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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Policy &amp; Resources Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>13 September 2022</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>PR/17/22/KM</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Morna Rae</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 712146</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>NRS Mid-2021 Population Estimates, Scotland and Census 2022</b>		

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## **1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

1.1  For Decision  For Information/Noting

1.2 This report provides the Committee with an overview of the latest mid-2021 population estimates, published by the National Records of Scotland (NRS). In summary, Inverclyde's estimated population as at 30 June 2021 was 76,700, which is a 0.5% decrease from the previous year and the 5<sup>th</sup> largest percentage population decrease in Scotland. Fewer births than deaths continues to be the major driver of population decline in Inverclyde, however net migration in the year was estimated to be positive (+90).

1.3 The report also contains more detailed information on population change locally and nationally including:

- Trend information on births and deaths and the resultant natural change;
- An overview of migration patterns; and
- Specific population changes of note within Scotland

1.4 Information is included on the national Census and work locally to maximise the response rate, which was 84.2% for Inverclyde.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That the Committee note the latest official mid-year population estimates which show a further decrease in the population of Inverclyde, predominately due to natural change; and

2.2 Note that officers will raise concerns around the local response rate to the Census 2022 with NRS due to the potential impact on the Council's future government funding.

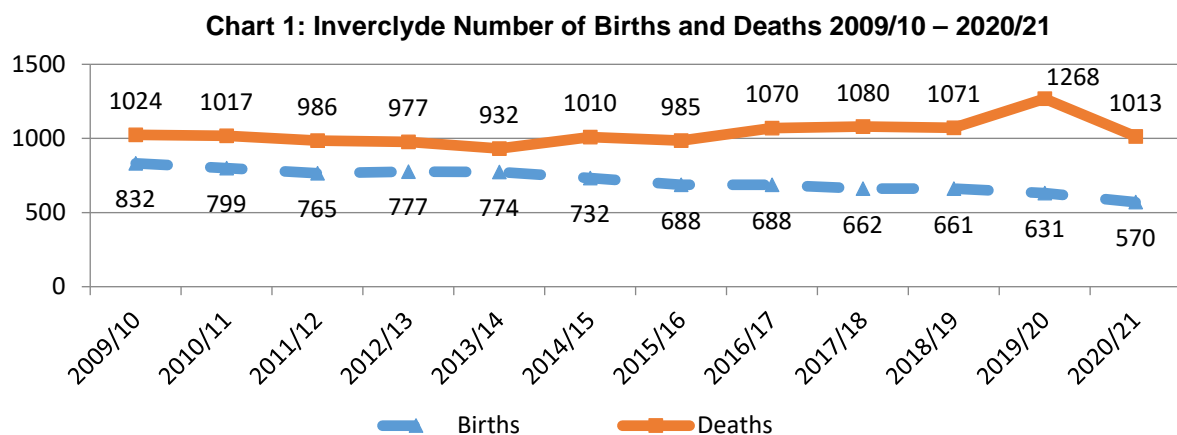
**Ruth Binks**  
**Corporate Director,**  
**Education, Communities and Organisational Development**

### 3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 The National Registers of Scotland (NRS) is the responsible agency of the Scottish Government that handles all matters relating to population and household statistics, including the Census and mid-year estimates. On 13 July 2022 NRS published 'Mid-2021 Population Estimates, Scotland', providing population estimates for Scotland, its Council areas and NHS boards by sex and age.
- 3.2 Population estimates are based on the Census (2011) and are updated annually to account for the population change in the period 1 July - 30 June. The Census and associated population measures have a significant bearing on a number of strategic issues, most notably Government Funding.
- 3.3 Tackling population decline is a key strategic priority for both Inverclyde Council and the Inverclyde Alliance and both the Policy and Resources Committee and the Inverclyde Alliance Board consider reports on the latest NRS data on an annual basis.

