

Report To:	LOIP Programme Board	Date:	15 June 2020
Report By:	Aubrey Fawcett Chair of Programme Board	Report No:	
Contact Officer:	Louise McVey	Contact No:	N/A
Subject:	National Records of Scotland mid-year population estimates (2019) and population projections (2018 based) for Scottish council areas		

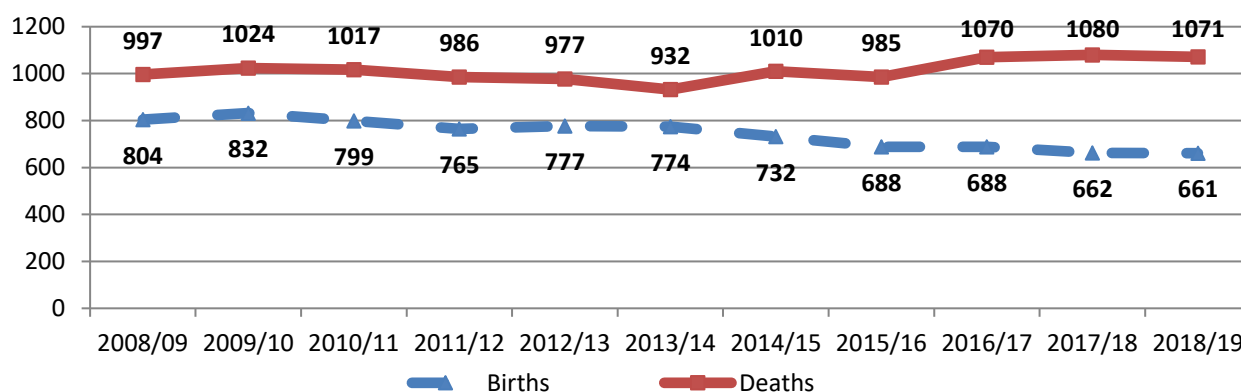
1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Programme Board with details of the National Records of Scotland (NRS) mid-year (2019) population estimates published on 30 April 2020 and the new population projections for Scottish areas, published on 24 March 2020.

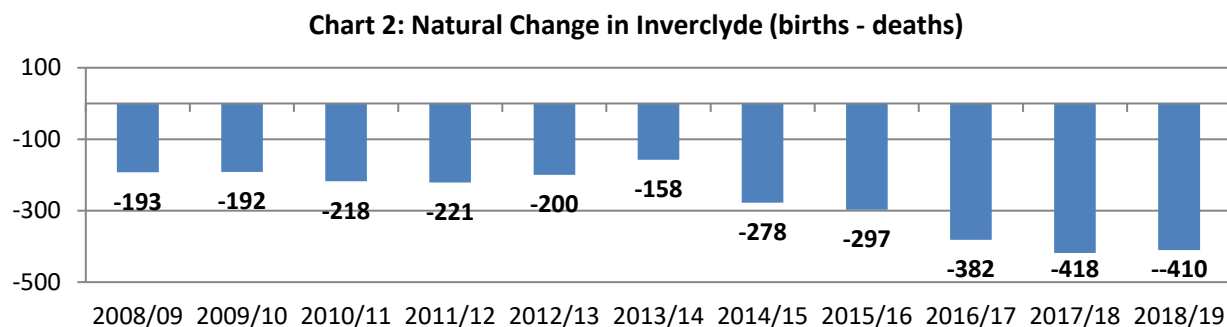
2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The population of Inverclyde as at 30 June 2019 was estimated to be 77,800. This is a decrease of 350 people (-0.4%) compared to the 2018 mid-year population estimate (78,150) and the second highest population decrease in Scotland. By contrast, Scotland's population is estimated to have increased by 0.5% between mid-2018 and mid-2019 to a record high of 5,463,300.
- 2.2 Inverclyde is one of 8 council areas estimated to have had a population decrease between mid-2018 and mid-2019. Argyll and Bute had the largest decrease (-0.5%), whilst the City of Edinburgh; East Lothian and Midlothian areas had the highest population growth (all +1.2%). Appendix 1 shows the population change across Scotland between mid-2018 and mid-2019.
- 2.3 The population decrease in Inverclyde between mid-2018 and mid-2019 is almost solely attributable to negative natural change (-410) due to 1,071 deaths compared to 661 births during the period. Chart 1 (below) shows that over the past 10 years the number of births in Inverclyde has decreased by almost 18%, (-143) whilst the number of deaths has remained fairly constant, increasing by just 7% (+ 74) between 2008/09 and 2018/19.

Chart 1: Birth and Death Rates 2008/09 – 2018/19 (Inverclyde)

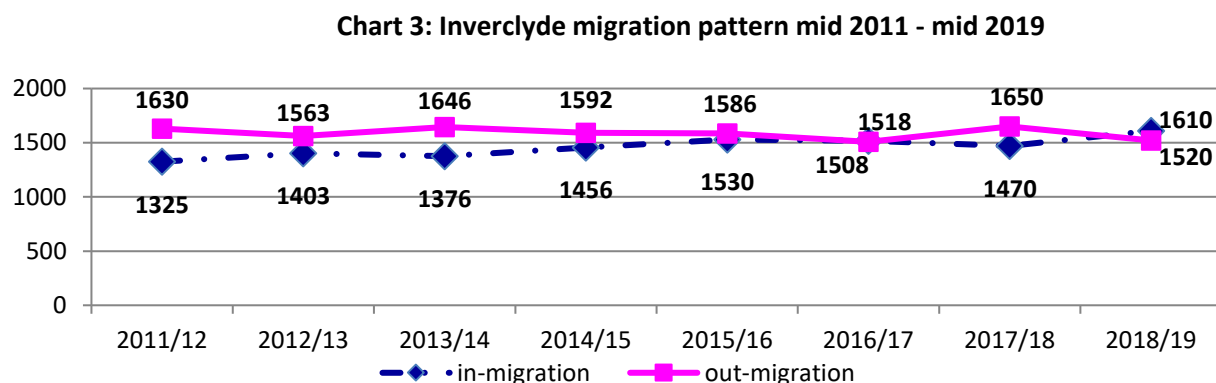


The subsequent natural change is shown in chart 2 below.

