

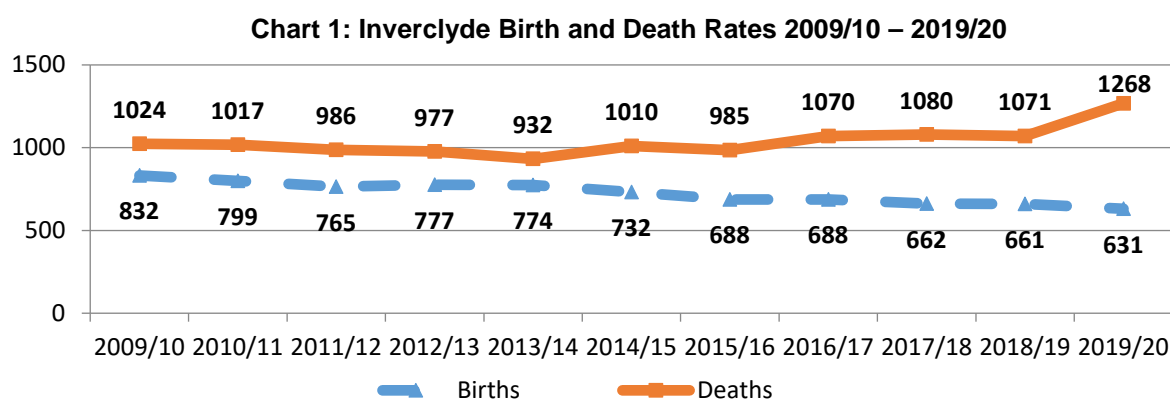
Report To:	Policy & Resources Committee	Date:	14 September 2021
Report By:	Ruth Binks, Corporate Director, Education, Communities & Organisational Development	Report No:	PR/10/21/RB
Contact Officer:	Andrina Hunter, Corporate Policy, Performance and Partnership Manager	Contact No:	01475 712042
Subject:	NRS Mid-2020 Population Estimates, Scotland		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with details of the latest mid-2020 population estimates, published by the National Records of Scotland (NRS) on 25 June 2021 and to highlight potential issues arising from this new data.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Inverclyde's estimated population as at 30 June 2020 was 77,060. This is a 740 (-1%) decrease compared to the 2019 mid-year population estimate (77,800) and the largest percentage population decrease in Scotland. In contrast, Scotland had a small population growth, increasing by 2,700 to 5,466,000, however growth was slower than in any of the previous 17 years.
- 2.2 Inverclyde is one of 20 Council areas in Scotland estimated to have had a population decrease between mid-2019 and mid-2020. Appendix 1 shows the population change in all Council areas.
- 2.3 By far, the biggest driver of population decline in Inverclyde between mid-2019 and mid-2020 was negative natural change, accounting for 86% of the population decrease. There were twice as many deaths as births in Inverclyde; 1,268 deaths compared in 631 births over the period, resulting in natural change of -637. Chart 1 shows the sharp increase (18%) in deaths between 2018/19 and 2019/20 and the further fall in the birth rate (4.5%). Additional trend information on natural change in Inverclyde over the past 10 years is provided in Appendix 2



- 2.4 It should be noted that the new data relates to the year ending 30 June 2020 and so takes into account the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic which affected Inverclyde particularly badly. Between March 2020 and June 2020, there were 534 death registrations in Inverclyde compared to 346 in 2019 and 333 in 2018 over the same period. In the period to 30 June 2020, 116 deaths were attributed to Covid-19. For the remainder of 2020, death registrations in Inverclyde returned to levels similar to that in previous years.