#### INVERCLYDE MID YEAR POPULATION ESTIMATE (30 JUNE 2021)

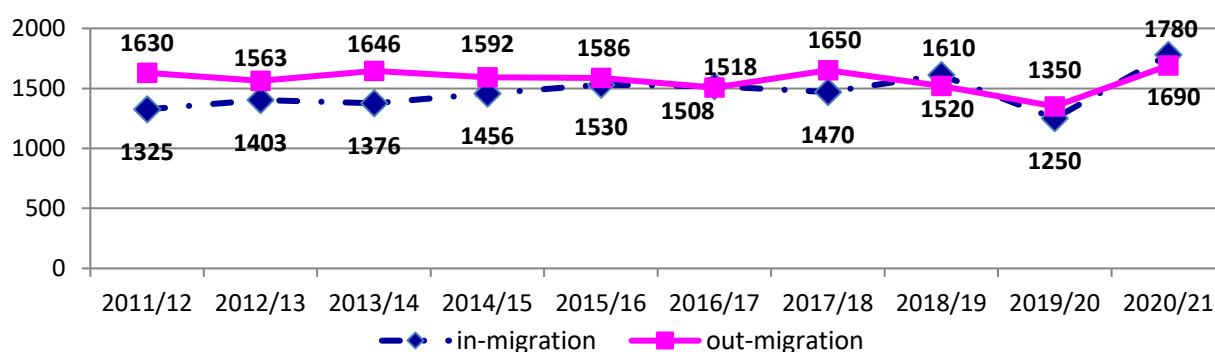
- 3.4 As at 30 June 2021, the population of Inverclyde was estimated to be 76,700, this is a 360 (-0.5%) decrease compared to the 2020 mid-year population estimate, 77,060. Inverclyde is one of 8 Scottish Council areas estimated to have had a fall in population between mid-2020 and mid-2021. Appendix 1 shows the population change across all Council areas in Scotland between mid-2020 and mid-2021.
- 3.5 Population decline in Inverclyde between mid-2020 and mid-2021 continues to be driven by fewer births than deaths, with only 570 births in the year compared with 1,013 deaths. Following a sharp increase last year, the number of deaths in Inverclyde has fallen to its lowest level since 2015/16, however the number of births also fell to a new low (Chart 1).



Additional information on how natural change in Inverclyde compares over the period 2009/10 to 2020/21 is provided in Appendix 2.

- 3.6 Encouragingly, net migration was estimated as positive at the end of mid-year 2021, due to 1,780 people moving into the area and 1,690 moving out, resulting in a net migration total of 90. Inverclyde also had positive net migration in the year mid-2016/17 and again in mid-2018/19.

Chart 2: Inverclyde migration pattern mid 2011/12 to mid 2020/21



- 3.7 Inverclyde's positive net migration in the year mid-2020 to mid-2021 is largely due to net migration from the rest of the UK (+130), with the area losing more residents than it gained from the rest of Scotland (-20) and overseas (-20).
- 3.8 Appendix 3 shows the how the main components of population change in Inverclyde compares over the period 2011 to 2021. It is evident that negative natural change has been the most significant driver of population decline locally and that whilst this is also a national issue, Inverclyde has been disproportionately affected compared to Scotland as a whole.
- 3.9 NRS population figures over a 20 year period (2001- 2021) shows that Inverclyde was one of four Council areas to have had a population decrease; whilst Scotland's population has grown. The other three Councils are West Dunbartonshire, Argyll and Bute and North Ayrshire. Inverclyde however had the largest population decrease of all areas, -8.9%. Data for all Councils is provided in Appendix 4.

## NATIONAL POPULATION CHANGES

- 3.10 The estimated population of Scotland as at 30 June 2021 is 5,479,900. This is an increase of 13,900 (0.25%) from the previous year, which is lower than the average annual growth in the 5 years before the pandemic (0.43%). Scotland experienced the largest natural population decrease on record (-14,500), due to the number of births being lower than the number of deaths for the 7<sup>th</sup> year in a row, however this was offset by migration adding to Scotland's population, with 27,800 more people moving to Scotland than leaving.
- 3.11 The new data shows that the pattern of population change in Scotland between mid-2020 and mid-2021 was different to previous years with the population of the Scotland's largest cities falling, contrary to an increasing trend in recent years. The most common moves within Scotland were from the largest cities (Glasgow, Aberdeen and Edinburgh) to their neighbouring Council areas.
- 3.12 Such moves will have contributed to 15 Council areas reported as having a decrease in population last year (up to mid-2020) followed by an estimated population increase between mid-2020 and mid-2021. In all 15 areas, this increase was driven by migration. The largest estimated population change between the two years has occurred in Argyll and Bute (-0.5% to 0.9%), followed by Western Isles (-0.8% to 0.5%) and Highland (-0.2% to 1.1%). All three Council areas had population gains from the rest of Scotland and the UK, with Highland also having positive net migration as a result of international migration.
- 3.13 NRS suggest that the higher figures for moves between Scotland and other parts of the UK may be due to a combination of:
- People being more likely to make long term moves, such as from cities to rural areas;

- People making short term moves, such as students moving from their term time address to their parents' address, and
- People registering a change of address with their GP, when the move itself could have taken place in the past e.g. people updating their GP records due to Covid-19.