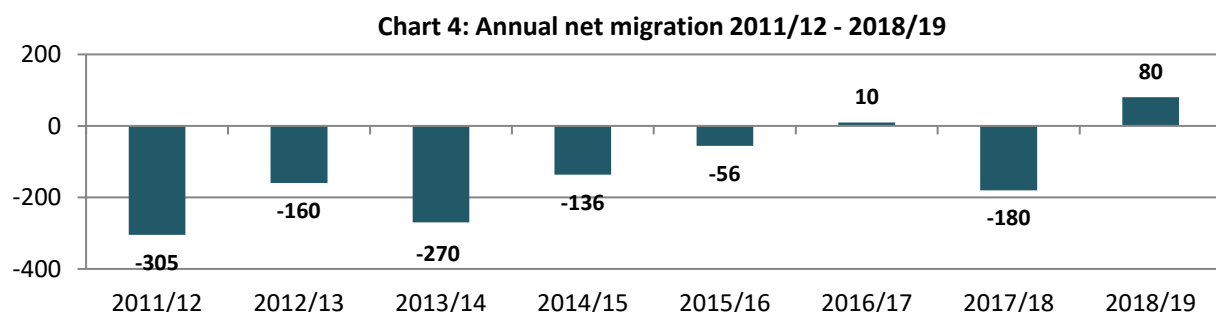


2.4 In total, 24 council areas had more deaths than births, resulting in Scotland as a whole having negative natural population change of -5,573 between mid-2018 and mid-2019. Overall population growth in Scotland has therefore been driven by in-migration, with an estimated net migration figure of 30,200 (0.55%).

2.5 Inverclyde is one of 28 council areas estimated to have had positive net migration between mid-2018 and mid-2019. Encouragingly, this means that in two out of the past three years, more people have moved into Inverclyde than have left. Between mid-2018 and mid-2019, it is estimated that there were 1,610 in-migrants compared to 1,520 out-migrants (figures are rounded by NRS to nearest 10). The majority of movement to and from Inverclyde came from within Scotland itself. The graph below shows the changes in migration in recent years. NRS estimate that Inverclyde had an overall net migration increase of +80 (rounded figure), however this is offset by the negative natural change described in paragraph 2.3.



2.6 Chart 4 below shows that annual change in net migration in Inverclyde over the same period.



2.7 The other component of population change in Inverclyde was due to 'other changes' (-20). This can be changes in the prison population, armed forces personnel and small rounding adjustments. The component change in population, including natural change and net migration for all council areas is provided in Appendix 2.

2.8 NRS has also recently published population projections for all Scottish areas. This data is produced every two year and is calculated in a different way to the mid-year population

estimates. Projections are trend based, which means assumptions for future levels of births, deaths and migration are based on observed levels over the previous five years, whereas mid-year estimates are based on the actual number of births and deaths and estimated migration in the past year. This can result in differences in population data, depending on the methodology used. While the mid-year population estimate for Inverclyde at 30 June 2019 is 77,800, the population projection estimate for 2019 (using 2018 population as the base year) is 77,693, which is 107 lower than the mid-year population estimate. Population projection data should therefore be interpreted with a degree of caution due to its limitations. Comparison of the mid-year (2019) population estimate for Inverclyde with the projected population (2019) would appear to suggest that the population projection figures for Inverclyde up to 2028 are unduly pessimistic.

- 2.9 Scotland's population is projected to increase by 99,000 people (1.8%) by 2028. The main driver of this population increase is expected to be migration rather than natural change.
- 2.10 Not all council areas are expected to experience population growth by 2028, 14 council areas, including Inverclyde, are expected to have a population decrease. In addition, the projected rate of decline in Inverclyde is more severe than previously forecast, with a projected fall of -6.1% to 73,418 by 2028; this is -2.8% lower than the NRS 2016-based population projection. The projected change in Inverclyde's population by 2028 is shown in Appendix 3.
- 2.11 Inverclyde and Na h-Eileanan Siar are forecast to have the largest population decrease of all areas. Population decline is projected to be mainly in the West and South West of Scotland whilst growth is projected for the central belt and urban areas. The anticipated population change by 2028 for all council areas is shown in Appendices 4 and 5.
- 2.12 Inverclyde is one of 27 councils expected to have negative natural change by 2028, accounting for -5.1% of our projected population decline. It is estimated that by 2028 there will have been 3,976 more deaths than births in Inverclyde (10,361 deaths compared to 6,385 births).
- 2.13 Despite Inverclyde having positive net migration in two out of the past three years, the other component of population decline in Inverclyde is negative net migration, accounting for -1%. Inverclyde and Na h-Eileanan Siar are the only two areas where more people are expected to leave than arrive. A comparison of natural change and net migration levels across all areas in Scotland by 2028 is provided in Appendix 6.
- 2.14 The age structure of Inverclyde population is projected to change, with the only growth expected to be in the numbers of those aged 75 and older (16%). The percentage of the population that are children aged 0 to 15 years is projected to fall by more than twice the Scottish average, -14.2%, compared to -6% in Scotland.
- 2.15 Life expectancy is expected to grow in all council areas for both males and females by 2028, although in Inverclyde it is predicted to remain below the Scottish average.
- 2.16 The Scottish Government has formed an Expert Advisory Group on Population and Migration. The group is finalising its report "Internal migration in Scotland: Trends and Policy Lessons" and its findings will be considered by the Population Partnership once published.
- 2.17 Population assumptions are based on past trends and as such, the emergence of a major threat to population health, such as Covid-19, is likely to result in revisions to future data. This is particularly pertinent to council areas with higher levels of deprivation, such as Inverclyde, as it is known that Covid-19 has a disproportionate effect on those living in these areas.
- 2.18 This new data has been considered by Inverclyde Council corporate management team and believes that the clear linkages between the root causes of Inverclyde's declining population, high levels of multiple deprivation and population health currently manifested with the area's COVID death rate requires that further research be carried out, building on previous key local consultations relating to depopulation and outlining the need for emerging resources to progress specific action around these three issues.

These latest population figures will require to be considered by the Population Partnership and next steps agreed in line with the approved Action Plan. The Population Partnership will also provide a dataset for the area which justifies and shows the long standing assertion that there is a discrepancy between NRS projection methodology and the reality of population statistics.