- 2.5 Scotland also suffered from negative natural change over the same period with 14,472 more deaths than births, the largest natural decrease on record. More deaths, fewer births and lower levels of overseas net migration have contributed to Scotland's slowed population growth.
- 2.6 During 2020, travel restrictions were in place and the pandemic itself may have affected people's choices about where they wanted to live. Following encouraging positive net migration in two out of the past three years, the latest estimates show that between mid-2019 and mid-2020, 1,250 people moved into the area and 1,350 left, resulting in estimated net migration of -100.
- 2.7 This new data, which indicates that Inverclyde has experienced the largest population decline in Scotland is disappointing and has potential implications for our future general revenue grant. The next Census, which will take place on 20 March 2022, will provide a more robust population count, however population data by Council area may not be available until March 2023. Also, for the first time, Scotland's Census will be conducted primarily online, which has implications for areas of higher deprivation, where traditionally there are lower levels of digital engagement. Inverclyde Council has been assured by NRS that where digital returns cannot be made, every effort will be made to ensure that all households are provided with an appropriate means to complete their Census survey to ensure as high a response rate as possible.
- 2.8 The Inverclyde Alliance Population Partnership leads on the work associated with growing the population of Inverclyde through improving the employment, housing and infrastructure offer. An Inverclyde Re-population Strategy and Action Plan was agreed in March 2019 and whilst Covid-19 has disrupted the delivery of the Action Plan, there has been a number of key achievements, more detail on which is provided in paragraph 7.2.
- 2.9 In addition, the Committee will be aware that Inverclyde, West Dunbartonshire and Argyll and Bute Councils have jointly commissioned the Fraser of Allander Institute to prepare an economic case to present to the Scottish and UK Governments for special support post Covid-19. All three Councils face significant challenges associated with economic decline and along with Western Isles Council, had the largest estimated population decline in Scotland between mid-2019 and mid-2020. The final report will be presented to Members in due course.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes:
- a) The latest mid-year population estimates for Inverclyde and Scotland which show a further decrease in the population of Inverclyde, predominantly as a result of natural change.
 - b) The ongoing impact the continued depopulation and poor relative performance against other parts of Scotland will have on future Scottish Government Grant settlements for Inverclyde
 - c) That the Fraser of Allander Institute is carrying out a study into Supporting Economic Recovery for Inverclyde, West Dunbartonshire and Argyll & Bute Councils which are the 3 bottom ranked mainland Councils for population growth based on these latest statistics.
- 3.2 It is recommended that the Committee agrees that, in conjunction with Community Planning Partners and local MSPs and the local MP, the Council strenuously makes the case for radical economic stimuli to be implemented to reverse the continued depopulation within the area.

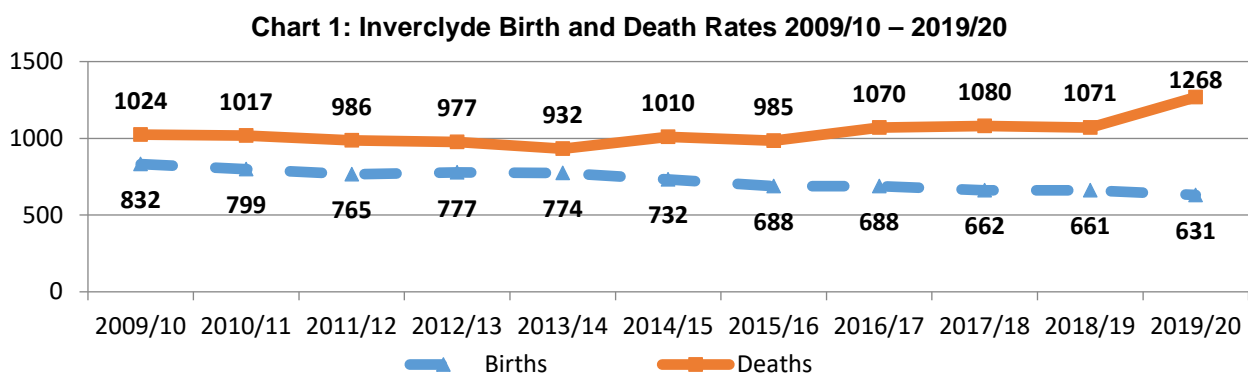
**Ruth Binks,
Corporate Director,
Education, Communities &
Organisational Development**

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 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 25 June 2021 the National Records for Scotland (NRS) published 'Mid-2020 Population Estimates, Scotland', providing population estimates for Scotland, its Council areas and NHS boards by sex and age.
- 4.2 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 two main contributors to population change are natural change (births minus deaths) and net migration (the difference between long term moves into and out of the UK or local areas).
- 4.3 The census and associated population measures have a significant bearing on a number of strategic issues most notably Government Funding.