## **THE IMPACT OF COVID-19**

3.14 This is the first mid-year estimates that cover a full year of the pandemic. There were 61,300 deaths in Scotland in the year compared to 63,100 in the year to mid-2020, the second highest number of deaths since year ending mid-1994. NRS attribute this to excess deaths caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, with the total number of deaths registered in the period being 5.6% higher than five year average before 2020. Whilst there were more deaths than in the previous year due to the pandemic, overall counts of deaths from all causes was lower. Provisional data shows that this was driven by fewer deaths from other respiratory diseases.

## **SCOTLAND'S CENSUS 2022**

- 3.15 Data from Scotland's Census 2022, which is due to be published in 2023 will also be important in assessing local population change across a variety of demographics. As Members will be aware accurate Census data is vital for service planning as well as forming the basis of funding allocation decisions, including national government resources.
- 3.16 Scotland was due to carry out the Census in 2021 however, the impact of the pandemic caused NRS to move its launch date to March 2022. For the first time, it was completed on a "digital-first" basis, with households receiving an internet access code on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022. Paper versions could be obtained on request. The original completion deadline was pushed back to 31 May 2022.
- 3.17 In addition to the national promotion of the Census Inverclyde Council and partners supported local messaging on the importance of completion including newspaper articles, social media posts, leafleting and promotion at local events and groups. NRS funding was made available to support community engagement. However confirmation of the Inverclyde award was delayed until 13<sup>th</sup> May with spend to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> May. The Council worked in partnership with Your Voice Inverclyde who deployed Community Connectors to raise the profile of the Census with our communities.
- 3.18 The Census response rate for Inverclyde was 84.2%, compared to the national return of 87.9%. 10 Local Authorities achieved return rates greater than 90%. The lowest rate was in Glasgow, with 83.2%.
- 3.19 The Census Coverage Survey is separate to that of the main Census. It has been running since June 2022. It is used to help estimate how many households and people have not returned a Census form, or who have been counted twice. This then allows additions to the Census returns to increase the accuracy of the figures. It is carried out in specific postcodes. These have been provided by NRS and we have shared local intelligence on these areas to support their approach as well as further local promotion of this aspect of the survey work.

## **4.0 PROPOSALS**

- 4.1 This latest data will be considered alongside the recent Fraser of Allander Institute study and the Inverclyde Strategic Needs Assessment in terms of the challenges and profile of population decline.

- 4.2 As the Committee is aware, actions to address depopulation have been a focus for the Council and Inverclyde Alliance. As the new strategic plans are developed this latest information about what is driving these changes will have an important role to play in targeting resources where they are likely to have most impact.
- 4.3 Due to the Council's funding allocation being directly linked to population, officers will raise the Council's concerns about the local Census return rate with NRS colleagues.

## 5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO	N/A
Financial	X		
Legal/Risk			X
Human Resources			X
Strategic (LOIP/Corporate Plan)	X		
Equalities & Fairer Scotland Duty			X
Children & Young People's Rights & Wellbeing			X
Environmental & Sustainability			X
Data Protection			X

### 5.2 Finance

Population is a determining factor in GAE calculations which drive the Council's Scottish Government Grant allocation and therefore these latest population estimates, which show that Inverclyde has had a further population decrease will result in a reduction in the level of grant funding made to Inverclyde Council in the future.

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

### 5.3 Legal/Risk

There are no Legal / Risk implications associated with this report.

### 5.4 Human Resources

There are no Human Resources implications associated with this report.

