



# ONS 2011 Census Outputs Strategy

UK Data Forum 19 May 2010

# Overview

- Aims and Vision
  - Aggregate data
  - Microdata
  - Analytical programme
- Challenges
- Addressing the challenges
- Where we are now
- Next steps and timetable

# ONS AIMS



- To ensure greatest possible value via widest possible use of census outcomes.
  - Right Content
  - Right functionality
  - Easy Accessibility
  - Wide awareness
  - Ensuring user confidence
- Ensuring value for money

# Vision

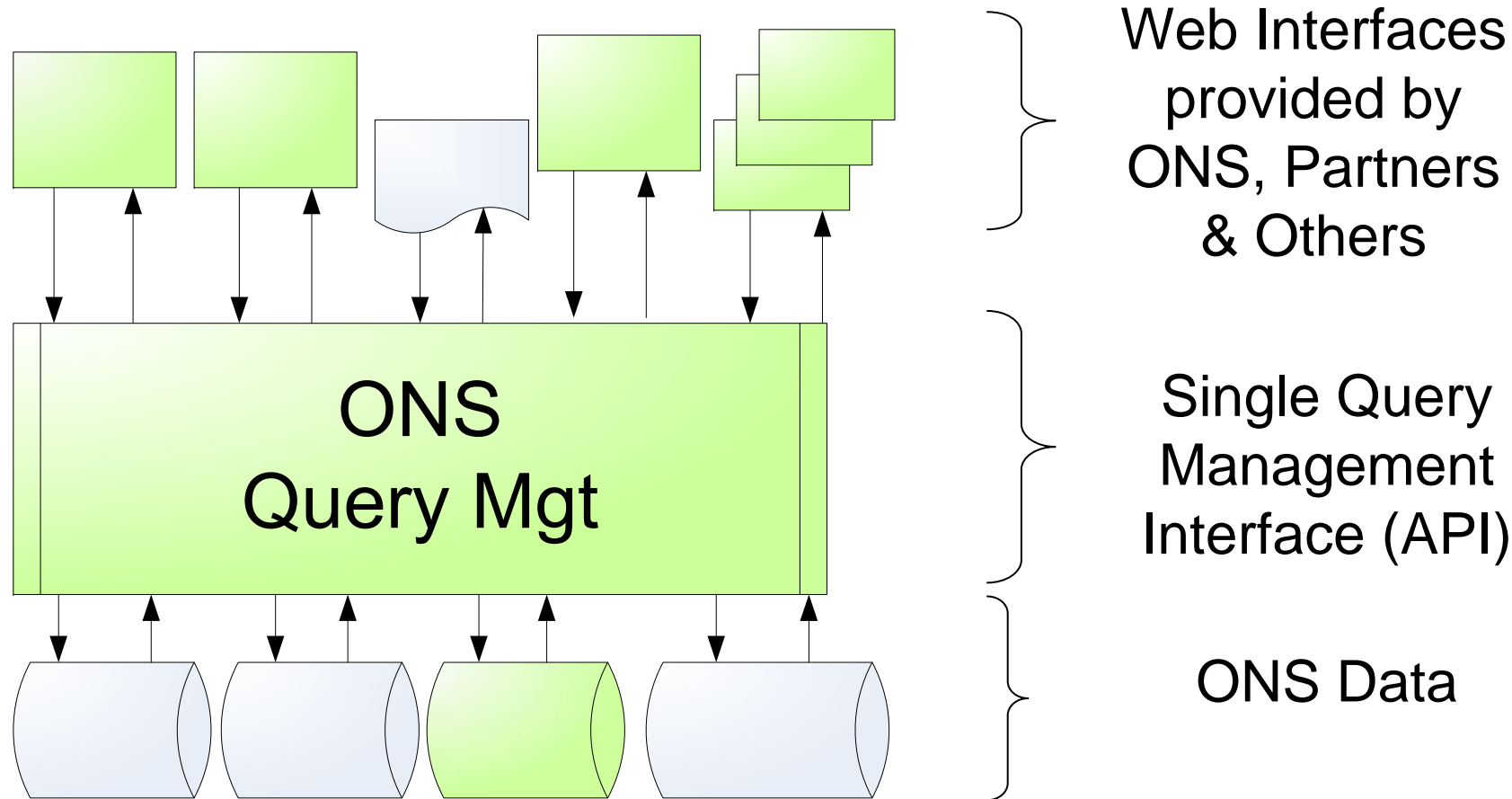


- Web as the primary dissemination route
- Flexibility for end users to create own products
- Data explorer functionality provided jointly with external partners
- 2001 comparisons which exploit the now stable geography
- Microdata products provided via secure mechanisms
- Utilities to enable bulk download of data via the web
  - CD/DVD products to supplement on-line delivery
- UK harmonisation where possible with common disclosure control
- Wider analytical uses
- **Funding dependent**

# Aggregate data products

- Standard pre-canned tables
- Flexible tables - User defined via hypercubes
- Available through ONS website
- Available through other websites via an 'Application Programming Interface'
  - A structured online 'Data Feed'
- Core analytical functionality available from ONS
- Further functionality available through partners

# Vision Illustrated - Web



# Partnership arrangements



- We are keen to work in partnership
  - Extent of ONS services to be determined over coming months
  - Dependent on funding decisions
- We would like other organisations to work provide additional functionality for key user groups
  - Via the API
  - ESRC and LGA already actively engaged
  - Trial underway with NOMIS (University of Durham)
- Seeking an ‘open source’ approach
  - Computer code libraries and, if possible, web services, to be made freely available to all
- Currently reviewing licensing arrangements

# Microdata products

- Expecting to produce microdata as in 2001
  - Samples of Anonymised Records (SARs)
    - Draft specification produced
  - Controlled Access Microdata Samples (CAMS)
  - LS
- Accessibility arrangements subject to further discussion
  - CSSR, VML, SDS
- Not anticipating significant technical or methodological challenges