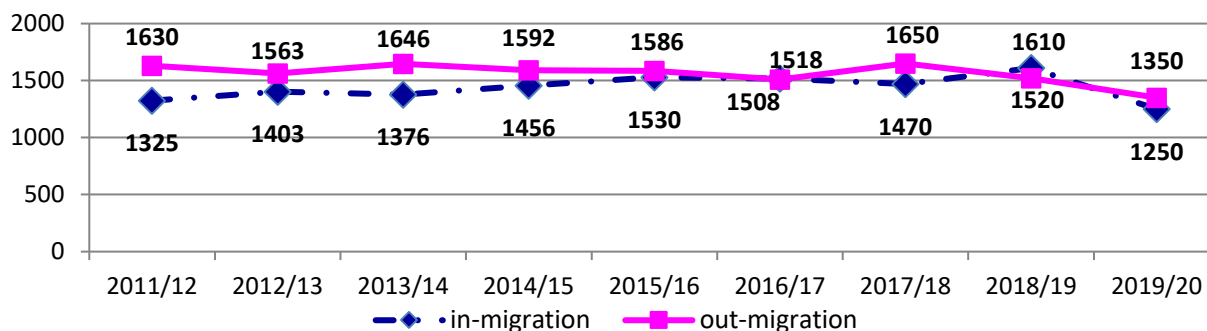
5.0 INVERCLYDE MID YEAR POPULATION ESTIMATE (30 JUNE 2020)

- 5.1 As at 30 June 2020, the population of Inverclyde was estimated to be 77,060, this is a 740 (-1%) decrease compared to the 2019 mid-year population estimate, 77,800.
- 5.2 Inverclyde is one of 20 Council areas in Scotland to have had an estimated decrease in population between mid-2019 and mid-2020. Inverclyde (-1%), Na h-Eileanan Siar (-0.8%) and West Dunbartonshire (-0.7%) experienced the greatest population decline in percentage terms whilst East Lothian (+0.8%) and Midlothian (+0.7%) had the highest population growth. Appendix 1 shows the population change in Council areas across Scotland between mid-2019 and mid-2020.
- 5.3 By far, the biggest driver of population decline in Inverclyde between mid-2019 and mid-2020 was negative natural change, accounting for 86% of the population decrease. There were more than twice as many deaths as births in Inverclyde; 1,268 deaths compared in 631 births over the period, resulting in natural change of -637. Chart 1 shows the sharp increase (18%) in deaths between 2018/19 and 2019/20 and the further fall in the birth rate (4.5%). Additional information on natural change in Inverclyde over the past 10 years is provided in Appendix 2.



- 5.4 It should be noted that the new data relates to the year ending 30 June 2020 and so takes into account the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic which affected Inverclyde particularly badly. Between March 2020 and June 2020, there were 534 death registrations in Inverclyde compared to 346 in 2019 and 333 in 2018 over the same period. In the period to 30 June 2020 116 deaths were attributed to Covid-19. For the remainder of 2020, death registrations in Inverclyde returned to levels similar to that in previous years.
- 5.5 During 2020, travel restrictions were put in place and the pandemic itself may have affected people's choices about where they wanted to live. Following encouraging positive net migration estimates in mid-2017 and mid-2019 the latest estimates once again show out-migration in Inverclyde higher than in-migration, with an estimated 1,250 people moving into the area and 1,350 leaving, resulting in net migration of -100. Estimated out and in-migration are both lower than in the previous 9 years.

