
Report To:	Policy and Resources Committee	Date:	4 June 2024
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development	Report No:	PR/24/24/RB/MR
Contact Officer:	Morna Rae	Contact No:	01475 712065
Subject:	Corporate Policy and Performance Update: April – June 2024		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting

1.2 This report provides the Committee with an update on Corporate Policy and Performance matters relating to:

- The publication of national reports relating to population;
- Developments relating to Best Value; and
- Equalities.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the latest updates in relation to Corporate Policy and Performance.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director
Education, Communities and Organisational Development

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

3.1 A Corporate Policy and Performance update report is considered at every meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee; the last such report was submitted to the meeting of the Committee on 26 March 2024.

3.2 NATIONAL REPORTS RELATING TO POPULATION

3.3 On 26th March 2024, National Records of Scotland (NRS) published 'Mid-2022 Population Estimates, Scotland', providing population estimates for Scotland, its Council areas and NHS boards by sex and age. This is the first set of mid-year population estimates (MYPE) to incorporate the new data from Scotland's Census 2022. On the same day, NRS also published the 'Reconciliation of mid-year population estimates with Scotland's Census 2022'.

Mid-2022 population estimates (30 June 2022)

3.4 As at 30 June 2022, Inverclyde's population was estimated to be 78,340, a decrease of 60 since 20th March 2022 (Census Day). The 2022 MYPE is 1,640 higher than the 2021 MYPE, 76,700.

3.5 Inverclyde is one of 11 Council areas estimated to have a lower population on 30th June 2022 compared to Census Day. The Council areas with the largest population decrease are Aberdeenshire (-150), Dumfries and Galloway and West Dunbartonshire (both -130). Areas of estimated population growth include City of Edinburgh (+2,290), Glasgow City (+2,120), Argyll and Bute (+1,920) and Fife (+940).

3.6 The decrease in Inverclyde's population is mostly attributable to negative natural change, with 310 deaths recorded compared to 168 births, reducing the population by 142. 'Other changes' account for a population decrease of 20. 'Other changes' may be, for example, additional census data processing since September 2023; changes since Census Day in prisoner and armed forces populations and also rounding effects.

3.7 It is estimated that over the period 20th March 2022 - 30th June 2022, more people moved into Inverclyde than left, resulting in positive net migration of +100.

3.8 NRS estimate that Scotland's population on 30 June 2022 was 5,477,700, which is an increase of +11,100 from Census Day (5,436,600). This population increase is attributable to positive net migration as there were more deaths than births in Scotland over this period.

NRS Publication of 'Reconciliation of mid-year population estimates with Scotland's Census 2022'

3.9 Alongside the Mid-2022 Population Estimates, NRS also published the 'Reconciliation of mid-year population estimates with Scotland's Census 2022'. The report provides details of the difference between the Census data and the annual population estimates and the possible reasons for this. This has been done by a direct comparison of the 'rolled forward population estimate' (i.e. the 2021 mid-year population estimate aged-on by 9 months to Census Day) to the actual Census count, to measure the 'drift' between the two.

3.10 It was found that 24 Council areas had a population difference of less than +/-2% between the Census and the rolled forward estimate. The City of Edinburgh had the largest overestimated population, +3.7%. Inverclyde had the largest underestimated population, with the rolled forward estimate -2.5% lower than the Census Day population count.

3.11 NRS suggest the following potential reasons for differences between the Census and rolled forward estimates for Councils in Scotland:

- **Migration within Scotland** - movement between Council areas is estimated using registrations with GP practices. This can lead to issues with people being counted in the correct council area. Failure to register with a GP, or delaying registration, tends to be more pronounced for young people, and males in particular.
- **Missed outward migration from cities** - Population estimates for Scottish cities, particularly Glasgow and Edinburgh, suggest that a proportion of their outward migration is not being captured. This is likely due to an underestimate of outward international migration, and lags in the recording of within Scotland and cross-border moves.
- **International migration** - There is no single system in place to measure all movements of people into and out of the UK, or to determine if they meet the definition of a long-term migrant. Some council areas have far more international migration in and out of the area, so the impact may be higher. This is particularly true for the cities. As of mid-2021, a new methodology has been implemented to estimate international migration which aims to improve the accuracy of these statistics.
- **Special populations** - Some Council areas have large numbers of people classed as 'special populations', which includes military personnel and prisoners. These populations are not distributed evenly across Council areas, and so can have a considerable impact on the difference between the census and rolled-forward estimates in some areas.