A report will be brought back to the Alliance Board outlining the scope of further research and the cost of resources to progress action around these issues.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Alliance Board:

- I. Note that the latest NRS population estimates show a further decrease (-0.4%) in Inverclyde's population, which is now estimated at 77,800 (mid 2019);
- II. Note that there has been positive net migration in Inverclyde over the period mid-2018 to mid-2019;
- III. Note that the recent NRS Population Projections for Scottish areas (2018 based) project a continuing decline in Inverclyde's population up to 2028;
- IV. Remit it to the Inverclyde Alliance Population Partnership to consider these latest population statistics and agree any additional actions in connection with these including conducting further research be carried out, building on previous key local consultations relating to depopulation and outlining the need for emerging resources to progress specific action around these three issues.

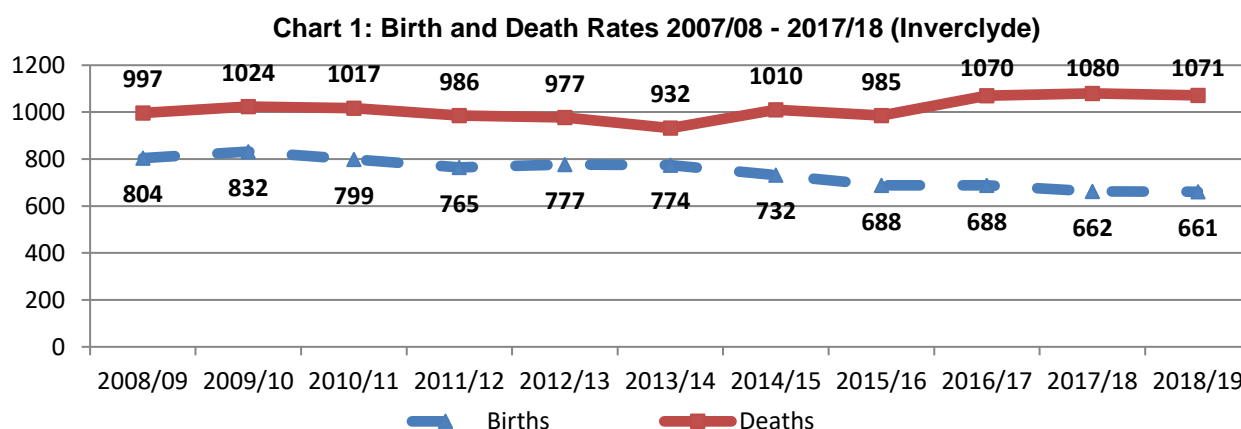
Aubrey Fawcett
Chair, Programme Board

4.0 BACKGROUND

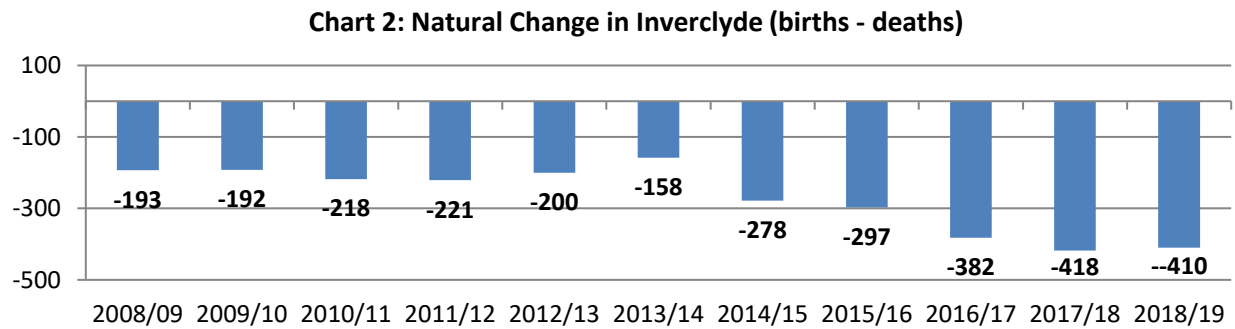
- 4.1 The National Records of Scotland (NRS) is the responsible agency of the Scottish Government that handles all matters relating to population and household statistics, including the Census and mid-year estimates.
- 4.2 In addition, every two years NRS publish 'National Population Projections for Scottish Areas'. The timing of the next set of projections may change to take into account the time scales of the 2021 Census.
- 4.3 The census and associated population measures have a significant bearing on a number of strategic issues most notably Government Funding and Housing / Planning Policy Development. Projections are also used as a framework for resource allocation and local planning in fields such as education and health.
- 4.4 Stemming and ultimately reversing population decline is a key priority of the Inverclyde Alliance. As part of Inverclyde Council's 2018/19 budget, £500,000 was allocated to fund a Repopulation Strategy and action plan geared towards promoting repopulation measures to attract people to Inverclyde. Work around repopulation is primarily the responsibility of the Inverclyde Alliance Population Partnership.

