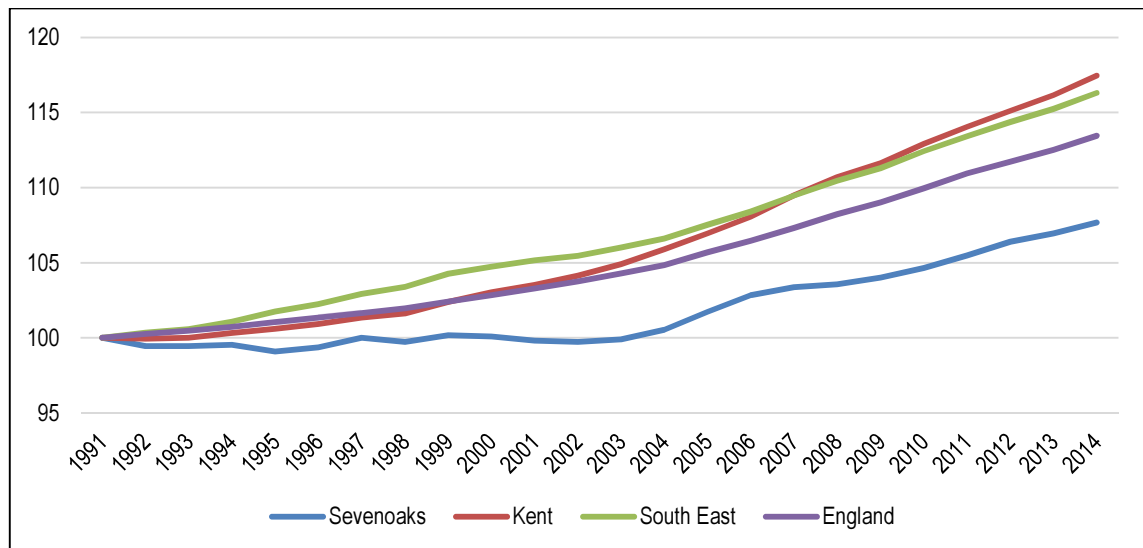


## PROPOSED APPENDIX D: THE SEVENOAKS DISTRICT CONTEXT

### Past Population Growth

- Figure 1 below shows how the population of Sevenoaks District has changed since 1991. The graph shows that population growth in Sevenoaks has consistently been below the average for Kent, the South East and England. Until the beginning of the 2000s there had been very little population growth across the District, in fact population slightly declined in the mid 1990s compared with trends across the wider areas, however over the past 12 years or so for which data is available, the level of population growth has been notably higher – in common with that across wider geographies. Over the whole 1991 to 2013 period, the data shows that the population of Sevenoaks grew by 9%; notably lower than in Kent (17%), the South East (16%) and England (14%).

**Figure 1: Indexed population growth from 1991**



Source: ONS

- This data can be interrogated further by looking at population change in terms of short term (10 year) and long term (20 year) trends, illustrated in Tables 1 and 2 below. The District's population grew notably between 1971 and 1991 (23,081 people) but the rate dropped drastically the following decade (2,389 people). However, since the early 2000s the rate has picked up again (7,516 people 2001-2011), reflecting higher levels of net migration and higher fertility rates.

**Table 1: Population growth 1971-2011 (10 year trends)**

	Population growth	% population growth
1971 – 1981	12,916	15.4%
1981 – 1991	10,165	10.5%
1991 – 2001	2,389	2.2%
2001 - 2011	7,516	6.9%

Source: ONS

**Table 2: Population growth 1971-2011 (overlapping 20 year trends)**

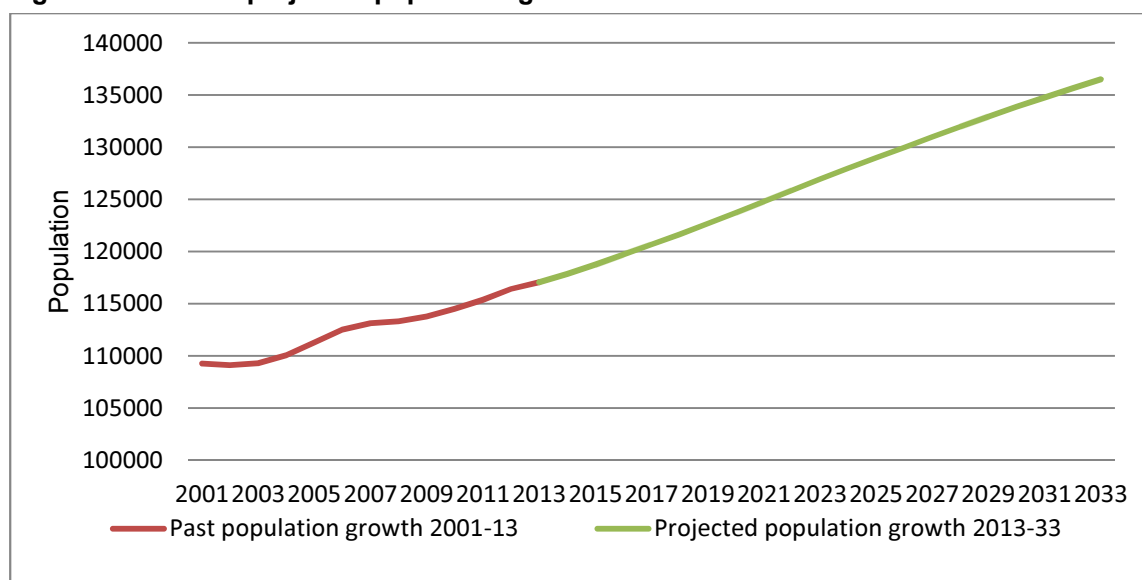
	Population change	% population change
<b>1971 – 1991</b>	23,081	27.5%
<b>1981 – 2001</b>	12,554	13.0%
<b>1991 – 2011</b>	9,905	9.2%

