

---

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Policy and Resources Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>19 November 2024</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Head of Organisational Development, Policy, and Communications</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>PR/35/24/RB/KM</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Rhoda Braddick</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 712146</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>NRS Mid-2023 Population Estimates, Scotland</b>		

---

## **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 overview of the latest mid-2023 population estimates, published by the National Records of Scotland (NRS) on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

1.3 Inverclyde's estimated population as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 was 78,330. This is a decrease of 20 from the previous year.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- Note the national publication of the NRS Mid-2023 population estimates, and the latest population data for Inverclyde.

**Morna Rae,**  
**Head of OD, Policy and Communications**

### 3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

3.1 The National Records of Scotland (NRS) is the responsible agency of the Scottish Government that handles all matters relating to population and household statistics. On 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024, NRS published 'Mid-2023 Population Estimates, Scotland', providing population estimates for Scotland, its Council areas and NHS boards by sex and age. This is the second set of mid-year population estimates (MYPE) to be produced using the Census Day population as the baseline.

#### 3.2 MID-2023 POPULATION ESTIMATES, 2023 (MYPE)

3.3 As at 30 June 2023, the population of Inverclyde was estimated to be 78,330, a decrease of 20 from the mid-2022 population estimate, and down 70 from the Census Day population, 78,400. Scotland meanwhile had its highest annual growth in at least 76 years, 0.79%, and it is estimated that the population of the country is now 5,490,100.

3.4 Inverclyde is one of seven Council areas reported as having population decline between mid-2022 to mid-2023. The fall in Inverclyde's population, along with Shetland Islands (-20), was however the smallest decline of all seven local authorities.

3.5 The remaining five Council areas with an estimated population decrease are Scottish Borders (-190), Argyll and Bute (-120) and Dumfries and Galloway (-100), Na h-Eileanan Siar (-90) and Orkney Islands (-30). Na h-Eileanan Siar had the largest percentage drop in population in Scotland, -0.3%.

3.6 It is estimated that the population in both North Ayrshire and West Dunbartonshire increased between mid-2022 and mid-2023, rising by 80 and 480 respectively. This was due to positive net migration being higher than the population decrease due to negative natural change. Prior to the publication of Census 2022 data, successive MYPE publications showed a decreasing population in both Council areas.

3.7 The fall in Inverclyde's population is solely attributable to negative natural change, with 1,174 deaths recorded compared to 626 births. A chart showing how natural change between mid-2022 to mid-2023 compares with previous years can be found in Appendix 1. Every Council area in Scotland had negative natural change between mid-2022 and mid-2023, leading to Scotland having the largest gap between births and deaths on record.

3.8 It is estimated that between mid-2022 and mid-2023 more people moved into Inverclyde than moved out, resulting in positive net migration of +500. Of the 1,940 people moving into Inverclyde:

- 1,050 people moving to the area from elsewhere in Scotland.
- 280 from the rest of the UK.
- 620 from international migration.

(n.b. all migration figures are rounded to nearest 10 and therefore do not always add up exactly).

Net migration was positive in all of Scotland's 32 council areas with international migration and migration from elsewhere in the UK driving Scotland's population growth.

3.9 Conversely, the total outflow from Inverclyde was estimated as -1,440 due to:

- 1,130 people moving from Inverclyde to elsewhere in Scotland,
- 200 people moving to the rest of the UK.
- 110 people moving overseas.

One other element, 'Other changes', accounts for a population increase of 28. This may be changes in the prison population and armed forces personnel, and the effects of rounding.

3.10 Measuring migration is the most difficult element of the population estimates and the Committee will be aware that previous MYPE indicated that negative net migration was a contributing factor in Inverclyde's population decline. Following Census 2022, NRS has recently published re-based MYPE for each year from 2011 on. Whilst the new data continues to show net migration in Inverclyde as negative at points over the ten-year period, the extent of this is not as significant

as originally estimated. This difference between the original annual net migration estimates and the re-based migration estimates for Inverclyde is presented in Appendix 2 for the information of the Committee.

3.11 Comparison of the age profile in Inverclyde and Scotland shows a slightly lower percentage of Inverclyde's population is of working age and a slightly higher proportion is aged over 65 years:

- 15% of the population is aged under 16 years (Scotland, 16%)
- 62% of the population is aged 16-64 years (Scotland, 63%)
- 23% of the population is aged 65 years and over (Scotland, 20%)

All 32 Scottish Council areas had an increase in the population aged 65 and over in the last decade.

### 3.12 RELATED POPULATION MATTERS

3.13 A report on Repopulation was considered by this Committee at its last meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024. At that meeting, the Committee approved the creation of a new Community Settlement Officer post, which is a two-year post, part-funded by the Scottish Government. The recruitment process for this post is now underway.