5.0 MID YEAR POPULATION ESTIMATES (30 JUNE 2019)

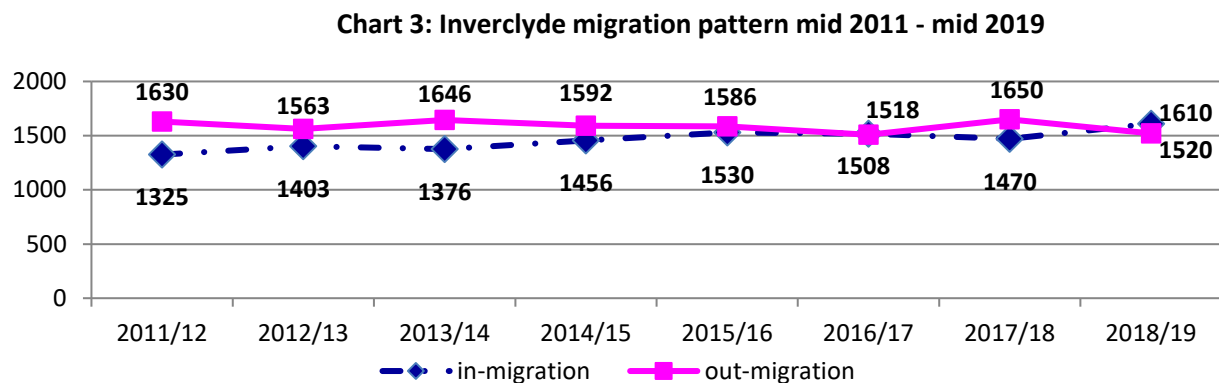
- 5.1 As at 30 June 2019, the population of Inverclyde was estimated to be 77,800, this is a -0.4% decrease compared to the 2018 mid-year population estimate, 78,150. In contrast, after two years of slowed growth nationally, Scotland's population is estimated to have increased by 0.5% between 2018 and 2019 to a record high of 5,463,300.
- 5.2 Inverclyde is one of 8 council areas in Scotland estimated to have had a population decrease between mid-2018 and mid-2019. Argyll and Bute had the largest population decrease, -0.5%, whilst North Ayrshire and Na h-Eileanan Siar are estimated to have had a decrease of -0.4%, the same as Inverclyde. The council areas which experienced the highest population growth were City of Edinburgh; East Lothian and Midlothian (all +1.2%). Appendix 1 shows the population change across Scotland between mid-2018 and mid-2019.
- 5.3 The population decrease in Inverclyde between mid-2018 and mid-2019 is almost solely attributable to negative natural change (-410), with a very small number (-20) due to 'other changes', which includes changes in the prison population, armed forces personnel and small rounding adjustments. There were 1,071 deaths in Inverclyde compared to 661 births during this period, resulting in natural change of -410. The gap between births and the number of deaths has also widened in recent years. Chart 1 (below) shows that over the past 10 years the number of births in Inverclyde has decreased by almost 18%, (-143) whilst the number of deaths has remained fairly constant, increasing by just 7% (+ 74) between 2008/09 and 2018/19.



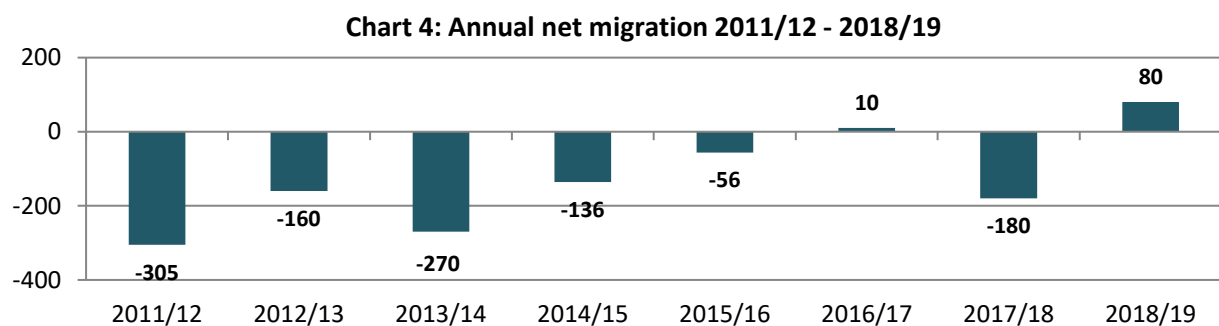
The subsequent natural change is shown in chart 2 below.



- 5.4 In total, 24 council areas had more deaths than births, resulting in Scotland as a whole having negative natural population change of -5,573 between mid-2018 and mid-2019. The overall population growth in Scotland has therefore been driven by in-migration, with an estimated net migration figure of 30,200 (0.55%).
- 5.5 Inverclyde is one of 28 councils estimated to have had positive net migration between mid-2018 and mid-2019. Encouragingly, this means that in two out of the past three years, more people have moved into Inverclyde than have left. Between mid-2018 and mid-2019, it is estimated that there were 1,610 in-migrants compared to 1,520 out-migrants (figures are rounded by NRS to nearest 10). The graph below shows the changes in the levels of in-migration in recent years.



- 5.6 Chart 4 below shows that annual change in net migration over the same period. It is estimated that Inverclyde had positive net migration in mid-2016/17 and mid-2018/19.



- 5.7 Of those moving into Inverclyde, 72% of people came from within Scotland, 19% of in-migrants came from the rest of the UK and 9% from overseas. Of those leaving Inverclyde, 78% went elsewhere in Scotland, 16% went to the rest of the UK and 6% went overseas. The component change in population, including both natural change and migration for all Scottish council areas is provided in Appendix 2.

5.8 The age structure of Inverclyde's population in mid-2019 remains unchanged from mid-2018 and broadly reflects the national age structure:

- 16% of the population is aged under 16 years (Scotland, 17%)
- 63% of the population is aged 16-64 years (Scotland, 64%)
- 21% of the population is aged 65 years and over (Scotland, 19%)

6.0 POPULATION PROJECTIONS FOR INVERCLYDE AND SCOTLAND (2018 BASED)

6.1 On 24 March 2020 the National Records for Scotland (NRS) published 'Population projections for Scottish area (using 2018 as the base year)'. The report contains population estimates up to 2028. NRS have also published online population projections up to 2043 but state that projections this far ahead are increasingly uncertain.

6.2 Population projections are calculated in a different way to the mid-year population estimates. Projections are trend based, which means assumptions for future levels of births, deaths and migration are based on observed levels over the previous five years, whereas mid-year estimates are based on the actual number of births and deaths and estimated migration in the past year. This can result in differences in population data, depending on the methodology used. While the mid-year population estimate for Inverclyde at 30 June 2019 is 77,800, the population projection estimate for 2019 (using 2018 population as the base year) is 77,693, which is 107 lower than the mid-year population estimate. The limitations of the population projection data should therefore be remembered when interpreting the figures. Comparison of the mid-year population estimate for Inverclyde 2019 with the population projection figure for the same year does however suggest that the population projection estimates for Inverclyde up to 2028 are unduly pessimistic.

6.3 Scotland's population is projected to increase by 1.8% over the next 10 years, predominantly as a result of in-migration. This equates to about 99,000 people between mid-2018 to mid-2028. Population growth however is projected to be slower than seen in the previous 10 years. The previous population projection for Scotland reported an estimated 3% increase.

6.4 Not all council areas are expected to experience population growth by 2028, 14 council areas, including Inverclyde, are expected to have a population decrease. The rate of decline in Inverclyde is more severe than previously forecast in the NRS 2016 based population projections. According to the new projections, over the period 2018-2028, Inverclyde's population will fall by -6.1% to 73,418, this is -2.8% lower than the 2016 based population projections. The projected change in Inverclyde's population is shown in Appendix 3.