  - Key issues are policy related
- Funding dependent
  - Similar levels of ESRC funding to 2001 currently assumed

# Wider analytical uses



- Currently exploring the extent of ‘analytical use’
  - Theme reports based on aggregate information from multiple sources
  - Linkage to ONS survey data at person level to add further person / HH characteristics
  - Creation of a Census Analysis Centre of Excellence
  - Linkage to administrative datasets to add further person characteristics
  - Follow on surveys using the census as a sampling frame
- Relatively straightforward but funding dependent
- Follow on surveys would need to be funded directly by other organisations / govt departments

# UK alignment



- Questionnaire content harmonised as far as possible
- Aggregate output content harmonisation on track
  - Similar approach to output content consultation
- Different dissemination approaches currently planned
- ONS *may* publish a UK layer of aggregate outputs to facilitate easy access
- Ongoing discussions with other census offices
- Microdata not yet extensively discussed

# Key Challenges

- Agreeing technology & extent of partnership working
  - What will ONS provide? What will partners provide?
- Disclosure control
  - What constitutes a 'safe' hypercube space
  - Degree of SDC for each level of geog hierarchy
- Number of exact fit Geographies
  - Alignment of disclosure issues with user requirements
- Agreeing table / hypercube content
  - What products in what form
- 2001 to 2011 Comparisons
  - Establishing what is comparable
- Metadata collection and delivery
  - Ensuring solution integrated with data dissemination
- Access to UK-wide outputs
- Microdata provision
  - Product definition and delivery Mechanisms

# Addressing the Challenges

- User Consultation
  - ongoing refinement of proposals
- Continual alignment of:
  - table / cube content requirements
  - technical solutions
  - disclosure control policy
  - licensed / safe setting outputs
  - microdata content
- Prototyping technical Web Dissemination tools
  - processing, Storage, API
  - metadata solutions
- Partnership / licensing / funding discussions
  - aim for clear view by October 10
- Assessment of 2001 to 2011 definitional differences
  - and solutions to 2001 SDC legacy

# Key milestones