Chart 2: Inverclyde migration pattern mid 2011 - mid 2020



5.6 It is estimated that Inverclyde had positive net migration from the rest of the UK (+70) but lost more residents than it gained to the rest of Scotland (-100) and overseas (-70).

5.7 Of those moving into Inverclyde it is estimated that 73% of people came from within Scotland, 22% of in-migrants came from the rest of the UK and 5% from overseas. Of those leaving Inverclyde, 75% went elsewhere in Scotland, 15% went to the rest of the UK and 10% went overseas.

5.8 The age structure of Inverclyde's population remains very similar to previous years and broadly reflects the national picture:

- 16% of the population is aged under 16 years (Scotland, 17%)
- 64% of the population is aged 16-64 years (Scotland, 65%)
- 20% of the population is aged 65 years and over (Scotland, 18%)

The median age of Inverclyde's population is 46.3 years, compared to 42.1 years in Scotland, reflecting a slightly older population than the national average.

5.9 This latest data, which indicates that Inverclyde has experienced the largest population decline in Scotland is disappointing and potentially has implications for our future general revenue grant, which factors population into its calculation. The Census 2022, which is due to take place on 20 March 2022, will provide a more robust population count, however population data by Council area may not be available until March 2023. Additionally, for the first time, Scotland's Census will be conducted primarily online, which has implications for areas of higher deprivation, where traditionally there are lower levels of digital engagement. Inverclyde Council has been assured by NRS that where digital returns cannot be made, every effort will be made to ensure that all households are provided with an appropriate means to complete their Census survey to ensure as high a response rate as possible.

6.0 NATIONAL POPULATION CHANGES

Mid-2020 estimates

6.1 Scotland's estimated mid-2020 population was 5,466,000. The population increased by 2,700 people (0.05%) in the year to mid-2020, the slowest rate of growth since the year to mid-2003. This was mainly due to higher numbers of deaths and lower levels of net migration.

6.2 The change in the population nationally has therefore been driven by positive net migration, which has been adding to the population for the last two decades. The latest estimates show that 16,900 more people moved to Scotland than left. This however is the lowest level of net migration since 2012-13.

6.3 Scotland has also recorded its largest natural population decrease on record, with 14,500 more deaths than births. In total, there were 63,100 deaths and 48,700 births in the year ending mid-2020. Deaths over the latest year were 6,900 higher than those in the year to mid-2019 (56,200).

6.4 At a Council level, between mid-2019 and mid-2020, 20 areas experienced a decrease in population whilst 12 experienced an increase. The number of Council areas thought to have

had a population decrease has grown from 8 to 20 since the mid-2019 population estimates were published.

- 6.5 Of the 20 areas which experienced population decline over the last year, negative natural change (more deaths than births) was the main driver in almost all areas and 7 areas also experienced negative net migration. The areas facing the greatest population decline are mainly in the west of Scotland.
- 6.6 For the remaining 12 areas which experienced an estimated increase in population, net migration was the main driver of growth and with the exception of Midlothian, all areas had more deaths than births. Midlothian is the only area in Scotland to have had more births than deaths in the year.
- 6.7 The most common moves within Scotland are thought to be from the largest cities (Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen) to their neighbouring Council areas. More people left the largest cities for other areas in Scotland than moved to them from other areas in Scotland.
- 6.8 The largest percentage increases due to migration from overseas were in the four largest cities (Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee) whilst migration from the rest of the UK added to the population in all but three Council areas (Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, West Dunbartonshire).

