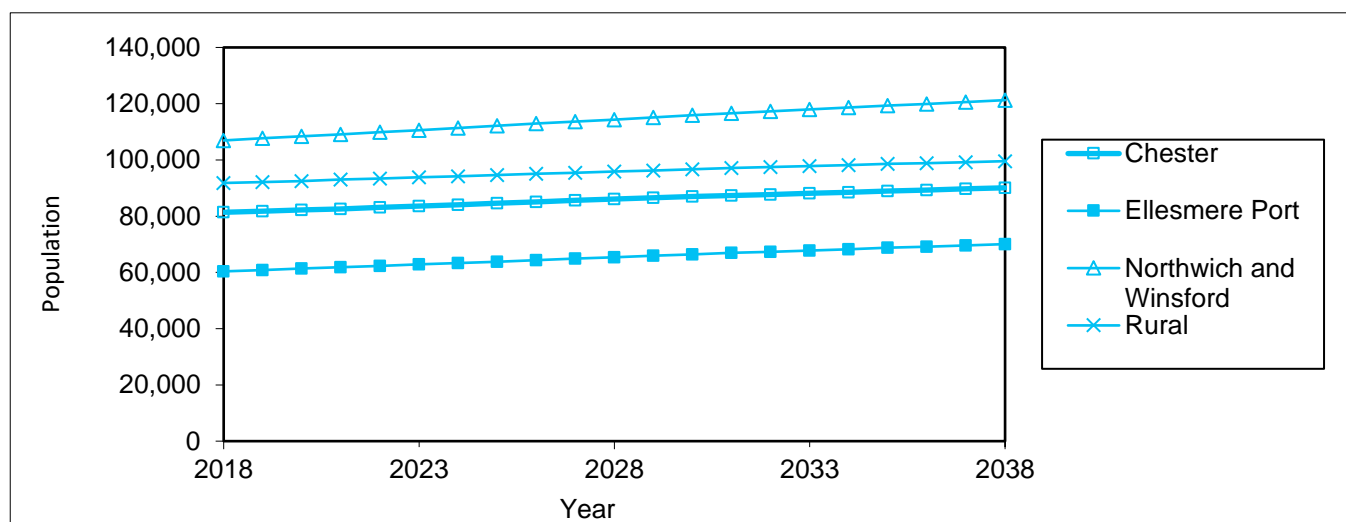


Table 12: Locality forecasts

	Population			% change	
	2018	2028	2038	2018-28	2018-38
Chester	81,400	86,100	90,100	6%	11%
Ellesmere Port	60,400	65,400	70,100	8%	16%
Northwich and Winsford	106,900	114,300	121,300	7%	13%
Rural	91,800	95,800	99,600	4%	8%
Cheshire West and Chester	340,500	361,700	381,000	6%	12%

There are forecast to be more children in all localities by 2038. The greatest increase (16 per cent) is forecast in Ellesmere Port.

The number of people of working age (16-64) is forecast to increase in all localities except Rural. Numbers of people of younger working age (16-44) is forecast to increase in all localities whilst numbers of people of older working age is expected to decrease.

The number of older people (aged 65+) will increase in every locality. The largest increases will be in Ellesmere Port (54 per cent) and Northwich and Winsford (54 per cent). The number of people aged 85+ will more than double in Ellesmere Port, Northwich and Winsford, and Rural localities. The Rural locality has the oldest age structure and by 2038, almost a third of the Rural locality population will be aged 65 or above.

Table 13: Chester locality forecasts

	Population			% change	
	2018	2028	2038	2018-28	2018-38
0-15	13,600	13,800	14,000	2%	3%
16-44	32,100	33,300	34,500	4%	8%
45-64	20,000	20,000	19,100	0%	-4%
65+	15,700	19,000	22,400	20%	42%
(85+)	2,400	3,000	4,400	27%	84%
Total	81,400	86,100	90,100	6%	11%

Table 14: Ellesmere Port locality forecasts

	Population			% change	
	2018	2028	2038	2018-28	2018-38
0-15	11,500	12,700	13,300	10%	16%
16-44	20,400	21,800	23,000	7%	13%
45-64	16,900	16,300	16,100	-4%	-5%
65+	11,500	14,500	17,600	27%	54%
(85+)	1,400	2,000	2,900	45%	115%
Total	60,400	65,400	70,100	8%	16%

