

AGENDA ITEM NO: 8

Report To: Policy & Resources Committee Date: 17 September 2024

Report By: Director – Environment and Report No: P+R/24/09/01/SJ

Regeneration

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Subject: Repopulation

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 ⊠For Decision ⊠For Information/Noting

1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update in respect of the population size, initiatives and further proposals in respect of Repopulation.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Committee are asked to:

- a) Note the statistics highlighted in the area of population;
- b) Note the activity of the Health and Social Care Partnership's New Scots Team in respect of their clients;
- c) Agree to the creation of a community settlement officer post, in part funded by the Scottish Government; and
- d) Agree that the remaining £21k from the ear marked reserve will be used for initiatives including place marketing, housing market growth, jobs and enabling infrastructure growth, and skills are undertaken within appropriate Inverclyde Alliance workstreams including the development of an economic growth plan.

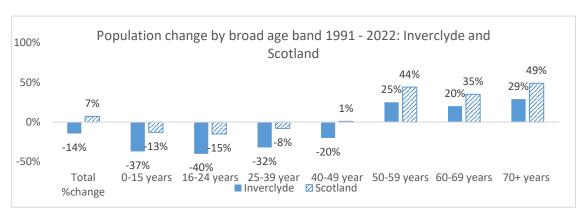
Stuart Jamieson
Director – Environment and Regeneration

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

3.1 Addressing depopulation in Inverclyde is one of the most significant challenges faced by Inverclyde Council and its Alliance Board partners.

Population

- 3.2 The Committee has received a number of reports in respect of the population statistics which have highlighted the reduction in the population within Inverclyde.
- 3.3 The table below highlights the change in population within Inverclyde



3.4 Between 1991 & 2022:

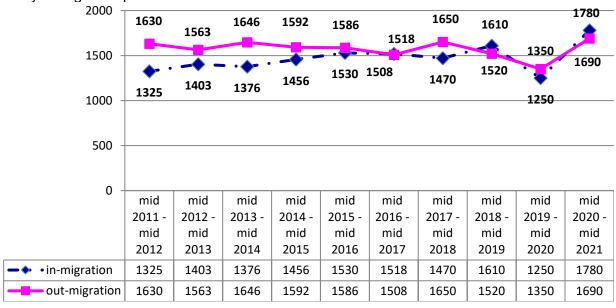
- the number of young people aged 24 years and younger has decreased by 38% (30,768 to 19,163).
- the number of people aged 60 years and over has increased by 25% (19,309 to 24,056).
- Population change has been driven by a sharp decrease in the number of births in Inverclyde. Inverclyde births in 2022 were almost half the level of births in 1991:

| Year | Number of births | % change from 1991 (births) | Number of Deaths | % change from 1991(deaths) | Natural change Births – deaths |
|------|------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1991 | 1,185 | 0 | 1,243 | 0 | -58 |
| 2001 | 850 | -28.27 % | 1,109 | -10.7% | -259 |
| 2011 | 814 | -31.31 % | 1,013 | -18% | -199 |
| 2022 | 654 | -44.81 % | 1,134 | -8.7% | -480 |

- 3.6 Over the 30-year period 1991 to 2022, births in Inverclyde were 23% lower than the number of deaths (35,167 deaths compared to 27,108 births), resulting in negative natural change of -8,059.
- 3.7 Census statistics on migration are expected in August 2024. In the meantime, the only other source of migration data is the NRS mid-year population estimates. Mid-year estimates will be re-based on Census 2022 data and therefore the information for 2011-2021 is subject to change.
 - Between mid-2001 and mid-2011, it is estimated that net civilian migration in Inverclyde accounted for population change of -1.1%.
 - Between mid-2011 and mid-2021, it is estimated that net civilian migration in Inverclyde accounted for population change of -1.2%.

Estimates in more recent years however show an increase in positive net migration level as shown below:

Inverclyde migration pattern mid 2011/12 to mid-2020/21



- 3.8 The Census highlighted that Inverclyde's population had been underestimated repeatedly by NRS in the mid-year estimates, so the projection data is likely to be unreliable due to both its age and the fact it was based on an inaccurate baseline.
- 3.9 Population projections based on Census 2022 data will be published for Scotland in Oct/Nov 2024 and NRS has said that it aims to publish population projections at a Council level 5 months after the national publication. A report on the 2022 based projections will be prepared for CMT / P&R Committee once published.

People New to Scotland

- 3.10 Since 2015 through various resettlement schemes 205 families (874 individuals) have come to Inverclyde 155 families (613 individuals) and 24 individuals have settled in the area and 50 children have been born in Inverclyde . There are 248 Ukrainians currently living within Inverclyde in 92 family groups. Under the Home for Ukraine, 9 families are hosting Ukrainian families within Inverclyde.
- 3.11 The HSCP Integration Team provides intensive support to all those arriving via UK resettlement schemes. Financial support is provided by the government to procuring, furnishing and equipping tenancies prior to families arriving locally, an allocated worker provides food, clothing and assistance to access state benefits, banking facilities and GP registration immediately upon arrival. This is followed up with local orientation; attention to cultural and religious needs, education and ESOL provision registration, and any other person-centred supports required. Longer term practical and emotional support on managing life and a home in a new country, and to engage with DWP and employability services to obtain employment, is ongoing.
- 3.12 A good number of individuals and families are successfully integrated in the local community prior to their initial leave to remain period, leaving them well placed to apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain at the 5-year point.
- 3.13 Regular review allows early identification of any barriers to integration as they arise, prompting implementation of individualised support plans. In addition, contracts are in place with the local third sector to support community integration, and there are good connections with a wide variety of local organisations. ESOL classes are delivered by CLD partners, however capacity for these is limited and pilots on how this can be delivered in more accessible ways have commenced. This provision is funded directly from UK Government, calculated per capita of persons resettled, and paid over 3-5 years on a front-loaded basis.