6.5 Population decline is projected to be mainly in the West and South West of Scotland. The council areas with the largest projected decreases by 2028 are:

- Na h-Eileanan Siar (-6.1%)
- Inverclyde (-6.1%)
- Argyll and Bute (-5.9%)
- North Ayrshire (-3.1%)

6.6 18 council areas are projected to have a population increase. Most of the population growth is projected to be in the central belt and urban areas. The fastest growing areas are in the East, surrounding the City of Edinburgh. The council areas projected to show the largest relative increases over this period are:

- Midlothian (+13.8%)
- East Lothian (+7.2%)
- City of Edinburgh (+6.6%)
- East Renfrewshire (+6.4%)

The anticipated population change by 2028 for all Scottish councils is shown in Appendices 4 and 5.

- 6.7 The predicted decline in Inverclyde's population is predominantly due to anticipated negative natural change i.e. more deaths than births. Over the period 2018 - 2028 it is estimated that there will be 6,385 births in Inverclyde compared to 10,361 deaths, resulting in negative natural change of -3,976 (-5.1%).
- 6.8 Inverclyde is not the only area where negative natural change is expected to contribute to population decline. Only 5 council areas are expected to have natural population growth by 2028. These are: Midlothian (1.4%) City of Edinburgh (+1.2%) West Lothian (+0.8%) Glasgow City (+0.2%) and Aberdeen City (+0.1%). The overall population increase nationally therefore is expected to be as a result of migration, with more people arriving than leaving.
- 6.9 Despite Inverclyde having positive net migration in two out of the past three years, the other component of population decline in Inverclyde is expected to be negative net migration, accounting for -1%. Inverclyde and Na h-Eileanan Siar are the only two council areas where more people are expected to leave than arrive.
- 6.10 A comparison of natural change and net migration levels across all areas in Scotland by 2028 is provided in Appendix 6.
- 6.11 The population decline in Inverclyde will disproportionately affect different age groups:
- The percentage of the population that are children aged 0 to 15 years is projected to fall by -14.2%, compared to -6% in Scotland
 - The percentage of working age population is projected to fall by -6%, compared to a +3.3% growth in Scotland
 - The percentage of the population that is pensionable age and over is projected to decrease by -0.1%, compared to a +3.7% growth in Scotland
 - The percentage of the population that is aged 75 and over is projected to increase by +16%, compared to +25.4% in Scotland
- 6.12 All council areas except three, Midlothian (+11.2%), East Dunbartonshire (+4.5%) and East Renfrewshire (+2.0%) are projected to have a decrease in the number of children. Inverclyde and Dumfries and Galloway have the second highest projected decrease (-14.2%) and Argyll and Bute the highest (-17.6%).
- 6.13 The only section of Inverclyde's population that is expected to grow by 2028 is that of the aged 75 and over, with an estimated increase of 16%. Whilst the anticipated growth in numbers is not as high as the national increase for this age group (25%), there are still significant implications for the public sector services most frequently used by this section of the population, such as Health and Social Care.
- 6.14 Life expectancy is expected to grow in all council areas for both males and females. In Inverclyde:
- Male life expectancy is expected to increase from 75.6 years in 2018/19 to 76.7 years in 2028/29. Life expectancy for males remains below the Scottish average, 78.9 years.
 - Female life expectancy in Inverclyde is expected to increase from 81.3 years in 2018/19 to 81.7 years in 2028/29. This is also below the Scottish average, 82.4 years
- 6.15 To obtain a greater understanding of the geographic distribution, dynamics and impact of internal migration, the Scottish Government has formed an Expert Advisory Group on Population and Migration. The group is currently finalising its report titled "Internal migration in Scotland: Trends and Policy Lessons" which analyses internal migration within Scotland, and between Scotland and the rest of the UK. Once the final report is published, its findings will be considered by the Population Partnership.
- 6.16 It should be noted that population projections have important limitations. Area population projections are trend based and are not policy based forecasts of what is expected to happen. The emergence of a major threat to population health, such as Covid-19, is likely to result in revisions being made to future population estimates and projections, once the full impact becomes clearer.

This is particularly pertinent to council areas with higher levels of deprivation, as it is known that Covid-19 has a disproportionate effect on those living in these areas. This, sadly, is already apparent in Inverclyde, where statistics published by NRS at the time of writing show that that Inverclyde has a higher ratio of deaths that are related to Covid-19 than the Scottish average.

- 6.17 Work around repopulation is primarily the responsibility of the Inverclyde Alliance Population Partnership. The implications of these latest population figures will be considered by the Population Partnership and next steps agreed in line with the approved Action Plan.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Legal: none at present

7.2 Finance: none at present

7.3 Human Resources: none at present

7.4 Equality and Diversity: A rise in an elderly population is projected going forward which has implications with regard to the protected characteristic of age.

7.5 Repopulation: A decrease in Inverclyde's population continues to be projected in the longer term, this confirms that the Inverclyde Alliance is correct in focusing its efforts on making Inverclyde an attractive place to live. This work will be taken forward by the Population Partnership.