3.14 Data from the Census 2022 provides information on Inverclyde's population characteristics. A range of population topic releases are now available online on the Scotland Census website: <https://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/search-the-census#/topics>

3.15 The data shows that on Census Day (20<sup>th</sup> March 2022):

- The percentage of Inverclyde's population aged under 15 years had decreased by 12% since Census 2011.
- The proportion of the population aged 55 years and older living alone in Inverclyde is the third highest in Scotland (12.5%).
- A lower proportion of Inverclyde's population reported their health as 'very good' compared to the national average.
- The number of people who said that they had a mental health condition has more than doubled. This was driven by a large increase in young people reporting a mental health condition and in particular, young females.
- A higher proportion of Inverclyde's population provided unpaid care, compared to the national average.
- Around a quarter of Inverclyde's population have a degree level qualification, compared to around a third in Scotland.
- A higher proportion of Inverclyde's population is economically inactive due to long term sickness or disability, compared to the national average.

3.16 The Census data will be used alongside other robust local population data held by Services to inform planning at a service, corporate and partnership level.

## 4.0 PROPOSALS

4.1 The Committee is asked to note the publication of the NRS Mid-2023 Population Estimates which show a decrease of approximately 20 people in Inverclyde's population between 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023. It should also be noted that for the first time, the significant increase in positive net migration in Inverclyde has almost counterbalanced the impact of negative natural change on the overall population level.

## 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 & Sustainability		X
Data Protection		X

## 5.2 Finance

The figures outlined in this report will have a positive impact on the 2025/26 settlement initially however whether the Council receives any extra funding will depend upon a number of factors, including the level of The Floor set by the Scottish Government.

One off Costs: None

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

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings): None

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 implications or risks associated with this report.

## 5.4 Human Resources

There are no human resources implications associated with this report at the present time.

## 5.5 Strategic

Tackling depopulation is a key strategic priority for the Council and the Alliance. It has the potential to positively contribute to all aspects of the Council's priorities relating to the themes of People and Place.

## 6.0 CONSULTATION

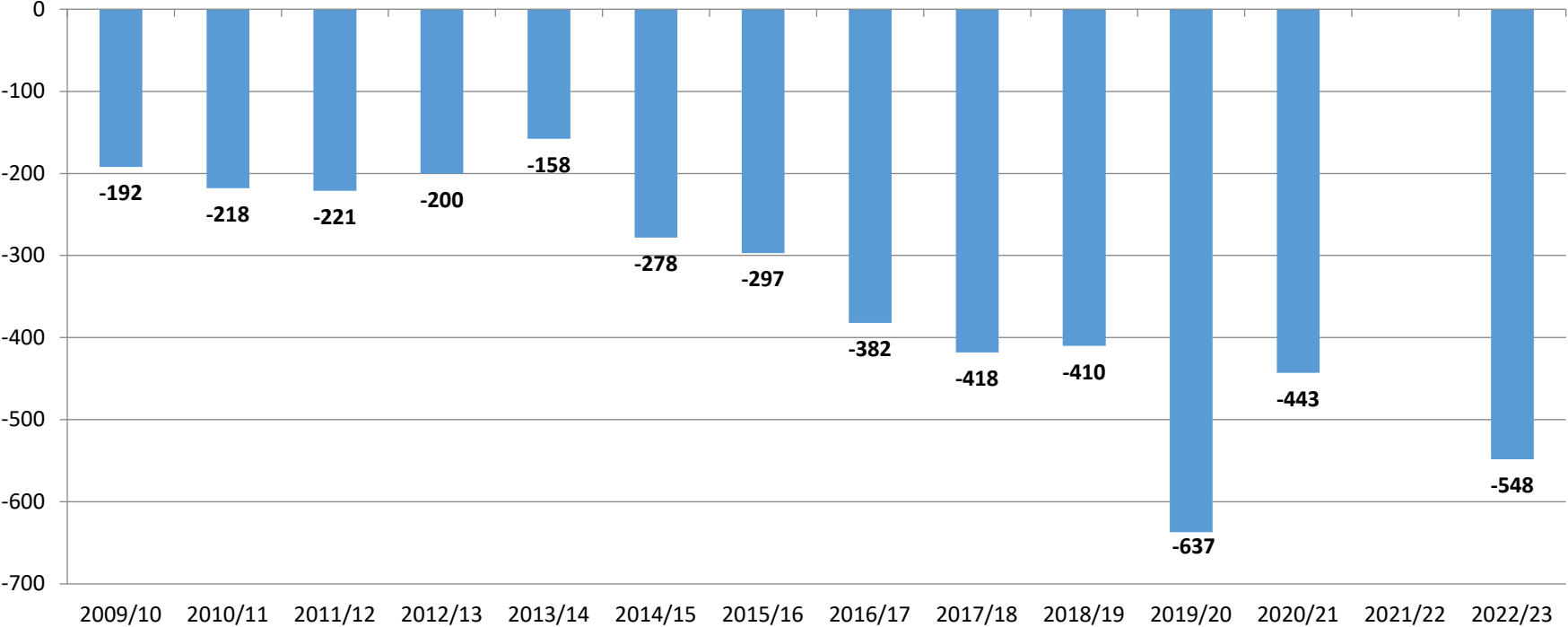
6.1 None.