- 3.14 The Repopulation Priority for the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) was chaired by the Chief Executive of River Clyde Homes.
- 3.15 The 10-year vision set out aspirations that:
 - Inverclyde will be a more attractive place to live and work with excellent education provision, leisure facilities, transport links, good quality housing and employment opportunities.
 - A greater variety of opportunities that meet the needs and aspirations of our young people
 will be available so that they are encouraged to stay in the area after leaving school.
 - Inverclyde's local economy will have grown and be characterised by a diverse business base as a result of an increase in the number of local entrepreneurs and inward investment.
 - Communities in Inverciyde will have an enhanced sense of pride, identity and influence, resulting in improved quality of life and satisfaction with living in the area.
 - Inverclyde will have a stable population with a good balance of socio-economic groups.
- 3.16 Whilst the group has not met formally since the pandemic it is considered that the aspirations remain current and are very much in line with the evidence gathered as part of the Inverclyde Socio Economic Task Force that Inverclyde should focus on Business, business premises, skills and housing. The Regeneration and Planning Service are in the process of commissioning an Economic Growth Plan for Inverclyde. In the 2023-33 Inverclyde Alliance Partnership Plan repopulation continues to be a focus through our approach to "a Thriving Place" and the priority "Growth in our working age population by encouraging people to stay here, and attracting new people to settle here"
- 3.17 Officers have participated in a number of pan Scotland and regional discussions in respect of depopulation and repopulation, with the greatest concerns raised on depopulation identified in the West of Scotland and the islands whilst the concerns in repopulation focus on the East of the country. As part of the agenda the Scotlish Government have offered local authorities part funding for the creation of a community settlement officer post, in the current financial year. The depopulation earmarked reserve has a balance of £95,000 which could be utilised in part to expand the duration and scope of the post to create a two-year post.
- 3.18 This will allow us to carry out research to explore local drivers of depopulation and to develop a greater understanding about the effects of current issues affecting the population in order to ensure the best possible impact of future interventions.
- 3.19 The primary objectives of the project will also provide tailored support to people who are currently living in or are moving to the area and will work with local agencies and other organisations on bespoke projects to tackle key challenges which are a barrier to population attraction or retention within the local area.

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 It is proposed to create a new Community Settlement Officer post which will utilise in part the depopulation earmarked reserve matched to the Scottish Government Grant Funds to fund a 2-year post and to utilise the balance of funds to create specific projects.
- 4.2 It is further proposed that as part of appropriate workstreams within the Alliance structures that initiatives including place marketing, housing market growth, jobs and enabling infrastructure growth, and skills are undertaken including the development of an economic growth plan funded from the remaining balance in the earmarked reserve.

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 | Х | | |
| Legal/Risk | | Х | |
| Human Resources | Х | | |
| Strategic (Partnership Plan/Council Plan) | Х | | |
| Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People's Rights | | Х | |
| & Wellbeing | | | |
| Environmental & Sustainability | | Х | |
| Data Protection | | Х | |

5.2 Finance

One off costs

| Cost Centre | Budget Heading | Budget Years | Proposed Spend this Report | Virement From | Other Comments |
|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|------------------|---|
| Depopulation | | 24-26 | 95 | | £104k estimated for 2 year post and £21k for initiatives. |
| SG Grant | | 24/25 | (30) | | |

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

| Cost Centre | Budget Heading | With Effect from | Proposed Spend this Report | Virement From (If Applicable) | Other Comments |
|----------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| | | | | | None at this stage |
| | | | | | |

5.3 Legal/Risk

None.

5.4 Human Resources

Creation of a community settlement officer post.

5.5 Strategic

This project accords with the Corporate Management Plan, by improving access for all.

5.6 Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People

(a) Equalities

This report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process with the following outcome:

| | 7 | | | |
|--------------------|---|--|--|--|
| | YES – Assessed as relevant and an EqIA is required. | | | |
| х | NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, assessed as not relevant and no EqIA is required. | | | |
| Fairer Sco | otland Duty | | | |
| Has there outcome? | been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of | | | |
| | YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed. | | | |
| x | NO – Assessed as not relevant under the Fairer Scotland Duty. | | | |
| Children a | nd Young People | | | |
| Has a Chil | Idren's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment been carried out? | | | |
| | \ | | | |
| | YES – Assessed as relevant and a CRWIA is required. | | | |
| х | NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve a new policy, function or strategy or recommends a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy which will have an impact on children's rights. | | | |
| Environm | ental/Sustainability | | | |
| Has a Stra | ategic Environmental Assessment been carried out? | | | |
| | YES – assessed as relevant and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required. | | | |
| х | NO – This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme, strategy or document which is like to have significant environmental effects, if implemented. | | | |
| Data Prot | ection | | | |
| Has a Dat | a Protection Impact Assessment been carried out? | | | |
| | YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals. | | | |
| Х | NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals. | | | |
| | | | | |

6.0 CONSULTATION

None.

(b)

(c)

5.7

5.8

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.