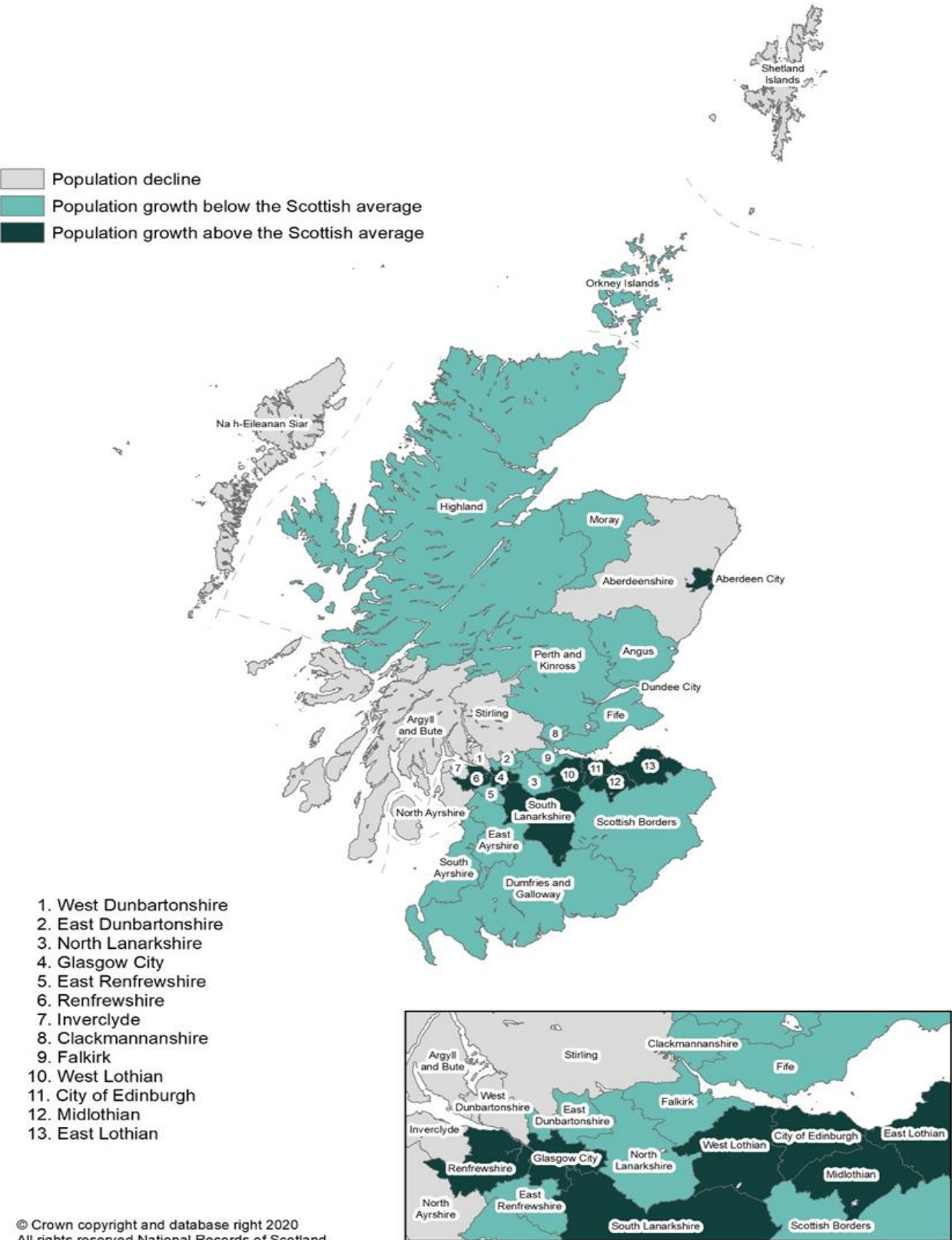
8.0 CONSULTATIONS

8.1 None

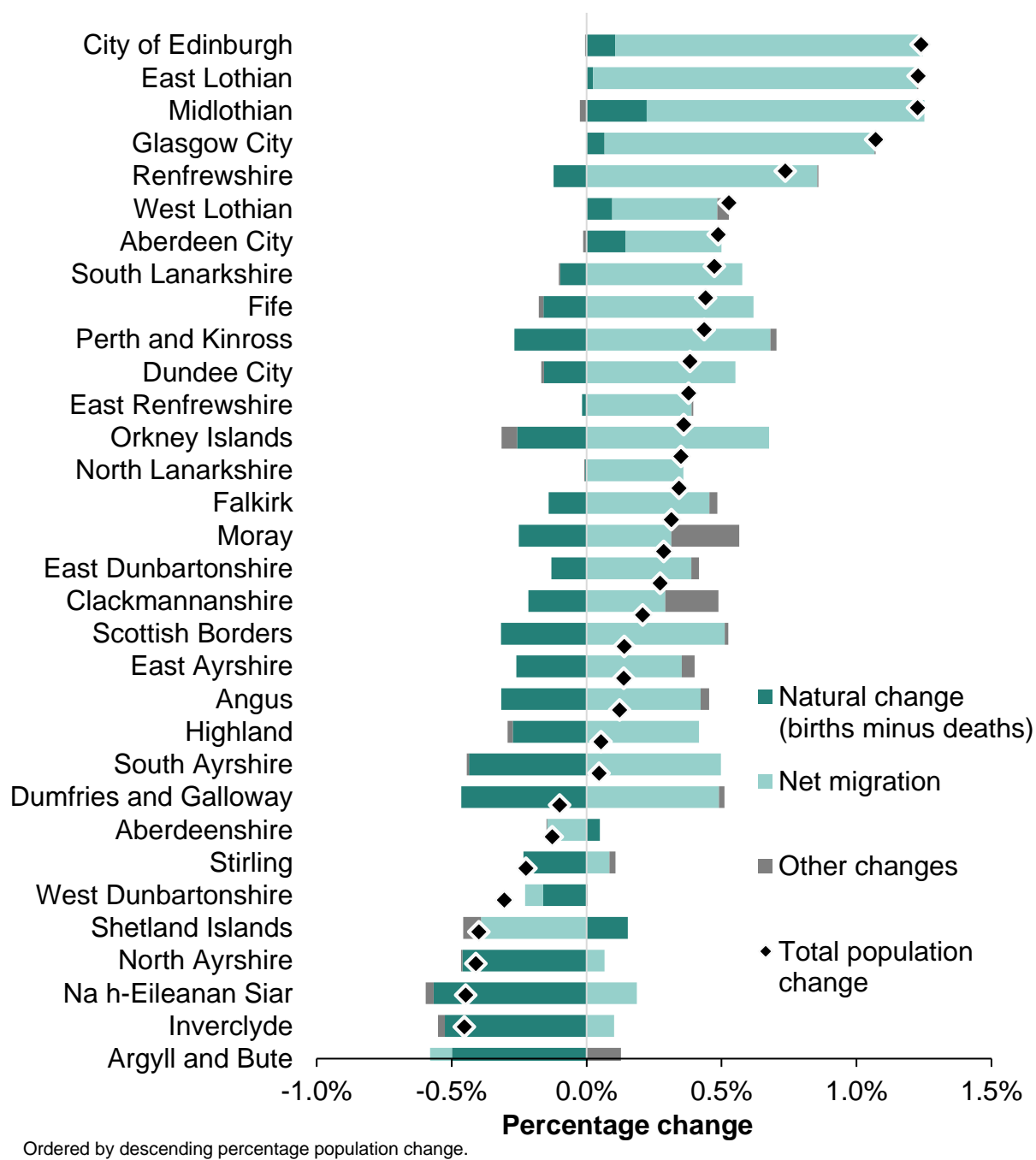
9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 None