## 7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.

Appendix 1

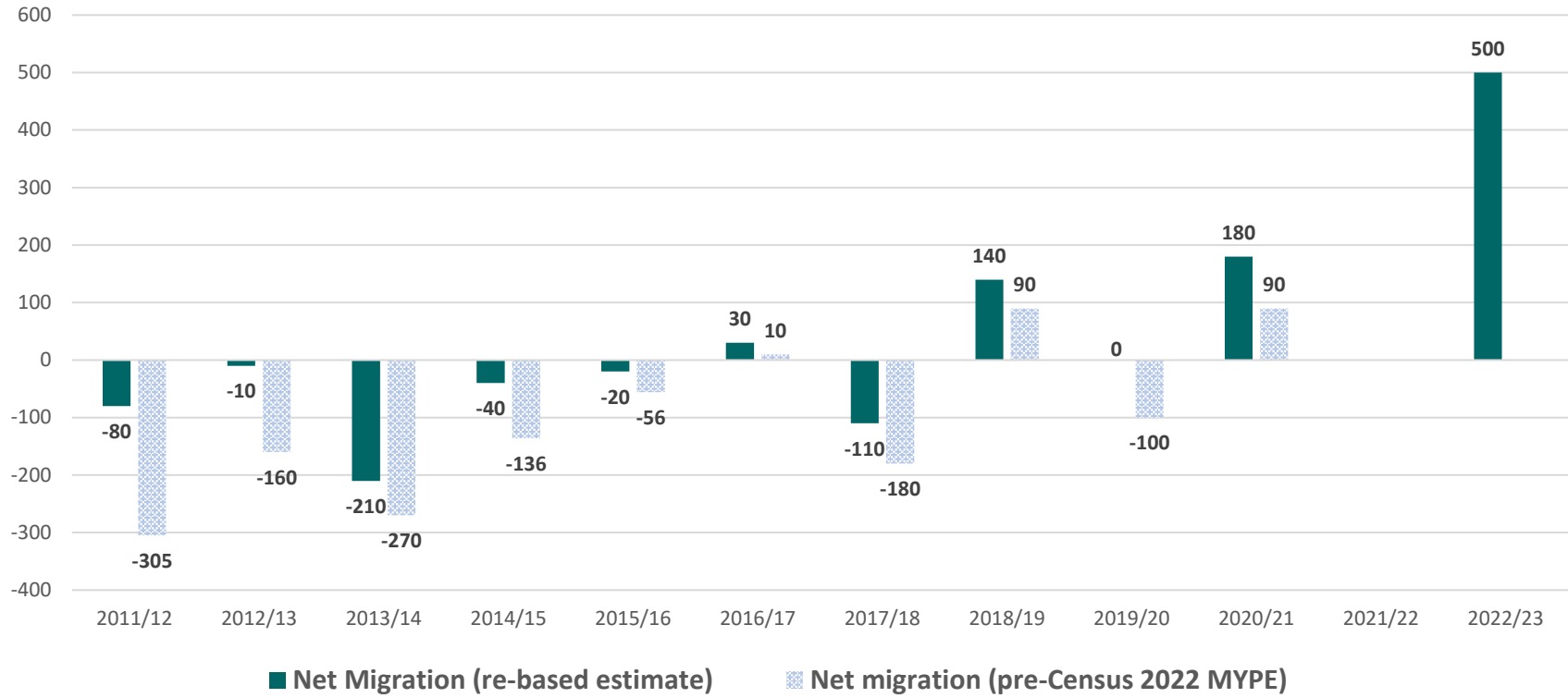
Natural Change in Inverclyde (number of births minus deaths)



Full year data is not available for mid-2021 to mid-2022 due to the Mid-2022 Population Estimates focusing only on population change between Census Day 2022 (March 2022) and 30th June 2022.

**Appendix 2**

Net Migration in Inverclyde (inflow-outflow): Rebased MYPE and Pre-Census 2022 estimates



The data presented in the chart shows how the re-based migration estimates for Inverclyde over the period 2011 – 2021 compare to the migration estimates published prior to Census 2022.

Full year migration data is not available for mid-2021 to mid-2022 due to the Mid-2022 Population Estimates focusing only on population change between Census Day 2022 (March 2022) to 30th June 2022.