7.0 INVERCLYDE'S RESPONSE

- 7.1 Stemming and ultimately reversing population decline is a key priority for the Council and its partners involved in the regeneration of Inverclyde. The Inverclyde Alliance Population Partnership leads on the work associated with repopulation, with a focus on growing the population of Inverclyde through improving the employment, housing and infrastructure offer. An Inverclyde Re-population Strategy and Action Plan was approved by the Alliance Board on 18 March 2019.
- 7.2 Although Covid-19 has disrupted the delivery of the Action Plan, particularly in relation to the Inverclyde marketing strategy, there has been a number of key achievements, some examples of which are provided below:
 - The 'Discover Inverclyde' website was launched in July 2020 and has been well received. The website brings together in one place all promotional materials and provides a platform for marketing Inverclyde. The website continues to grow and develop;
 - The Eastern Gateway study, focusing on housing condition, need and land use in the area between Newark and Parklea in Port Glasgow, has been completed and the findings considered by the Environment & Regeneration Committee on 4 May 2021;
 - A Community Wealth Building Policy has been approved to create further jobs and opportunities within the third sector economy. Community Wealth Building seeks to redirect wealth back into the local economy and give local people more control;
 - The Partnership has successfully acquired additional support for Covid-19 recovery, including from Scotland's Town Partnership to promote towns and villages through the brand extension of 'Discover Inverclyde'. Additional funding was also received from Scotland's food and drink to support the hospitality sector;
 - The number of new business start-ups has increased and has exceeded the target of 150;
 - A Housebuilder Forum event was held prior to lockdown in March 2020, to support growth in the local housing market;
 - A Business Gateway Inverclyde Facebook page, providing a range of local information, has been set up to supplement existing national Business Gateway promotional activity.
 - Consortium partners, Inverclyde Council, CVS Inverclyde, Beacon Arts Centre, RIG Arts and Kayos Theatre Group were awarded £275,000 from the Creative Scotland's new Culture Collective funding stream to deliver an 18 month programme of activity (March 2021 – September 2022).
- 7.3 Improving public health in Inverclyde is key to reducing the number of deaths and improving life expectancy and the increased focus on early intervention and prevention, and better

management of long term health conditions, will hopefully have a positive impact. In addition, the 1140 hours childcare provision alongside the excellent school estate, and our family friendly approaches locally, aim to encourage future parents and families to settle in Inverclyde.

- 7.4 In addition to the work of the Population Partnership, the Committee will be aware that Inverclyde, West Dunbartonshire and Argyll and Bute Councils have agreed to a joint commissioning of consultants to prepare an economic case to present to the Scottish and UK Governments for special support post Covid-19, in view of the fact that all three areas face significant challenges associate with depopulation and economic decline.
- 7.5 To assist with the research required, the City Region’s Intelligence Hub has undertaken a socio-economic challenges review facing the three Council areas and the Fraser of Allander Institute has been commissioned to carry out this work. This final report will be presented to Members in due course.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Finance

Financial Implications:

Financial Implications: 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 the highest population decrease of all Council areas in Scotland 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					

8.2 Legal

There are no legal issues associated with this report.

8.3 Human Resources

There are no HR issues associated with this report.

8.4 Equalities

Equalities

- (a) Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

YES	
X	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, no Equality Impact Assessment is required

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
X	NO

(c) Data Protection

Has a Data 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.
X	NO

8.5 Repopulation

Inverclyde's continued depopulation has long been recognised within the Council's and key strategic documents but it is clear that without radical interventions from Government's in both Westminster and Holyrood in order to stimulate economic activity and stop the drift of working age populations east or to the major cities, then it is likely that the Council will continue to depopulate with the resultant impact on funding and levels of deprivation.

At a local level it is hoped that the work on delivering positive outcomes for the people of Inverclyde, coupled with the work being led by the Population Partnership to raise the profile of Inverclyde will have a positive impact on future migration and encourage more people to come and live in the area. The Covid-19 pandemic will however have undoubtedly increased the challenges facing all partners.