Table 15: Northwich and Winsford locality forecasts

	Population			% change	
	2018	2028	2038	2018-28	2018-38
0-15	20,300	21,100	21,700	4%	7%
16-44	34,300	36,100	37,300	5%	9%
45-64	3,800	30,000	29,200	-3%	-5%
65+	21,600	27,100	33,100	26%	54%
(85+)	2,600	3,600	5,800	38%	124%
Total	106,900	114,300	121,300	7%	13%

Table 16: Rural locality forecasts

	Population			% change	
	2018	2028	2038	2018-28	2018-38
0-15	15,600	16,600	16,800	6%	7%
16-44	25,000	25,500	26,200	2%	5%
45-64	27,000	25,800	24,900	-4%	-8%
65+	24,100	27,900	31,700	15%	31%
(85+)	3,100	4,200	6,300	36%	103%
Total	91,800	95,800	99,600	4%	8%

Care community forecasts

The local NHS and Cheshire West and Chester Council are committed to developing a joined-up health and care system that meets the needs of the local population. As part of this work nine care communities have been developed to ensure even more care is delivered closer to home.

The population is forecast to increase in all nine care communities with the largest increases in Winsford (23 per cent), Chester South (17 per cent) and Ellesmere Port (16 per cent). These increases reflect the relatively high level of new housing expected in these areas.

Chart 13: Care community forecasts

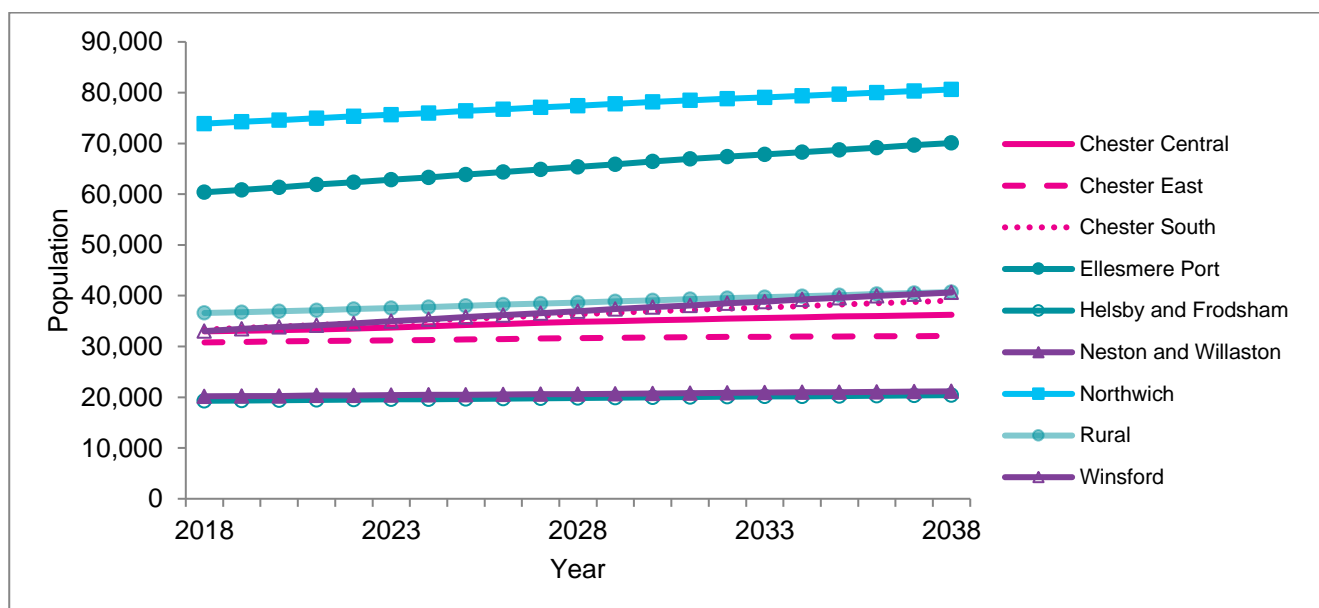


Table 17: Care community forecasts

	Population			% change	
	2018	2028	2038	2018-28	2018-38
Chester Central	33,000	34,800	36,200	6%	10%
Chester East	30,800	31,600	32,100	3%	4%
Chester South	33,300	36,400	39,000	9%	17%
Ellesmere Port	60,400	65,400	70,100	8%	16%
Helsby and Frodsham	19,300	19,800	20,400	3%	6%
Neston and Willaston	20,200	20,600	21,200	2%	5%
Northwich	73,900	77,400	80,600	5%	9%
Rural	36,600	38,600	40,700	6%	11%
Winsford	33,000	36,900	40,600	12%	23%
Cheshire West and Chester	340,500	361,700	381,000	6%	12%

The number of children is forecast to increase in every care community except in Neston and Willaston. The greatest increases are forecast in Ellesmere Port, Rural and Winsford.

