

# Summary of Updated Population Data

## Belfast City Council Response to Q1b, Topic 12

January 2021

1. During the recent hearing session on Topic 12 ('Growth Strategy'), Commissioner Daly invited Belfast City Council – represented on this matter by Turley – to submit the updated population data referenced in its verbal response to Question 1b. It is evidently the case that these datasets were published after the technical evidence base documents referenced in the question were produced.
2. Table 1 below summarises the latest available population estimates, available and shown for the period up to and including 2019, alongside recent population projections. This includes the 2012-based and 2014-based projections shown at Figure 3.17 of the Housing Growth Options Report (POP006, p37) – referenced in Question 1a – as well as the 2016-based and 2018-based projections, since released in April 2018 and April 2020 respectively. The former, 2016-based projections were referenced in the Council's Technical Supplement 1 paper (DPS007, Paragraph 4.6, p13).

**Table 1: Population Estimates and Projections for Belfast, selected years<sup>1</sup>**

	2017*	2018	2019	2026*	2035
<b>Historic estimates</b>	<b>340,220</b>	<b>341,877</b>	<b>343,542</b>	–	–
<b>2018-based projections</b>	340,220	341,877	342,058	346,594	347,000
<b>2016-based projections</b>	339,513	340,293	341,051	349,450	352,977
<b>2014-based projections</b>	341,188	342,505	343,687	346,167	350,740
<b>2012-based projections</b>	340,735	341,742	342,571	346,184	345,671

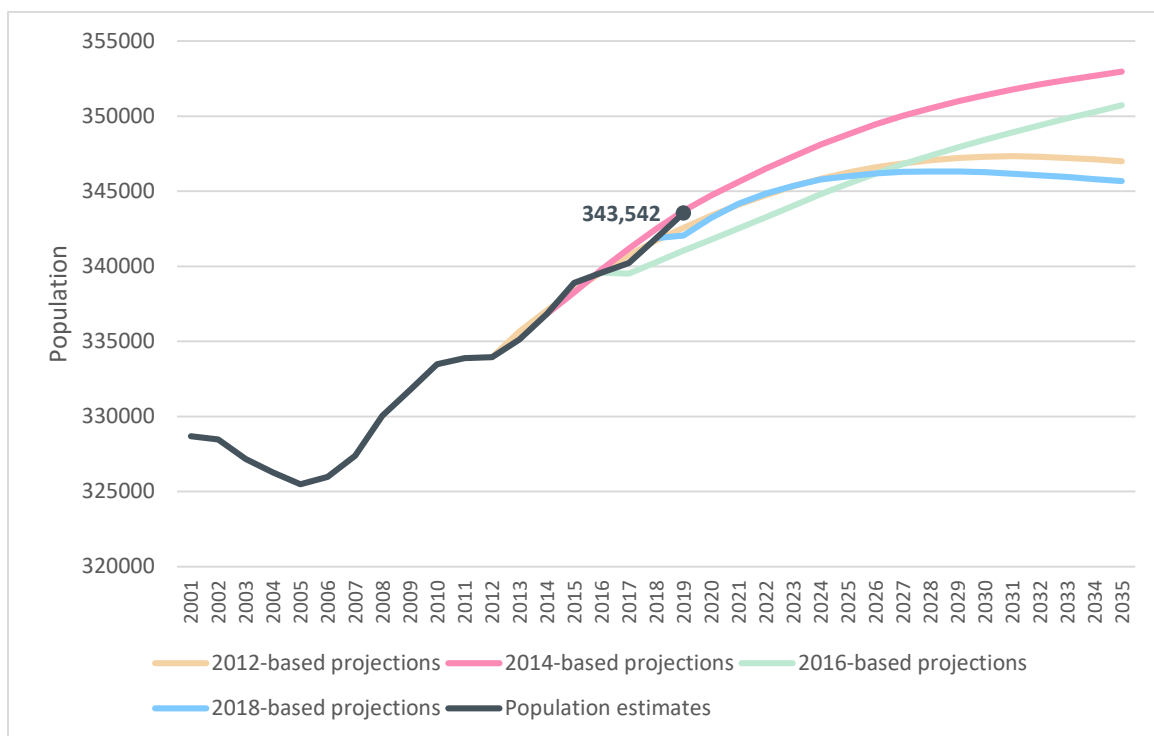
Source: NISRA

\* years referenced in question

3. Figure 1 overleaf further illustrates the trajectory of the various projections over the plan period, and shows the degree of alignment between historic projections and subsequent population estimates. For reference, the latest 2019 population estimate for Belfast is clearly labelled on the chart.

<sup>1</sup> The last three years for which official population estimates are available (2017, 2018 and 2019) – in order to allow comparison with the projections – as well as 2026 (referenced in Technical Supplement 1, and Q1) and 2035, as the end of the plan period

**Figure 1: Population Estimates and Projections for Belfast**



Source: NISRA

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