## **5.5 Strategic**

Tackling population decline is a key strategic priority for both the Inverclyde Council and the Inverclyde Alliance. This latest population data links directly to the delivery of:

LOIP Priority 1: Inverclyde's population will be stable and sustainable with an appropriate balance of socio - economic groups that is conducive to local economic prosperity and longer term population growth.

Corporate Plan Priority 1: To promote Inverclyde to both residents and visitors alike, as a great place to live, work, study and visit.

## **6.0 CONSULTATION**

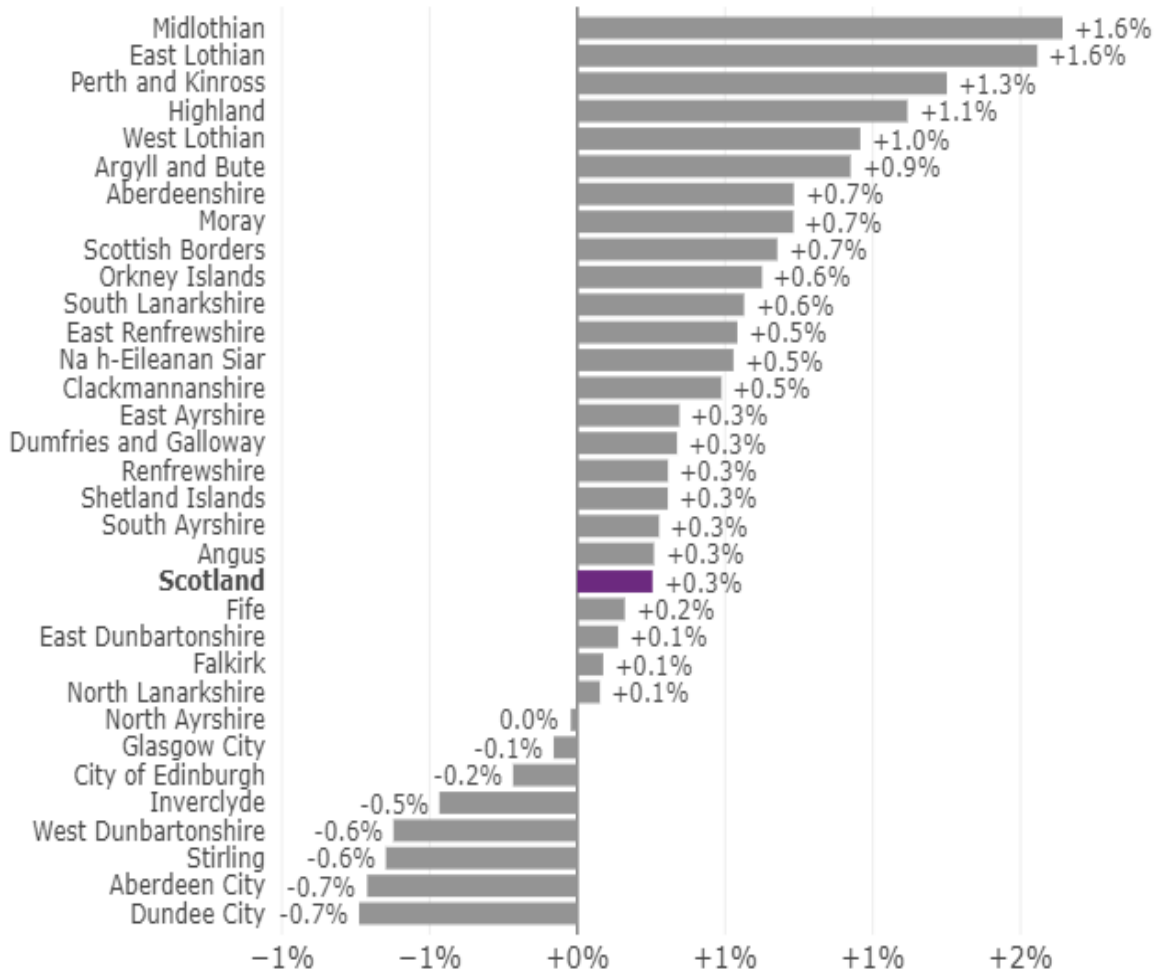
6.1 None.