9.0 CONSULTATIONS

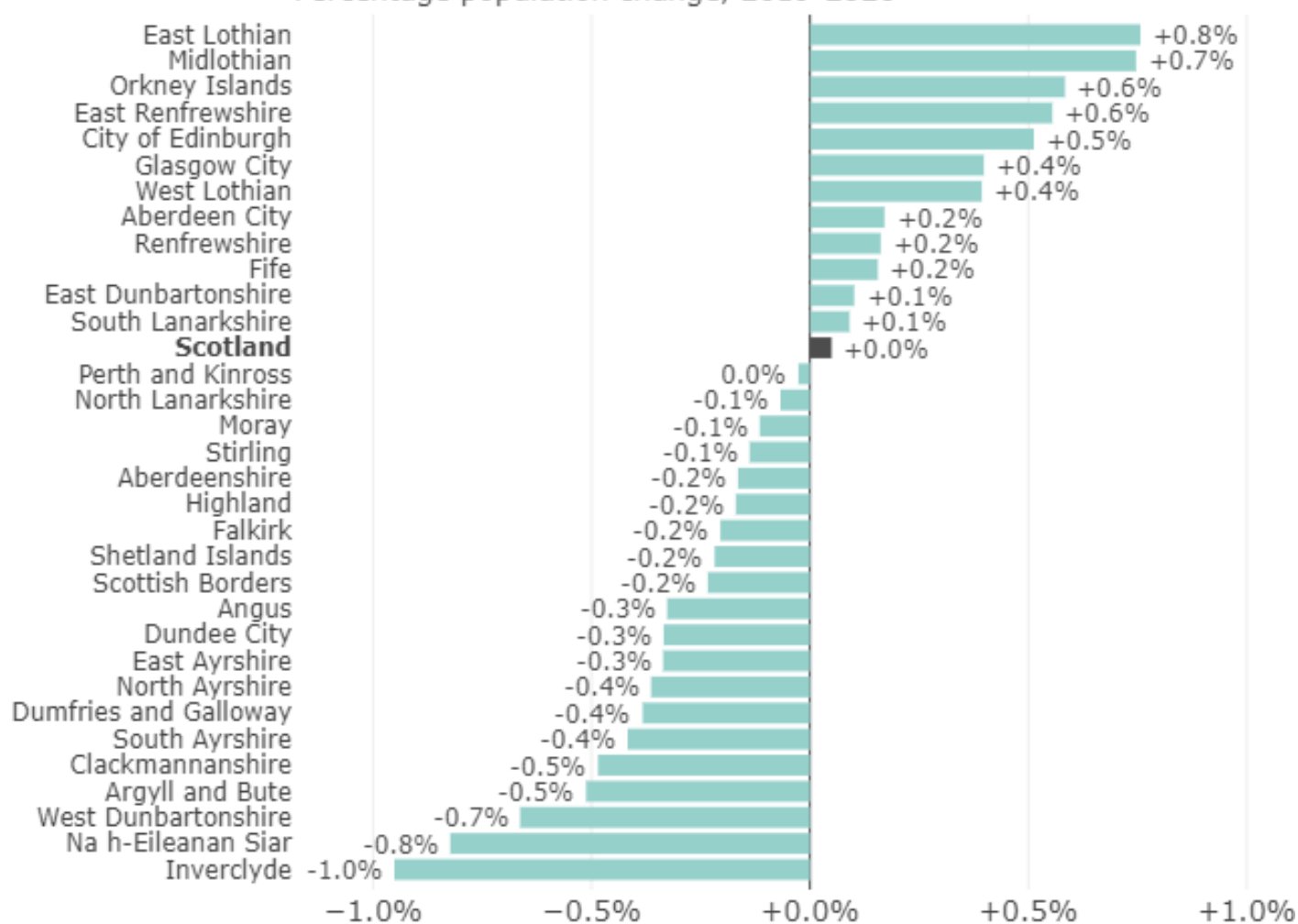
9.1 None

10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None

Scotland

Percentage population change, 2019-2020



Natural Change in Inverclyde (number of deaths minus births)