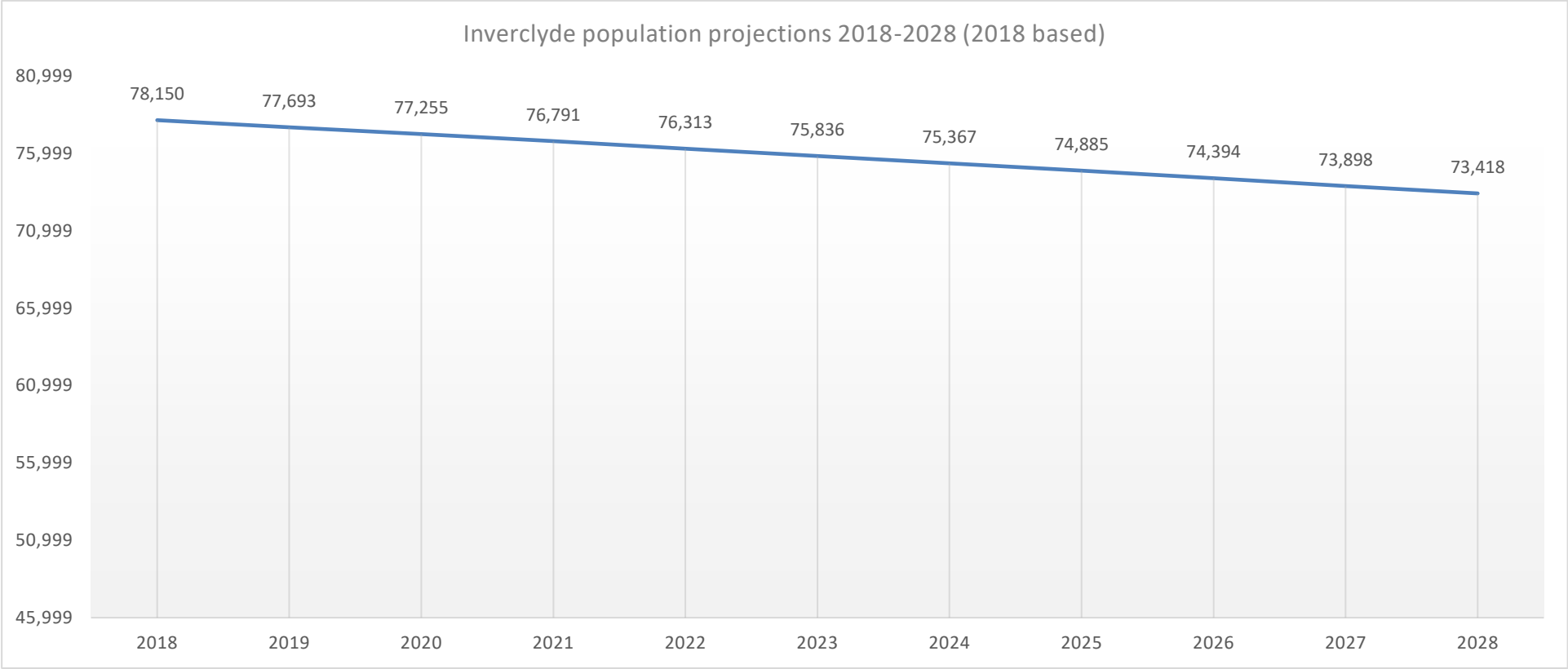
Appendix 1: Population change by council area mid-2018 to mid-2019



Appendix 2: Components of population change by council area, mid-2018 to mid-2019



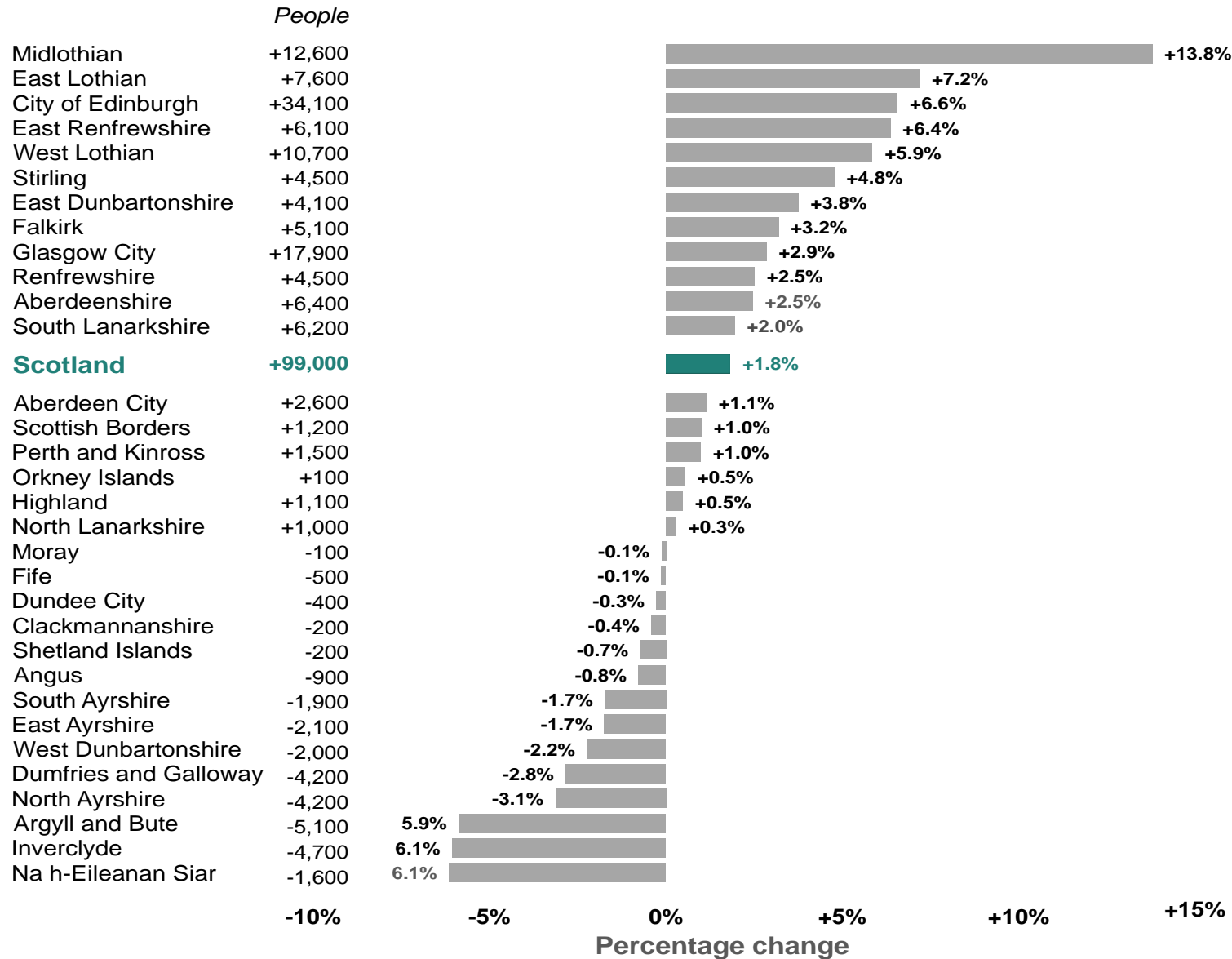
Appendix 3: Inverclyde’s population projection 2028 (2018 based)