Source: ONS

### Future Population Growth

- Future population growth is estimated using subnational population projections (SNPPs) published by ONS. These projections provide estimates of the future population of the District assuming that recent local trends in fertility, mortality and migration continue. The projections are largely based on trends in the 2007-2012 period.
- The SNPPs are more advanced than simply projecting forward past trends as they take account of how the age structure of the population is expected to change and how the population in other areas from which people typically move to the area is expected to change, and how this may influence the propensity of people to migrate.
- The SNPPs are not forecasts and do not attempt to predict the impact that future government or local policies, changing economic circumstances or other factors might have on demographic behaviour i.e. the projections show unconstrained population growth.
- Figure 2 below shows the District's past population growth (2001-2013) compared with how it is expected to grow over the period 2013-2033.

**Figure 2: Past and projected population growth**



Source: ONS

- The population of Sevenoaks is expected to grow by 19,469 people over the period 2013-2033; this is a 16.6% increase – slightly lower than expected across

Kent (17%), but higher than equivalent figures for the South East (14.9%) and England (13.3%).

8. The expected growth of 16.6% can be compared to past growth in Table 2. This shows that population growth was particularly high (27.5%) in the 1971-1991 period, but then reduced to 9.2% over the 1991-2011 period. The projections for the period 2013-2033 reflect higher levels of net migration and higher fertility rates expected. This is discussed in further detail below.

### **Components of Population Change**

9. The two key components of population change are natural change (births minus deaths) and net migration. The SNPPs project forward recent trends observed in the District, more specifically:
  - Fertility trends use data over the previous five years to establish a starting level with the trend projected to follow that projected nationally (which in the case of fertility rates is for there to be little change moving forward).
  - Mortality rates use a similar method and once applied to national projections it is expected that life expectancy will improve over time (along with some closing of the gap between male and female rates).
  - International migration is based on trends over the past six years (on an age/sex specific basis) with figures then consolidated with national projections – this can see international migration being either higher or lower than national estimates depending on the age structure (note: in most areas the projection is below trends).
  - Internal migration uses data from the previous five years. However, it is not a straight projection of the number of migrants but calculates rates by age and sex (i.e. the proportion of each age/sex group who move from one place to another on average per year). This means that changes to the age structure (both in Sevenoaks and areas from which people move to Sevenoaks) can impact on the actual level of net migration.
10. The SNPPs show that, for Sevenoaks:
  - The population of the District is expected to grow by 19,469 people over the period 2013-2033; this is a 16.6% increase and equates to just under 1,000 people each year.
  - Approximately 1,400 births and 1,000 deaths are expected each year, with deaths rising to 1,200 towards the end of the projection period (2030-2033). These figures are representative of people living longer. Natural change therefore equates to approximately 400 people each year.
  - There is approximately 600 net internal migration expected each year. The projections show approximately 6,600 people entering the District and 6,200 leaving the District each year, rising to 7,500 entering and 6,800 leaving each year in the latter years of the projection period (2031-33). Over the period 2011-2014 the majority of moves into the District were

from London and neighbouring districts. The flows out of Sevenoaks were mostly to neighbouring districts. This trend is largely expected to continue and the majority of the 600 is likely to be due to in-migration from London linked to a rapidly growing population in the City, but also a minority of people moving into the District from elsewhere in the country.

- There is zero net international migration. The projections show approximately 400 people entering the District and 400 people leaving the District each year for the whole of the projection period (2013-2033).
- There is zero net cross-border (EU) migration. The projections show approximately 100 people entering the District and 100 people leaving the District each year for the whole of the projection period (2013-2033).