3.12 Due to concern around Inverclyde's population being underestimated at the time of the 2011 Census and then again at the 2022 Census, NRS has been asked whether the reconciliation exercise highlighted any particular issues locally that could help explain why Inverclyde's population has been repeatedly understated. An update on this will be provided to the Committee once a response has been received.

3.13 On a related population issue, as part of the Scottish Government's Action Plan to tackle depopulation, the Scottish Government has announced its intention to partner Inverclyde Council to deliver a Community Settlement Officer post, focused on addressing depopulation in Inverclyde. The role, which is for an initial two-year period, will be equally funded by the Scottish Government and Inverclyde Council. The details of the post are currently being finalised.

3.14 A positive meeting was recently held with Tom Arthur MSP to discuss some of the challenges and opportunities in Inverclyde with a visit planned for June.

3.15 There is an outstanding remit on measures to address depopulation. This will be presented to Committee after the summer recess.

3.16 DEVELOPMENTS IN RELATION TO BEST VALUE

3.17 As the Committee will be aware from previous updates, a new approach to auditing Best Value was implemented in 2023. One element of the new approach was the introduction of a programme of Controller of Audit (CoA) reports, to cover all 32 Councils over the period October 2023 - August 2027. The CoA report provides the Accounts Commission with a summary of the findings set out in each Council's Annual Audit Report, including the new Best Value Thematic Inspection Report. The Accounts Commission will consider these reports on a phased basis, focusing on 8 reports per year, over the four-year period.

3.18 Moray, Falkirk, Dundee City, Orkney Islands, South Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway, Clackmannanshire, and West Dunbartonshire Councils were the subject of a CoA report in year

1. As at the end of April 2024, Controller of Audit reports have been published for five of these Councils, with three remaining.

- 3.19 Once all the audit reports relating to the first year of the new approach are published, the key messages and recommendations will be reviewed and common areas for improvement identified, with particular attention paid to those Councils with a similar socio-economic profile to Inverclyde. The result of this review will be presented to a future meeting of this Committee. Any areas for improvement will be incorporated into the Council's Best Value planning activity.
- 3.20 It is anticipated that in year two, (October 2024 to August 2025) Controller of Audit reports will be published for Edinburgh, East Lothian, Fife, Argyll and Bute, Highlands, East Renfrewshire, Scottish Borders and Western Isles Councils. This means that a Controller of Audit report on Inverclyde Council will be published somewhere between October 2025 and August 2027, however the exact date is not currently known.

Assessing Best Value performance

- 3.21 As part of Inverclyde Council's commitment to delivering continuous improvement, the Extended Corporate Management Team, Service Managers and Team Leaders recently carried out a robust self-evaluation of the Council's Best Value performance, focus on the seven Best Value themes. The Corporate Management Team is reviewing the output from this self-evaluation and will agree the key improvement actions for the organisation. A report on the Council's assessment of its performance in delivering Best Value, will be brought to the Committee after the summer recess.

3.22 EQUALITIES

3.23 Disability Confident Scheme (DCS) – renewal/assessment 2024

The Council has been a member of the DCS since 2016. Confirmation has been received that the membership will continue until 2027, following a renewal/assessment process which was successfully completed in March 2024.

- 3.24 The DCS aims to challenge attitudes, remove barriers and improve opportunities for disabled people and those with long-term health conditions. By maintaining its involvement with the DCS at 'Leader' level, the Council has been recognised for acting as a champion within the Inverclyde business and local communities.
- 3.25 The fulfilment of our obligations under the DCS also supports the delivery of a Key Theme in the People and Organisational Development Strategy 2024/27: Fairness and equality (Promoting equality, dignity and respect).

4.0 PROPOSAL

- 4.1 It is proposed that the Committee notes the latest updates relating to the area of Corporate Policy and Performance.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

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

SUBJECT	YES	NO
Financial		X
Legal/Risk	X	
Human Resources		X
Strategic (Partnership Plan/Council Plan)	X	
Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People's Rights & Wellbeing		X
Environmental and Sustainability		X
Data Protection		X

5.2 Finance

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

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 direct legal implications arising from this report.

5.4 Human Resources

There are no direct human resources implications arising from this report.

5.5 Strategic

The matters referred to in this report are of relevance to the following Council Plan 2023/28 Theme:

Theme 3: Performance

- High quality and innovative services are provided, giving value for money.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 None.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.