

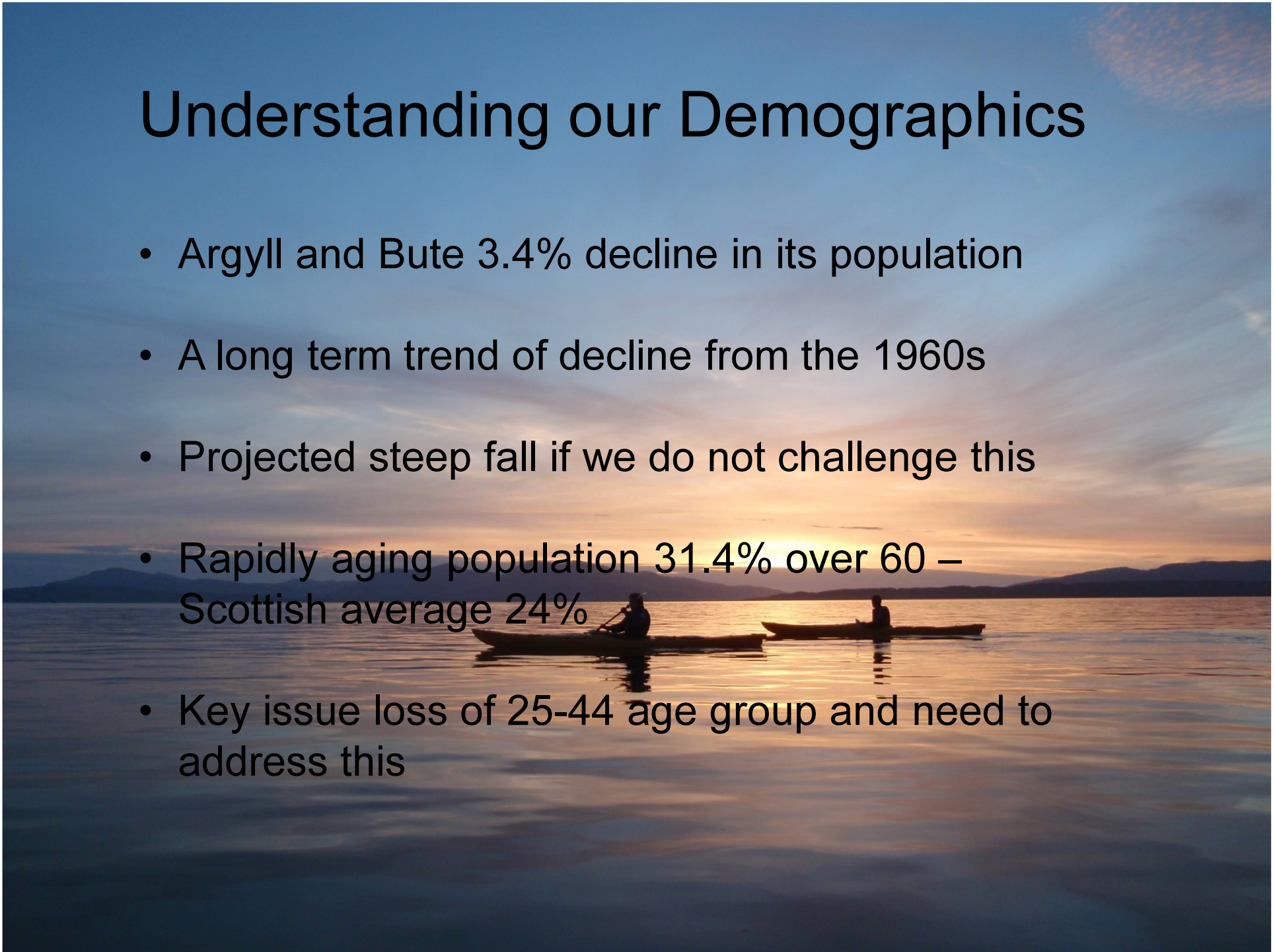


# Economic Forum Report Feedback

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# Understanding our Demographics

- Argyll and Bute 3.4% decline in its population
- A long term trend of decline from the 1960s
- Projected steep fall if we do not challenge this
- Rapidly aging population 31.4% over 60 –  
Scottish average 24%
- Key issue loss of 25-44 age group and need to address this





# Approach of the Economic Forum



- Looking at Argyll and Bute as if it were a business
  - What are the parts of the business that are growing, attracting sustained investment and which can grow further, producing larger numbers of high quality jobs?
  - What could be done to accelerate that growth?
  - What are the barriers to that growth which need to be removed or reduced?

