

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 NRS published its Mid-Year Estimates for local authority and health board areas on 26 June 2013. This report outlines the estimates for Argyll and Bute.
- 1.2 According to Mid-2013 Population Estimates:
- The population of Argyll and Bute was 88,050 on 30 June 2013
 - This compares to an estimated population of 86,900 on 30 June 2012
 - This is a net increase of 1,150 persons (1.3%) over the 12 month period
 - The main driver of this population increase is the movement of armed forces personnel into the area
 - The underlying trend is of population decline.
- 1.3 Despite the headline figure, which suggests population growth, the CPP may not be able to achieve the SOA outcome of 'Argyll and Bute's economy is based on a growing population'.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 NRS published its Mid-Year Estimates for local authority and health board areas on 26 June 2013.

2.2 According to Mid-2013 Population Estimates:

- The population of Argyll and Bute was 88,050 on 30 June 2013
- This compares to an estimated population of 86,900 on 30 June 2012
- This is a net increase of 1,150 persons (1.3%) over the 12 month period
- The main driver of this population increase is the movement of armed forces personnel into the area
- The underlying trend is of population decline.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that the PRS Committee notes the population estimates.

4. DETAIL

4.1 Context

4.1.1 NRS published its Mid-Year Estimates for local authority and health board areas on 26 June 2013.

4.1.2 NRS's publication includes:

- Population estimates by single year of age and sex for all Scottish local authority and health board areas, as at 30 June 2013
- Information about components of population change in the year to 30 June 2013.

4.2.1 Population change: 2012 to 2013

4.2.1 NRS breaks down the components of population change into:

- Births
- Deaths
- Estimated net civilian migration
- Other changes.

4.2.2 'Other changes' includes changes in the number of prisoners, asylum seekers, armed forces personnel stationed in Scotland, and a rounding adjustment. In Argyll and Bute, this figure is dominated by changes at the Faslane base.

4.2.3 Between mid-2012 and mid-2013, the population in Argyll and Bute changed as outlined in table 1.

Table 1:

Estimated population 30 June 2012	Births	Deaths	Natural change	Estimated net civilian migration	Other changes	Estimated population 30 June 2013	Population change	
							Number	%
86,900	713	1,079	-366	-22	1,538	88,050	1,150	1.3

4.2.4 This compares to the components of change for the previous year as set out in Table 2.

Table 2:

Estimated population 30 June 2011	Births	Deaths	Natural change	Estimated net civilian migration	Other changes	Estimated population 30 June 2012	Population change	
							Number	%
88,930	798	1,065	-267	-236	-1,527	86,900	-2,030	-2.3

4.2.5 Tables 1 and 2 show how the fluctuation of 'other changes' influences the overall population figures for Argyll and Bute. However, it is the births, deaths and migration figures that influence the long-term population trends. The pattern of population decline in 2012 to 2013 is masked by the volume of 'other changes'. The overall trend, however, is one of population decline.

4.3 The 2013 MYE compared to the 2012-based population projections

4.3.1 NRS's 2012-based population projections suggested that:

- The projected population for Argyll and Bute in 2013 would be 86,392

- The projected population assumed that there would be net civilian outmigration from the area of 150 persons in the year 2012 to 2013

4.3.2 A comparison of the projections and estimates suggest that:

- The assumptions relating to natural change appear to have been reasonable
- The differences between the projected and estimated populations can be accounted for by the 'other changes' and, to a lesser extent, by the differences in the volume of civilian outmigration. Faslane distorts everything.

4.3.3 Additional analysis is currently being undertaken to investigate how Faslane affects the population and socioeconomic characteristics of our area. The results of this work will be reported to SMT in due course (August 2014).

5. Conclusion

5.1 According to Mid-2013 Population Estimates:

- The population of Argyll and Bute was 88,050 on 30 June 2013
- This compares to an estimated population of 86,900 on 30 June 2012
- This is a net increase of 1,150 persons (1.3%) over the 12 month period
- The main driver of this population increase is the movement of armed forces personnel into the area
- The underlying population trend is of population decline.

5.2 The results of additional analysis relating to Faslane will be reported to SMT in due course.

Reference:

NRS (26 June 2014) **Mid-2013 Population Estimates Scotland**, Available at: <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/population/estimates/mid-year/mid-2013/index.html> (Accessed June 2014)

IMPLICATIONS

POLICY: No direct impact from this paper but population change may have an impact on various areas of council policy.

FINANCIAL: No direct impact from this paper but the council's funding formula from Scottish Government is directly affected by population levels.

LEGAL: None

HR: None

EQUALITIES: None

RISK: Despite the headline figure, which suggests population growth, the CPP will not be able to achieve the SOA outcome of 'Argyll and Bute's economy is based on a growing population'.

CUSTOMER SERVICE: None

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