Components of project population change 2018 to 2028

	Population mid 2018	Natural Change	Natural Change		Net Migration	Net Migration		Other Changes	Population mid 2028	% change
			Births	Deaths		To & from Scotland	Internal & overseas migration			
Inverclyde	79,150	-3,976	6,385	10,361	-615	1,136	-1,751	-141	73418	-6.1%

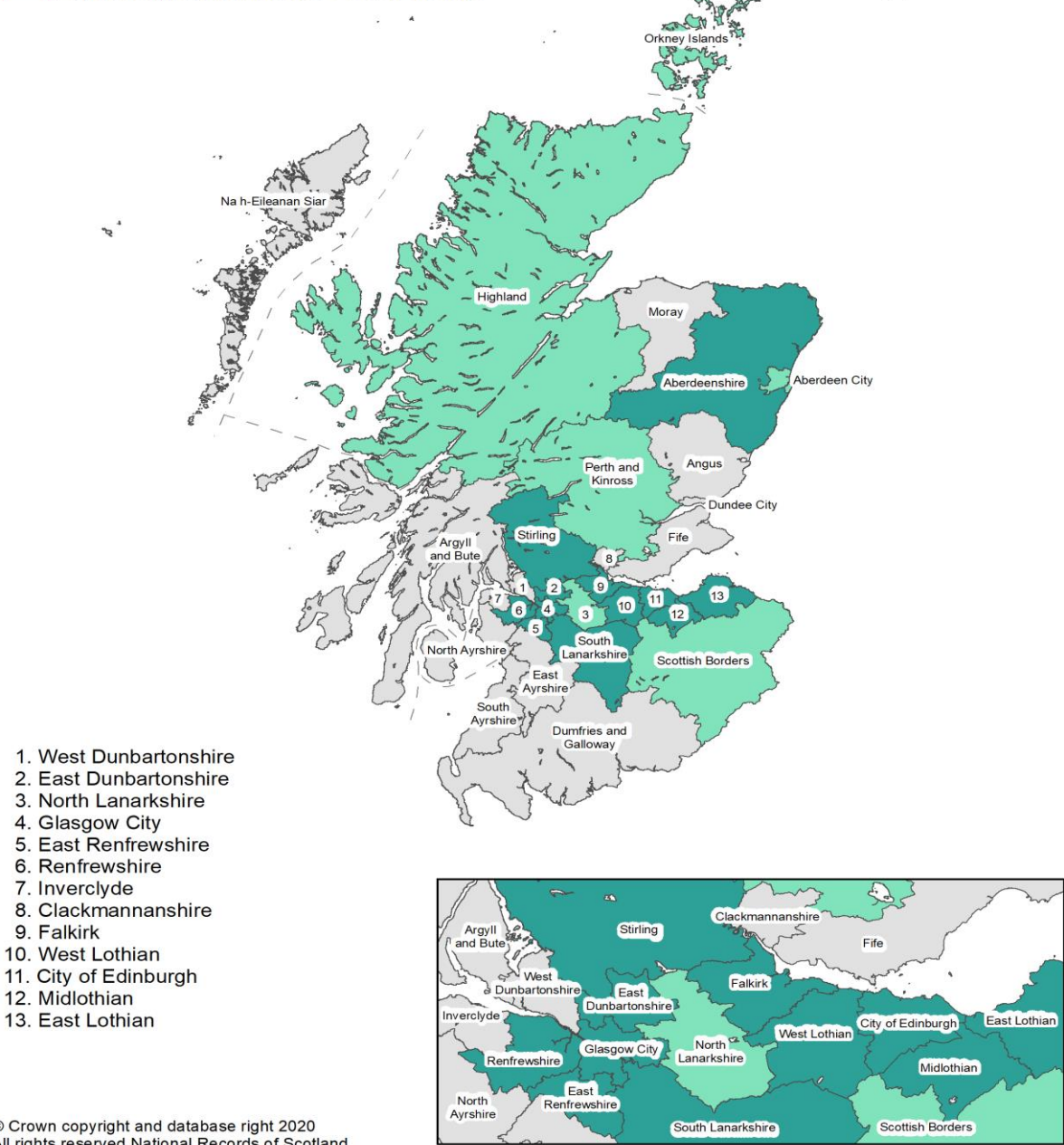
Appendix 4: Projected change by council area mid-2018 to mid-2028



Appendix 5: Map of the projected change in population by council area mid 2018 to mid 2028

Percentage population change

- Population decline
- Population growth below the Scottish average
- Population growth above the Scottish average



1. West Dunbartonshire
2. East Dunbartonshire
3. North Lanarkshire
4. Glasgow City
5. East Renfrewshire
6. Renfrewshire
7. Inverclyde
8. Clackmannanshire
9. Falkirk
10. West Lothian
11. City of Edinburgh
12. Midlothian
13. East Lothian

Appendix 6: Net migration and natural change in all Scottish council areas by 2028