## **7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 None.

## Scotland

Percentage population change, 2020-2021



### Natural Change in Inverclyde (number of births minus deaths)

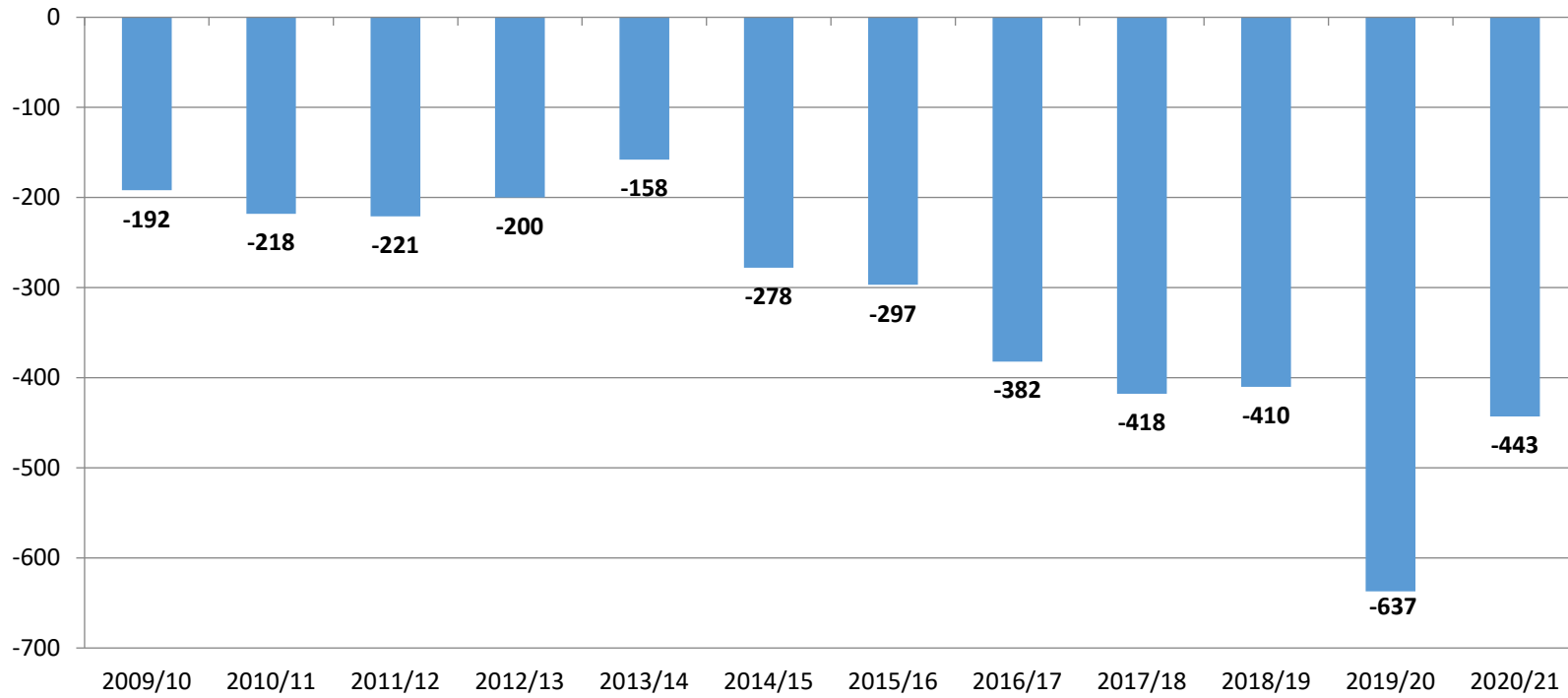




Chart 3a