The majority of care communities are forecast an increase in the numbers of people of younger working age (16-44) and a decrease in the number of people of older working age (45-64).

The number of older people (aged 65+) will increase in every care community, with forecast increases ranging from 27 per cent in Helsby and Frodsham and Neston and Willaston to 74 per cent in Winsford. The number of people aged 85+ will more than double in five out of the nine care communities. The greatest increase is forecast in Winsford (160 per cent) which is forecast to increase from 600 in 2018 to 1,600 in 2038. Neston and Willaston, Rural and Helsby and Frodsham will continue to have the oldest age structures and by 2038 around a third of the population in each of these areas will be aged 65+.

Table 18: Chester Central forecasts

	Population			% change	
	2018	2028	2038	2018-28	2018-38
0-15	4,100	4,200	4,000	5%	2%
16-44	16,100	16,400	16,700	-2%	-3%
45-64	7,300	7,400	7,200	-2%	-5%
65+	5,500	6,900	8,300	12%	28%
(85+)	900	1,100	1,500	18%	60%
Total	33,000	34,800	36,200	6%	10%

Table 19: Chester East forecasts

	Population			% change	
	2018	2028	2038	2018-28	2018-38
0-15	6,000	6,300	6,100	5%	2%
16-44	9,600	9,500	9,300	-2%	-3%
45-64	8,300	8,100	7,900	-2%	-5%
65+	6,900	7,700	8,800	12%	28%
(85+)	1,100	1,400	1,800	18%	60%
Total	30,800	31,600	32,100	3%	4%

Table 20: Chester South forecasts

	Population			% change	
	2018	2028	2038	2018-28	2018-38
0-15	6,400	6,600	6,900	4%	9%
16-44	11,000	12,100	12,900	11%	18%
45-64	8,900	9,000	8,900	1%	0%
65+	7,100	8,600	10,300	22%	46%
(85+)	900	1,300	2,100	47%	128%
Total	33,300	36,400	39,000	9%	17%

Table 21: Ellesmere Port forecasts

	Population			% change	
	2018	2028	2038	2018-28	2018-38
0-15	11,500	12,700	13,300	10%	16%
16-44	20,400	21,800	23,000	7%	13%
45-64	16,900	16,300	16,100	-4%	-5%
65+	11,500	14,500	17,600	27%	54%
(85+)	1,400	2,000	2,900	45%	115%
Total	60,400	65,400	70,100	8%	16%

Table 22: Helsby and Frodsham forecasts

	Population			% change	
	2018	2028	2038	2018-28	2018-38
0-15	3,100	3,300	3,300	4%	6%
16-44	5,400	5,500	5,600	2%	4%
45-64	5,600	5,300	5,000	-6%	-12%
65+	5,100	5,800	6,500	13%	27%
(85+)	700	900	1,300	32%	90%
Total	19,300	19,800	20,400	3%	6%

Table 23: Neston and Willaston forecasts

	Population			% change	
	2018	2028	2038	2018-28	2018-38
0-15	3,000	2,900	2,900	-3%	-1%
16-44	5,300	5,500	5,500	3%	4%
45-64	6,000	5,500	5,200	-8%	-13%
65+	5,900	6,800	7,500	15%	27%
(85+)	800	1,000	1,500	33%	98%
Total	20,200	20,600	21,200	2%	5%

Table 24: Northwich forecasts

	Population			% change	
	2018	2028	2038	2018-28	2018-38
0-15	13,600	13,800	13,800	1%	1%
16-44	23,000	23,500	23,900	2%	4%
45-64	21,600	20,800	20,000	-4%	-7%
65+	15,700	19,300	23,000	23%	46%
(85+)	2,000	2,600	4,200	30%	112%
Total	73,900	77,400	80,600	5%	9%