# Tourism – Opportunity for Growth

25% of all private sector jobs

30.3% of young people entered this sector

£150 million of planned investments

1. Marketing
2. Seasonality
3. Marine tourism
4. Cultural attractions
5. Events and festivals
6. Active travel networks

An aerial photograph of a coastal region. In the foreground, there's a rocky coastline with waves crashing against the shore. A large industrial or processing facility is situated on a small peninsula, featuring several large green-roofed buildings and a parking lot with several cars. A dirt road leads from the facility inland into a vast, green, rolling landscape of fields and hills. In the distance, more hills and mountains are visible under a bright, slightly hazy sky. The overall scene suggests a hub for food and drink production in a rural, coastal setting.

# Food and Drink Opportunity for Growth

Aquaculture

Food and Drink processing and products

Agriculture and fisheries

# Young People and Education



## • Further Education

- Expand areas and sources of courses
- Oban as a University Town
- Links to employers – increase apprenticeships
- Jobs portal

## • Schools

- Linking better to the business community
- Private Sector need to engage more create more opportunities for young people
- Working with Young enterprise and other educational enterprise schemes



# Other Areas of Opportunity



## • Small Businesses



- Local Business sector dominated by small businesses
- Creation of small units
- Access to funding
- Mentoring
- Simplified point of contact for small businesses

## • Construction

- Providing opportunities for local firms to win public sector businesses



# Barriers To Economic Growth

A scenic view of a coastal village, likely Oban, Scotland. In the foreground, a large, modern, light-colored building with a dark roof is under construction, with a red tractor and other construction equipment visible. In the background, a large, historic stone church with a prominent tower stands on a hillside. The village is built on a rocky, elevated area overlooking the sea. The sky is clear and blue.

## 1. Mobile and Broadband Connectivity

- Broadband
- Mobile
- Accessing Markets

## 2. Affordable Housing

## 3. Transport Links

- Roads – Oban A816/Rest/A8003
- Air –links to Central belt from Oban
- Fixed links – Isle of Bute

Helensburgh

CHORD  
Green Belt  
Offices  
NVA  
Maritime  
Change





Dunoon

Ardyne  
Regeneration  
Improving the day  
trip offer  
Fixed link



# Campbeltown

Suffered economic shocks  
Strong entrepreneur spirit  
Significant council and partner  
investments  
Machrihanish Enterprise Zone  
Business diversification and  
support



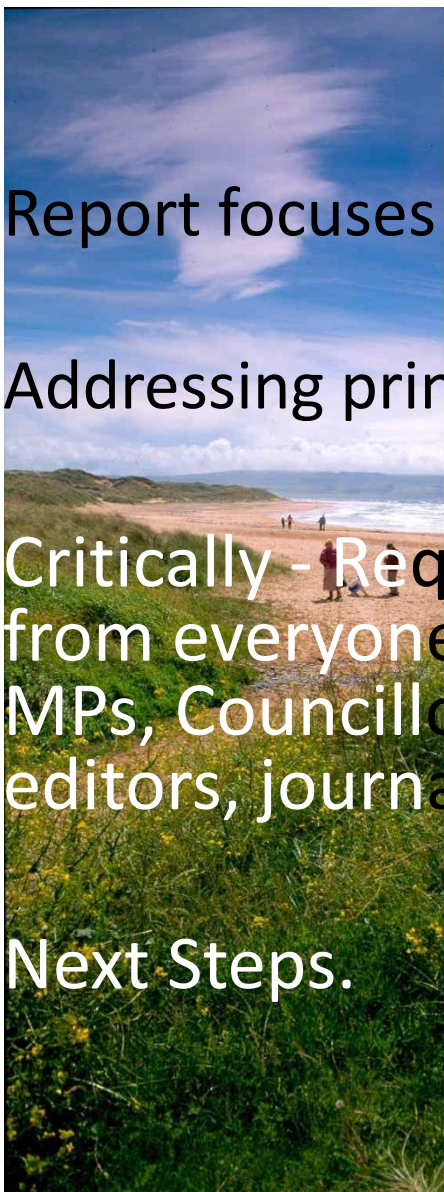
# Rothesay

Engage with Mount Stuart  
Continue to Regenerate the town  
Building A Better Bute  
Investment and Marketing



# A Shared Vision

- Report focuses on areas of greatest opportunity;
- Addressing principal barriers to growth;

A vertical photograph of a beach scene. In the foreground, there is a field of green grass with small yellow flowers. The middle ground shows a sandy beach with several people walking. The background features a blue sky with light clouds and a distant coastline.

Critically - Requirement for a Joined up approach from everyone including business people, MSPs, MPs, Councillors, Agency leaders, newspaper editors, journalists and others;

Next Steps.