### Inverclyde, Components of population change 2011-2021

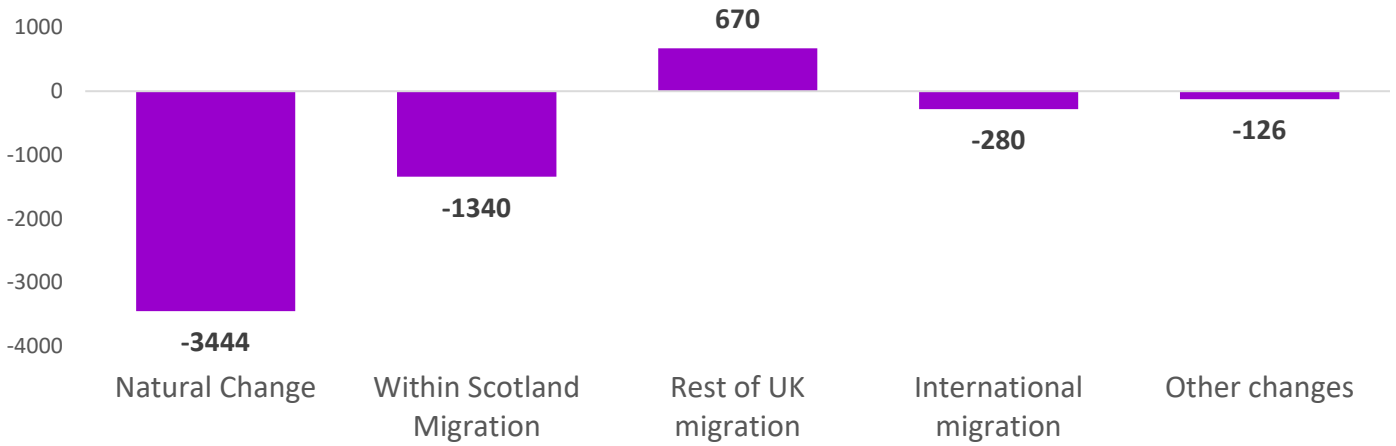
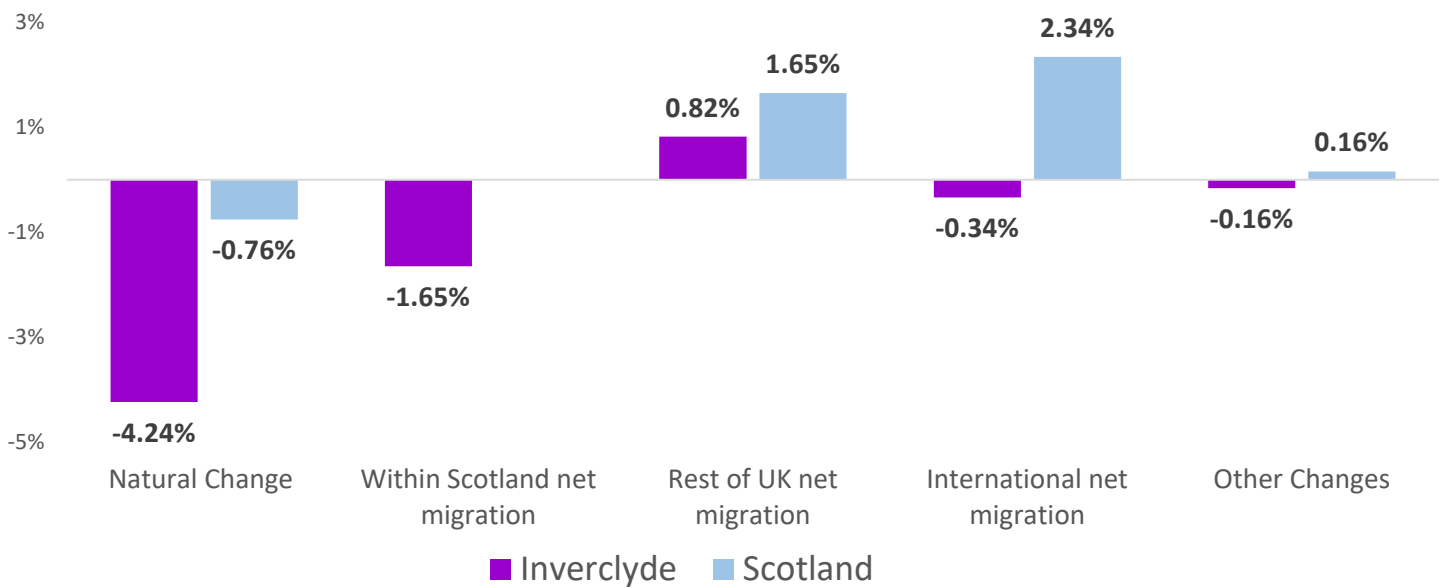


Chart 3b

### Inverclyde and Scotland, Comparison of components of population change (%) 2011-2021



# Scotland

Percentage population change, 2001-2021