Table 25: Rural forecasts

	Population			% change	
	2018	2028	2038	2018-28	2018-38
0-15	6,600	7,200	7,600	10%	14%
16-44	9,600	9,900	10,500	3%	9%
45-64	10,900	10,500	9,900	-4%	-10%
65+	9,500	11,100	12,800	17%	35%
(85+)	1,100	1,500	2,400	39%	118%
Total	36,600	38,600	40,700	6%	11%

Table 26: Winsford forecasts

	Population			% change	
	2018	2028	2038	2018-28	2018-38
0-15	7,400	7,400	7,900	9%	17%
16-44	11,200	12,600	13,400	12%	19%
45-64	9,200	9,200	9,200	-1%	0%
65+	5,800	7,800	10,100	34%	74%
(85+)	600	1,000	1,600	65%	160%
Total	33,000	36,900	40,600	12%	23%

Other information

Context

These population forecasts are resident based, long term strategic forecasts. They are based on the most reliable assumptions, given the information available at the time. The forecasts are more current, and locally relevant, than projections produced centrally by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

The 2018 based forecasts replace the previous 2015 based forecasts for Cheshire West and Chester. These latest forecasts are based on the level of housing development from the Local Plan (1,100 new dwellings per annum) and the latest demographic data available at the time and include assumptions based on data from the 2016 based National Population Projections and Household Projections.

These forecasts have been produced before the 2021 Census data is available and ultimately are based in part on statistics from the 2011 Census. The further away from a census the less reliable population estimates become. The results of the 2021 Census will enable the ONS to recalibrate and revise their population estimates, produce statistical analysis on trends in household formation and economic activity and provide a base for fertility and mortality analysis. Over the coming years the ONS will also work on analysis of the long-term demographic impact of COVID and they will produce population and household projections that will take account of all these factors. This ONS demographic analysis will be key to enabling the Council to produce robust population forecasts (which will replace these 2018 based forecasts) in the coming years. All forecasts are subject to uncertainty, given the time since the 2011 Census and the potential impact of COVID this is particularly true for these forecasts.

Population change 2001 to 2018

The population increased on average by 1,100 people each year between 2001 and 2018. This number is higher in recent years and reflects the higher number of new dwellings being built. The population increased by 2,300 between 2016 and 2017 and by 2,500 between 2017 and 2018.

The following table shows the factors that affect changes in the population. In Cheshire West and Chester, population increase is mainly due to increasing numbers of people moving in to the area from elsewhere in the UK.

Table 12: Population change

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Population	332,272	333,949	335,724	337,986	340,502
Births	3,567	3,521	3,573	3,525	3,429
Deaths	3,118	3,357	3,413	3,495	3,381
Natural change (births-deaths)	449	164	160	30	48
Internal In migration	13,942	14,322	14,332	16,610	17,405
Internal Out migration	13,555	13,097	13,002	14,281	15,043
Net internal migration	387	1,225	1,330	2,329	2,362
International In migration	1,475	1,496	1,370	1,402	1,501
International Out migration	1,257	1,231	1,049	1,473	1,385
Net international migration	218	265	321	-71	116
Population change from previous year	1,203	1,677	1,775	2,262	2,516
Net new dwellings	970	1,571	1,769	2,017	2,542

Notes:

1. Internal migration is estimated moves between different LAs in the UK
2. Population change is mid-year to mid-year and includes some other small adjustments made by ONS.

Source: ONS mid year estimates of population. © Office for National Statistics. Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

Forecasting method

The forecasting process involves using our demographic expertise to form assumptions on the many factors affecting the future population. The relationship between these factors is complex and the forecasts have been produced using mathematical modelling techniques and specialist software.

The starting population for the forecasts was the 2018 mid-year estimate. This population was made a year older for each year of the forecast. Births were added, based on the latest available fertility rates and trends. Deaths were subtracted, calculated from the latest mortality trends. The forecasts were adjusted to take into account the number of resident migrants based on the expected levels of future housing development in the Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan and likely levels of household formation from the latest household projections produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

The forecasts in this report are rounded to the nearest 100. Columns in tables may not sum to totals due to rounding.

We expect to review our forecasts within the next three years, when a number of new datasets become available. A critical dataset will be the 2021 Census which will provide a check for ONS population estimates and provide up to date information on household formation.

Further information

More detail on the population of Cheshire West and Chester can be found on the JSNA section of the Council website. If you would like further information about this report, please contact the Insight and Intelligence Team.

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